



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Walking With God

Submitted by Pastor Bonnie How

During Holy Week we will be inviting everyone to walk with God, exploring the Prayer Labyrinth that will be present in our sanctuary Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15 - 17th.

What is a Labyrinth? Unlike a maze, a labyrinth is a winding course with only one way in and out. It's a pilgrimage of sorts, where people can meander and contemplate, praying as you journey. There's no way to get lost, as in a maze, so there's no reason to feel anxious. Rather, the journey is an exploration of the twists and turns of life, and of God's guiding love.

For centuries, Christians have walked the paths of labyrinths, and I have enjoyed the practice myself for many years. I have sought God in the labyrinth, and found great peace and great joy. I remember one time when I walked a labyrinth

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Spring Work Day 2019

Submitted by Neil Howard

Our Spring Work Day got a great start on Saturday, March 30th as 26 people showed up at the church to spread mulch and move furniture. Work began a little before 9:00 am. Par Keys had the coffee and doughnuts ready when we arrived and Debra Longoria provided everyone some lunch at 11:30.



The last bit of the mulch pile was finally shoveled up and spread out at 2:07pm. In between these times a lot of changes happened both inside and outside the Sanctuary building.

A huge crew of 16 mulchers joined the mulching party, mostly church members, but a couple of volunteers from the Girl Scout we host, Zack and Olivia showed up as well.

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Jesus Rock Star Corner

The Jesus Rock Stars have been sharing ideas of how God wants us to help one another. God gives us time to help others but we sometimes forget and become bored. As children we can always help our parents and others around the house.



Mason is keeping from being bored by demonstrating his architect skills. We will need to keep an eye on this young man. It looks like some fabulous buildings may be in his future.

We started preparing for the Easter season. We had fun discussing Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday as some say. Everyone decided the Methodist Men's group makes the best pancakes.

In this preparation we talked about the importance of praying and listening for God. The children decorated their prayer boxes.



Tony, Rachel, Leland, Kaitlyn, and James are selecting images to place on their prayer boxes. This is a time for us to be pray, so to help the children to remember, we decided to make prayer



Rachel is organizing her beads on the bracelet.

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood he gave.
Green is for the grass he made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for the grace he gave.
Purple is for his hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet.

Is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.

May the joy of Christ's Resurrection fill your heart and bless your life.



Rachel, Josie, Jacksyn, and Leland string their prayer beads. These will help them to remember to pray.



Our children help wherever they can. Tony acolytes during first service. We thank these children for their service to our church.

Upcoming children's activities:

April 21	Easter Egg Hunt	9:45am
	<i>Bring your own baskets!!</i>	
April 27	Empower	5pm-9pm
June 17-21	MegaSports VBS	6pm-8pm

If you have been looking for a place where you would be able to share your talents, consider joining the children's ministries. We can use your new ideas, time and energy.

Please contact Carolyn Smith or Amanda Theriot about volunteering today!

We need Easter Egg Donations!



Individually wrapped candies.
Please drop off in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

CABIN FEVER GAME NIGHT

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

Game Night was finally here.

It was a wonderful time to visit with friends and get to know others. Some fun things I learned:

1. Bonnie's child, Aaron is the only one of her children who posed for pictures in the bluebonnets.
2. Sharon is a fabulous water color painter. Maybe we can get her to start classes.
3. Sarah placed 5th in a chess tournament when she was seven.
4. Sergio teaches chess.

What did you learn about others?



Brother and sister, Josie and Leland play checkers. Josie just jumped again and took Leland's piece.



Jane was eager to teach bridge to others. Par and Laure; are trying to understand. Luckily, Clara and Peter knew and were helping with instructions. They had a wonderful evening.



Amanda taught Neil to play Chutes and Ladders. Amanda cannot believe Neil just made that move.



They have swapped games. Josie and Rachel are now climbing ladders and sliding down slides. Leland is amazing Neil with his skills at chess.

GAMES continued from previous page.



The bridge table is still going strong. Maybe they should start a bridge club.



Neil is admiring Sergio's chess game. If you would like to learn this game of strategy, check out Sergio's classes at the Leander Public Library on Sunday afternoons.



Debra introduced us to the "LCR: Left Center Right" game. It is a fun dice game that we learned quickly. Sharon, Sarah, Mason, Debra, Bonnie and Amanda had a great time. Did you know when you are out of tokens, you are not out of the game? You might just end up winning the game.



Leland brought his friend, Austin. They enjoyed a game of chess.



Like all events, we enjoyed many snacks. Josie is helping herself to roasted tomatoes on bruschetta.

Thank you to everyone who made this evening possible. Also, thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the games. It was a wonderful evening.



A Child's Haven Happenings

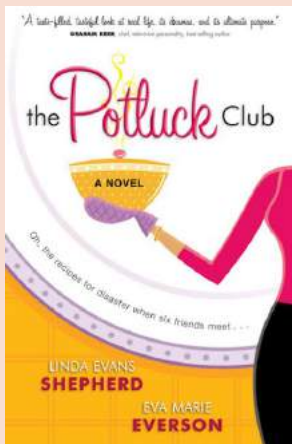
Submitted by Lesley Foyt

We had a fast month at A Child's Haven! The children learned about rhyming, Texas and the United States and baby animals. We had lots of fun on our Dr. Seuss Day with a special art project, a cat in the hat snack, games, and green eggs and ham tasting! During the last week of March we had a petting zoo come to school. The children were able to pet and feed baby goats. It was a great way to end the month!

In April we will have our annual Easter egg hunt and field day. This is always a favorite of the kiddos! Coming up on May 4th is our spring fundraiser, which will be on May 4th from 5:00-8:00 at the church. We would love to have you join us! We will have a magic show, a bouncy house, balloon twisting, face painting and an awesome silent auction. Dinner will be catered by Gino's Italian. Tickets go on sale April 2nd in the office and are \$10 per adult. Children are free. All monies raised will go to support our scholarship fund as well as other educational enrichment activities.

We are looking forward to another wonderful month of love and learning!

CPFUMC Fiction Book Club Event



Author: Linda Evans Shepherd

Novel: *The Potluck Club*

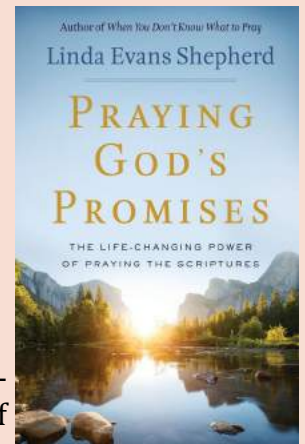
Religious: *Praying God's Promises: The Life-changing Power of Praying the Scriptures*

Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The award winning Christian author Linda Evans Shepherd has written over 30 books and sold over quarter of a million copies. She is president of Right to the Heart

Ministries. She is an internationally recognized speaker in Canada and the United States. Linda also publishes *Leading Hearts* magazine and *Arise Daily*, a daily devotional.

Linda lives with her husband, Paul, in Longmont, CO. They have two children, one in Austin, TX and the other in heaven. To learn more about Linda's ministries, go to www.GotToPray.com.



Hope you will join us for a wonderful book club event!



We have begun the planning for the upcoming MEGA Sports VBS, Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21 from 6pm to 8pm each day.

We need a lot of help. All volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained. If you are available and can help, please let us know and plan to attend the upcoming meetings. If you worked the event in 2018 you probably have Safe Sanctuary training; it is good for two years. If you need training, it will can be arranged.

For anyone who wishes to be part of the event planning:

May 19 VBS volunteers noon

For all volunteers who will be working the event:

June 16 VBS decorating 3pm

June 17 -21 MEGA Sports VBS 6-8pm

Please contact Debra Longoria, Amanda Theriot, or Carolyn Smith for further information.



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, April 28, which aims to lift the soul.

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with my husband, Mark. This particular labyrinth had two entrances and we each started at a different place. As we walked, I noticed with awe that there were times when we were so close to one another that we seemed to walk together although we were at different points on the path. At other times, the twists and turns took us to opposite sides of the path. And yet, we ended up in the center together and were able to complete the journey together. I marveled at how that journey mirrored our marriage, and our faith life. We are sometimes so close, and at other times far away, but we are on the path together. I felt strong confirmation that God is the path that we follow, leading us.

I once created a labyrinth for the youth to walk, fashioning the path out of lengths of extension cord! I had each student sit on the perimeter of the labyrinth, silent and in prayer for the student who was walking the path. It was an exercise in patience and stillness for those who rested on the outside. Those on the path perhaps felt awkward at first, surrounded by friends, who they knew were praying for them as they walked their own journey. Again, it was a mirror of life.

I hope that you will be encouraged to spend some quiet moments walking the labyrinth. The process is not hard, even if it might feel like a strange practice at first. I recommend that you approach the entrance and pause. Invite God to be with you as you walk, to perhaps give you a Word of Scripture, or a verse of song. Meditate on it as you walk. Notice what comes into your thoughts as you walk. Is it a friend? A loved one? An answer to prayer? A conviction? Rest in the center and receive all that God is giving to you. Be present. As you find your way out, reflect on the journey and take with you God's love and grace back out into the world.

A host will be present should you want to talk, or pray, and is available also for guidance if this is your first experience with this ancient spiritual practice. Additionally, written instructions are provided.

The labyrinth will be open as follows:

Monday, April 15th - 2-6pm

Tuesday, April 16th - 2 - 8pm

Wednesday, April 17th - 9am - 12pm



WORK DAY continued from p. 1

We spread the mulch from east to west on the new landscaping. First attacking the smaller pile of mulch, then moving on to the big one.



The results were excellent. Mulching the new landscape was done by about 11:15 am.



WORK DAY continued from previous page.

Meanwhile inside the church a team of 10 people were swapping the furniture between the library and the nursery. The results were excellent there as well.



Now that the new landscape was completely mulched, we realized that we still had a lot of mulch left. After a short break, we kept mulching, starting in on the parking lots beds, all the parking lot trees and ending up with the bed in front of the Multi-Ministries building. I think that Whittlesey gave us a lot more than 21 yards of mulch!

WORK DAY continued on next page.

WORK DAY continued from previous page.



Jerry, Neil and Dan stayed to the bitter end as the big mulch pile was finally gone at 2:07pm.



In all, we accomplished 9 of the 17 tasks on the list. We will keep working on the rest of them at our own pace. Thanks to all who came on Saturday to give our Spring Work Day a great start!

CPFUMC April 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, **Apr 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)**
CP1UMC Youth, Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship	1 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	2 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 3:50pm - Talley 4pm - GS 40401 @ 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	3 9:30am - Powerful 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Plano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	4 10am - Lenten Bible 2pm - Talley Plano	5 6:30pm - Alcoholics	6 10am - UM Army
7 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12:30pm - CROP 3pm - Mary Williams 6pm - Youth @	8 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	9 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 3:50pm - Talley 7pm - Boy Scout 7:30pm - AA Men's	10 9:30am - Powerful 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Plano 5:30pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	11 10am - Lenten Bible 2pm - Talley Plano 6:30pm - Book Club	12 6:30pm - Alcoholics	13 9am - UMW Meets
14 Palm Sunday 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	15 Holy Week 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 2pm - Labyrinth 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - Centering	16 Holy Week 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 12pm - Women's 2pm - Labyrinth 3:50pm - Talley	17 Holy Week 9am - Labyrinth 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Plano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	18 Holy Week 9:30am - Easter Egg 2pm - Talley Plano 7pm - Worship	19 Holy Week NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics 7pm - Worship Good	20 Holy Week 1pm - Bob Packard
21 EASTER 7am - EASTER 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3:30pm - Worship @	22 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 7:30pm - Centering	23 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 3:50pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	24 9:30am - Mbrship 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Plano 5:30pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	25 2pm - Talley Plano	26 6:30pm - Alcoholics	27 5pm - EMPOWER @
28 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3pm - Soul Lift 6pm - Youth @	29 9:30am - Tai Chi 12:30pm - Talley 7:30pm - Centering	30 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 3:50pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	1 1pm - Easy Line 1pm - Talley Plano 6:30pm - BS Pack 6:30pm - Buckles	2 2pm - Talley Plano	3 6:30pm - Alcoholics	4 5pm - Spring