

Local Ministry and Service Programs Affiliated with Wellspring

(Last updated 11 December 2025)

For contact information of persons listed as contacts below, please consult Wellspring's ShelbyNext member directory or email Pastor Jessica: petersenj@wellumc.org

Backpack Buddies

Contact: Cliff Barkley

Georgetown Backpack Buddies helps ensure that Georgetown ISD food insecure children do not go hungry over the weekend during the school year. We believe that by feeding the children we are helping achieve our vision: "We imagine a community where all children are properly nourished during their formative years, grow to realize their full potential as adults and break the cycle of poverty". We are currently providing over 1,000 students with weekend packs of 9-10 nutritious, nonperishable food items to take home for the weekend to supplement the family food supply. The food goes to children in grades K through 12 in all 20 GISD schools for the 40- week school year. Any child whose family income qualifies for the free/reduced breakfast/lunch GISD program and registers for our program is served. Backpack Buddies was started as a pilot by the Georgetown Ministerial Alliance in 2009, growing from 50 children to over 1,000. The program continues to grow by approximately 20% with the start of each new school year. The annual value of the food packs is \$180-\$200 per student; with weekly food bags costing approximately \$5 per bag. Georgetown Backpack Buddies is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Wellspring has four teams of 3 to 4 volunteers who pack on their designated Wednesday for Carver and Ford Elementary Schools. Additional volunteers and financial assistance for the program are always welcome.

Helping Hands of Georgetown

Contact: Dolly Shubert

Helping Hands of Georgetown has been serving the underserved and homeless population in the Georgetown community since 2016. They provide a Mobile Food Pantry in downtown Georgetown, Monday through Thursday at 3:00pm in the Georgetown Library 8th Street parking lot. (402 W. 8th St.) Volunteers hand out Brown Bag lunches, pantry bags, clothing, and hygiene items along with a kind smile.

The Journey with Joy Sunday School class makes a regular financial contribution to Helping Hands as part of an ongoing ministry to homeless persons. They also provide other help as requested, including organizing a church-wide hygiene bag workday.

Stan Mauldin serves on their Board.

Wishlist: a person to make regular contact with Helping Hands to coordinate needs

Helping Hands: <https://www.helpinghandsgtx.org>

Meals on Wheels

Contacts:

Cliff Barkley

Linda Miles

Cathy Wyman

Meals on Wheels Central Texas delivers hot, nutritious lunchtime meals to homebound older adults and persons with disabilities. Wellspring partners with San Gabriel Presbyterian church to provide drivers, delivering meals every nine week. There are thirteen routes, each taking about 60-90 minutes to complete. Volunteers are scheduled and paired with another person to deliver meals, and driving schedules are flexible. In many cases, the volunteers may be the only person the recipients speak to on a given day.

As of September 2024, a San Gabriel member schedules the drivers, though the scheduler role had previously been held by a Wellspring member. To volunteer a person must complete an online training.

Wishlist: Additional drivers; possibly a scheduler who would coordinate with Meals on Wheels staff.

Webpage: <https://owbc-tx.org/meals-on-wheels/>

San Gabriel partner/scheduler is Ann Weir: weirahe@gmail.com (254) 718-7991

The Caring Place

Contact: Susan Bowman

The Caring place is a community-based and community-supported organization which serves Georgetown and the surrounding area. Its mission is to provide for the basic

human needs of all people in our community in a welcoming, respectful, and caring way. The Caring Place provides help for those in crisis for rent and utilities. They provide food & clothing assistance, transportation vouchers, emergency temporary shelter, case management service, and more. In 2022, The Caring Place served over 6000 neighbors and provided over \$3,000,000 in financial support and non-financial services.

The Caring Place was established in 1985 when the Georgetown Ministerial Alliance, composed of 11 local churches, was approached with the request to create a single place where people who needed emergency assistance could go for help. Today, thirty-seven churches and organizations serve in an advisory capacity through membership on the Membership Council.

Susan Bowman is Wellspring's representative on the Membership Council, which meets quarterly. Her role at Wellspring is to inform the congregation of Caring Place's mission and encourage support for its services, either through donations, financial support, or volunteering. She coordinates a quarterly food drive at Wellspring for the Caring Place food pantry. Those with questions about volunteering at The Caring Place can contact her or The Caring Place directly: (512) 943-0700.

Wish list: More opportunity and better means of informing our congregation of the work that The Caring Place does and promoting support for their services.

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)

Jim Brown [Contact MFSA](#)

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) is an intersectional social justice nonprofit that mobilizes Justice-Seeking People of Faith to take action on issues of peace, poverty and people's rights within the church, the nation, and the world. (Webpage: <https://www.mfsaweb.org>)

MFSA is a 100-year-old organization in the Methodist Church whose driving force is Social Justice in the World. It was instrumental in the development of the Social Principles adopted by the UMC General Conference in 1972 and revised in 2024. Wellspring is part of the Central Texas MFSA. ([Facebook](#) page)

The group meets 4-5 times/year, alternating between First United Methodist Church of Georgetown, Wellspring, and The Wesleyan. Meetings at The Wesleyan are well-attended, as many of the current members are residents there.

Members pay dues to join, and a large part of the money goes to support the national organization. The group takes action in its local area around the following issues: climate justice, economic justice, gender justice, LGBTQ+ justice, peace building, racial justice, reproductive justice, and immigration justice. They partner with local groups such as Justice for Our Neighbors (<https://www.ifonaustin.org/>) and Move the Monument, as well as support and sponsor educational events around these issues.

Wishlist: Encourage people to join and be part of their regional community.

Project Transformation

Contact: Pastor Jessica Petersen (petersenj@wellumc.org)

Project Transformation's mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. PT connects college-age young adults in ministry and service with underserved children and youth. Project Transformation provides two key services:

- 1) Leadership development and ministry exploration opportunities for college-age young adults through summer and one-year service internships.
- 2) Community-oriented after-school and summer day camp programming for children and youth.

The young adults lead programming, giving them authentic, hands-on experiences leading high-quality programs for children and youth and equally important, learning from the children and youth. PT's programs focus on enriching the body, mind, and spirit, but we place a unique emphasis on literacy and social-emotional learning. During the summer, each child is paired daily with a volunteer to read one-to-one. Programs are strategically housed in churches in the heart of communities that are under-resourced. This partnership between host churches and Project Transformation is designed so that churches can leverage the program to make new connections and form meaningful relationships with families in their immediate neighborhood.

Wellspring partners with First UMC Georgetown to support Project Transformation. Volunteers sign-up for a time to read with students or to help provide lunches for students or dinners for interns during the summer.

Wish list: Reading Buddy Volunteers, meals for interns, donations of reader books

United Methodist Women of Wellspring (UMWOW)

Contact: Cathy Wyman

UMWOW seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. The organization is affiliated with the United Women of Faith (UWF) formerly known as the United Methodist Women (UMW). Established in 1869, UWF is a global organization dedicated to building a supportive community for women that advocates for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, youth and children.

UMWOW meets regularly for luncheon programs (potlucks), mission and service which are advertised in flyers, the church calendar and e-news. We also have an active book club called “BLT” for Bringing Ladies Together for Bible Led Teaching meeting on the third Thursday of each month. This is an age diverse group studying 3-4 books a year and discussing the application to our lives.

UWF has grown to over one million women who last year raised \$6.9 million dollars to support over 75 international missions including support for women chicken farmers in Zimbabwe, interest-free loans for women’s small businesses in Sierra Leone and scholarships for women to attend Africa University, as well as more than 120 missions to benefit women, children and youth in the US.

Membership is automatic for any woman in the church and interested members are asked to make an individual pledge in any amount they wish. These funds support the aforementioned missions, as well as local organizations such as Wellspring youth, confirmands and graduates, Georgetown Project (The Nest), Faith in Action Georgetown, Williamson County Children’s Advocacy Center, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Georgetown Assistance League, Sager Brown, Wesleyan Benevolent Fund and others.

Wishlist: Encourage women to join and be part of the local chapter.

Wellspring United Methodist Men (UMM)

Contacts: Bob Sinclair
Andy Houser
Mel Hazelwood

The mission of UMM is to ensure that every male United Methodist has a credible opportunity to meet, know, and serve Jesus Christ so he becomes an effective disciple of Jesus Christ.

UMM invites ALL men of the church to participate (there are no dues or forms to join).

Wellspring UMM meet regularly at the church for an 'everybody brings something' breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am for fellowship and to hear about various programs of interest to Christian men.

UMM at Wellspring support our church's work projects like the prayer garden and clean-up days, and we raise funds for ministries such as our youth ministry, The Caring Place, Helping Hands, etc.

Wishlist: Encourage men to join and be part of the local chapter.

Other Local Ministry and Service Programs

(supported by Wellspring on a periodic/ad hoc basis)

Faith in Action Georgetown	https://www.faithinactiongt.org/
Georgetown Project (The Nest)	https://www.georgetownproject.org/nest-empowerment-center/
Cold weather support	Contact Mercy & Justice Team

Cooper Elementary	Contact UMWOW team or Marie Camp
UMCOR Relief Projects (including Sager-Brown Depot)	https://umcmmission.org/umcor/
GTX Navigation Services	https://gtxconnect.org/gtx-connect-navigation-services/
Central Texas Food Bank	https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/
Williamson County Children's Advocacy	https://wilcocac.org/
Bluebonnet Trails Community Service (including mental health and crisis support)	https://bbtrails.org/
Georgetown Assistance League	https://www.assistanceleague.org/georgetown-area/
Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG)	https://bigtx.org/