HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

08/22/2018

Find the Happenings on our church website: <u>https://cpfumc.org/find-out-whats-happening/</u> If you prefer NOT to receive these Happenings each Wednesday, please reply and let us know that.

Sunday Worship times 8:30a & 10:45a

PLEASE find ALL of the church announcements and happenings on the website: https://cpfumc.org

Unitive Consciousness Wednesday	Paul Knitter, a theologian, wrote an insightful book called <i>Without Buddha I Could</i> <i>Not Be a Christian.</i> In it, he explains that Buddhism teaches "practices that will help Christians draw on the mystical contents of our faith. Buddhism can help Christians to be <i>mystical</i> Christians to realize and enter into the non-dualistic, or unitive , heart of Christian experience—a way to be one with the Father, to live Christ's life, to be not just a container of the Spirit but an embodiment and expression of the Spirit, to live by and with and in the Spirit to live and move and have our being in God." [1] What a wonderful
Wednesday	and in the Spirit, to live and move and have our being in God." [1] What a wonderful
, August 22, 2018	Trinitarian description of living as an image and likeness of God! Like Christian contemplative practices, Buddhist practices such as meditation, silence, and living mindfully help us encounter the deepest, truest reality—our oneness with God.

PRAYERS for Help and Healing :

Recent Requests for Prayers:

The family of Sandra Vinson who died this week; Service in Sanctuary Saturday 8/25 at 2pm

Vicki Thompson, upcoming surgery 8/25; Cousin Charlie Hopson, funeral 8/25 & Gary Hopson, colon & liver cancer.

Keith & Caroline Jensen, cousins of Carol Slater

Meg Moss, A Childs Haven mom, eager for due date (9/25)

Amanda Theriot's family: Josenna Horn (mom); Fred Horn (uncle); Eleanor Horn (grandmother)

Doug Zatechka, Sterling's cousin, with stage 4 lung cancer

Miranda Smith Williams, waiting for tests to be rerun and results given ... waiting

Diann Russell Heading home today from Sagebrook !

Joyce Bishop (Megan Pelt's mom - 2's teacher ACH) breast cancer.

Darlene Lannelli (Victoria Hutchings' mom) diagnosed with an aggressive stage 2 breast cancer

Andy Carver, "feeling much better after bout with pneumonia ...

Puerto Rico, still suffering from the devastation of hurricane Maria

Marcia Venable, painful neuropathy in her feet

Marie Porterfield, procedure on back on August 17th

Ronald, Ruth Gray's brother, their relationship

Laura Alvarado, friend of Jane Howard, Stage Two Breast Cancer, chemo & recovery.

Gigi Heerman, Health issues

Brenda Monell, friend of Sterling Hartman, waiting biopsy results

PRAYERS of THANKS!! :

THANKS	Welcome New Members: Cephus & Wanda Lack; 1520 Juliette Way #4405; CP 78613
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THANKS	Those that have volunteered to host the members of the brass band from Germany in
	October !!

THANKS Answered prayer

ON-GOING HAPPENINGS !!

AUG 22ND

PASSPORT: CEDAR PARK/HILL COUNTRY

INTERFAITH ACTION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Please join the Cedar Park/Hill Country Passport Program for a Red Bench Conversation at **Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church** (3315 El Salido Pkwy, Cedar Park, TX 78613). Our topic of conversation for the evening will be **Respect**. The event begins at 6:30pm-8:30p. If you plan to attend, please be sure to **RSVP**. Email iact@interfaithtexas.org

Sept. 23 – <u>Passport: Mormon</u> October – Red Bench: TBD November 18 – <u>iACT's 34th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service</u> December – Community Celebration: Pajama Party (TBD)

9:45AM SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION CLASS

As a way of contributing to the hard conversations about dismantling racism the United Methodist Church's <u>General Commission on Religion and Race</u> authored *Vital Conversations on Race, Culture, and Justice, Series 1* which features contemporary theologians, sociologists, laity, clergy, and other thought-leaders dealing with challenges of race, culture, and oppression in the Church and world today Join this Sunday morning group which is useing this video to focus on bringing God's vision of justice and equality to society today.

SUN, AUG	а 26, З РМ
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SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

SOUL LIFT

On the fourth Sunday of each month, Aug 26th, we will meet in the Sanctuary at 3pm to sing the old, familiar hymns, hear words of comfort from the Bible, and share Holy Communion. Please join us for this special worship service which aims to lift the soul.

SEPTEMBER 23 Special Worship Service: Soul Lift We will meet in the Memorial Outdoor Sanctuary at 3pm to sing the old, familiar hymns, hear words of comfort from the Bible, and share Holy Communion. Please join us for this special worship service which aims to lift the soul.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON	s YOU	TH MEETINGS	MEALS NEEDED	
SIGN UP on table in back of Sanctuary to provide meals for the youth				
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	DINNER	
August 26	YES	YES		
Sept 2 (Labor Day)	NO	NO	NO	
Sept 9th	YES	YES		
Sept 16th	YES	YES		
Sept 23		NO	NO	
Sept 30 th	YES	YES		

AUGUST 2018

INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY!

Month to Date Finances		This Week's Attendance
Anticipated expenses	\$ 21,865.	August 19 ^h
Contributions (3/4) Sundays)	\$ 13,450.	<u>8:30 am</u>
Needed (Surplus):	\$ 8,415.	27 (Visitors:0)
Additional Giving		
Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)	\$ 415.	<u>10:45am</u>
\$2 For 20	\$ 84.	71(Visitors:8)
True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 22.	
Communion (RioValleyFlood)	\$ 223.	Sunday
Park Str Landscaping	\$ 800.	Children: 11
HCCM (food)	\$ 80.	Adults: 43
Memorial: Sandra Vinson	\$ 25.	
Communion (MFCC)	\$ 186.	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, August 22nd

9:30a	Powerful Tools for Caregivers
1:00p	Easy Line Dancing Class

SUNDAY, August 26th

8:30a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, *Communion*9:45a Sunday School for all ages[Followers starting

 THURSDAY August 23rd FRIDAY, August 24th 9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek 10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee SATURDAY, August 25th 2:00p Memorial Service for Sandra Vinson 	Book of Daniel]10:45aWORSHIP, Come, Celebrate,3:00pSoul Lift Worship6:00pYOUTHMONDAY, August 27 th 7:30pContemplative PrayerTUESDAY, August 21 st 9:30amMorning Prayer Service10:00amLectionary Bible DiscussionWEDNESDAY, August 22 nd 9:30aPowerful Tools for Caregivers1:00pEasy Line Dancing Class		
LOOKING F	ORWARD !!		
WedJuly 25th-Aug 29thPowerful Tools for CaregiversTueSep 4th 6:30pTRUSTEESSatSep 8th 9amUMWSunSept 9thnoonMonSept 10th6:30pFINANCEWedSept 12thWedSept 15th9amUMWCapital District	SunSept 163:30pWorship @ The Pointe MonMonSept 17th6:30pCHURCH COUNCILWed.Sept 19th9:30aMembership CareFrisept 21stNewsletter InputSunSept 23rd3pmSoul Lift WorshipSatSept 299amCongregation Work Day MonMonOct 16:30pTRUSTEES		
Please check the Calendar	r at our website: www.cpfumc.org		
2018 UPCоми	NG EVENTS MAKE PLANS		
SAT. SEPT 12 TH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) http://www.umwriotexas.org NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Saturday, September 12 th 9am Ask Sue Sidney Learn about the Reading Program and How To participate in itSee Discussion Group selections below !! Looking forward to • District Annual Meeting on September 15 th @ Emmanuel UMC, • • Women's Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 8 th featuring Acts of Love Day Care and The Storybook Project			
 District Annual Meeting on September 15th Women's Advent Brunch on Saturday, D 			
 District Annual Meeting on September 15th Women's Advent Brunch on Saturday, D 	December 8 th featuring Acts of Love Day Care and The		

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a brown bag Noon discussion of the UMW Reading Program selections. Please come and enjoy the discussion even if you have not yet finished reading the book.

Wednesday, September 12, noon

UMW

Reading

Program

When Breath Becomes Air

In this inspiring, exquisitely observed memoir, Paul Kalanithi finds hope and beauty in the face of insurmountable odds. Kalanithi, who died while working on this book,

BREATH BREATH BREATH BEATH BEATH BEATH AIR	was an idealistic young neurosurgeon attempting to answer the question <i>What makes a life worth living?</i> Please join us in the Sanctuary for a brown bag discussion of the book, a 2018 UMW Reading Program selection.	
Special Time with the Author:	<u>Tuesday. October 9, 2018</u> <u>6:30p.m.</u> <i>Dear Mr. Knightly; Lizzy & Jane; The Bronte Plot ; & The Austen Escape</i> Noted author Katherine Reay will lead a discussion of her novels. These are all beautifully written stories with a bit of "classics" flair. Please join us in the Sanctuary for a night with the author.	
	Wednesday, October 24th12 noonThe Sacred SecularDottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob Rynders examine cultural spaces where people are experiencing something sacred. These places are not in the church. They're in yoga studios, neighborhood potlucks, and TED Talks. Please join us as we explore new ways to let people know that the church is uniquely sacred and significant	UMW Reading Program

OCT 18-21 POSAUNENCHOR PLANNING IS UNDERWAY!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Posaunenchor, a brass band from Hamm, Germany will arrive in about six weeks at noon on Friday, October 19. They will be here in central Texas for only about 48 hours, but during that time we will have an opportunity to hear them twice. They will play a concert at 4pm on Saturday, October 20 at Highland Estates, 1500 N. Lakeline Blvd. On Sunday they will play during both our 8:30am and 10:45am worship services.

HOSTS

- 1. Provide a place to sleep for your guests Friday and Saturday nights, October 19th and 20th.
- 2. Provide 3 meals for your guests: Breakfast and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday.
- 3. Provide transportation for your guests between the church and your home. Four trips are expected, one each on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

LUNCH

- 1. Provide a light lunch for 40 people **Friday, October 19th**. Approximately **12 noon** at the church.
- 2. The lunch will be at the church. It should be simple, e.g. sandwich, chips, drink.
- 3. The lunch includes setup and any cleanup afterward.

DRIVERS

- 1. You must have van that holds at least 6 people.
- 2. Drive your multi-passenger van on **Friday, October 19th** as we tour Cedar Park and Lago Vista. Approximately **1:00pm-3:00pm**.
- 3. Drive your multi-passenger van on **Saturday, October 20th** as we tour the capitol area in Austin. Approx. **8:30am-3:00pm.**

4. Answer questions as you are able about Cedar Park and the sights we will see on Saturday in Austin.

GUIDES

- 1. Ride "shotgun*" in a van with a Posaunenchor driver **Friday**, **October 19**th as we tour Cedar Park. Approximately **1:00pm-3:00pm**.
- 2. Ride "shotgun" in a van with a Posaunenchor driver **Saturday, October 20th** as we tour the capitol area in Austin. Approximately **8:30am-3:00pm.**
- 3. Give directions as required; make sure the driver doesn't get lost, especially in Austin. Help the driver to recover from any wrong turns.
- 4. Answer questions as you are able about Cedar Park and the sights we will see on Saturday in Austin.

For all those of you who have already volunteered, Vielen Dank! Many thanks for your willingness to participate in this event. We will have a short meeting after the late worship service on Sunday, October 7 for all volunteers. During this meeting, we will go over guest/host assignments, the entire schedule for the Posaunenchor visit, maps of travel routes and transportation logistics. There will be an opportunity to have any and all of your questions answered.

PARK STREET FRONTAGE LANDSCAPE PROJECT

From the Trustees – We are in the process of finalizing the landscaping plan for the Park Street frontage. Thanks to all those who have contributed so far and to the Memorial and Endowment Funds for significant contributions as well. We still need about \$300 more in member contributions to finish paying for the plan. Total cost of the plan is \$1800.

Cedar Park FUMC is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Simply follow these easy steps:

NOW

REE

- 1) Visit the church website at https://cpfumc.org/
- 2) Click on the **Donate** tab
- 3) Click on the Create Profile button, then
- 4) **Follow** the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Cedar Park FUMC now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. [The blue square at the top of the page will show the Donate tab]

VGA MONITORS

• FREE: 19" VGA monitors. Four to choose from: HP and ViewSonic. 4:3 and widescreen. Contact Neil Howard (nhowardtx@gmail.com) for more information if you are interested

HARD DRIVES FOR SALE – ALL < \$25

Ten used hard drives for sale. These include 3.5" and 2.5" SATA drives and 3.5" PATA (IDE) drives. Prices between \$10 and \$25 each. All drives have been tested and function perfectly. A test report is included with each drive. Contact Neil Howard, nhowardtx@gmail.com if you are interested. This is a great way to add additional inexpensive storage to your computer.

TIDBITS

COMMENTARY: FAITH IS CAUGHT, NOT TAUGHT

- I come from a long line of artists. My grandfather was an artist; my mother and sister are artists. I am NOT an artist. I enjoy making jewelry, but it would be a huge stretch to call what I do art.
- I'm convinced my sister stole my artistic gene. She paints and creates pottery. She works with metal and textiles. She has more creativity in her little finger than I have in my whole body. I say that with both awe and joy.
- Every time I'm with my mother and sister I'm reminded of a wonderful truth: Particular talents may be genetic, but creativity is contagious. When I'm around my sister and mother, I catch their creativity. My job makes it hard for me to make jewelry on a regular basis, but every time I return home from being with my mother and sister, I seem to experience a burst of creative energy. I become excited to reconnect with my love of jewelry-making.

The reminder that creativity is contagious points to a deeper truth: Human beings are *all together* contagious. Everything about us is contagious, and people are going to catch whatever it is we have. That's profound.

People are going to catch whatever it is we have.

They'll catch life from us or they'll catch death from us; there is nothing in between. Most of us think we're neutral, but there is no such thing as a neutral person. We will be a source of blessing or a source of curse.

By The Rev. Kimberly D. Reisman

HELP US GROW

FROM THE TRUSTEES

FREE

- Here's a related truth: I can only infect other people with whatever it is that I have. I can't give away what I don't have. My sister and mother give away creativity because they have it in abundance. They've cultivated that in their own lives so giving it away is as natural as breathing.
- But if I'm not healthy, how can I give health? If I don't accept myself, how can I give self-acceptance? If I can't kick the demons out of my own life, how am I ever going to help somebody else kick the demons out of theirs?
- If I'm not emotionally and spiritually available to the people around me, what are they going to catch?

We can't give what we don't have.

- When it comes to sharing our faith evangelism one of the most common mistakes we make is to believe we can teach Christian faith; but Christian faith isn't taught, it's *caught*. Yes, there is a place for sound teaching, but more often than not, people come to faith because of the contagious way others live. They have encountered someone who lives with an openness that allows God's Holy Spirit the freedom to move infectiously, contagiously.
- Many people look to the Great Commission go and make disciples as the foundation for all evangelism. No doubt this is a significant reminder of the importance Jesus placed on sharing our faith. And yet, Jesus also reminds us that if we keep a seed in our hands, clutching it with a closed fist, it will never grow. We have to open our hands and let go of the seed.
- That is, in fact, the secret to implementing the Great Commission: *opening our hands*. Recognizing the only way to receive the gift we have been given in Jesus *in its fullness*, is to turn around and give it to others. To open our hands.
- The problem is that many of us are living with closed hands. Keeping this marvelous gift of abundant life not just in eternity but *now* to ourselves. When we live like that, nothing can grow, within us or within others.
- Years ago, when our son was about 2 years old, my husband and I had a picnic lunch by a pond. We told Nathan not to eat all his bread. After lunch we gave it to him to feed the ducks. He was confused because there were no ducks in sight, but within moments he was surrounded. The ducks came out of nowhere when he opened his hand and let go of his bread.
- Each of us has the power to bless and the power to curse. We can be the means through which the Holy Spirit works, or the barrier the Holy Spirit must overcome. We can live with open hands or closed fists.
- Each of us also lives with what we caught from someone else and others will live with what they have caught from us.

The question is, what will they catch?

—The Rev. Kimberly Reisman is executive director of World Methodist Evangelism in West Lafayette, Indiana.

CONTINUED....

UNITIVE CONSCIOUSNESS

FR. RICHARD ROHR, OFM

Personal Note: I have often pondered "abide" and this meditation today from Richard Rohr speaks about abide to me ... or about "at-one-ment" continued for opening ...

Knitter writes:

- True, what Christians are after is different than what Buddhists are after. For Christians, it's identification with the Christ-Spirit. For Buddhists, it's realizing their Buddha-nature. And yet, both of these very different experiences have something in common: they are *unitive, non-dualistic, mystical* experiences in which we find that our own identity is somehow joined with that which is both more than, and at the same time one with, our identity. This is what the Buddhist practices are so good at—achieving such unitive experiences in which the self is so transformed that it finds itself through losing itself. [2]
- Knitter paraphrases Raimon Panikkar, a Roman Catholic priest, theologian, and advocate of inter-faith dialogue, by describing true nonduality: "the interrelating partners are *not two*. But neither are they *one*! Can Christians say something similar about the relationship between God and creation?" [3]
- According to another Catholic priest, Romano Guardini (1885-1968), they certainly can! James Finley explains:
- Guardini says that it's a principle of logic that A cannot be B at the same time and in the same respect that it's A.... Likewise, God is the Creator and we are the creature. And yet, Guardini adds, "Although I am not God, I am not other than God either." [4] He says the direct intuitive realization that although I am not God, I am not other than God either, fans out in all directions. Although I am not you, I am not other than you either. Although I am not the earth, I am not other than the earth, either. As this soaks into me, what are the implications of this in the way I act in the world, in relationships with other people?
- Finley shares how another Christian mystic understood such interdependence: "Thomas Merton realized that people of different religions are not other than me, and how I treat them I'm treating myself, and as Jesus says, I'm treating Jesus. That's the social consciousness dimension of contemplation." [5]

References:

[1] Paul F. Knitter, Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian (Oneworld Publications: 2009), 154-155.

[2] Ibid., 155.

[3] Ibid., 14.

- [4] Romano Guardini, *The World and the Person*, trans. Stella Lange (Regnery: 1965, ©1939), 31. Cited by James Finley, *Christian Meditation* (HarperCollins: 2004), 51.
- [5] James Finley, *Jesus and Buddha: Paths to Awakening,* disc 6 (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2008), <u>CD</u>, <u>DVD</u>, <u>MP3 download</u>.

VBS Serves As Native American Immersion Experience UMC New Jersey

- Children participate in Native American games such as stickball (lacrosse), crafts, storytelling and other activities during vacation Bible school at St. John United Methodist Church in Bridgeton, New Jersey. The curriculum is based on the traditional teachings of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape and other Native American tribes.
- When children walked into St. John United Methodist Church's vacation Bible school in Bridgeton, New Jersey, on Aug. 13, many could identify with the lessons. The curriculum is tailored around the traditional teachings of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape and other Native American tribes.
- "We didn't want to use packaged curriculum because our children couldn't identify with it," said Cynthia Wilkes-Mosley, VBS coordinator. On average, 40 children from the community, many of them tribal members, participate in the weeklong program.
- "We wanted to help the children learn how to walk in the Christian culture and Native culture at the same time," she said. Through storytelling, games and activities, the curriculum brings culture and Scripture together. The first part of the week
- was geared toward stories of creation using The Book of Genesis. The children also heard tribal creation stories such as the Wasca tribal legend about how the coyote placed the stars. Coordinators even added a math component where they measured distances in the universe. Another day was spent
- focused on musical instruments in the Bible. The children learned how the Native flute is made and then crafted their own flutes out of water bottles.
- "Being able to show these diverse traditions makes a huge difference with the children because it exposes them to things they have never learned about or possibly never even heard of or seen," said Mary Wilks, a member of the Lenni-Lenape tribe and a vacation Bible school teacher.
- "As a teacher, this means I am making these children more culturally aware and to avoid being ignorant to the world that may be different than their own," she said.
- The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape descendants primarily live in Delaware and a large township in Fairfield, New Jersey. The VBS program has successfully built bridges of understanding among other ethnic groups in the community.
- Tay' Shawn Bowman has attended the church's vacation Bible school for three years. He attends a different United Methodist church where members are primarily African-American.
- "I like playing Native American games outside," said Bowman, who plays football. He especially enjoyed lacrosse, based on the Native game stickball, which he had never heard of before attending VBS. Coordinators said he also enjoyed Native drumming and learning about Native ceremonies.
- "Through storytelling, I learned to not be greedy," he said.
- "Many of these children go to school together and the VBS has become a way to teach about Native traditions and for their peers to become much more respectful about the culture," said Wiles-Mosley.
- The highlight of the week was an elders' honor ceremony. This year, more than 25 elders visited with vacation Bible school students to share their wisdom and to participate in the ceremony.
- "We have six elders who attend the VBS every day," said Wilkes-Mosley. "The elders' honor ceremony is an institution at our VBS. The connection is an important part of our Native tradition."
- This year, the vacation Bible school curriculum included the topic of dreams. Students studied Scripture such as Daniel 1:17 and 7:1-3, where God gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. They read "Coyote and the Dream" and "Grandmother's Dreamcatcher" stories. They also heard the Anishinaabe legend of Nokomis and the spider.
- The dreamcatchers were traditionally hung on cradleboards to catch bad dreams and allow good dreams to pass through. The children wrote down their scary dreams on colorful paper feathers and attached the feather to the web as part of the activities.
- "I love to see the children become so engaged with learning about the Native traditions that they go home and tell their family and friends," said Wilks.
- Members of St. John United Methodist Church have developed three weeks of curriculum that they rotate and refresh each year. The church recently acquired a 7-foot wampum cross for the altar that they plan to include in new curriculum. Wampum — decorative shell beads used by Native Americans in belts, sashes and other crafts — was used as currency by the original colonies.

Church members also said they hope to format the curriculum in a way that could be published in the future.

LETTRS TO EDITOR