



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

December 2018

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# ***Connections***

## **Newsletter**

### **End of Year Giving**

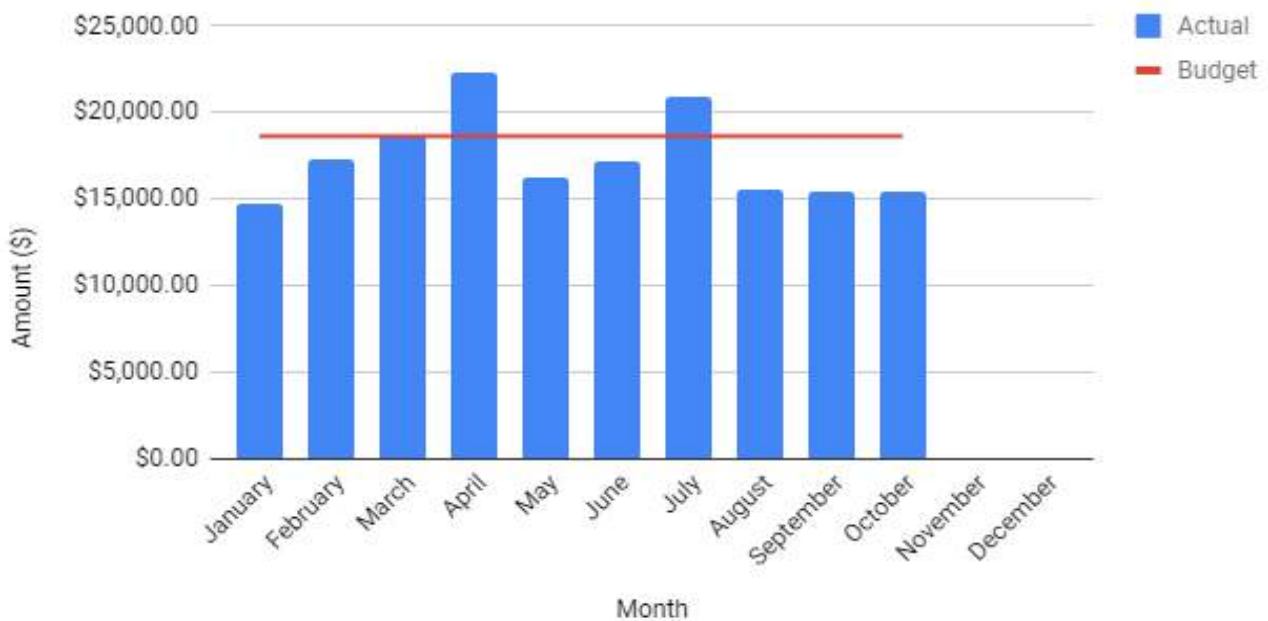
Submitted by Steve Howard

Please remember the Church as you look at your end of year charitable giving. Our Church relies on contributions for over 85% of its budgeted income. Actual contributions vary from month to month but they are below our needs most months. This year is no different. For 2018, contributions were budgeted at \$18,629 per month, but through October actual monthly contributions are averaging only \$17,380. As a result, we are \$12,485 below our budgeted contributions amount for the year, through October. The chart below shows actual monthly giving versus budgeted giving.

#### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

Posaunenchor	<a href="#">p. 2</a>
Jesus Rock Stars	<a href="#">p. 3</a>
A Child's Haven Happenings	<a href="#">p. 5</a>
Cookie Exchange	<a href="#">p. 5</a>
UMW Advent Missions/Celebration	<a href="#">p. 6</a>
Soul Lift Worship Service	<a href="#">p. 7</a>
Facebook Information	<a href="#">p. 8</a>
Church Contact Information	<a href="#">p.11</a>
December Calendar	<a href="#">p.12</a>
Computers for Sale!	<a href="#">p.13</a>

**2018 Contribution Income (4100) - Budget vs Actual**



**Budget continued on p. 7**

## Posaunenchor Visits; We Make New Friends

For 48 hours during October 19-21 we had a whirlwind visit from Posaunenchor, a brass band from Hamm, Germany. The band arrived about noon on Friday. The visit kicked off with a quick Friday lunch organized by Anita Martin followed by a rainy-day driving tour of Cedar Park and Lago Vista with Jim "Gabby" West, Walter Wilson, Steve Howard, Par Keys and Neil Howard as guides providing "colorful local commentary." After returning to the church, the band rehearsed for a couple of hours, getting used to the central Texas environment with a quick late afternoon visit to the longhorns down the road (thanks, Jane!). Around 6pm we had a catered BBQ dinner for the band at which time they were introduced to their hosts, members of the congregation with whom they would spend the next two days.



Saturday morning started bright and early at 7:30am at the church. Everyone arrived on time. The hosts did a great job logistically. Breakfast was breakfast tacos organized by Par Keys. After a review of the plan for the day and a brief YouTube lesson on "How to Speak Texan," we departed in the vans for a tour of the state capital area in downtown Austin. We actually arrived at the Capitol Visitors Center (CVC) a little before our 9am start time. It was a nice dry morning as Martta Howard, Neil's daughter and a guide for the day, came zooming up to the group on one of the ubiquitous electric scooters that

are all over the downtown Austin area. The group spent about a half hour in the CVC watching short movies and collecting "Don't Mess with Texas" stickers.

Following the short time in the CVC, we departed for a brief stroll toward the capitol, pausing briefly for a group picture in front of the capitol building. Once inside, we began our guided tour of the capitol, visiting the rotunda as well as the state House and Senate chambers and the underground portion heading north from the originally building. All of the Texas state history was well told by our guide and the paintings in the rooms.



**Posaunenchor continued on p. 9**

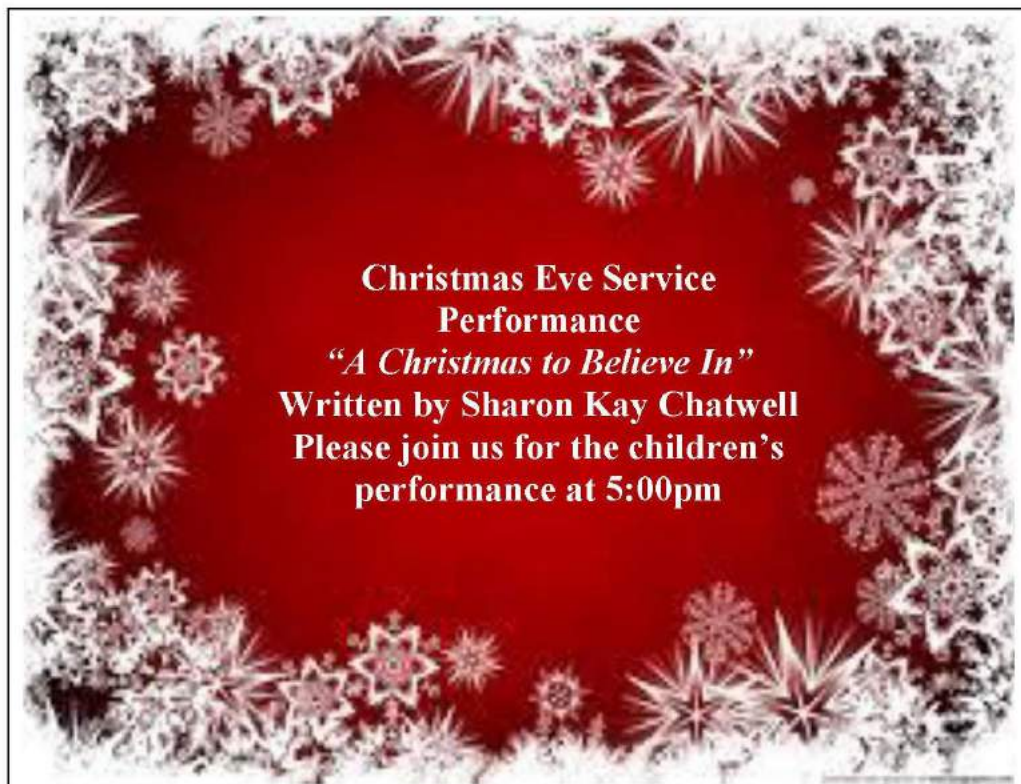


## JESUS ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith



The Jesus Rock Stars have been having fun as they study their lines for their special presentation of *"A Christmas to Believe In"* written by Sharon Kay Chatwell. Max and Carrie tell us the Christmas story with special appearance of the angel (Bella) and a wise men (Rachel). Please come and join us at our Christmas Eve performance.





**Come  
and join us  
to celebrate  
The Twelves  
Days of Christmas**  
**Thursday, December 27th**  
**from 10:00am to 2:00pm**  
**in the sanctuary of the**  
**Cedar Park First United Methodist Church**  
**Visit us on line [www.cpfumc.org](http://www.cpfumc.org) to register.**  
**All children Pre-K through fifth grade are invited.**  
**600 W. Park**  
**Cedar Park**  
**pre-registration**  
**required by**  
**Friday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**





## A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Lesley Foyt

We had many exciting happenings at A Child's Haven in November! The children learned about healthy foods the first part of the month. The three and four-year old classes went on a field trip to HEB where they were able to learn about fruits, vegetables and healthy snacks. We also learned about different customs of Native American tribes and made some special art projects including corn paintings. The classes also talked about the many things they are thankful for and on the 15<sup>th</sup> we had our Thanksgiving Lunch with families. This was a special time of fellowship in which we were able to share our many blessings together.

Our Fruit of the Spirit this month was Faithfulness. Proverbs 3:3 says: "...let love and faithfulness never leave you..." In chapel this month the kids sang about love and faithfulness by singing "Jesus Loves Me". They also learned about how much Jesus loves them by listening to bible stories in their classes.

In December our Fruit of the Spirit will be Peace. We are looking forward to our Christmas program on the 20<sup>th</sup> put on by our students. They always do a wonderful job! There will be a reception following where we will celebrate the joy of the season.

### **CPFUMC ROCKIN' COOKIE EXCHANGE** **6:30 pm Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**



Christmas is a time when we bake, getting ready for our guests. Please bring 3 dozen cookies for tasting and sharing. If you cannot taste them all in one night, feel free to take samples home for later.

We would like to provide everyone with a copy of your recipe at the Cookie Exchange. Please email your recipe to Carolyn Smith at [carolynsmith2215@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith2215@gmail.com) by Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. To help with the Christmas spirit, we will also be having a sing-along of Christmas carols. There will also be cookie and gingerbread decorating. Come and help us celebrate!



## ADVENT MISSION EMPHASIS And CELEBRATION

The United Methodist Women of CPFUMC is sponsoring Advent awareness and support for two ministries that serve the Cedar Park/Leander area. These are ministries serving women, children, and youth which is the UMW focus. We are hoping that

the entire church community will help support these ministries during this advent season.

### MISSION EMPHASIS:

**ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center** is a ministry of ACTS Church in Leander and it serves young families and their children in that area. In our community there is no affordable childcare available specifically for young parents who are pregnant or who have had children during high school or middle school. They provide childcare specifically for these parent(s) who would have dropped out of school due to lack of childcare. Acts of Love wants to see the children grow and learn in a warm and nurturing environment and help young parents continue their education and graduate from high school. By giving these young mothers the opportunity to complete their education, Acts of Love is laying the foundation for their future as mothers, providers, employees, and citizens of their community. <http://actsofloveceec.com/>

**Women's Storybook Project (WSP) of Texas** is a special program that helps incarcerated mothers do what moms have always done to comfort and nurture their children—read them bedtime stories, using their own voices to love, reassure, and encourage them from miles away. **WSP** volunteers visit women's prisons in Central and East Texas once a month to record mothers reading books aloud to their children. WSP then mail the books and CD recordings to the children, who live all over the United States. During 2017 1,512 mothers recorded stories; 3,125 children received books; 2,301 books were donated to children; and 7,923 volunteer hours were given in 9 prison units in Texas. <https://storybookproject.org/>

UMW will be **COLLECTING** donations of Diapers (sizes 2-6), baby wipes, and Lysol wipes for **ACTS OF LOVE**. For **Women's Storybook Project** their "signature book" is *"The Invisible String"* which every mother who completes the program is given to send her children. **WSP** is ALWAYS in need of this book. Board books and books for kids up to age 6 are always in need. No Golden books. Please emphasize all books MUST be new!!! Both can also use cash donations to cover the cost of supplies.

UMW appreciates your continued support in our missions. Please bring your donations to the church during the Advent Season (Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>). Boxes will be located in the Narthex.

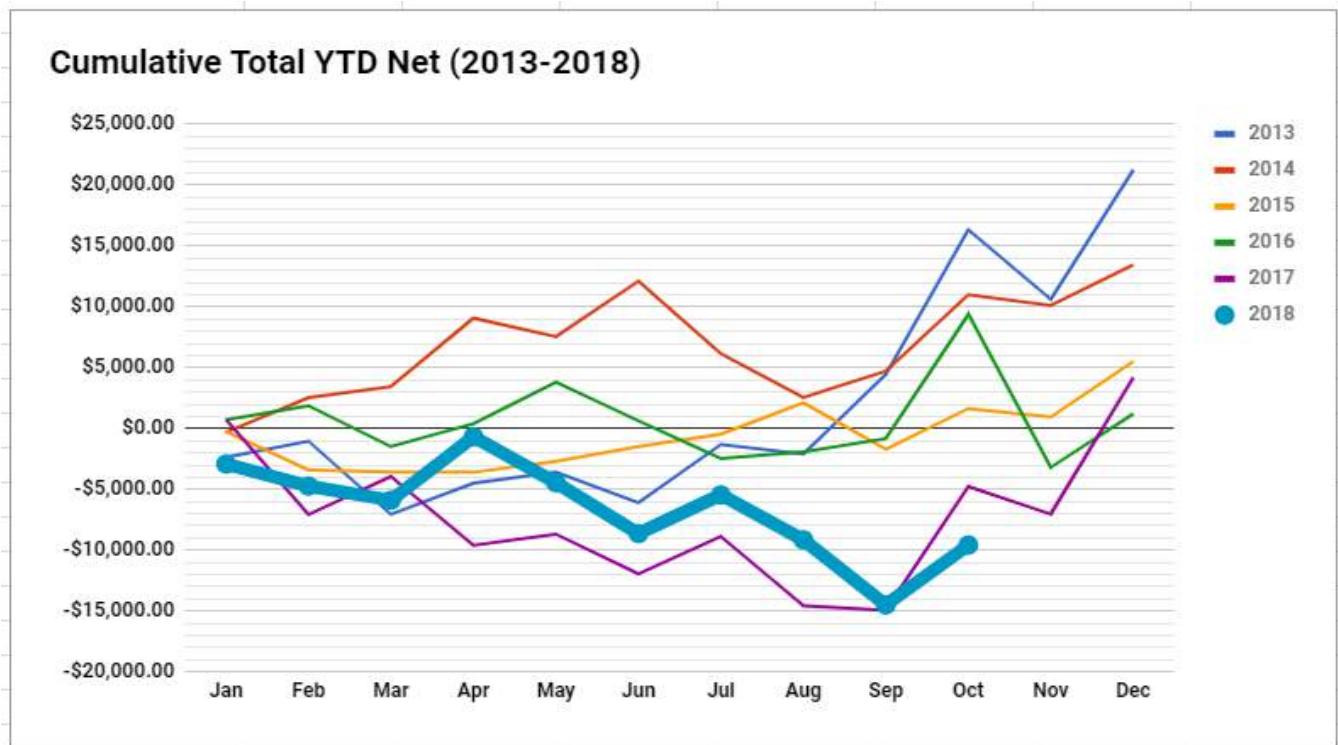
### CELEBRATION:

To show our appreciation for the work of these ministries the UMW will sponsor an **ADVENT BRUNCH** for Women on Saturday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, 2018 10am at the church. ALL women are invited to attend & bring /diapers/wipes/books as a "thank you" gift for these ministries.



## Budget continued from p. 1

While contributions vary each month our monthly expenditures are fairly constant. As a result we are currently experiencing an operating deficit for the year. We manage this deficit by having a small cash reserve at the beginning of the year and by strong December giving, which normally allows us to balance our budget and have that small reserve for the next year. The following graph shows our monthly net income after expenses for the past six years. With the exception of 2014 the lines show expenses exceeding income most of the year but with positive results by year-end. The bold blue line shows 2018 through October.



So we need Church members to step up again this year, as we have in the past, and give more if you can. Remember that contributions made through December 31st will be tax deductible for 2018. Our last worship service this year is December 30th so you can drop a contribution in the plate that day, receive a tax deduction and help us end this year on a strong note financially. And don't forget that the Church offers e-giving that allows you give whenever convenient for you. Just follow the instructions on the blue card on the back of our pew chairs.

Your generous giving has enabled Cedar Park First UMC to make substantial progress in facilities, staff, worship and service. Thanks for all you do to support our Church.



### **Special Worship Service: Soul Lift**

On the 4th Sunday of each month we 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 on Sunday, September 23, which aims to lift the soul.

# facebook

The CPFUMC Facebook page is growing. We now have 106 followers. Are you one of our followers? If not please search as **Cedar Park First United Methodist Church**.



## Like and Share our post.

Do you have an event you would like to have posted from the church's page?

Posting suggestions:

- Always use a photo

- Three to four weeks prior to your event, post once weekly

- Two weeks prior to your event, post twice weekly

- The week of your event, post three times prior to your event;

  - Five days, three days, and the day of the event

These are just suggestions. You can create your various postings, and email them to Colleen along with the date for each posting. She will schedule the posting on Facebook.

Do you have pictures from an event you attended at church? Please email a picture(s) and details to Colleen. Please do this immediately after the event but no more than five days after the event.

**Colleen Litaker** [colleen.litaker@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.litaker@gmail.com)



## Posaunenchor continued from p. 2

We headed north on Congress to the Bullock museum where we toured the three floors, ending up in the theater where we found ourselves enclosed by the *Spirit of Destiny* multimedia presentation complete with lightning, rain, locusts and rattlesnakes. It was a memorable presentation! Following the presentation, we spent some time wandering the floors of the museum, purchasing mementos at the gift shop and posing for another big group picture by the giant star in front of the museum.



Then it was off to Z'Tejas Tex-Mex restaurant on West 6<sup>th</sup> street for lunch. Here we enjoyed rellenos, enchiladas, tacos and, of course, chips and queso. After the leisurely lunch at Z'Tejas, we hit the road again back to Cedar Park, for a brief stop at the church to gather instruments and a micro-nap before heading to the Highland Estates retirement facility where the band set up and played a 1-hour concert for over 100 thankful listeners. The afternoon concert featured pieces by the entire band as well as several selections from the “Young

Blowers” section (Carolyn Elberg, Cora Oberg, Bjorn Pesch, Felix, Lednewski, Nikolaus Appel and Nikolaus Schroeder) and a couple of singing solos by Jochen Wilke. Following the concert, the band adjourned back to the church where their hosts met them again. Saturday dinner arrangements were by the hosts, so there was quite a variety of central Texas hospitality on display.

Sunday morning began bright and early at 7:30am with Par’s breakfast tacos at the church. An ensemble of Posaunenchor musicians played some gathering music on the patio in front of the sanctuary before each worship service. Posaunenchor played all of the music for each worship service, including Prelude/Postlude, traveling music, hymns, songs and the Shalom Song at the end. It was a glorious time to worship that Sunday! We had a combined total crowd of 169 people at both services.

Following the late worship service, we quickly turned the sanctuary into a fellowship hall with round tables for a potluck lunch. The potluck lunch was the biggest mega-spread that has







been seen at the church in a long time! After lunch, Georg Turwitt, the Posaunenchor director, presented Pastor Bonnie with some framed mementos from Hamm, Germany. These will be mounted on the Narthex wall near the coffee area with a small plaque explaining what they are and what they commemorate. Neil Howard was rewarded with a Posaunenchor 2018 Tour T-shirt and an

“Echter Hammer” (Real <person from> Hamm). He has been seen “hamming it up” ever since.

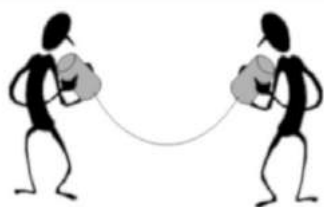
The biggest benefit for our congregation was the cultural exchange: friends made



and memories shared. We thank all of the hosts: Bonnie & Mark How, John & Martha Vinson, Par Keys, Glenda Morrison, Neil & Jane Howard, Nancy Holmes, Clunie & Corrie van Rensburg, Karen & Bob Packard and Sergio & Debra Longoria for their hospitality and efforts. Many of us have made new friends for life and are talking about a trip to Hamm in 2020!







Want to get in touch with a Church Leader?  
Are you thinking of submitting something for a  
future Newsletter?

Here are some contacts:

Pastor Peter Castles

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Bonnie How

Church Council Chair Steve Howard

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

Children's Haven Director Lesley Foyt

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

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

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

[showard746@gmail.com](mailto:showard746@gmail.com)

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

[director@childshaven.net](mailto:director@childshaven.net)

[lund121@me.com](mailto:lund121@me.com)

You can also find us online at **[cpfumc.org](http://cpfumc.org)**  
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at this phone number:  
(512) 335-9540



See full calendar online at  
<https://cpfumc.org/find-an-event/>

# CPFUMC December 2018

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, Dec 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)  
 CP1UMC Youth, Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3pm - Soul Lift	9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 4pm - GS Troop	1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	2pm - Talley Piano 6pm - Girl Scouts @	6:30pm - Alcoholics	12:30pm - Girl Scout
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	Webelos @ MMB 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 5:30pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	2pm - Talley Piano	6:30pm - Alcoholics	9am - UMW Meets 10am - Advent
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 7pm - Boy Scout	1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	2pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - Rockin'	Peter Castles 6:30pm - Alcoholics	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am - Christmas 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Christmas 2pm - Christmas 3:30pm - Worship @ 6pm - Youth @	9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 4pm - GS Troop 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	9:30am - Mbrship 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 5:30pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	11am - ACH Early 11:30am - A Child's 2pm - Talley Piano 5:30pm - Worship @	NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Children's	5pm - Christmas "A" 7pm - Christmas	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	10am - Advent VBS	6:30pm - Alcoholics	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
No Sunday School 10am - Worship -	9:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 1:45pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Piano 5:30pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles		6:30pm - Alcoholics	

# Computers for Sale

Contact Neil Howard, [nhowardtx@gmail.com](mailto:nhowardtx@gmail.com)

## OptiPlex 790 Small Form Factor – 9H3MJQ1 - **\$130**

### Hardware

Intel Core i3-2120, 3.30GHz, dual core processor  
8 GB DDR3 RAM  
500 GB Seagate model ST3500511CS, SATA II, 3.0 GB/s, 3.5" hard disk drive  
Slimline DVD-CD R/W drive  
Intel integrated HD Graphics 2000 display, max resolution: 2560x1600  
Integrated audio out and microphone in (front and rear)  
10 USB 2.0 ports (4 front, 6 rear)  
Display port and VGA video connectors  
Gigabit wired network connector  
PS/2 style keyboard and mouse connectors  
Serial port  
2 open motherboard slots for low profile adapter cards  
240w power supply



### Software

Microsoft Windows 10 Professional v1809, build 17763.134 (latest)  
Libre Office v6.1.3.2, Adobe Acrobat Reader DC, Google Chrome, VLC media player, Dell SupportAssist v3.0.2  
Originally shipped 6/15/2011 Dimensions: 11.4"H x 3.7"W x 12.3"D Weight: 12.57 lbs



## OptiPlex 790 Small Form Factor – 29VDTR1 - **\$150**

### Hardware

Intel Core i3-2100, 3.10GHz, dual core processor  
8 GB DDR3 RAM  
320 GB Western Digital Caviar Blue model WD3200AAKS-75L9A0, SATA II, 3.0 GB/s, 3.5" hard disk drive  
Slimline DVD-ROM drive  
Intel integrated HD Graphics 2000 display, max resolution: 2560x1600  
Integrated audio out and microphone in (front and rear)  
10 USB 2.0 ports (4 front, 6 rear)  
Display port and VGA video connectors

Gigabit wired network connector, PS/2 style keyboard and mouse connectors  
Serial port, 2 open motherboard slots for low profile adapter cards  
240w power supply

### Software

Microsoft Windows 10 Professional v1803, **Microsoft Office Enterprise 2007**, Adobe Acrobat Reader DC, Google Chrome, VLC media player, Dell SupportAssist v3.0.2  
Originally shipped 10/13/2011 Dimensions: 11.4"H x 3.7"W x 12.3"D Weight: 12.57 lbs.