



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

February 2023

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# Connections

## Newsletter

### ***A conversation with Brad and Jess Lienhart***

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

A: A Sunday in February 2022 and we joined CPFUMC in October 2022.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: I kept driving by and it looked like a nice church and I am Methodist by birth. My wife and I didn't want a big church. One day Jess and I pulled into the driveway and met Sue Sidney standing by her car. She is a great salesperson for CPFUMC.

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

A: I grew up in central Illinois on a farm and Jess grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. We have lived in 20 different homes in 15 towns or cities. We now live at Solea apartments on Juliette Way in Cedar Park.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: We had not gone to church regularly for about 30 years.

Q: Tell us about your family.



A: Children: Amy Bartley, 54 teacher, Naperville, IL with 3 grown children (girl 26, boy 24, boy 22); Jeff Lienhart, 52 Adidas Executive, Carlsbad, CA with 3 grown children (boy 26, girl 24, boy 22); Sara Baker, 50 sales and Baker Home Health Care LLC, Cedar Park, TX with 2 grown children (boys 23 and 21).

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: A 13-year-old Cocker/Poodle cross male named Caleb and a 5-year-old Cavalier Spaniel female named Dauphne (they are our children).

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# BE LIGHT YOUTH - Check it out!

## MULCH FUNDRAISER COMING SOON

The BE LIGHT YOUTH will be offering bags of mulch as a fundraiser for the METHODIST ROOTS ENGLAND 2024 trip. We are in process of finalizing details. We will be offering bags for pick up at the church for \$5 each or for delivery to your home for \$6 each. The BE LIGHT YOUTH will also install the mulch for an additional donation of your choice.

We have been working hard doing everything from Christmas lights, to raking, to brush clearing, to fun community gatherings and so much more. The cost for each person to travel to England will be about \$4000 and we do not want money to be a barrier for anyone who wants to explore how the Wesley family started a church which factually altered the world.

This is the standard Wesley trip via EO. We will be doing something very similar with an additional day in London if possible:

[https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/HE23\\_A\\_Wesley%20Heritage\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/HE23_A_Wesley%20Heritage_FINAL.pdf)

We will most likely be traveling the last full week in May to take advantage of the lower airfares before the summer season opens in June.

We THANK YOU for your support for the BE LIGHT YOUTH.

## HIRE THE BE LIGHT YOUTH for YOUR TO-DO LIST around your HOME

IF YOU have a house task you were planning on hiring someone to take care for you – PLEASE consider asking the YOUTH to do it instead. We are great at a variety of home repair and yard clean up. We painted the interior of a home in Eagle Pass in two days and have pulled weeds, lopped hedges, repaired/painted fences, cleared debris and so much more. Please contact Pastor Suzette ([suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)) to see if we are good for your job needs. The added bonus is the YOUTH come hang with you while they work and have fun getting your to-do list taken care of- we really do WORSHIP HARD WORK HARD and PLAY HARD.

### SCHEDULE

Sat 2/4 ALL DAY (9-5) work day in BUDA; bring lunch, gloves and water bottle: meet at church at 9am

Sun 2/5 **MUST RESERVE SPOT in Valentine's Day "Chopped" Special Zoom Edition on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> open to all**; SS but no YOUTH as workday the day before

Sun 2/12 **PICK UP "CHOPPED" box**; tech training for worship services

TUESDAY 2/14 7:15pm **Valentine's Day "Chopped" Special Zoom Edition – open to all**

Sun 2/19 Methodist Roots workday after church

**SATURDAY 2/25 3-5pm BE LIGHT YOUTH CHILI COOK OFF** – come be a part of this tasty and fun community event – contact Jessyka ([juniper9173@yahoo.com](mailto:juniper9173@yahoo.com)) to enter the contest. ALL are WELCOME to enter the contest and to vote for BEST of SHOW – come on now- there are serious bragging rights on the line!!

Sun 2/26 SS but no YOUTH after worship because of Chili Cook off the day before.

**CONFIRMATION Sunday will be EASTER morning, April 2nd, at the Sunrise service at 7am. BE LIGHT YOUTH lead the outdoor worship and we will confirm YOUTH.**

Updated confirmation/Sunday School schedule:

Feb 5 Confirmation

Feb 12 Drum Circle

Feb 19 Confirmation

Feb 26 Confirmation

March 5th NO YOUTH SS OR BE LIGHT

Mar 12 Drum Circle/spring break

Mar 19 Confirmation/spring break

Mar 26 Drum circle

April 2 Palm Sunday EVERYONE prep for Easter

## A Child's Haven

A Christian preschool where all children are celebrated!

It has been an eventful January at ACH. The children got right back into the swing of things after Christmas break. Our toddler classes have been exploring the color blue and winter weather. Preschool has had a lot of fun using their imagination with their "Not a Box" unit where they pretended that large boxes were anything but a box. We had rocket ships, pirate boats, and caves galore. Pre-K has been learning all about dental health as we get into National Children's Dental Health Month. We will be having Little Smiles, a pediatric dentist, come in to teach the kiddos more about taking care of their teeth. Kinder Bridge kicked off the month a Texas "snowball" fight and now they are learning about Nursery Rhymes. They even had Humpty Dumpty take his "great fall."

We are loving our weekly Spanish and Music & Movement lessons with Ms. Ellie. She incorporates our monthly themes into the lessons. This month the key vocabulary words were azul (blue), cuadrado (square), frio (cold), and alegria (joy) our Fruit of the Spirit for January. They also worked on naming clothing items that are frequently worn in the winter. During Music and Movement, they had a winter weather clothing relay race and danced to tune of Lori Berkner's, *When It's Cold*. Next week, they will explore winter sports and will try out "skiing" in The Gross Motor Room.





# Hill Country Community Ministries

The following slides are examples of products available



## COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The HCCM Community Cupboard is free and open to the public and no appointment is needed. You can visit once a day to shop for things like fruits and vegetables, bread, pastries and other miscellaneous items. Items vary daily.

<u>Cupboard Location</u>	<u>Cupboard Hours</u>
1005 Lacy Drive	Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm
Leander, TX 78641	1pm – 3pm
	*Extended hours on Thursday until 7pm



**\*\*Please note: You must arrive 10 minutes prior to closing at each shift to allow you time to shop and for our volunteers to clean up.**



Community Cupboard:  
Examples of bread & rolls available



Community Cupboard:  
Examples of fresh deli type items



Community Cupboard:  
Examples of fresh fruit & vegetables

# CHILI COOK-OFF



**Come on over and enjoy sampling  
chili made by our church youth,  
family, and friends.**

Saturday, February 25th • 3-5pm

Cedar Park FUMC Sanctuary  
600 West Park Street • Cedar Park, TX 78613

**This event is a fundraiser for the CPFUMC Youth trip to London.**

Tickets are \$5 per person and you'll receive 3 tokens to vote for your favorite chilis. Children under 8 Free admission.



Greetings Friends,

Suicide is a reality in our world and we often are at a loss about how to comfort those left to grieve (including ourselves perhaps) or what to do if someone presents signals about suicide. Below is description for a one-day class at Austin Seminary near UT. I will be attending and invite anyone whose heart has been tugged or bruised by this issue to join me in learning how to respond meaningfully to suicide. There is a \$50 fee which includes instruction, materials and lunch. The registration link can be found below. Please let me know if you are attending and perhaps we can arrange carpooling: [suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)  
Peace, Pastor Suzette

**Soul Shop™** is a one-day workshop that equips faith community leaders to minister to suicide impacts as a regular aspect of their ministries. The workshop includes addressing the primary obstacles to dealing with suicide such as stigma, fear, and shame; statistics/facts about suicide; and how ministries can create a supportive environment while shifting the culture around how people deal with this subject and one another.

During the workshop we will talk about the creation of worship resources, training congregation members in suicide awareness and basic conversation skills, and how to extend the invitation to those who have been suicidal in the past to share their stories.

**Who Should Attend?** Faith leaders and benefits counselors, lay ministry leaders, first responders and essentially anyone interested in learning how to effectively minister to those impacted by suicide.

**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 2, 2023, 9:00AM - 4:00PM

**Cost:** \$50, includes lunch and refreshments – use link below to register:  
<https://www.austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning/workshops/soul-shop>

## Church Finance Report

The Church's operating fund status through December 31, 2022 is summarized below. The Church ended the year on a positive note. Spending for the year was on budget and giving exceeded budgeted estimates. As a result the Church ended the year with a small surplus, thanks to the generosity of Church members.

In other Church financial news, we completed a very successful 2023 stewardship campaign. Over \$222,000 was pledged for the Church operating fund making preparing the Church's 2023 budget much easier. Thanks again for your support of our Church.

### Financial status through December 31, 2022

Total Income:	\$ 276,246.07
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 272,633.54</u>
Net Income/deficit:	\$ 3,612.53

## **MEMBERS from p. 1**

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

A: Start and funding businesses, helping people grow and manage businesses they started (sometimes with my help), business leadership and personal coaching, reading, exercise of different types and cooking. My newest project: Chairing Board of Trustees at CPFUMC (a 3-year assignment). It is a natural for me because the church is a small business.

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

A: Jess and I want to travel more so we have our bucket list. We are going on tour to Florence, Italy in March and want to see many different things here in TX. We just spent 4 days in San Antonio on the river. We hope to go to England with our church group next year. I am trying to learn how to play guitar.

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

A: We like Japanese, French, and Italian—favorites LaMadeleine, The Grove, Abby's Crab Shack.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: Two hours any direction from Cedar Park—we like the Gulf and Hill Country.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: be around boring and pessimistic people.

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

A: Jess was 79 November 26, 2022 and I will be 79 in May 2023. I am playing my 16<sup>th</sup> Hole of Life which is explained in a book I wrote titled "5 AT A TIME", planning or playing life and career 5 years at a time. If you live to be 90 you will have played the 18 Holes of Life. There is more on my website [www.bradlienhart.com](http://www.bradlienhart.com) including how to buy my book.

My newest book which I produced (but did not author) is titled VIEWS OF CALVARY: A Photographer's Perspective of the Cross Through the Lens of Scripture. It is a coffee table photo devotional depicting 31 cross pictures and related devotionals. Both books are available at AMAZON and "VIEWS" is also available at [www.robholt.com](http://www.robholt.com), with other inspirational products to put in your cart.

## **Church Contacts**

Find us online at [cpfumc.org](http://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](mailto:peter@cpfumc.org)

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

[suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)

Church Council Chair Meg McClintock

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Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

[jodi\\_blount@hotmail.com](mailto:jodi_blount@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

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

# CPFUMC Calendar February 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8am - BE LIGHT YOUTH 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	30 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	31 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	1 4:30pm - Piano Lessons -	2 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	3 10:30am - Women's 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	4 <b>BE LIGHT YOUTH</b> Budca 9am - United Women in
5 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - No BE LIGHT	6 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	7 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	8 11am - Young at Heart @ 4:30pm - Piano Lessons -	9 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	10 10:30am - Women's 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	11
12 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - BE LIGHT YOUTH	13 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	14 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7pm - CHOPPED 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	15 10:30am - Mbrshp. Care 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 6:30pm - Buckle & Bows	16 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	17 10:30am - Women's 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	18 10am - PEO Meeting @
19 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	20 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	21 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 5:30pm - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	22 4:30pm - Piano Lessons -	23 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	24 <b>NEWSLETTER Input Due</b> 10:30am - Women's 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	25 2pm - CHILI COOK-OFF
26 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream	27 4:30pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Centering	28 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	1 4:30pm - Piano Lessons -	2 3:30pm - Piano Lessons -	3 10:30am - Women's 4pm - Piano Lessons - 7:30pm - Alcoholics	4 9am - United Women in