



A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,

December 2022

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

A Conversation with Sue Chesnut

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

A: It was in March of 2022. My friend knew I was a long time Methodist (68 years) so he pointed out the church and I listened to several online services. It was warm and friendly and I felt very welcome.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: I was initially impressed with Pastor Peter's sermons. I remember thinking that this little church was very fortunate to have him.

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

A: I come here from South Bend, Indiana. My house was about six blocks from the Notre Dame Campus. I actually grew up "rural" on a small farm. Later I had a farm of my own for 16 years in LaPaz, Indiana. Now I live on a friend's property in Cedar Park.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: For 30 years I attended First United Methodist in South Bend. I actually chose to



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**CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEARS DAY
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
5pm (family-friendly) and 7pm (traditional)
December 25 Christmas Day Worship Service
One Combined Service at 10am
January 1 New Year's Day Worship Service
One Combined Service at 10am

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BE LIGHT YOUTH - Check it out!

TEA AND TREATS

Saturday, Dec 3

Open House from 10-noon

BE LIGHT YOUTH are excited to welcome everyone to the social event of the Season: TEA and Treats!! They have worked now for months to prep for this day of gathering, nibbling on goodies and perhaps picking up a gift or two. Little Josie made candles and Audrey created cards from her photography plus much more; each youth contributing some art or treat. Bring a friend, a grandchild, a spouse and relax for a bit. Chat, sip, and laugh together.

If you are done shopping for your needs, consider donating a gift to the nursing resident down the street. The BE LIGHT YOUTH will wrap a gift for every \$5 donated and arrive with SANTA and elves to hand out the gifts and sing carols with the residents on December 18th after worship.

All funds raised will help us get to England in 2024 to explore the Methodist Roots of the Wesley family the founders of Methodism. We are grateful for all the support you wrap around us every day. Suggestions or solutions? Contact Pastor Suzette (suzette@cpfumc.org)

BE LIGHT YOUTH

DECEMBER to REMEMBER

This weekend, arrive at church at 8:30 to help set up TEA and TREATS - remember to bring your items you made for sale. We will clean up afterwards so plan on staying until 1pm - contact Pastor Suzette if you transportation.

Sunday 12/4 SS- Confirmation / BE LIGHT YOUTH wrapping presents for the Nursing Home Residents.

Sunday, 12/11 CHRISTMAS PARTY!!! NOON to 3PM Right after worship we will head over to Audrey's house. Bring a food dish to share and a WRAPPED WHITE ELEPHANT gift that is gender neutral around \$10 or so; you can also repurpose a gently used or rehome a gift from someone else. WE play a fun game to distribute the gifts so you never know who will end up with what item. Contact Pastor Suzette for address or questions (suzette@cpfumc.org).

Sunday, 12/18 12- 2:30PM Santa is in da'House! We will eat lunch then take the donated gifts to the nursing home. Wear your fun Christmas gear - funny hats or ugly sweaters. We hang around for a bit singing carols and bringing smiles and love to the residents.

Saturday 12/24 Christmas Pageant at 5PM

Sunday 12/25 and 1/1/2023 NO Sunday school and No YOUTH.

Wednesday 12/2 - we deliver poinsettias to residents and go to the movies. Details TBD

Happy Advent Y'all

Peace,

Pastor Suzette





January 13—January 15
T Bar M Camp | \$175/person

Know what's even better than a Black Friday deal?
Sending your kid to the Youth MidWinter Retreat!

Your teen will form memories, friendships, and develop their spiritual life in ways that will last for years to come!

BEST PART besides fun and chill – COLLEGE STUDENTS from Texas State, and

UT Austin will be in da'house leading worship music, bringing the message and discussing issues with YOUTH reality today – this ain't your grandma's church- it is intentionally YOUTH focused.

Send your YOUTH, your grandchild, your befriended YOUTH, your niece/nephew or Sponsor a YOUTH in need

Deadline to register is December 11th
Register today and pay later

Registration Deadline - December 11!

- **What:** Capital District Youth Midwinter Retreat
- **When:** Jan. 13 (7pm) through Jan. 15 (10:30am)
- **Where:** T Bar M Camps and Retreats in New Braunfels, TX
- **Cost:** \$175/person (partial scholarships are available)

[Youth sign up HERE.](#)

[Adult chaperones sign up HERE.](#)

There is a limited number of partial financial scholarships. Please email Pastor Suzette if you would like to apply for one of these. Deadline for scholarship request is December 7.

Please submit registration fee (\$175/pp) to CPFUMC. You can pay via check (please put "Youth Retreat" and youth's name on the memo line) or pay online (with a note in the memo) or pay on-line via YOUTH activities:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z312/campaign/C-11Y2Q> . This a fabulous way to prioritize spiritual growth and empower your YOUTH to think theologically about the world around them not just react to its stimulation.

Please let me know once you have registered – so far we have two YOUTH and two adults – LET'S FILL DA' HOUSE with BE LIGHT YOUTH from CEDAR PARK.

A Child's Haven Happenings

ACH is back in full swing and has been blessed to be very busy! To kick off fall, we enjoyed a Teddy Bear Picnic with our families on the lawn. In October, we had special visits from two groups of community helpers, Cedar Park Fire Department and PEC. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching the bucket truck reach high into the air and exploring the fire trucks.

During the month of November, we talked about what it means to be thankful and how we show others that we are thankful for them. Our Annual Thanksgivings Potluck was a huge success with a big thanks to Bush's for donating the chicken, rolls, and tea. I absolutely couldn't have done it though without the help of the wonderful women of CPFUMC. These ladies worked hard behind the scenes to make things go off without a hitch. I am beyond grateful for them!

The children of ACH have been working hard learning new songs and their lines for the nativity play. We invite y'all to join us for our Sounds of Christmas performance on December 14th at 12:00.

Take a peek at what we have been up to!

Kind regards,

Reanna Eddy, Director
A Child's Haven Preschool
<https://childshaven.net/>



CHURCH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD DECEMBER 11

Every year Cedar Park First UMC gathers for a meeting with our District Superintendent to approve reports and elect leaders for the coming year. This year's Church Conference will be held online via Zoom on Sunday, December 11 at 5pm. Other local United Methodist churches will also be present for this combined Cluster Conference. If you are interested in attending, email Pastor Peter for the link.

One of the important duties of the Church Conference is to elect leaders for the coming year. Here is the list of leaders being proposed:

CHURCH COUNCIL

Meg McClintock (Lay Leader/Council Chair)
Anita Martin (Council Secretary)
Peter Castles (Pastor)
Jane Hilton (Financial Secretary)
Steve Howard (Finance Chair)
Ron King (Financial Secretary)
Brad Lienhart (Trustees Chair)
Karen Packard (SPR Chair)
Suzette Thorpe Johnson (Pastor)

NOMINATIONS

Peter Castles (Pastor, Chair)
Meg McClintock (Lay Leader)
Jane Hilton – 2023
Karen Bowker – 2024
Neil Howard – 2025

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Meg McClintock (Lay Leader)
Karen Packard – 2023 (Chair)
Jill Lundstrom – 2023
Bob Bowker – 2024
Brenda Higgins – 2025
Jennifer Ruffcorn – 2025

FINANCE

Steve Howard (Chair)
Martin Goodman
Richard Inzunza
Jane Hilton (Financial Secretary)
Ron King (Financial Secretary)
Brad Lienhart (Trustees Chair)
Karen Packard (SPR Chair)
Meg McClintock (Council Chair)

LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Meg McClintock
Karen Packard
Sue Sidney (alternate)

TRUSTEES

Brad Lienhart – 2025 (Chair)
David Gibbs – 2023
Dan McNichol – 2023
Sheryl McNichol – 2024
Carolyn Smith – 2024
Jorge Soto – 2024
Clunie Van Rensburg – 2024
Miranda Williams – 2024
Paul Gay – 2025

ENDOWMENT

Peter Castles (Pastor)
Steve Howard (Finance Chair)
Brad Lienhart (Trustees Chair)
Meg McClintock (Council Chair)
Pam Clinch – 2023
Richard Inzunza – 2024
Sue Chesnut – 2025

LAN ADMINISTRATOR

Neil Howard

MEMORIALS

Clara Crank
Sue Sidney

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sue Sidney

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY

MINISTRIES DELEGATE

Bob Bowker

A CHILD'S HAVEN PRESCHOOL BOARD

Reanna Eddy (director)
Yaheli Benitez (teacher)
Malory Blanton (parent)
Hilary Williams (parent)
Karen Packard (church)
Karen Goodman (church)
Suzette Thorpe Johnson (pastor)

Have the children in your life join us for Christmas VBS!!!



**Journey to Bethlehem:
The Birth of Jesus**

Christmas VBS

**Saturday, Dec. 17
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

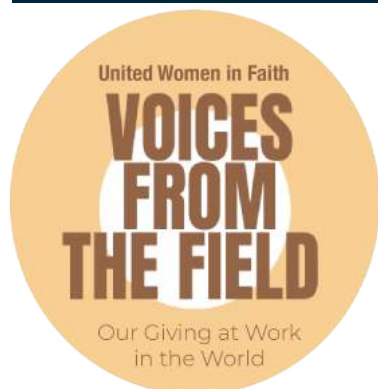
**Cedar Park First United
Methodist Church
600 W. Park St.
Cedar Park**

Please join us as we travel back in time to take the journey to Bethlehem as Mary, Joseph, The Wise Men and the shepherds did so many years ago. To sign up, visit cpfumc.org.



United
Women
in Faith

You're Invited



**Voices from the Philippines with
Regional Missionary Emma Cantor**

**Monday, December 5, 2022,
10 AM ET
(9:00 AM Central)**

**UWF Gathering Scheduled for Jan. 7th! More
information to come!**

Join Emma Cantor, United Women in Faith Regional Missionary to Asia & Pacific, to hear how God is moving in mission through our work with women in the Philippines.

REGISTER NOW

*If the registration link does not work for you, please copy, and paste this text into your browser window:

<https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsfuyqqz4tGdx7SEjdqNgdSRngM7qQYfXx>

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become a Methodist at 12. Prior to that I was raised in an Anabaptist offshoot, the Church of the Brethren.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My daughter, Esa, is Chief of Probation for Contra Costa County in California. She has two children and my great granddaughter!

My son, Donnie, and his wife Andrea have a Video Production Company in South Bend. I have three step children and seven unofficial fosters (all teens who lived with me for varying periods). My late husband was an Ordained Methodist Minister, Professor of History and Early Religions at the Indiana University.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have a rescue Bichon Frise. She isn't very brave. It took two months before she would allow me to touch her. I'm also hooked on feeding the deer that come every morning to the "Buck Snort Café".

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

A: What spare time? I go to the Y for water aerobics every morning. My friend and I have been learning to work with stained glass and plan on some pottery classes. Cooking for the youth helps with my urge to cook for somebody's army. I have been doing a fair amount of yard work since I moved her on January 1st.

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

A: Sewing is my main skill. I worked my way through college in the Costume Shop of the Theatre Department. For years I did all my own home repairs and even built some furniture for my Grandkids. I sketch a lot of portraits. I play Autoharp and read lots of mystery novels. I'm generally crocheting something.

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

A: I'm learning to eat "Texas" but I still love German and Polish food.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: I pulled my camper across the country for years. I love going to Northern California to visit my kids and to Pennsylvania for the Autoharp Festival.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: Chair focus group meetings.

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

A: I performed in Gilbert and Sullivan comedy musical productions and was a Coast-to-Coast trucker.



Year-End Reminders from the Church Finance Committee

As we enter December and near the end of 2022, we want to remind everyone about the importance of making your 2022 contributions. You can take contributions you make prior to December 31st as a deduction on your income tax if you itemize your deductions. For those 70 1/2 and over, you can take a take tax credit for donations made from an IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. The Church encourages you to make your December donations as early as possible. However, the Church will credit your 2022 contributions statement for any donations we receive by December 31, 2022.

In addition, if you have not yet made a pledge for 2023 it is still possible to do so. Your pledges help the Church better plan its expenses for 2023, support our pastors, youth and other ministries. We are pleased by the response so far, but we encourage anyone who has not yet made a pledge to consider doing so as soon as possible, but before year end.

Church Finance Report

The Church's operating fund status through October 31, 2022 is summarized below. We had a positive October due in part to the results of our Pumpkin Patch. Though we did not sell all of the pumpkins, we did net a little over \$3000 enabling us to reduce our year to date deficit. The Church continues to have adequate cash reserves to meet its financial obligations.

Financial status through October 31, 2022

Total Income:	\$ 225,347.60
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 227,824.11</u>
Net Income/deficit:	-\$ 2,476.51

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

peter@cpfumc.org

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

suzette@cpfumc.org

Church Council Chair Carolyn Smith

carolynsmith2215@gmail.com

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

jodi_blount@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

lund121@me.com

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



CPFUMC Calendar December 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Thanks for Giving	28 4pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7:30pm - Centering	29 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	30 9:30am - Santa Shop for 4pm - Piano Lessons -	1 9:30am - Santa Shop for 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	2 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	3 9:30am - Tea and Treats
4 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	5 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7pm - TRUSTEES in- 7:30pm - Centering	6 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	7 10am - ACH Xmas 4pm - Piano Lessons -	8 10am - ACH Xmas 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	9 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	10 10am - PEO Meeting @
11 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - BE LIGHT YOUTH 5pm - Church Charge	12 10am - ACH Xmas 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	13 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 12pm - ACH Xmas	14 Peter Castles Birthday 11am - ACH Xmas 4pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Buckle & Bows	15 3:30pm - Piano Lessons - 5pm - OLGA Dinner @	16 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	17 9am - Children's
18 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - BE LIGHT YOUTH 2pm - Piano Recital - 5:30pm - Paino Recital -	19 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	20 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 5:30pm - Prayer Shawl	21 10:30am - Mbrshp, Care 4pm - Piano Lessons -	22 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	23 NEWSLETTER Input Due 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	24
25 NO BE LIGHT YOUTH 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	26 4pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7:30pm - Centering	27 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 11am - Prayer Shawl	28 4pm - Piano Lessons -	29 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	30 10:30am - Women's 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	31