



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

January 2019

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# Connections

## Newsletter

### Wi-Fi Upgrade for the Sanctuary

Submitted by Neil Howard



In 2014 we were able to bring hard-wired broadband Internet service to the Sanctuary building.

Shortly thereafter we installed a surplus router configured as a Wireless Access Point in the Sanctuary. This provided basic wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) in the Sanctuary building. When we upgraded our Internet service in 2017 to 200 Mbps, we installed a Wi-Fi router to cover the Multi-Ministries building with a strong, dual-band Wi-Fi signal.

The Wi-Fi needs of the church have

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### David's Faith to Keep Going

by Debra Longoria

In September 2018, David and I packed for a day trip to visit both Texas A&M's School of Science and School of Business. We left at 6:30 a.m. so he could arrive for his first meeting at the School of Science before 10 a.m.

I drove until we stopped at a McDonald's in Rockdale for breakfast, since David was tired from getting up early. The plan would be for him to drive after we ate.

As I approached Rockdale and a school zone, I slowed down. David's phone went off and he answered it. He discovered that Sergio had been texting and calling me that morning on my phone since we had left. David discovered my phone had been on silent mode and missed calls and text alerts. I thought to myself, "What is going on and is there an emergency at home?" As I was driving up to McDonald's, David was talking with his dad and I heard him say that I left my purse on the dining table.

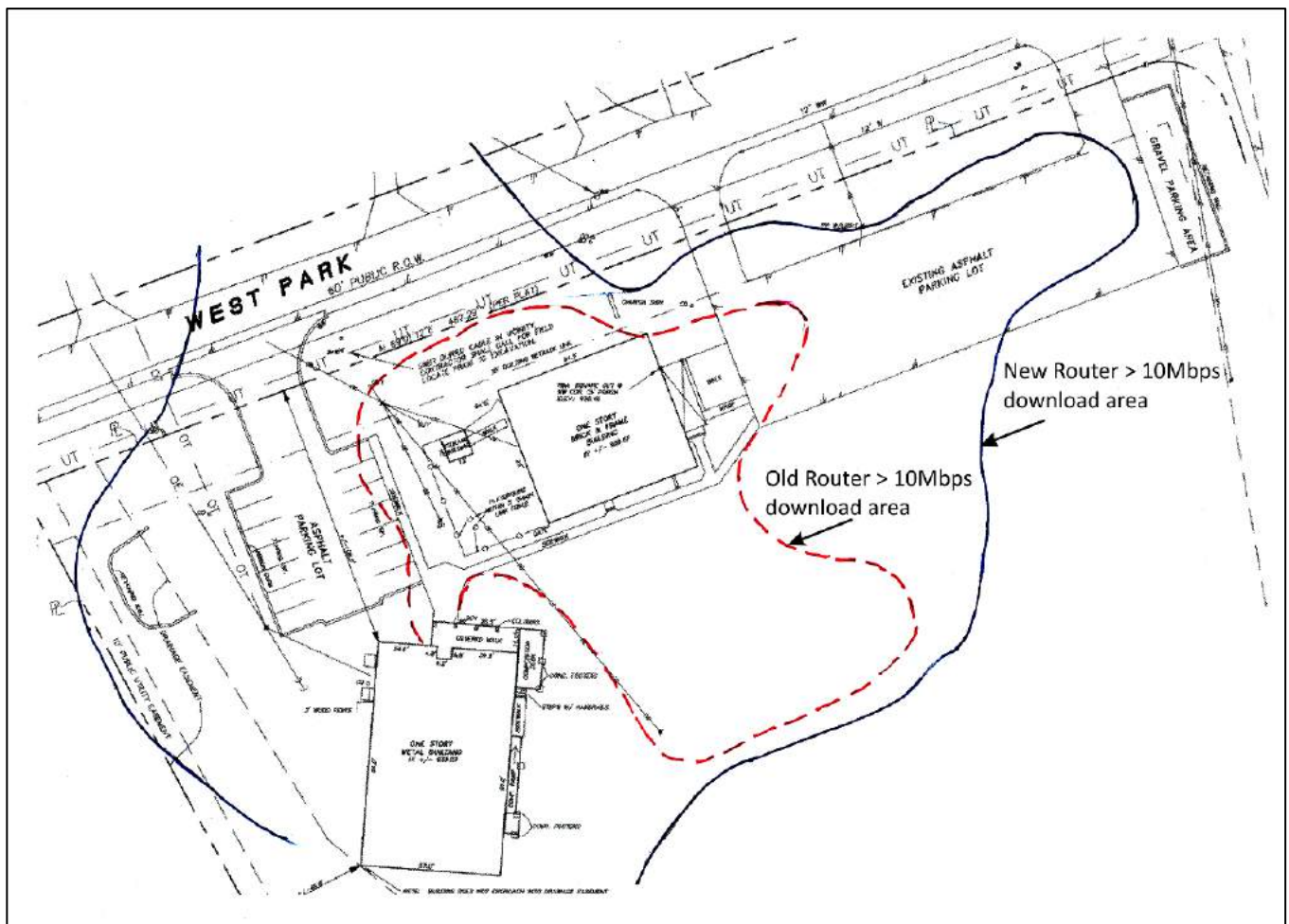
I yelled out, "What, I don't have my purse? I've been driving without a driver's license!" I pulled into the parking lot and rummaged through the other bags in the back seat. My purse was GONE...vanished into thin air, as in my mind I was sure I put it in the car before we left.

I was devastated that I didn't have any cash,

**FAITH continued on p. 5**

## WiFi continued from p. 1

increased with the use of a tablet computer and credit card scanner for Pumpkin Patch sales. Recently the Trustees finished installing eight Wi-Fi thermostats in both our buildings. This allows us to manage, program and troubleshoot thermostat settings and programs remotely over the Internet via a computer or smartphone without actually having to be at the church. The prospect of a future Wi-Fi irrigation controller for our landscape irrigation and Wi-Fi programming for a future electronic sign replacement of our main road sign have caused us to consider a Wi-Fi upgrade. We decided to upgrade our Wi-Fi signal in the Sanctuary building so that it would not only serve the inside of the building, but the outside grounds nearby.



In mid-December 2018 the Trustees installed a new Wi-Fi router in the Sanctuary building. This new router, a Netgear Nighthawk AC1900 dual-band model R7000, provides a substantially stronger Wi-Fi signal and, due to its 3 antennas and beam-forming technology, provides significantly greater outside Wi-Fi coverage (see the figure below). The new Wi-Fi router was donated. You can give it a try the next time you are at the church. The Wi-Fi network name in and around the Sanctuary building is CPFUMC-2 and the Wi-Fi passphrase is Genesis11.



## A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Lesley Foyt

December was a very exciting month at A Child's Haven! The children learned about caring, sharing and giving and the meaning of Christmas. We collected toys for Brown Santa this month and our families brought in many toys for needy boys and girls. We are very appreciative for all the donations. There were lots of fun activities in the classrooms this month including making ornaments, making gifts for loved ones and singing songs. During chapel this month the kids were able to practice their songs for the Christmas program with Pastor Bonnie.

Our Fruit of the Spirit this month was Peace. Colossians 3:15 says: "...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..." The children learned about the birth of Jesus this month and the peace he brings to our hearts. We had our Christmas Program on December 20<sup>th</sup> and all the children did a fabulous job singing songs they had learned. The Pre-K and Kinder Bridge classes acted out the story of Jesus' birth and how the angels and shepherds spread the joyful news. The kids also had a very special visitor-Santa Claus! They loved listening to Santa read about the true meaning of Christmas.

In January our Fruit of the Spirit will be Joy. We are ready for a new year of love and learning at A Child's Haven! Happy Holidays!

### Beautiful Brussels, by Janey Bills

- 1 1/2 pound Brussels Sprouts, trimmed and halved
- 1 whole medium Butternut Squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 whole large red onion, peeled and cut into wedges
- Olive Oil, for drizzling, 2-4 T
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 1 t chili powder
- 2T - 1/3 cup Pomegranate sauce/ pomegranate molasses\*\*

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Prepare vegetables and place in a large mixing bowl. Drizzle with oil, add seasoning and stir until all pieces are mixed and seasoning is well distributed.

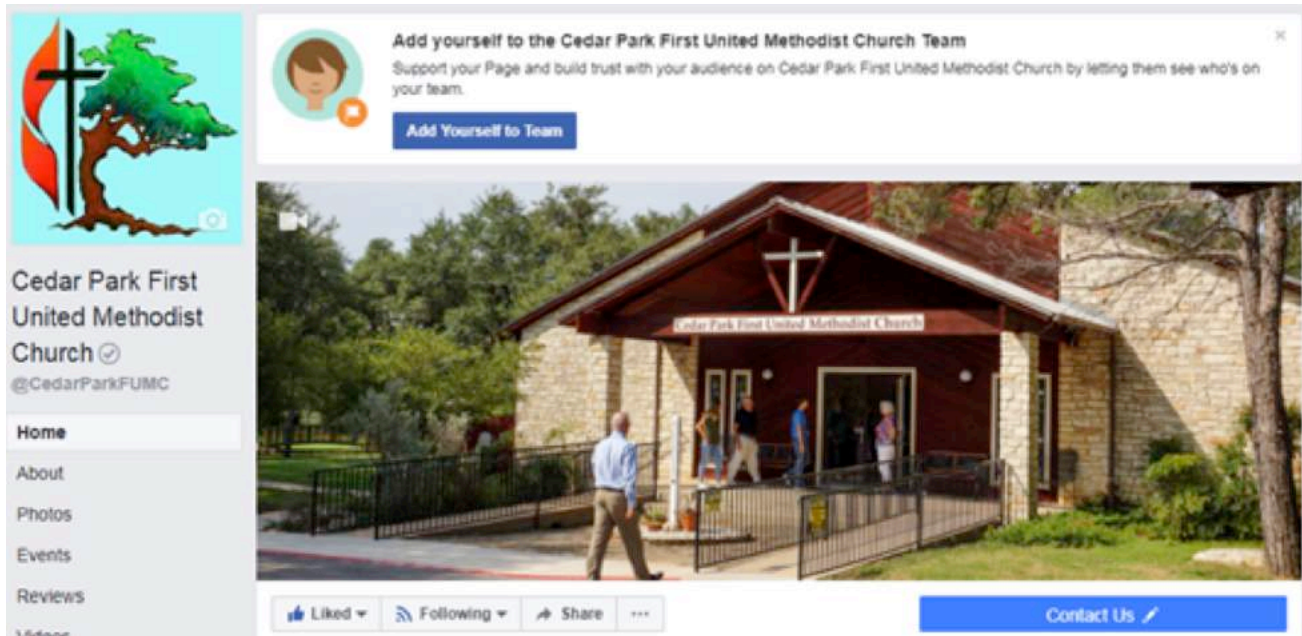
Pour vegetables onto a large, rimmed baking pan/cookie sheet and roast in oven 20-25 minutes. Drizzle with pomegranate sauce and serve.

\*\* I used a Raspberry Chipotle sauce, but you also could use a balsamic vinegar reduction. There are so many bottled sauces that are available, you can use what sounds good to you.



# 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)

## **Faith continued from p. 1**

no license, no debit card, no medicines and no makeup. My black purse, a loyal companion, that holds all the things I need each day was gone when I need money for the trip. I went inside to the restroom and left David with the car. I cried out to God and asked, "What are we going to do as we're stranded without money to eat? I felt helpless, afraid and wanted to go back home to postpone the trip for another day.

David came inside and waited for me by the front. I came out of the restroom and looked like I had been in a fight with the mirror. I was struggling with my myself and how stupid I felt for leaving my purse for a day trip. What was I thinking?

David immediately looked at me through my tears and said, "Mom, I think it's going to be fine because I have my debit card to use and I have five dollars in my wallet. I hugged him, smiled and said, "Wow, I forgot about that and I'm glad you brought it." He explained, "Last week, you told me you transferred fifty dollars if I need to get groceries, so we can use that money today."

I felt a peace come over me that it was going to be okay. We ordered our food carefully to stay on a budget with our expenses throughout the day. We knew we would have to pay for parking on this visit, so we had to be careful with expenses.

While we waited for our food, Sergio called me. He thought he could bring my purse to Taylor and we could meet there. Yet, that meant going back and it would take 45 minutes and we could be late for his meeting. I thanked him for his willingness to bring it but I told him about David's plan. We agreed to keep going and not go back.

David drove for the rest of the trip and we were so thankful to God for our food. I was able to rest my mind and not worry about my purse anymore.

David used his debit card to pay for parking and lunch. This time he was the one keeping an eye on the money in his account and not me. At lunch, he got pizza and I got two tacos and we drank water. I wanted a Twix candy bar and he looked at me and said, "We don't have money for extra things." The cashier thinking David was a college student asked, "Are you paying for you mom's lunch for her visit with you?" He said, "Well, yes I am paying and we're on a budget." She smiled at me with the candy bar in my hand and said, "You're such a nice son to her." The lunch was affordable as we split the Twix candy bar and thankful for the little things, like pizza, tacos, water and candy.

David asked me during lunch if John was still meeting us for dinner. I realized that before the trip I had invited John and his roommate, Sam, to join us for dinner at Rosa's. I wanted to thank Sam for being a great roommate and helping John by inviting him.

I blurted out, "Oh no we don't have any money for dinner!" As a group of college students sitting at a table to my right overheard my comment, they all smiled and nodded at me with empathy and support with my issue. I smiled back thinking, "I need to set a mature example to handle money problems, when I was irresponsible and left my loyal purse behind." So, I sat there and thought about what to do at the table. So, in the loud and cramped eating area with many college students all around, I waited on God for an answer to our problem.

Then, it occurred to me to have Sergio transfer some money for dinner to David's account. So, I asked David to text his father to have him move some money. I was happy and stood up to get more water as the college students probably thought something was up with my new energy. I told David, "God provides for us in strange ways, like moving money around in accounts. He smiled and was thankful for God's provision, as he was keeping tabs on how much we had spent for breakfast, parking, lunch and budging for dinner. I was proud of him being responsible with



## **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, January 27, which aims to lift the soul.

money when I almost blew the budget on a Twix.

After lunch we had our last tour at the School of Business and had to be there before two p.m. It was too far to walk so we moved the car to another parking lot, which costs more money. Yet, Sergio had come through to provide money we needed for another parking lot. Even though John and Sam knew I left my purse, it was awkward as they felt badly about the situation. As college students with limited money and expectations to eat dinner, I didn't want to disappoint them. I said, "God always provides when we trust Him." They both agreed as we prayed to thank God for our food. We enjoyed our time to talk, eat and discuss the day. It showed them that adults make mistakes, but God provides when we trust Him.

After dinner, David and I left John and Sam in the parking lot of their dorm and said goodbye. David drove the entire way home thankful to God for His help.

David learned to use the resources he had available and that having the needed items are important to life. He had his debit card, his driver's license and his faith in God to move toward the goal to visit the campus. He didn't dwell on me leaving my purse but found a solution to the problem.

The experience taught me that David will be able to handle himself on his own for college and in life, as he was strong, brave and unwilling to give up. It also taught me the importance of letting go of the problem, so God could come along to help. It was a very dark and uncertain time when I didn't know how the day would go without money from my purse. I trusted God as he provided. I remembered these verses that day.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Phil. 3:12

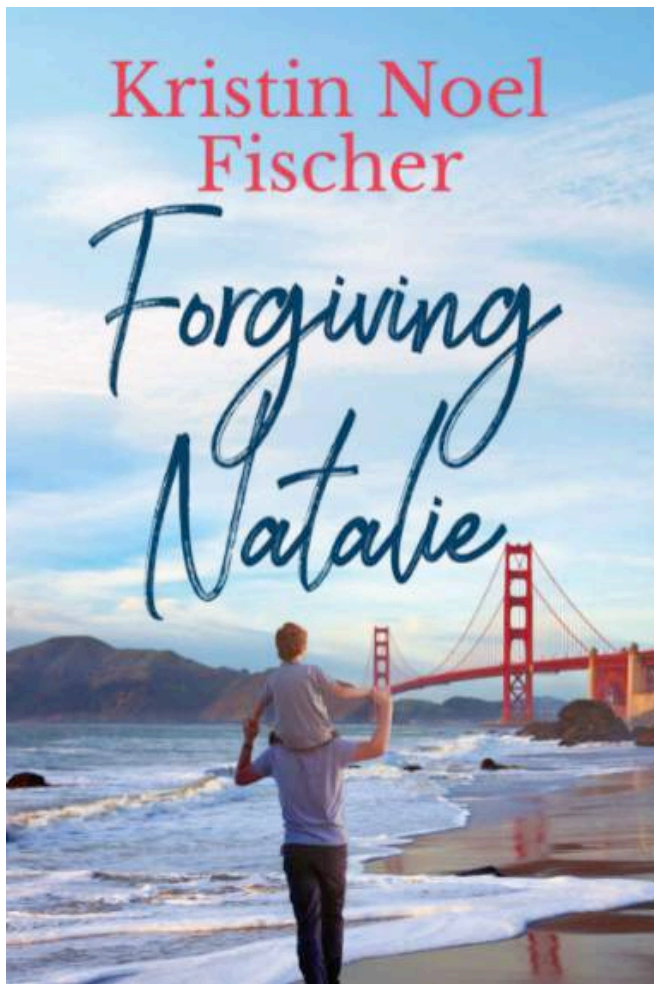
Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but I press to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:19

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Tim. 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

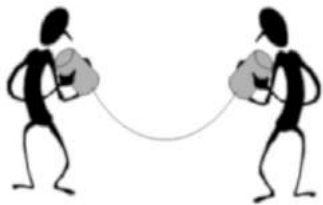


Kristin Noel Fischer writes stories that combine Uplifting Fiction with Inspirational Romance. Her books focus on overcoming tragedy through faith, family, friendship, love, and laughter. Readers enjoy her realistic characters and message of hope.

If you're looking for a gritty but compelling read without gratuitous love scenes or foul language, you've come to the right place. If you prefer a more edgy read, Kristin hopes you'll give her books a chance and tell her what you think.

Join us on **Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30pm** for a discussion with the author about her book, *Forgiving Natalie*.

Kristin is a Golden Heart Finalist, an Inspirational Reader's Choice finalist as well as a Golden Quill finalist for Best Inspirational Romance. She enjoys biking, gardening, reading, and spending time with her husband and six kids.



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

Here are some contacts:

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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

# CPFUMC January 2019

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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, CP1UMC Youth, Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women  
 Jan 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

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