

*Christ at the Center*  
*E-News*



Central District

Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

## **EVENTS & DUE DATES**

**Feb. 15 - Bank Authorization Forms Due**

**Feb. 21 - District Leadership Team  
Meeting**

**Feb. 23-26 - General Conference**

**Mar. 7 - District Clergy Meeting**

**Mar. 21 - DCOM Continuation Interviews  
for LLP's**

**Apr. 11 - DCOM Continuation Interviews  
for LLP's**



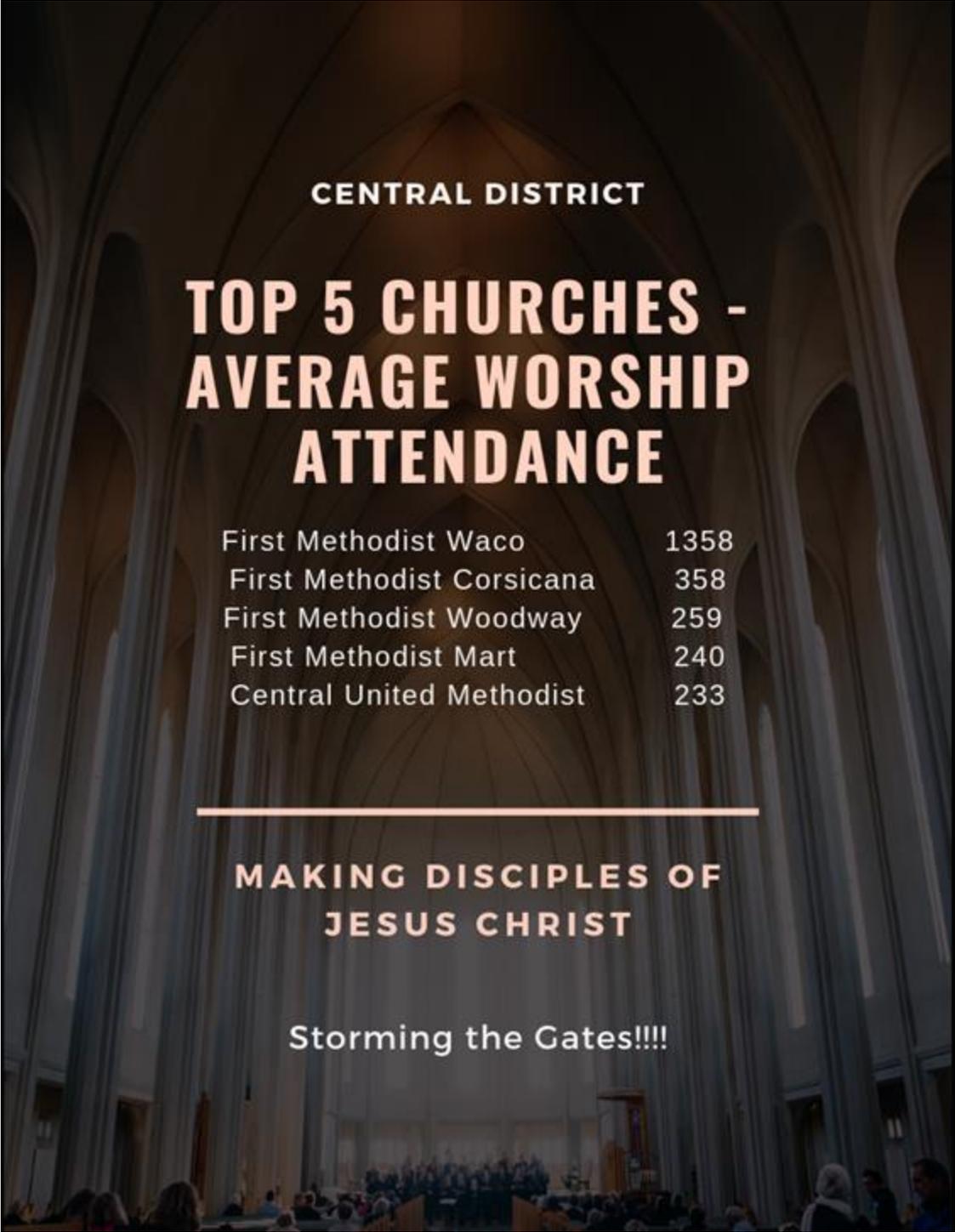
With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by focusing on reaching new people and making disciples, the WIG is already bearing fruit. The Central Texas Conference has seen average weekly worship attendance and professions of faith – the primary metrics used to measure progress of the WIG - increase for 10 consecutive months. All indications suggest the growth trend will continue into months 11, 12 and beyond.

(photo below is courtesy of one of the CTC's New Faith Communities [The Jesus Table](#) - an

NFC of [Central United Methodist Church](#))

<https://www.ctcumc.org/story/12658774>

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**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

**TOP 5 CHURCHES -  
AVERAGE WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| First Methodist Waco      | 1358 |
| First Methodist Corsicana | 358  |
| First Methodist Woodway   | 259  |
| First Methodist Mart      | 240  |
| Central United Methodist  | 233  |

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**MAKING DISCIPLES OF  
JESUS CHRIST**

**Storming the Gates!!!!**

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CENTRAL DISTRICT

***2018 TOP 5 CHURCHES -  
PROFESSION'S OF FAITH***

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| FIRST METHODIST WACO     | 38 |
| FIRST METHODIST MART     | 30 |
| FIRST METHODIST WOODWAY  | 26 |
| FROST UNITED METHODIST   | 20 |
| CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST | 17 |



**OFFERING CHRIST TO PEOPLE WE  
ARE NOT ALREADY REACHING!!!**

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**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST AND STORMING THE GATES!!!**



MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

# *SUMMER 2019*

Join First Methodist Waco being the  
hands and feet of Christ!

***JUNE 2-7 -PORT ARTHUR  
COST \$250/PERSON***

Online forms will be available next  
week!

Contact Hayley House if you're  
interested or have any questions:  
[hhouse@fumcwaco.org](mailto:hhouse@fumcwaco.org)

Center for  
**EVANGELISM, MISSION, & CHURCH GROWTH**  
*transforming local congregations & creating new places for new people*

The Enote today is a little different. Bishop Lowry, the Executive Team, and the Cabinet has researched and worked on how best to count worship attendance in the Central Texas Conference. This is in response to many questions on the subject. The following is the result. Please use this as the future template for this important metric. This will also be on the CTC website. If you have any questions, please call, 817.477.5222 or email me.

Thank you ~ Mike

### **Counting Worship Attendance in The Central Texas Conference**

The purpose of counting worship attendance is to help measure the strength, health and effectiveness of a local church. In the making of disciples for the transformation of the world, numbers have value. They are not the only measure, but it is one important metric and one the CTC pays close attention to. It is the basic number we use to qualify our market share in each community. The purpose of the following information is to help provide consistency across all the CTC churches as well as a consistent measure for the local church to compare themselves to year by year. When worship attendance goes down it is helpful to explore the reasons why and when it goes up it is helpful to celebrate.

*We ask that at the very least, local churches (a) remain consistent in what they do every week, (b) provide the most honest assessment of the church's strength, health, and effectiveness as possible, and place these metrics in VitalSigns weekly.*

### **Who To count?**

#### **The People Present**

Count every single person present physically attending a worship service. This is also any New Faith Community, any time of the week the service is held, and anything that qualifies as worship (preaching, scripture reading, communion, creeds, worship songs yes, we all know what worship is and what it isn't). This includes counting adults' youth, children, and even infants. This includes children in the nursery but not Sunday School. Also include ushers, greeters, welcome people, coffee servers, choirs, praise teams, anyone participating in worship or serving in the worship experience. Even count the preacher!

#### **Online Worshipers**

Count those worshipping online; either on a web-based platform or Facebook live. We want to qualify worship by participation, so the key requirement is not just viewing on Facebook or an IP address that shows up on another platform, the key is "**Registration**" of some sort. The registration can be either official as some churches can do, by registering their participation in the comments section of Facebook, messaging on Facebook, or another way the church might choose to do this. Some churches may have an online worship experience that includes interaction with an online pastor, offering prayer requests, or even giving an offering. Encourage Facebook viewers to register their participation in the worship service they are viewing. This participation can be live or later in the day or week. The key is **registering** their presence by name or family in a clear way. We

believe the act of registering is a key component of participating in the worship experience with the church community.

**Count children's worship, count youth worship, count confirmation worship**

If your church has weekly children's worship, weekly youth worship, or an annual Confirmation worship, add this into your total weekend worship.

If your Confirmation, youth, and children's programs do not include worship, do not count them.

**Count Easter sunrise services**

**Count Christmas Eve candlelight services - all of them if you have more than one**

**Count Holy Week**

Yes, it's OK if people are counted twice that week, or if a music person is counted in more than one service. Remember we are qualifying the health, strength, and effectiveness of our church and seeking to do so with consistency within the local church and in comparison to other churches.

Add the special services such as Christmas Eve or Holy week to the overall count for the week, meaning add Christmas Eve and Holy Week into the weekend total. Remember, we are qualifying the health, strength, and effectiveness of our church. This is not about numbers even though it is!

**Count nursing home worship services and assisted living services, etc. if they include the elements of worship. Add this into the following weekend worship numbers.**

**What if it snows, sleets, ices, floods, hails or a tornado hits the town.** Count, but don't add into the years average worship attendance if it ices one weekend, average 51 weeks leaving that one out.

We want a clear indication of the health, strength, and effectiveness of a church.

**Who not to count?**

Don't add 5% to the total to account for people in the bathroom or talking in the hallways.

Don't count weekly fellowship dinners if they do not include the full worship qualification.

Don't count Preschool worship.

If your church hosts a weekly preschool for children that the community enrolls their children in and pays for and it has a worship experience connected with it, do not count as a church worship experience.

Don't, don't, don't count funerals or weddings.

*Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Executive Director*

*Center for Evangelism, Missions & Church Growth*

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MARCH 7, 2019

# DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING

AUSTIN AVENUE UMC

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9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

9:30 - Gathering

9:45-10:45 - Ben Simpson will lead on how  
to keep Christ at the Center in the midst of  
the storm

11:00-12:00 - New Faith Community  
Panel/How to get a grant





Early Response Training Opportunities:

Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-5pm  
Joshua First United Methodist Church  
111 Paula St.  
Joshua, TX. 76508  
Instructor: Donnie Sherwood  
Class Fee \$30  
Registration closes February 26

Recertification/Advanced Training  
Opportunity:  
Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-1pm  
Joshua First United Methodist Church  
111 Paula St.  
Joshua, TX. 76508  
Instructor: Susan Luttrell  
Class Fee: \$20  
Registration closes February 26



[Register for 3/2/19](#)

[Enroll for Recertification/Advanced Training](#)



NURTURING A CULTURE OF GROWTH

Contact the district office if your church is interested in this initiative!

For more information: <http://www.ctcumc.org/grow>



### Wake Up!

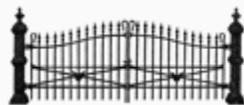
How about something different for Ash Wednesday this year? Open it with *Wake-Up*

*Call*, a One Man Show monologue featuring John the Baptist as a contemporary backwoodsman. Rev. Jeffrey Miller of FUMC Belton wrote, “A wake-up call is what we got at our Ash Wednesday service! During the scripture reading, Mark marched in thundering a message of repentance. He urged our people to truly change and not just walk around with dirty foreheads, making ‘ashes’ out of themselves. *Wake-Up Call* is an inspiring message –highly recommended.”

Host churches receive a preparation packet, complete with promotional materials. Mark can come for mileage reimbursement and a love offering with no minimum required. Contact One Man Show at 817-454-1129 or send an email to [info@onemanshow.org](mailto:info@onemanshow.org).

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*Energizing and equipping local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*



“STORM THE GATES”

Matthew 16:18

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