

HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

09/19/2018

Find the Happenings on our church website: <https://cpfumc.org/find-out-whats-happening/>
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>

Western Christianity

The Soul's Objective Union with God

Wednesday, September
19, 2018

You can't accomplish or work up to union with God, because you've already got it. "Before the world began you were chosen, chosen in Christ to live through love in his presence" (Ephesians 1:4).

You cannot ever become worthy or "perfect" by yourself; you can only reconnect to your Infinite Source.

The biblical revelation is about awakening, not accomplishing. It is about realization, not performance. *You cannot get there, you can only be there.* Only the humble can receive it and surrender to such grace.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*

PRAYERS for Help and Healing :

Recent Requests for Prayers:

Safe Travels to Colorado for Bob & Karen Packard....

Trenna Pickett, friend of Sue Sidney, having back surgery Thursday..

Baby Daniel Arthur Shoup, grandson of the Hohles, son of Jeff & Lauren Shoup

Amanda Theriot's family: grandmother , Eleanor Horn, passed away Monday at the age of 91 and Uncle Fred Horn passed away on Saturday.

Dolores Keller, peace and healing after having a stroke.

Vicki Thompson, improving after her surgery

Ruth Gray's brother, James and his new wife June struggling to creating their marriage partnership

Sterling Hartman's friends, Zalend Williams & family on a cruise near where hurricanes are due

Darlene Iannelli (Victoria Hutchings' mom) diagnosed with an breast cancer having chemo

Ron McClendon, cancer surgery completed; recovery started; waiting

PRAYERS of THANKS!! :

THANKS Celebration of life with family and friends gathering

THANKS The sunshine Approaching end of summer beginning of fall!!

Please RE-MEMBER with prayers and cards

Diane Kelly
Isle at Cedar Ridge #201
2200 S Lakeline Blvd;
Cedar Park 78613

Phyllis Myers
310 Chisholm Tr. #206.
Round Rock, TX 78681

Lillian Smith
1912 S West Dr
Leander, 78641

Diann Russell
1503 N Woodstone
Cedar Park, 78613

E. Duke Squibb
Gracy Woods
12042 Bittern Hollow
Austin TX – 78758

Marsha Venable
2112 West Riviera Drive
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Miranda Smith Williams,
PSC 50 Box 71
APO, AE 09494-0001
(regular US pastage)

College Students:
Audrey Blount
800 Lakeshore Dr
PO Box 291234
Homewood, AL 35229

Aaron How

Ethan How

?who else??
Will Talley

2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAKE PLANS

SEPT 23RD PASSPORT: CEDAR PARK/HILL COUNTRY INTERFAITH ACTION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

please be sure to **RSVP**. Email iact@interfaithtexas.org

Sept. 23 – Passport: Mormon
October – Red Bench: TBD

November 18 – iACT's 34th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
December – Community Celebration: Pajama Party (TBD)

SEPT. 23RD CHOIR

I'm excited to get back to it -- below is a rough schedule that we will follow - but of course there will be changes - looking forward to it!. I got music ready today - Advent books and two other songs.

September 23 - practice September 30 - practice October 7 - sing TFWS 2242 & practice October 14 - sing TFWS 2226 & practice October 21 - DAY OFF - NO PRACTICE October 29 - practice November 4 - sing TFWS 2137 & practice November 11 - sing Star Dance & practice November 18	November 25 - DAY OFF - NO PRACTICE December 2 - sing TFWS 2195 & short practice - have events at St. Stephen's December 9 - sing "Good People Rejoice" & practice December 16 - Cantata at both services December 23 sing "Carol of the Star" but no practice afterwards December 30 – "Angels We Have Heard on High" but no practice afterwards.
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Jodi, 512-633-0009

SUN, SEPT 30 TRUE VINEYARD MINISTRIES

Diana Wiley is coming to visit from True Vineyard Ministries on September 30th. After second service she will give us some information about planning a Vision Trip to Rwanda next summer.

SIGN UP NOW TEAM WORLD VISION

Also, we are still accepting brave soles (it's a pun!) to join us for the Team World Vision couch to half marathon program culminating in the Austin Half Marathon in February. Training starts in mid-October. . Talk to Russ Lundstrom [lund121@me.com / 512.712.5376]

SIGN UP NOW PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEER SIGN UP BEGINS

Bring your calendars to church Sunday so that you can Sign UP to help with the Pumpkin Patch..... this link is for volunteering with the pumpkin patch: <http://signup.com/go/ioHtucN>
Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive around October 7th and LOTs of help will be needed to unload the truck and set up.

TUES, OCT 2ND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT & CAR SHOW 6-8PM

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."


Come on out and meet the neighbors, Cedar Park police officers and while you're there you can enjoy the car show! Hope to see you there!!

OCT 7TH POSAUNENCHOR PLANNING IS UNDERWAY! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Sunday, October 7th will be a gathering of Hosts and Guides for a little sharing orientation session after church about noon. We want to be ready for their visit Oct 18-20th Dankeschön

TUES OCT 9TH METHODIST READING CLUB 6:30PM

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. We will have available forms to keep track of the books you have read from the UMW Reading Program lists. Five Books .. one from each category is a Plan 1 accomplishment. These lists must be complete by May 1st, 2019 to be submitted to the Conference UMW for recognitions.

<p>Special Time with the Author:</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:30p.m. <i>Dear Mr. Knightly; Lizzy & Jane; The Bronte Plot ; & The Austen Escape</i></p> <p>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. .</p>	
	<p align="center">Wednesday, October 24th 12 noon <i>The Sacred Secular</i></p> <p>Dottie 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</p>	<p align="center">UMW Reading Program</p>

HYGIENE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS

. Pam Castles provides nursing services for the homeless at the Loaves and Fishes/All Saints Episcopal and Up Lift programs/University Presbyterian on Tuesdays and these hygiene bags are soooo appreciated. The cost of the bags are approximately \$10 each. Donate items or funds for these Hygiene bags for the Homeless

Items for the bags include:

- Toothbrush
- Tide Pods (I separate & place in zip lock. Two pods/bag)
- Razor
- Lip balm

Travel size:

- Lotion Shampoo
- Conditioner Toothpaste
- Tissue Soap

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS YOUTH MEETINGS MEALS NEEDED

SIGN UP on table in back of Sanctuary to provide meals for the youth

DATE	DINNER		DATE	DINNER
Sept 23	NO		Nov 11	Longoria
Sept 30 th	Morrison		Nov 18	
Oct 7			Dec 2	Longoria
Oct 14	Clinch			

SEPTEMBER 2018 INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY!

Month to Date Finances		This Week's Attendance	
Anticipated expenses	\$ 21,865.	September 16th	
Contributions (3/5) Sundays	\$ 11,581.	8:30 am	
Needed (Surplus):	\$ 10,284.	35 (Visitors:1)	
Additional Giving		10:45am	
Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)	\$ 420.	73(Visitors:4)	
\$2 For 20	\$ 83.	Sunday School	
True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 41.	Children: 30	
Communion (The Refuge)	\$ 114.	Adults: 23	
Park Str Landscaping	\$	Soul Lift	
HCCM (food)	\$ 5.		
Memorial: Sandra Vinson	\$ 40.		
Communion (Disaster)	\$ 5.		
Communion (Homeless Hygiene)	\$ 20.		
UMW	\$ 100.		
Benevolence Fund	\$ 942.		

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, September 19th

9:30a Membership Care
1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

THURSDAY September 20th

FRIDAY, September 21st

Newsletter Input
9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek
10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee

SATURDAY, September 22nd

SUNDAY, September 23rd

8:30a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion
9:45a Sunday School for all ages
10:45a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate,
3pm Soul Lift Worship
6:00p **NO YOUTH**

MONDAY, September 24th

7:30p Contemplative Prayer

TUESDAY, September 25th

9:30am Morning Prayer Service
10:00am Lectionary Bible Discussion

WEDNESDAY, September 26th

1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

LOOKING FORWARD !!

Sun	Sept 23 rd	IACT Passport Mormon Worship	Sat	Oct 13 6pm	EMPOWER
Sat	Sept 29	9am Congregation Work Day	Mon	Oct 15 6:30p	CHURCH COUNCIL
Mon	Oct 1 6:30p	TRUSTEES	Wed	Oct 17 9:30a	Membership Care
Tues	Oct 2 6pm	National Night Out	Fri	Oct 19 th	Newsletter input
Mon	Oct 8 6:30p	FINANCE	Fri-Sun	Oct 19-21	Possunancher Choir
Tues	Oct 9 6:30pm	Book Club Author Rhey	Sun	Oct 21 st	3:30p Worship @ The Pointe
			Sun	Oct 28th	3:00p Soul Lift Worship

Please check the Calendar at our website: www.cpfumc.org

ON-GOING HAPPENINGS !!

SECOND SAT. NOV.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

<http://www.umwriotexas.org>

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Second Saturday, November 9am Ask Sue Sidney
Learn about the Reading Program and How To participate in it.....See Discussion Group selections below !!
Looking forward to

- District Annual Meeting on September 15th @ Emmanuel UMC,
- **Women's Advent Brunch** on Saturday, December 8th featuring Acts of Love Day Care and The Storybook Project If you would like to host/decorate a table and invite your friends please let us know (Anita Martin or Sue Sidney) If you would like to furnish a brunch dish please let us know also !!!

FOOD NEEDED

BACKPACK FOOD

FOR WHITESTONE ELEMENTARY

Every week we prepare 6 Backpacks for the children at Whitestone Elementary.

Each Backpack contains food for the child for the weekend:

2 Breakfasts ; 2 Lunches ; 2 Dinners; 4 Snacks

These food items are individual servings of things the children can fix for themselves either eating right from the container or heat easily in a microwave.

Your help keeping the shelves full has been wonderful !!!

NOW

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE

HELP US GROW

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.

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 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]

TIDBITS

I have taken several stories and “mashed” them together to get this composite ... I thought that it would be interesting to know a little of the German churches before our friends arrive from Germany in October.. More pictures and stories here : <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/vitality-takes-many-forms-in-german-churches>

GERMAN METHODISM: A STRONG CHRISTIAN VOICE

The 51,000 member United Methodist Church in Germany may be a minority church, but it's a vital church, says Bishop Harald Rückert.

“We have to be realistic and there is no recipe. I try to emphasize that in some places we have good resources, some places we have money, some places we have good people. We have to bring them together,” Rückert said.

The bishop said he urges the churches to try new things and if that fails, try something else. The denomination has taken that advice to heart — reaching out to a huge influx of immigrants as well as finding ways to reach the unchurched in an increasingly secular society.

“The task is how can we together have a strong Christian voice in our society.”

On the surface, a lively church in a new building with plenty of children and youth programs might not seem to have much in common with a tiny village church that runs a weekly community café or an inner-city church with aging members and multiple outreach programs.

Those United Methodist churches are quite different from another inner-city church that runs a nonprofit afterschool program for poor or immigrant children, or a church in an economically depressed area that holds regular outdoor services.

All those churches, as well as a group of young adults who just get together for dinner, have one thing in common: Each is an example of a vital congregation in Germany — an effort to reach out in “fresh expressions,” which Bishop Harald Rückert said is “simply doing good work.”

“We have to be realistic and there is no recipe. I try to emphasize that in some places we have good resources, some places we have money, some places we have good people. We have to bring them together,” Rückert said.

“I urge my church to try new things. If it fails after a year or so, so what? We try something else,” the bishop said. “In order to fulfill our mission of reaching out to make disciples for the transformation of the world, we must be very courageous and try out new things.”

The 51,000-member United Methodist Church in Germany has taken experimentation to heart.

Bezirk München-Erlöserkirche, or Church of the Redeemer, is a thriving, modern congregation in Munich that livestreams sermons and serves a population of children and youth that would thrill any U.S. congregation.

On a busy Sunday last fall, worshippers rubbed elbows with voters — the church's new building served as a polling place during the German elections.

Verena and Tanemasa Rahn have attended for about six years with their two daughters, Tamiko, 6, and Ayumi, 2.

“I didn't grow up in church, but I wanted my daughter to be at a church where she could learn about God,” Verena Rahn said, adding that a church with so many children is unusual in Germany. She credited the former pastor, who in 2007 began emphasizing programs for families with children.

The Munich church is a stark contrast to the 12-member Lorsbacher Gemeinde (Lorsbach United Methodist Church) of the Frankfurt Rufer Circuit. But the tiny church is a vitality center for the village with Café Gegenüber, a weekly gathering for coffee, cake and conversation.

“We started the café last year and at first only in the summer,” said Helga Saalbach, a member of the church. “We wanted to do it for the people here. A long, long time it was our dream to have a café.”

Another innovative church can be found in the port city of **Bremerhaven**, an economically depressed area with 18 percent unemployment. Evangelisch-methodistische Friedenskirche Bremerhaven (Bremerhaven United Methodist Church) was struggling in 2010 — a pastor came to preach just twice a month and the conference was considering closing the church and selling the building.

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner appointed the Rev. Christhard Elle as pastor and gave the church four years to turn around.

For Elle, who had been secretary for church growth for the denomination in Germany, it was a chance to practice what he had preached to other churches.

“People said our friends are already here, we can't invite anyone to come, so we took church outside,” Elle said.

“The 51,000 member United Methodist Church in Germany may be a minority church, but it's a vital church” — Bishop Harald Rückert.

United Methodist News Service traveled to Germany to report on the church's presence, challenges and successes in the European nation. [Read more stories from our special coverage.](#)

Members built a trailer to carry what they needed for outdoor services and held their first outdoor service on the fourth Sunday of Advent in 2010 on the "Drachenberg" (Dragon's Hill), Bremerhaven's highest peak.

"I felt like going outside was giving a testimony," said Ruth Willinghöfer.

At that service, about 70 people who were out sledding came and sat with the members and listened, Elle said. "From then on, we knew our mission was that we were going to go outside."

Now, the church has two trailers for the outdoor services, which always feature the portable cross. In 2016, about 200 people attended the outdoor service in December.

"We went through town and had a donkey with Mary and Joseph," Elle said. "We handed out the Christmas story and a lot of people asked what this had to do with Christmas."

From the 12 to 15 people who attended in 2010, the church now has about 70 people each Sunday. The church has a men's group that meets on a sailboat and attendance is about half men, half women. In addition to the men's group, there is a women's group, a youth group and a Bible study breakfast.

"It is so different from the old German churches that are so traditional," Jutta Missfeldt said. "There's life in this church."

Karina Griese said that the outdoor services have strengthened the faith of church members. "We get to be outside and share our faith freely and say, 'Yes, I'm a Christian.' How many people are bold enough to give testimonies even if there are strangers and guests they don't know?" she asked.

Yet another church model is a young adult group in Stuttgart that gets together for dinner once a month. The group was started by The Rev. Mareike Bloedt, co-pastor of **Stuttgart-Mitte** (United Methodist Church in Central Stuttgart).

"I saw there was nothing for young adults. They were losing their connection with church," she said. "We have five or six people every month, sometimes as many as 15. We talk a lot about faith."

Saskia Duppel, who has been coming to the group for nearly two years, said her grandfather was a United Methodist minister. "I just wanted to stay in connection with the UMC," she said, adding that her family is about 15 kilometers away.

The **United Methodist Church-Frankfurt City** has had a more traditional approach, with about 100 members and a host of outreach programs. The Rev. Uwe Saßnowski is senior pastor and leads the English-speaking international church as well as two German congregations. He oversees the [Vietnamese church](#) that meets in the building.

The international church has "kaffee und kuchen" — coffee and cake — once a week for 35 women. About half the women are migrants and all are very poor, Saßnowski said.

On Thursday, the church holds a flea market that more than 300 people visit each week, as well as a luncheon for about 200 people. There is a 1.80 Euro charge for lunch, the pastor said, but at the end of the month if people are running out of money, they can eat for free. Some church members who work in the neighborhood also come for lunch.

Many of the volunteers for the flea market and luncheon are not church members, just people who want to help, he said. Mike House, a 70-year-old volunteer who isn't a church member, said it's something to do every week and gets him out of the house.

The commitment to social outreach has long been a tradition of the German church, but Saßnowski believes doing so at the expense of children and youth programs has cost the church. "We've lost the younger generation," he said.

Serving children has helped double the size of the **Friedenskirche** (United Methodist Peace Church) in Hamburg. The church — down to about 30 members when a project to serve immigrant and poor children in the inner-city neighborhood was started — now has 60 members, said the Rev. Karsten Mohr, pastor of the church.

The church is also raising the money to expand the afterschool program for children, InselArche, from four to five days a week.

There are many examples of new ministries in Germany that have been born from mergers or even grew up where a church had been closed, Rückert said.

He said one of his favorite examples is the **Metzingen United Methodist Church** in south Germany, which closed and dedicated their Bible, cross and money to another church. Ten years later, a group of young leaders decided to turn the building into a [rock-climbing gym](#). Now, young people who were mostly unchurched come in and meet for coffee and conversation, he said.

The United Methodist Church-Frankfurt City offers a weekly lunch for some 200 community members.

In other areas, mergers of small churches have created new vitality. "In the whole, we have both, growth and dying," he said.

One issue facing all churches in Germany is that the society is becoming more secular, Rückert said.

"So the question for churches is not how can we become a strong United Methodist Church again, how can we be a strong Catholic church. The task is how can we together have a strong Christian voice in our society."