



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

September 2022

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Letter from the Trustees Chair

I am going to repeat myself just a little... for the last two years, with the pandemic raging and all the uncertainty of when it would end, we did not hold any Fall or Spring work days in person, or at least not when all the volunteers would be at the church grounds at the same time. And the Summer work day we had planned for June had to be cancelled.

Thank God things have changed and even though we are a little overdue for a work day, we are planning on a Fall work day this coming October 1st (9am – 12pm). Of course, you can always come in when it is convenient for you rather than on the planned day. A list of items is being prepared by the Trustees, items that need a little TLC. We will post it to the church's web site so that you can add your name next to the item you wish to tackle. This list will also be posted in the

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A Conversation with Dayne Miller

Q: When was your first day at CPFUMC and what do you remember about it?

A: November 21, 2021. The people were very friendly and I like the traditional service and Peter's type of sermon.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: It is my type of church only much smaller than my home church.

Q: In what city did you grow up? Where do you live now?

A: Graham, TX and now Cedar Park

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: First United Methodist, Graham, TX

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My wife of more than 64 years died in



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YOUR DONATIONS TO UMCOR HAVE HELPED TO SEND \$1.2 MILLION WORTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO UKRAINE



So far this year, Cedar Park First UMC has contributed over \$3200 to support the efforts of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in Ukraine. Here is just one story about how your contributions to UMCOR are being utilized.

Getting needed medical supplies into war-torn Ukraine might seem like an insurmountable task. Routes for delivery by sea are blocked, and there are customs requirements to consider. On top of the logistical challenges are the surmounting costs, especially with jet fuel prices soaring. Nonetheless, a homegrown nonprofit in North Zulch, Texas (twenty miles northeast of Bryan-College Station) is undertaking the cause – the Arlene Campbell Humanitarian Foundation. Founder and president Lena Denman is a member of First UMC Madisonville, Texas.

Before Russia’s current invasion of Ukraine, the Arlene Campbell Humanitarian Foundation was delivering supplies to hospitals in the country. For instance, last September, a 20-foot container filled with medical supplies and equipment went by sea through a U.S. Department of Defense-funded transportation program. “We had a pipeline, and everything was in order,” Denman said. But Russia’s naval blockade put an end to that. “Going by ship became untenable,” Denman said. She was well aware that medical supplies would be needed more than ever as violence escalated, hospitals were hit by missiles, and countless Ukrainians were injured.

Denman already had relationships with doctors and medical staff in the country and could find out exactly what was needed. Supplies were donated from Ohio Health, a nonprofit health care ministry of the UMC, and Baylor Scott & White’s Faith in Action Initiatives. Denman discovered AEC Parcel Service, run by two Lithuanian brothers, who donated warehouse space in Poland and understood how to navigate custom requirements.

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Still, funding was the key to making everything possible. “When you’re going by air and not sea, it’s so much more expensive – and it’s going up every month,” Denman said. “We knew the more we could send, the faster would be best. We needed to get supplies over as quickly as we could.” That’s where the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), part of United Methodist Global Ministries, came to the rescue. Denman applied for a grant in early March and received \$160,000 in transportation costs for one shipment from UMCOR. But instead of sending one shipment of 25 to 30 pallets, the Foundation was able to send three shipments, thanks to its relationship with Ohio Health and AEC Parcel Service.

Then, the Foundation received a second grant for more than \$199,000 to further support the needs of hospitals. That allowed a fourth shipment to be made to Ukraine on June 10. There were 23,000 pounds of medical supplies and equipment, valued at \$290,000 delivered to the State Institution Ukrainian Health Ministry Heart Institute. With the four shipments, the Arlene Campbell Humanitarian Foundation has been able to ship more than \$1.2 million worth of medical supplies and equipment. Already 7,000 individuals have been helped at three hospitals.

Denman explained that the situation in Ukraine was dire long before the current invasion. Her first trip to the country was at age 16 in 2000. She traveled alongside Arlene Campbell, a woman who had a ministry to help immigrants from the former Soviet Union. “She asked if she could take me to Ukraine,” Denman recalled. “I had never been abroad.” Campbell shipped medical supplies to Ukraine and maintained connections with doctors to help meet their needs. She also coordinated deliveries of clothing and food.

“I toured the hospitals and met doctors that I kept in contact with for many years to come,” Denman recalled. “Arlene had such high-level contacts that she got me a pass to Parliament and introduced me to Ukrainian members of parliament.”

On the visit, Denman’s translator was only two years younger and spoke four languages, despite having just three textbooks at her school. “It was humbling, to realize how much I had in the U.S. and how much I took it for granted,” Denman said. She also saw how highly-trained doctors were underpaid and did not have the supplies they needed.

Denman’s travels with Campbell were life-changing. She was inspired to pursue an undergraduate degree in international studies and political science at California State University East Bay. She later earned her master’s degree in international/global studies at Texas State University in San Marcos. Now a professor teaching government at Blinn College in Bryan, Denman is also pursuing a doctoral degree at Grand Canyon University in organizational leadership with an emphasis in higher education.

She often reflects on her experience with Campbell – and wonders if her mentor was trying to pass on her mission on their trip. It was not long after their travels together that Campbell passed away from diabetic complications in 2002. After finishing her master’s program, Denman thought, “I bet they still need medical supplies.” Before long, she took up the task – and in 2016, founded the Arlene Campbell Humanitarian Foundation.

The main hospital the Foundation works with is the State Ukrainian Institution Health Ministry Heart Institute, which distributes supplies to other hospitals as well. “They are also trying to raise funds to restore a 14 building-clinic that was devastated by Russian forces in Irpin, a site of Russian war crime atrocities,” Denman said.

BE LIGHT YOUTH

The Church is invited to **TWO** upcoming events with the **BE LIGHT YOUTH**:

TALES and TASTE of the HOLY LAND TRIP

Fundraiser for Methodist Roots England 2024

Saturday, September 17;

Doors open at 4:30PM; dinner served at 4:45PM

The YOUTH will serve a delicious dish called MAQLUBA we enjoyed in Jericho. It is a chicken, rice and veggie delight. Dessert and tea will also be provided. While you eat your meal, the YOUTH will share pictures and stories of their journey through the Holy Land. All donations from this event will be used to send us to explore the foundations of Methodist faith which started in England with the Wesley family in the 1700's and the impact of the Methodist church in the world.

Reservations required as there is LIMITED SEATING so don't delay. RSVP with Pastor Suzette (suzette.cpfumc.org)

Theatre and Dinner with a YOUTH

HOLIDAY INN

(based on the famous movie with fabulous songs a witty dialogue- perfect way to get into the holiday fun)

Georgetown Palace Theatre

Sunday, November 27

2pm matinee then dinner

Adopt a YOUTH for an afternoon of musical theatre followed by a shared meal at a nearby restaurant (TBD). Pay for your ticket plus a youth ticket (\$33 each). We will carpool over, sit in the theatre together and then head back to Cedar Park for a dinner conversation of the musical with your YOUTH. In order to get tickets together, Pastor Suzette must have RSVP by October 1st.

(suzette@cpfumc.org) Tickets may be paid for through the usual church means, please note it is for **theatre and dinner with a YOUTH** in the memo spaces.

BE LIGHT YOUTH had a LOCK-IN the last weekend of August. We started with working at Helen and Chuck's huge yard, earning funds for the next faith trip to England. After a lunch brought to us by Carolyn Smith, we cooled off with swimming before heading to the church. Debra provided dinner and Sue S. breakfast. In between, we had art projects for spiritual reflection, games, movie and snacks. We ended our lock-in with the early worship then went home to recover.

Methodist Roots England 2024 more details to come BUT FOR NOW we are earning our way to travel to England in summer of 2024 to explore the roots of the Methodist faith and the impact of the Methodist faith on the world. We will visit John Wesley's journey and have some time in London as well. We are expecting it to cost about \$3800 per person and are starting to earn that through projects. ALL are welcome to join the trip and all are welcome to earn funds to offset the cost. The more people who go, the more it reduces the cost for all. There will be an info meeting most likely in October.

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BE LIGHT continued from p. 4

If you have tasks around your home for which you'd already be paying someone to handle, please consider hiring the **BE LIGHT YOUTH** instead. We do work hard and are fun to have around! Contact Pastor Suzette to discuss and schedule. (suzette@cpfumc.org)

CONFIRMATION classes + MUSIC JAM sessions + Tacos Sundays start

SEPTEMBER 11 during SS hour 9:45-10:30am We will be having rotating schedule of these events for the coming school year. Anyone not yet confirmed with the Methodist faith is encouraged to take this sacred journey of discovering their claim on Christ. We will explore various aspects of our faith and celebrate confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in the Spring. PLEASE let me know if your YOUTH will be participating. For those already confirmed it will be a review of and deepening of their faith walk. Every other Sunday, we will do a jam session. Bring your instruments and I will provide drums. YOUTH will pick songs to learn/I will teach drums to those willing. 5th Sundays will be TACO Sunday – eat tacos and hang out.

I will need a SECOND SAFE GATHERINGS ADULT for these to happen. Please consider your schedule and let me know about serving ONE Sunday a month. If you have not yet completed the easy THREE step process, please so using this link: <https://riotexas.org/safesteps> I encourage ALL PARENTS and ALL church members to become *Trusted con Confianza* (one who has completed the three step process) as another layer of accountability for all the church happenings for all vulnerable humans.

Fall Schedule (so far- jobs will be added as we receive them)

September

Sat. 9/3 9-noon help Tally's move

Mon 9/5 Labor Day work day at Helen and Chuck's

Play area fence painting/installing

Sun 9/11 practice making MAQLUBA/prep slides

SATURDAY 2-7pm TALES AND TASTES of HOLY LAND fundraiser

Sun 9/25 4:30-9:30PM dinner and LINE DANCING (no school tomorrow)

October

Sun 10/2 TBD hopefully **Methodist Roots England 2024** info mtg

Sun 10/9 prep activities for Fall Festival

SATURDAY 10/15: 8-noon HOST Fall Festival for A Child's Haven preschool and neighborhood

Sun 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 Fun in the Pumpkin Patch

November

Sun 11/6 and 13 work on creating items to sell at **Christmas Tea and Treats** first weekend in December

Sun 11/20 Hanging of the Greens

Sun 11/27 Holiday Inn at the Georgetown Palace theatre plus dinner with a church member (I will need a head count soon as to buy tickets)

December

SATURDAY 12/3 **Christmas TEA and TREATS** fundraiser for **Methodist Roots England 2024**

Sun 12/18 Christmas party /Trail of Lights

WHEW!!! You made it. Thanks for taking the time to include spiritual development for your YOUTH in your busy lives.

Reach out with ideas and solutions. Together we will get through raising these beautiful humans God has entrusted to our care.

Peace,
Pastor Suzette

Handspun Hope envisions entire communities freed from poverty.

They pursue this by reaching out to the most vulnerable people in Rwanda and creating environments where they are empowered to live out their full potential at work, home and in their spiritual lives.

CPFUMC participates in this ministry through support of Rwandan widows. If you would like to read more about what this ministry is currently doing, follow the link below to read their newsletter and learn about the past 15 years of their work in Rwanda.

[God's Pasture - Culling the Sheep](https://www.handspunhope.org/featured-stories/2022/8/5/gods-pastures-culling-the-sheep)

<https://www.handspunhope.org/featured-stories/2022/8/5/gods-pastures-culling-the-sheep>



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Sanctuary's hallway for you to see what's needed. And if you see something that needs attention, feel free to add it to the list.

During this Fall workday, we will also be putting up the tent(s) and preparing the way for the arrival of the Pumpkins. If you can also help us with that, please be sure to come and enjoy a good time of fellowship while we get the grounds ready for the pumpkins and do a little fixing on the church grounds.

Your participation is much appreciated and we believe we will have the same enthusiastic response we have always had from all of you.

God bless.

Sergio L. Chair Trustees

MEMBERS from p. 1

December 2019. We had three children and ten grandchildren.

Now I have two great grandsons. One daughter died in 2003 and a grandson (her son) in 2006.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I do not have any pets. We used to have dogs at different times until our youngest son developed allergies to them. My wife had a cat for several years.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time? Or what takes up a lot of your time?

A: Reading. I like semi-historical and military books. My favorite author is W.E.B. Griffin.

Q: Do you have a particular hobby? Is there one you want to learn?

A: After retirement I liked to do salt water sailing. My wife and I flew to the Caribbean and I chartered a boat and we sailed around the Caribbean Islands for 10 days.

Q: What's your favorite restaurant or favorite meal?

A: Olive Garden

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: Cruise Ships

Q: I'd rather do anything besides going out to eat dinner alone.

Q: Tell us something we might not know about you!

A: I took Pre-Law at UT and graduated from the UT School of Law in 1961. I practiced law in Graham, including civil and criminal jury trials and non-jury matters. I primarily practiced family law, oil and gas, corporation, real estate and criminal defense. I was a Certified Methodist Speaker and filled the pulpit 24 times at several different churches. Due to a serious health event, I am no longer able to speak publicly. I was also active in Walk to Emmaus for several years. I worked several walks and spent 3 years on the Central Texas Methodist Emmaus Board of Directors of which I was the Lay Director in 2008.



METHODIST READING CLUB meets again in late September

Pastor Peter will be leading a discussion (in person and by Zoom) of *Girl Gone Missing: A Cash Blackbear Mystery* by Marcie Rendon, a novel about a nineteen-year-old who helps law enforcement solve the mysterious disappearance of a local girl from Minnesota's Red River Valley.

The book group will meet on Thursday mornings at 10am, beginning in late September. If you are interested in joining us to read and discuss this book (a 2021 UMW Reading Program selection) please see the sign-up sheet in the Lobby or email Peter at peter@cpfumc.org.

Copies of the book will be available for \$15, or you can download the book to your e-reader.



SEPTEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Every Sunday in September, we'll be collecting items for Hill Country Community Ministries. Here's a list of items to bring:

Critical items are marked (*)

Canned Items: Stew, Tuna*, Chicken, Chili, Soup, Tomatoes*, Tomato Sauce*, Spaghetti Sauce*, Corn, Peas, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail*, Apple Sauce, Peaches*, Peanut Butter, Jelly*, Orange Juice*, Apple Juice*

Dry Items: Dried beans (1 or 2 lb packages only), Spaghetti/Pasta (1 or 2 lb packages only), Cold cereal, Hot cereal

Personal Care Items: Shampoo*, Bar soap, Dish soap*, Laundry detergent*, Deodorant*, Toilet paper*, Kleenex*, Paper towels*, Toothpaste*, Toothbrushes*

Church Finance Report

The Church's operating fund status through July 31, 2022 is summarized below. July expenses, and expenses for the year, are consistent with our budgeted estimates. However, we experienced a slight slump in giving in July, something that often happens during the summer. As a result we ended the month with a deficit a little over \$2400. Year-to-date the Church continues to have an operating deficit so your ongoing support is appreciated. The Church continues to have adequate cash reserves to meet its financial obligations.

Financial status through July 31, 2022

Total Income:	\$ 146,850.13
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 157,539.43</u>
Net Income/deficit:	-\$ 10,689.30

YOUTH MEALS NEEDED!

PLEASE FEED the BE LIGHT YOUTH

Food is a crucial aspect of YOUTH ministry. Please consider sponsoring or bringing lunch for

TEN BE LIGHT YOUTH for their Youth Gatherings after church.



Super simple suggestions:

- Spaghetti
- sandwich fixings (bread, meat/cheese, PB&J) couple bags of chips, fresh fruit,
- basic tacos
- salad with a protein,
- chicken nuggets and veggies sticks
- hamburgers
- soup and bread
- cheese/crackers/meats/grapes tray
- a casserole (please provide a vegetarian option)
- pancakes or breakfast tacos
- store bought item we can cook in the oven – family size lasagna for example
- gift card/cash for Subway or Taco Bell or HEB.

Dessert is really optional and should be small as the YOUTH only want a bit of a treat.

Please sign up to provide a meal! A sign-up sheet is available in the church lobby.

Thank You for loving the BE LIGHT YOUTH

Church Contacts

Find us online at cpfumc.org
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at (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
suzette@cpfumc.org
carolynsmith2215@gmail.com
jodi_blount@hotmail.com
lund121@me.com

Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!



CPFUMC Calendar September 2022

Click [here](#) to go to the most up to date online calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>28</p> <p>8:30am - In-Person</p> <p>9:45am - SS in-person &</p> <p>10:45am - In-Person</p> <p>10:45am - Livestream</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>6:30pm - Endowment</p> <p>7:30pm - Centering</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - HCCM</p> <p>11am - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>7:30pm - AA Men's Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am - Women's</p> <p>6pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Alcoholics</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:30am - In-Person</p> <p>9:45am - SS in-person &</p> <p>10:45am - In-Person</p> <p>10:45am - Livestream</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7pm - TRUSTEES in-</p> <p>7:30pm - Centering</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - HCCM</p> <p>11am - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>7:30pm - AA Men's Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30am - Women's</p> <p>6pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Alcoholics</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30am - In-Person</p> <p>9:45am - SS in-person &</p> <p>10:45am - In-Person</p> <p>10:45am - Livestream</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Centering</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - HCCM</p> <p>11am - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>7:30pm - AA Men's Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30am - Women's</p> <p>6pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Alcoholics</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - PEO Meeting @</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30am - In-Person</p> <p>9:45am - SS in-person &</p> <p>10:45am - In-Person</p> <p>10:45am - Livestream</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Centering</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - HCCM</p> <p>5:30pm - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>7:30pm - AA Men's Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am - Mbrshp, Care &</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>6:30pm - Buckle & Bows</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>23</p> <p>NEWSLETTER Input Due</p> <p>10:30am - Women's</p> <p>6pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Alcoholics</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Memorial Service - Jeff</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30am - In-Person</p> <p>9:45am - SS in-person &</p> <p>10:45am - In-Person</p> <p>10:45am - Livestream</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>6:30pm - Council Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm - Centering</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>10am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - HCCM</p> <p>11am - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>11am - Prayer Shawl</p> <p>7:30pm - AA Men's Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>29</p> <p>3:30pm - Piano Lessons -</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am - Women's</p> <p>6pm - Piano Lessons -</p> <p>7:30pm - Alcoholics</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9am - Fall Work Day @</p> <p>9am - Pumpkin Patch</p>