



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,  
to Peace, and to Service*

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# Connections

## Newsletter

### What Did You Do This Summer?

by Jane Howard

It used to be a popular topic when schools opened and students stood up in front of the class to answer the question: “what did you do in the summer?” Kids spoke about their activities before school started. We are sort of in the same situation. What did you accomplish during the coronavirus shut down? Hold onto your hats, because we are proposing that if we are going to dream --while we are sequestered and cannot meet in-person, what else could we be doing while we wait?” -- dream big: How about renovating our Sanctuary restrooms?

Last Fall we postponed indefinitely upgrading our restrooms to be Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant, along with a companion expense of new carpet and paint improvements. The price tag last summer was estimated to be about \$53,000.

**RESTROOMS continued on p. 9**

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### CPFUMC Family Members,

Some say, “You can’t home again”. As a child, I always thought the “old people” who said this were a little crazy, you can always go home. I would come home after school every day, and it was still the same. Now being just a little older than a school child, I somewhat understand.

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, many changes have occurred. We are told to social distance, wear a mask, stay at home, and you know the rest. It is a hard time for all of us. We want to be with each other; we want socialization.

After a lot of discussion, the church council voted not to re-open the church at this time. We have reviewed the guidelines from the CDC, Texas Governor, Williamson County, the Methodist Church, and such. At this time a team compiled of several trustees have been putting together procedures for when the church re-opens.

In Christian love we want to re-open the church safely for all. An email containing a re-opening survey, which I hope you answered, will be used to let us know your wishes and determine what you are ready to do. The council will review your answers and the current guidelines at their June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

When we come home again it will not be the same but it will still be home, we will feel the Christian love. We will re-open when it can be done safely.

Your church council chair,

Carolyn

## JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

It is Sunday morning as we watch the clock ticking closer and closer to 9 o'clock. Finally, we can join the Zoom session. The children hurry to the screen while pushing mom and dad away. We are in PJs, eating breakfast, stuffed animals are by our side, friends are on the screen, and our bible is in our hands. For now, this is our new normal, and we are making it the best we can.

We started the Easter season off with studying about Jesus' resurrection. Then we studied Ruth and Naomi about the intense love they had for one another.

With Mother's Day coming, we shared ideas of several things they could do for their mothers. All the children made their decisions and began their creations.



Josie created this string art card for Amanda, along with this heart felt card.



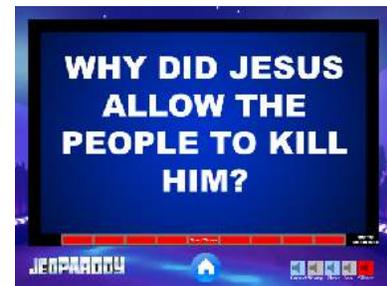
Leland prepared a COPON book for Amanda. She is very fortunate; it is fill in the blank.

Rachel is very good at handcrafts. She made these lovely items for Debra.





A game of Jeopardy was fun for all.



Early this year Josie, and Leland had joined Kid’s Acting and were chosen for roles in the “Wizard of Oz”. They did continue through Zoom and had a virtual performance.

Josie wrote this poem to describe her experience.

**Theater  
by Josie**

Theater is the best,  
 You can do anything.  
 You can act,  
 You can dance.  
 You can be in anything.  
 You can be in a puppet show,  
 You can be in a movie, too.  
 Like YouTube, anyone is a star.  
 Theater, you are a star.  
 So what do you say,  
 Is theater amazing?

All elementary-age children are invited to join our Zoom Sunday School, each Sunday at 9:00 am, please contact Carolyn Smith, [carolynsmith@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith@gmail.com).

# BE LIGHT YOUTH May 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette Thorpe Johnson

Pastor Suzette delivered care bags from CPFUMC to the BE LIGHT YOUTH filled a face mask made by Pastor Suzette, along with modeling clay, small crafts and snacks, of course, as the YOUTH prepared for the end of the school year. We gathered via ZOOM to make Stay-at-Home or No-Roam Gnomes. They were quite an array of fancy and fun creatures that were baked in the oven and serve as a reminder we are all in this together.

Summer is finally here after the longest semester in the entire history of semesters! We celebrated with DRIVE –IN MOVIE. We can gather in our cars, chatting via zoom while we stay in separate spaces.

Be on the LOOK OUT for more summer activities:

- **UMARMY sign-up for the Cedar Park home-base Mission Trip (\$99) July 14-16<sup>th</sup>**
- Senior Send-Off at SeaWorld San Antonio in July
- Kayaking
- Water balloon fight and popsicles
- Hiking
- And, of course,
- Working towards the Holy Land!! Contact Pastor Suzette ( [suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org) ) to schedule your OUTDOOR only task, please.

We are registering for the Holy Land Trip. Please let Pastor Suzette ([suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org) ) know if you will be joining us NEXT spring, March 2021, as we explore the beauty of our faith ancestors in the streets of Jerusalem, the home of Jesus, and walk along the Sea of Galilee. Check out the brochure and ask me questions! It will be the profound trip of a lifetime. Due to current events, the travel company is being extremely flexible to ensure we do get to travel when it is safe to do so.

Holy Land Brochure link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p1E3N3zLkOjU0027YvehUogZo6kol2P-/view>

**Confirmation** continues and we shall celebrate sometime in the Fall – TBD

Farewell Seniors! We are so thrilled at your success! Nothing can take away the momentous achievement that has been YEARS in the making. You are now and always will be HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!! Know that wherever your gifts, passions, or sheer grit takes you – Cedar Park First UMC will welcome you home with open arms. We are a safe place to return to and to be lifted up in the Love of Christ. Go with God and with our love: Amber Lo, Jett Heermans and Kyle Blount.

Midweek Manna Wednesdays at 8pm

YOUTH WORSHIP Sundays at 4PM

Peace,

Pastor Suzette

## Youth Seek Jobs to Raise Funds for Their Holy Land Trip

Even in this time of minimal contact, if you have outdoor work for one or two youth at a time, please contact Suzette.

Recently, Abigail and Shawn replaced the church mailbox. 1. Getting ready; 2. Abigail reads instructions; 3. Shawn brought the right tools; 4. Anchoring cladding to wooden post; 5. Removing the box holding bolts; 6. Bolting on the box; and the final result at right. Great Work. Thanks for the Help!



## New Live Streaming System in Use

Since March 22<sup>nd</sup> we have been live streaming worship services using an iPhone, a tripod and the church Wi-Fi network. Following a successful dry run on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we have now transitioned to more robust equipment which we will continue to use even after the coronavirus pandemic has subsided.

The Sanctuary building interior currently looks like a giant sound stage with all the chairs stacked up around the edge.

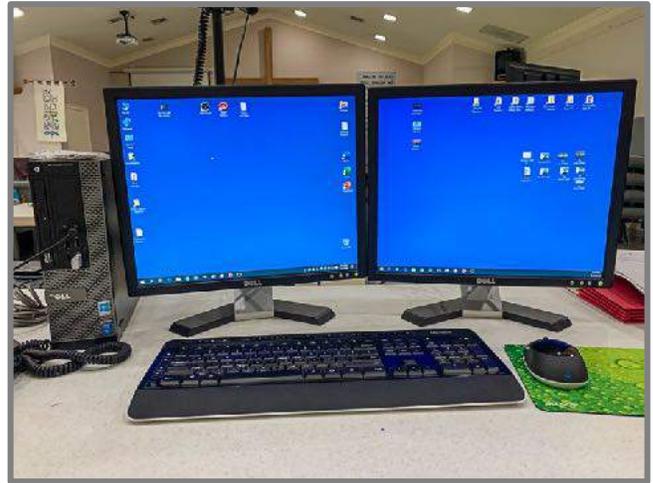


Key components of the new live streaming system include two video cameras, one in the center-back of the room and the other wall-mounted near the piano. Another key component is a video switching device which allows us to switch between cameras and the PowerPoint slides coming from a computer. The switching device also allows us to connect an audio feed from the four wireless microphones we have. Our pastors are getting used to wearing wireless lavalier microphones at all times!



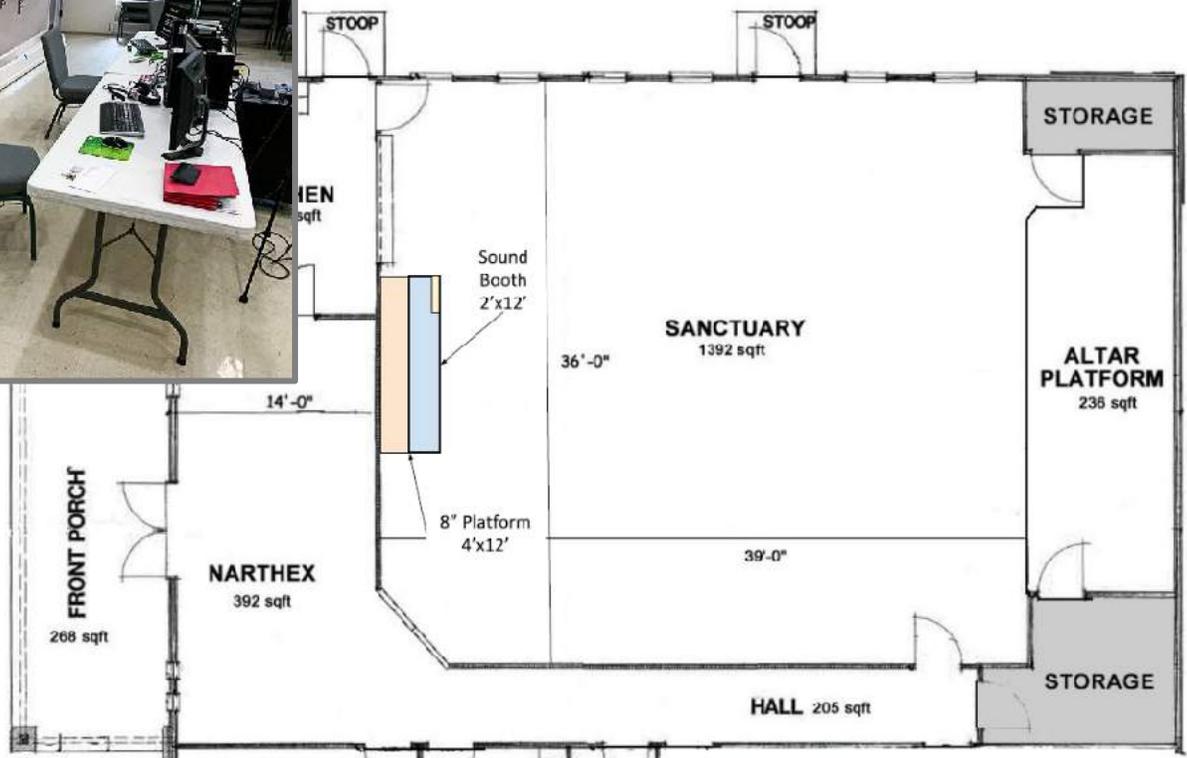
**LIVE STREAMING** continued on next page

## LIVE STREAMING continued



Two computers round out the list of key components for the new live streaming system. One computer runs the announcement slide loop and the worship slides. The other computer runs software for the video switch and the video capture and live streaming software. Both of these computers are connected to the church LAN and the Internet by hard-wired connections.

Connecting all of this equipment required a significant wiring project which included our existing projector, network, power and speakers. All of the wiring is concealed in the walls and attic of the building, entering the Sanctuary at the rear through the east wall.



LIVE STREAMING continued on next page

## **LIVE STREAMING continued**

When the time comes that we have in-person Sunday services again, all of the equipment and wiring will be housed in a sound booth to be constructed at the rear of the sanctuary extending 4 feet out from the wall, 12 feet along the wall and 54" tall.

The "Sign-Up" table that was formerly in this area has been relocated to the Narthex. The audio/visual bookcase which was formerly near the altar is now gone, its equipment transferred to the sound booth.

### **Finances & Leadership**

All of the money to pay for this system, including equipment, construction materials and sanctuary wiring was paid for by a \$3,600 grant from our Endowment Fund and approximately \$2,000 in equipment donations by members. The main Sony camera, other cameras and several cables were donated by Hardy Porterfield.

A live streaming team did all the research, designed and created the system and performed initial setup and tests. This team consisted of Neil Howard, Sergio Longoria, Hardy Porterfield, Dean Feazell and Todd Greer. Dan McNichol and Russ Lundstrom are helping with the sound booth construction which has just begun.

### **Call for Volunteers**

Anyone wishing to help run this system can volunteer to be a sound technician. We have a training manual and training videos on what to do as well as in-person training, when conditions permit. Contact Neil Howard if you are willing to help out from time to time as a volunteer sound technician. This is a great opportunity for young people who like to use cameras, push buttons and play video games!

## **Church Contacts**

Find us online at [cpfumc.org](http://cpfumc.org)  
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2  
at this phone number:  
(512) 335-9540

Want to contact a Church Leader or submit  
something for a future Newsletter?



Pastor Peter Castles  
Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson  
Church Council Chair Carolyn Smith  
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount  
Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

[peter@cpfumc.org](mailto:peter@cpfumc.org)  
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Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!

## RESTROOMS continued from p. 1

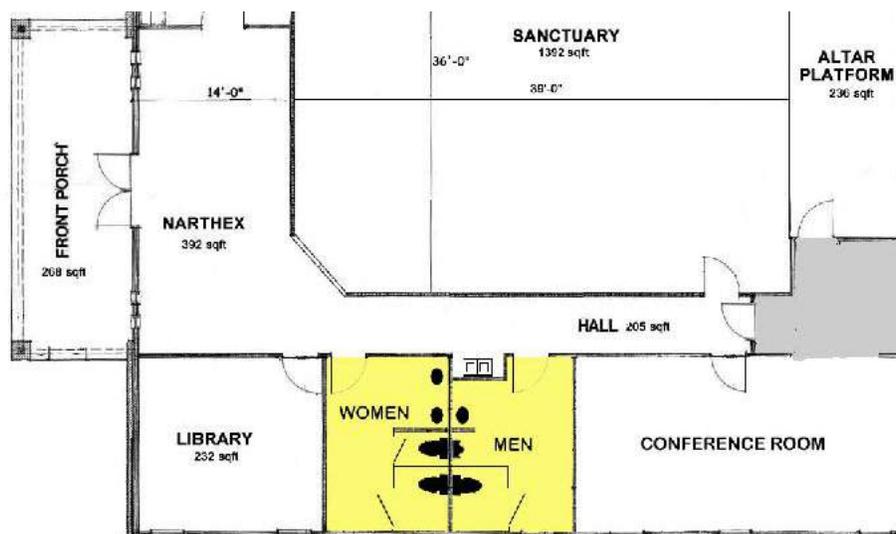
We talked with the City of Cedar Park Permit Department, “how long would it take to get a permit to upgrade our restrooms?” Answer: It can take ten days to apply, get a review and receive comments back to the applicant. If the construction permit is submitted on a Monday, it would be considered at the Tuesday meeting. The City would respond with comments, not by the near Friday, but by the following Friday (within 10 days). Bonus: we can do two things at once. We can start the permitting process before we go out to get bids from contractors, and update the permit with their name when the known contractor is hired.

Is this enormous undertaking even realistic at this time? To pay for the remodeling, this would be money over and above our current pledges – even though we are not meeting in person, expenses continue to come due. It would be like the effort to build a dream parking lot, or a dream outdoor sanctuary, or a dream Park Street Frontage Landscaping Project.

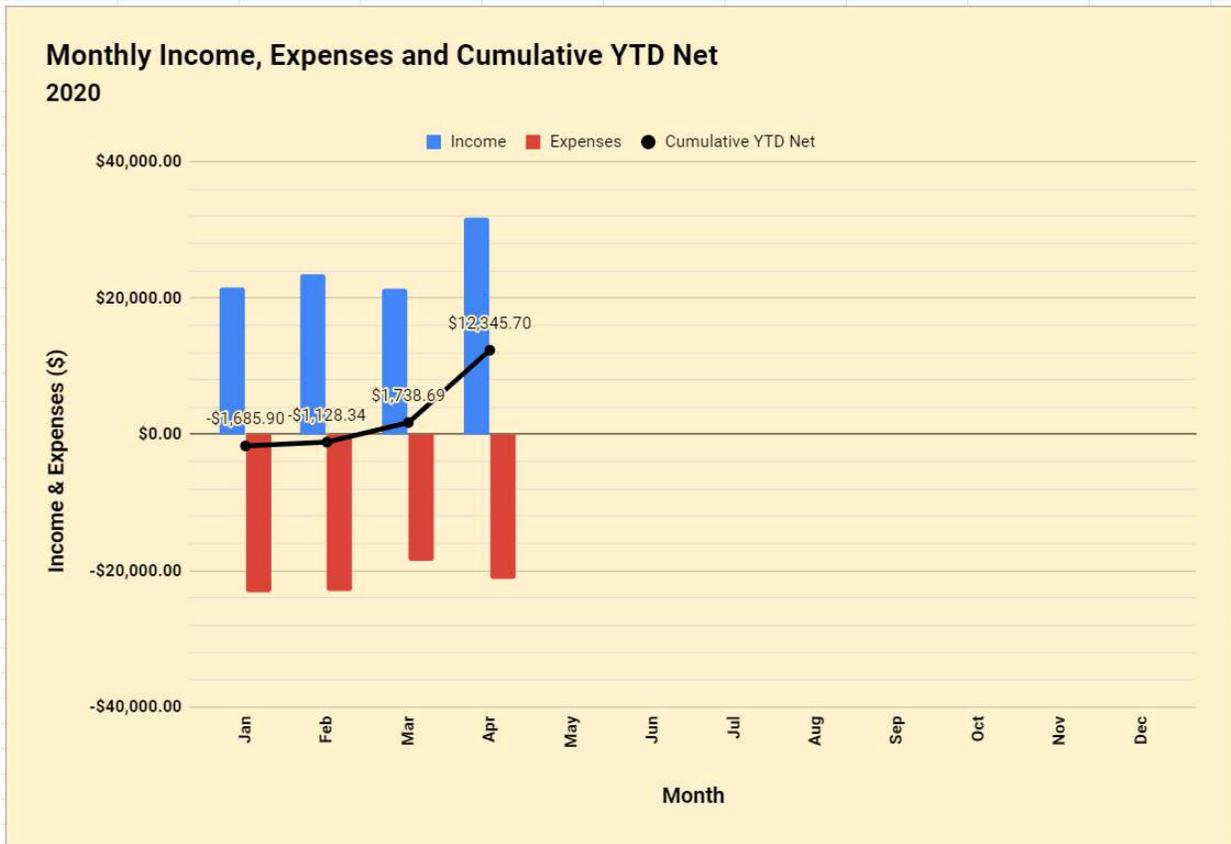
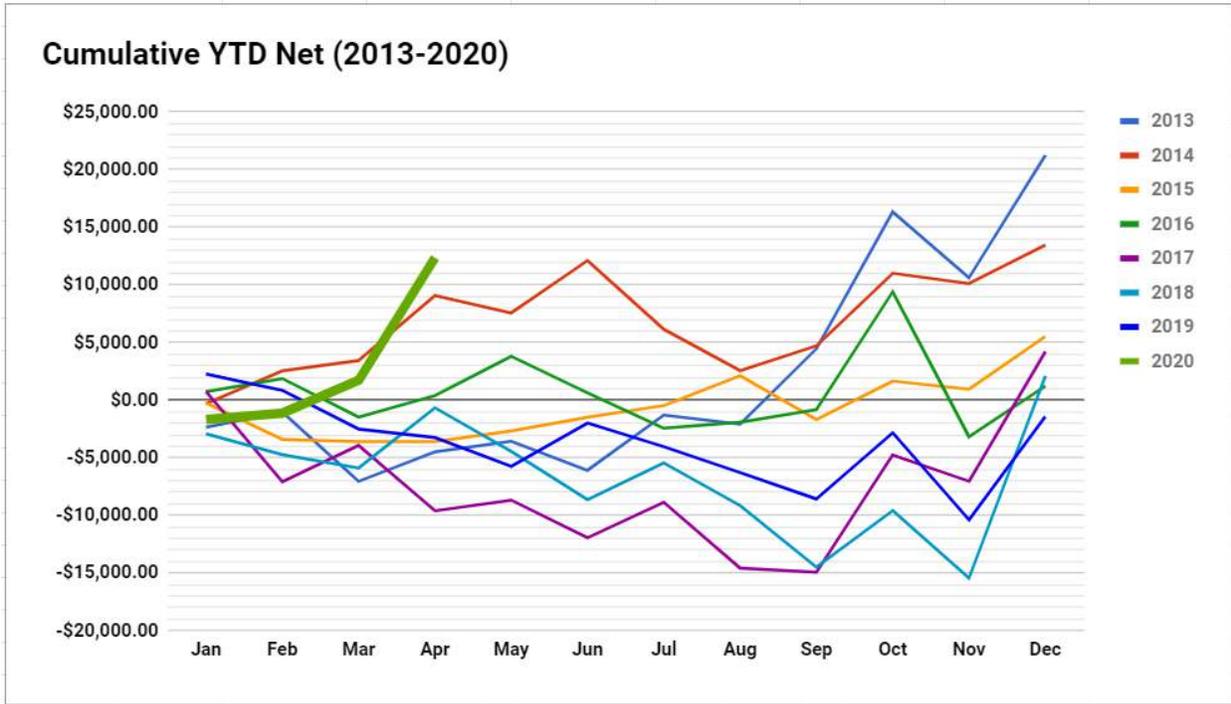
The work could be done in about a week while the building is empty. What better time to upgrade our restrooms than when people are not in the building?

But we can't begin to think about this unless we come up with a positive response and people actually are willing to pledge contributions to specifically renovate the restrooms, with accompanying new carpet and paint. We already have one congregant who is willing to contribute 20% of the total cost. Can you meet the challenge to reach our dream goal? The pledge duration is short: between now and the end of December, 2020.

If this appeal strikes your fancy and you want to be part of a huge sense of accomplishment versus remaining largely passive in waiting for the COVID-19 virus restrictions to end, please contact Ron King ([rbking411@att.net](mailto:rbking411@att.net)) to let him know what you might be willing to pledge for this Dream effort. We envision the work starting as soon as the permit arrives and the work being completed before the building is opened again. The faster we raise the money, the sooner we might get the project started and finished (!) before we return to regular Sunday services.



# Cedar Park First United Methodist Church Financial Information January-March 2020



# CPFUMC Calendar June 2020. Click [here](#) to go to the online

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am Children's Sunday S 10am Online Worship 1pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd JOHN : 4pm Youth	Jun 1 12:30pm Stories and Joke 9:30am Morning Prayer S 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 6:30pm TRUSTEES	2 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study	3 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mai 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	4	5	6
7 9am Online Children's Su 10am Online Worship 1pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd JOHN : 4pm Youth	8 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 9:30am Morning Prayer S 6:30pm FINANCE Commit	9 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study	10 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mai 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	11	12	13
14 9am Online Children's Su 10am Online Worship 1pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd JOHN : 4pm Youth	15 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 9:30am Morning Prayer S 6:30pm COUNCIL Mtg - Z	16 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study	17 12pm Reading Club 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mai	18 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	19 NEWSLETTER Input Dis	20
21 9am Online Children's Su 10am Online Worship 1pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd JOHN : 4pm Youth	22 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study	23	24 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mai 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	25	26	27
28 9am Online Children's Su 10am Online Worship 1pm 1st, 2nd, 3rd JOHN : 4pm Youth	29 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study	30	Jul 1 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mai 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	2	3	4