



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

November 2019

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Fall Work Day 2019

Submitted by Neil Howard



A great group of workers showed up on October 5th for our Fall Work Day. Many of the participants were friends of the church like girl scouts, relatives of members, the Leander HS girls track team (Thanks, Gigi!) and some Child's Haven parents. There were also several members who helped out on Saturday and on other days. All told we were able to complete 17 out of the 25 (68%) tasks on our list plus one painting task partially.

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Fall Mission Trip to Eagle Pass **SUCCESSFUL!!!**

Submitted by Pastor Suzette

Thank you for your generous support. We headed to the border with our new mission trailer in tow. What a blessing that trailer is for missions (before, during and after!). We met with the folks working with asylum seekers. Border Patrol brings them to Mission Border Hope who then provides showers, a hot meal and clean clothes as they assist them in the next stage of their journey. For those without options, they are brought to Sister Ursula's house. We also stayed with the Benedictine sisters during our trip enjoying the company of new friends from many lands.



We were assigned a widow's home to repair from the devastating floods over a year ago. The roof had just been replaced and we were

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

Christmas is already in the air in the Jesus Rock Stars classroom. We are in rehearsal for our upcoming Christmas Eve play, *"Away from A Manger – A Christmas Whodunit"* by Rachel Benjamin and Suzanne Davis.

Our classroom knows the value of taking a break. The Jesus Rock Stars' had a blast at our recent EMPOWER. This is a time when the children are given a chance to demonstrate one of their God given talents.

First we started on the beautiful grounds of our church. The eight children and two youth helpers attending had fun answering questions, discovering places on the church grounds, and finding the treasures.



Elizabeth solved the question, "A place where friends can shoot hoops".



Leland knew, "Needs help to cook food perfect?"



Josie found the "Angle who reads stories."

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

In true EMPOWER fashion, we had dinner but the children had to work for their dinner. Ms. Carolyn was the first to demonstrate one of her God given talents, cooking. She demonstrated how to make pizza using bread or tortillas for the crust. Each child selected either bread or gluten free tortillas. Then oiled the bread, added sauce, toppings, and baked.



The children enjoy their semi-homemade individual pizzas.

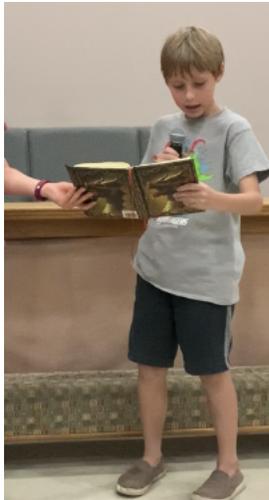


We also have s'mores for outdoor activities.

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

It was time for the big show. Each child was given the microphone to demonstrate their God given talents. Children performed bottle flipping, spinners, storytelling, singing, writing stories, telling jokes, and volleyball skills.

These children are small but have amazing talents.



Upcoming Events:



We look forward to our spring EMPOWER and the talents the children will discover.

November YOUTH News

Submitted by Suzette Thorpe Johnson

Your YOUTH are on the move! Sarah's marching band is headed to Indianapolis while Karsten's heads to San Antonio for competitions shortly. Jozi and Taylor are rocking volleyball. Mady earned her Girl Scout Bronze Star and Amber made Regional Choir. Jett and Jozi are auditioning for the high school musical *Mary Poppins*. These are but a few things they have been up to outside of church life. Please keep each one of our YOUTH in your daily prayers. It is such a powerful blessing for them as they navigate this time in their lives.



Within the church happenings, they explored the stories of persons seeking asylum in the United States with a documentary: *Which Way Home?* It is a stark look at the multifaceted situation. They then processed the information using a technique called Theater of the Oppressed. Which allowed us to blow off steam, laugh, and discuss openly how we felt about the situation on the Border. This was to provide context for the mission trip to Eagle Pass, TX. See article on mission trip to be reminded of how our YOUTH are AMAZING humans filled with Christ's light. The new trailer was a huge blessing! Thanks to Shawn for taking the lead on getting that in place.

The youth arrived game-on for church work day along side fellow student athletes and Church member's grandchildren. We discussed



homecoming and themed dances as we stained and painted around the church. On Sunday, we finished the painting and did food collection for the Hillcountry food bank in the neighborhood. The shed looks so good a skunk has taken up residency!

We headed to a Christian Rock concert in South Austin: Michael W Smith was touring with 35 years of songs. He music is a staple at many a UMARMY mission trip and youth



events. We were able to sing along with a few thousand other Christians - loud praises to God! We're looking forward to MERCY ME next month in Cedar Park.

The last weekend in October will see us creating a DRUM CIRCLE with a guest

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Count Me In!

By the Stewardship Ideas Committee

A small group of people have belonged to a new committee at Church this year, the Stewardship Ideas Committee. Our tenure is over, and we wanted to share the outcome of all our brainstorming sessions. We were charged with coming up with a fresh approach to the annual pledge campaign and also with creating a narrative budget. (See the budget pie article in the last newsletter.)

Instead of having the usual two-week campaign in November to ask just for monetary pledges from the Congregation as usual, we pondered an expanded pledge drive to address the needs of our church throughout the year, Year-Around Stewardship.

This church is a success because each of us gives a hand in supporting God's work through our church. To capture this service, we are asking for an additional pledge – a personal pledge of year-around stewardship (it is on the back of the pledge letter and is never turned in). When you review the list, you can see there are many areas where we count on your help to grow personally and to help the church reach our goals. You may already be doing several of these services. We are asking you to add an additional commitment this year.

Back to the traditional pledge letter each of you will receive in the mail. The first change you will notice immediately when you open the letter is that the pledge card is Advent Blue this year – easy to spot on the back table in the Sanctuary if you didn't get one in the mail. And we have a second bigger blue pledge card. This year we are introducing a Children's Pledge Card. The children can decide to take this step with their parents help. If children choose to make a pledge, take a big blue pledge card and see Jane Howard to get the package of stars that you will use at home to track progress on your child's pledge.

We have kept some traditions that we all look forward to. And there is no change in timing: November is traditionally the month of the annual pledge drive culminating in the Thanks For Giving pot luck on November 24 – save the date.

This year we will have a follow-on year-around stewardship activity in December called "Put the Holy Back in Christmas". Watch for information about this new ministry and please join us in those activities.

In January there will be a newsletter article about the details of giving to CPFUMC, which we call the "technicalities", and will include information about electronic giving, tips on tax season advantages available in the first quarter of each year, and to learn if you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution which can reduce taxes on your Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA, etc. See what we mean about "technicalities"? Never fear, they will be laid out to help everyone understand all the options open to them.

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A Child's Haven Happenings

By Lesley Foyt, Director



October was a fun filled month at A Child's Haven. We started off the month studying forest animals and had our annual Teddy Bear Picnic. The kids loved bringing their stuffed animals and eating lunch outside. With fall beginning, there were lots of colorful art projects and the children enjoyed nature walks to find fall leaves. Of course, the most exciting part of the month was dressing up for Halloween and visiting the pumpkin patch to listen to a story. A great time was had by all! All the kids got to take home a small pumpkin as well.

Our Fruit of the Spirit for October was patience. Ephesians 4:2 says "...be patient, bearing with one another in love." Patience can be a hard thing for young children, but our amazing teachers have been working with our kiddos on this trait. Through bible stories, the kids have learned how Jesus was patient and loving to both his followers and to those who didn't believe in him.

In November we will be learning about community helpers and Thanksgiving. We will have our annual canned food drive for Hill Country Community Ministries from Nov. 4th-7th. Please feel free to donate to our drive! Boxes will be in the hallway of the MMB. We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving Lunch with families on November 21st. Lots of fellowship and feasting will be enjoyed!

Blessings,

Lesley

COUNT ME IN continued from p. 6

In early Spring, just before the biennial Safe Gatherings Training sponsored by the Church Conference, an article will explain how you personally can advance many of the ministries at CPUFMC by taking the Safe Gatherings Training. We need an all-hands response to get the largest cadre trained as possible. It is a two to three-hour time commitment and parts can be done on-line. This training does not mean you are signing up for two years of hard labor, in many cases, other people will take the lead at church events, but they cannot lead alone. We will need extra trained adults (think of them as attentive Spectators) attending so we can meet the adult/student ratio requirements to hold youth and children's events, such as VBS. Please look forward to signing up for this training when you see the spring article. Full disclosure: there is a mid-term "booster" training session of about 30 minutes in the off years.

We'd be glad to help you publicize other Year-Around-Stewardship ideas you come up with. The bottom line is "Count Me In", so we can have an even more successful year in 2020.

AED Now Available

Submitted by Neil Howard

In August the Trustees purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device and installed it in the church. The AED is located in a white, metal cabinet mounted on the east wall of the Narthex near the front door of the Sanctuary Building.

David Longoria spearheaded selection, purchase and installation of the device and David will be the Program Manager for inspections and maintenance. The AED itself is a small, battery-powered device enclosed in a plastic case. It weighs only 3 pounds. It is a Phillips HeartStart OnSite Defibrillator model M5066A.



In case of a sudden cardiac arrest, the patient is unresponsive and not breathing normally. First have someone call 9-1-1.

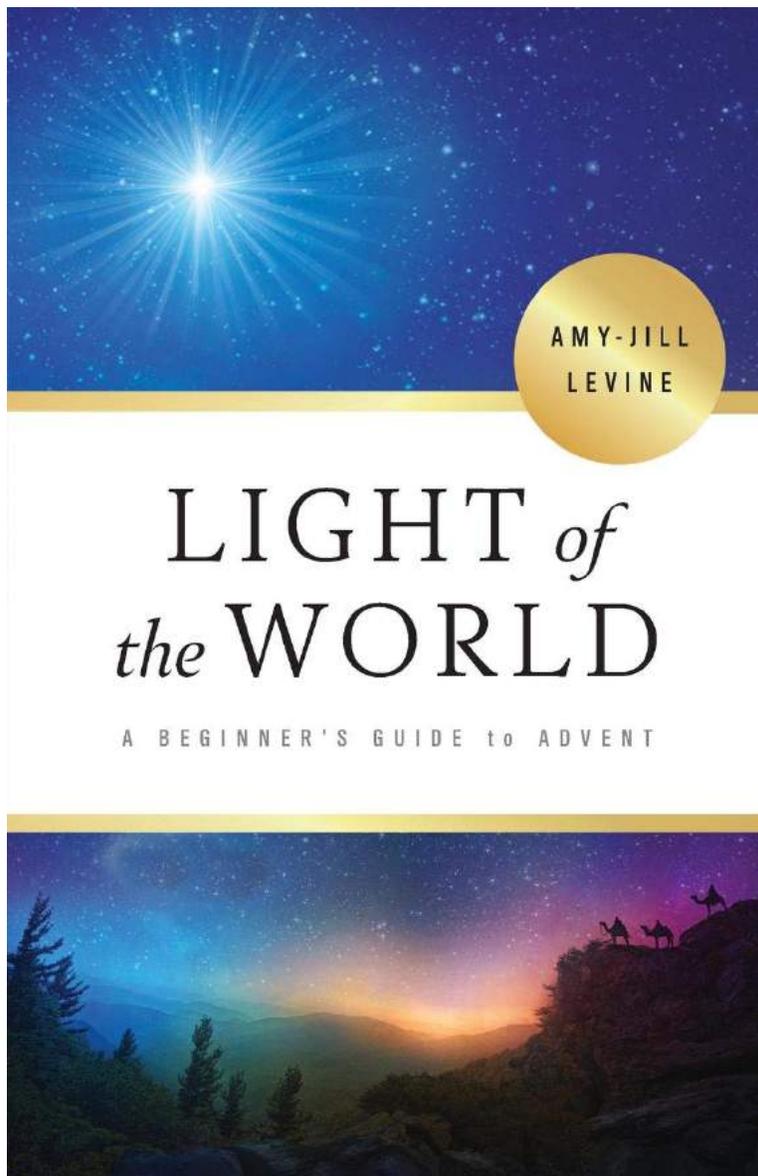
To use the AED, open the door of the wall-mounted cabinet and take out the AED in its red plastic container. As the door of the metal cabinet is opened, an alarm will sound until the door is closed. Remove the AED in its case. Unzip the red container and take out the AED itself. **Pull** the green plastic cover off the SmartPads. This will turn on the AED. Peel one adhesive pad off the film seal. **Place** the SmartPad on the patient's bare skin using the diagram on the

SmartPad cover as a guide. Repeat the peel-and-place process with the second pad. Then follow the automated voice instructions provided by the AED. The AED will analyze the patient and indicate if a shock is required and it will tell you how to initiate the shock.

David will be arranging for training in CPR and AED use, so stay tuned for further information.

Cost of the AED was \$1148 which included a replacement battery, the metal wall case, replacement pads (with a free replacement for life program), signs, inspection sticker, shipping and all documentation.





INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY PLANNED FOR ADVENT

The biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus will be the subject of a new study planned for the four Sundays in the season of Advent. Both youth and adults are invited to take part. The classes will be held immediately following the 10:45 worship service, from noon until 2pm, on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. A light lunch will be provided.

Please consider taking part in this study, which will trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi, utilizing the recent book by Amy-Jill Levine entitled *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*.



Tables for All

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

Did you sign up for Tables for All? By participating you will have dinner with a different group of people once every calendar quarter. There is not a lesson plan or testing involved. This is an open friendly, unorganized discussion group for adults. We are using an Excel program to randomly select the host and assign members to each group. The assigned host will contact you to arrange the date, time, and what you will be asked to bring.

Fortunately, we have had many people sign up to be a host. This means you will not be asked to host each quarter, you will be asked to host approximately once a year. When not hosting, you will be participating as a guest at another member's home.

We hope this leads to establishing friendships within our congregation. You do not need to wait for the next assignments, ask your new friends out to coffee, to lunch, or over to your home. These are new friends, enjoy each other's company.

If you have participated or will be participating soon, we would love to hear from you. Please send your review to Carolyn, carolynsmith2215@gmail.com.

Encourage others to join and ask them to complete the green form in the back of the sanctuary. Any questions, please contact Carolyn Smith.

Member's Reviews:

"A new couple that has started visiting our church was present and we all enjoyed visiting with them." Clara Crank

"It was like having a family dinner or having cousins you hadn't seen in a long time come through town and have dinner – we all had catching up to do to learn more about each other's lives outside the church." Jane Howard

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Karen Bowker and her grandchildren, Ryleigh and Dalton did a nice job pruning the Thyrrallis Golden Showers hedge along the east boundary of our parking lot. The Leander HS girls track team, led by their coach Gigi Heermans, moved a bunch of plastic building pieces and replaced all the remaining burned out fluorescent tubes in the Multi-Ministries Building (MMB). Under Carolyn Smith's supervision, they also moved a bunch of pallets for the pumpkin patch. They also painted most of the trash enclosure and most of the arbor along the sidewalk back to the Memorial Outdoor Sanctuary (MOS). Great work, ladies! Carolyn helped the girl scouts trim the hedge by the front ramp. Child's Haven parents and



some kids took down pumpkin patch decorations out of the attic and helped set up the tents and pallets

Some members of the church were also in action. The CPFUMC Youth Group (Spring, Taylor, and others . . .), led by Pastor Suzette, Kevin Middleton and Shawn Dubler, did a yeoman's job painting the picnic tables and the shed. Kevin and Karsten Lundstrom replaced the broken hinge on the shed door. Kevin painted one of the picnic tables with a roller in one hand and a paintbrush in the other. Talk about efficiency! They



look great now!

Jane Howard finished the arduous job of weeding the crabgrass out of the west lawn. Neil Howard did his best to point up the loose stones in the entry patio. Sue Sidney and Cynthia Lawrence cleaned the chairs in the Sanctuary. Jimmy West fixed the gate on the trash enclosure, installed new board and painted the east side of it. Len Travis, Bob Bowker and

WORK DAY continued from p. 11

Dan McNichol used Dan's truck to transport all of the tent pieces to the pumpkin patch and set up two tents and the tables. Sterling Hartman



and some kind, anonymous soul trimmed the hedge and rosemary shrubs on the east side of the MMB. Mart and Karen Goodman removed a pile of boards from the conference room in the MMB before they left on vacation. Jane Hilton



dug out the tree bubblers and with Ryleigh and Barbara King's help, pulled the vines out of the trees in the MOS. They also trimmed the bushes along the sidewalks by the parking lot and MOS.

We were blessed with good weather and some water to drink when we got thirsty. Everyone really worked hard. The Trustees and the congregation really appreciate your efforts!

For anyone who missed out, there are still a few tasks left. See the sign-up board in the

Sanctuary Building hallway for remaining opportunities.



YOUTH continued from p. 5

instructor from Recycled Rhythms. Danny is a wonderful person who loves to drum.

Looking ahead to November:

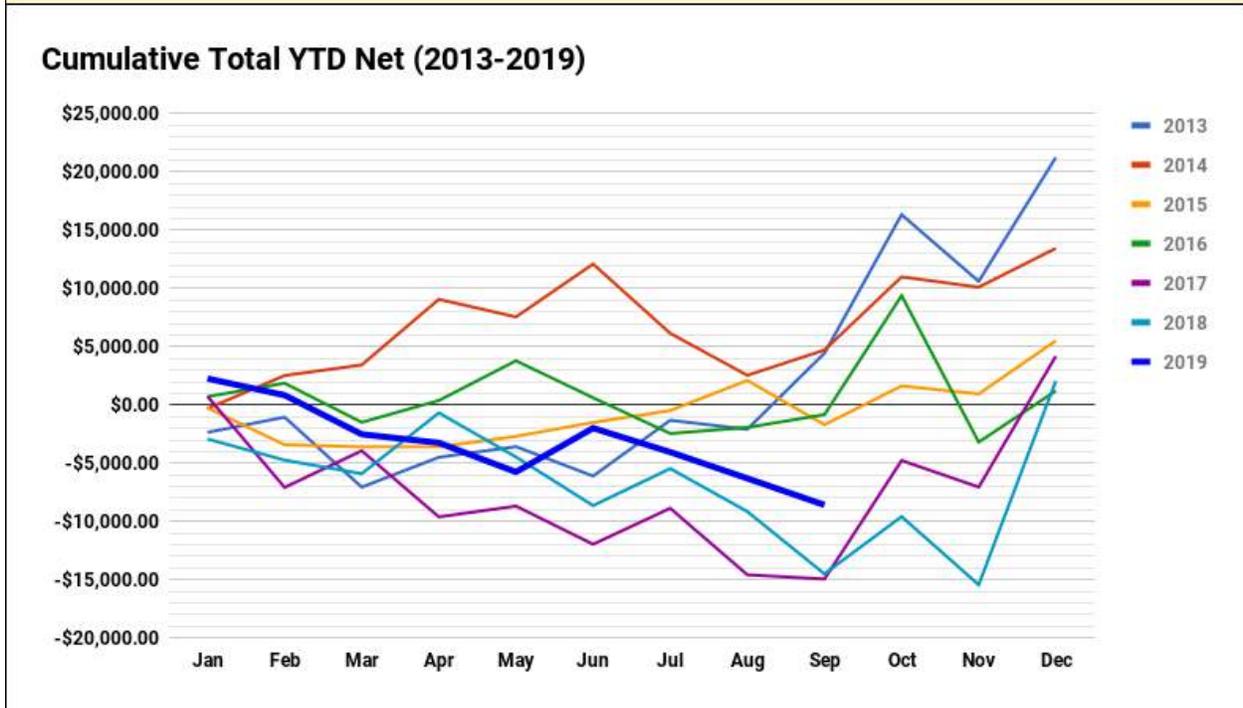
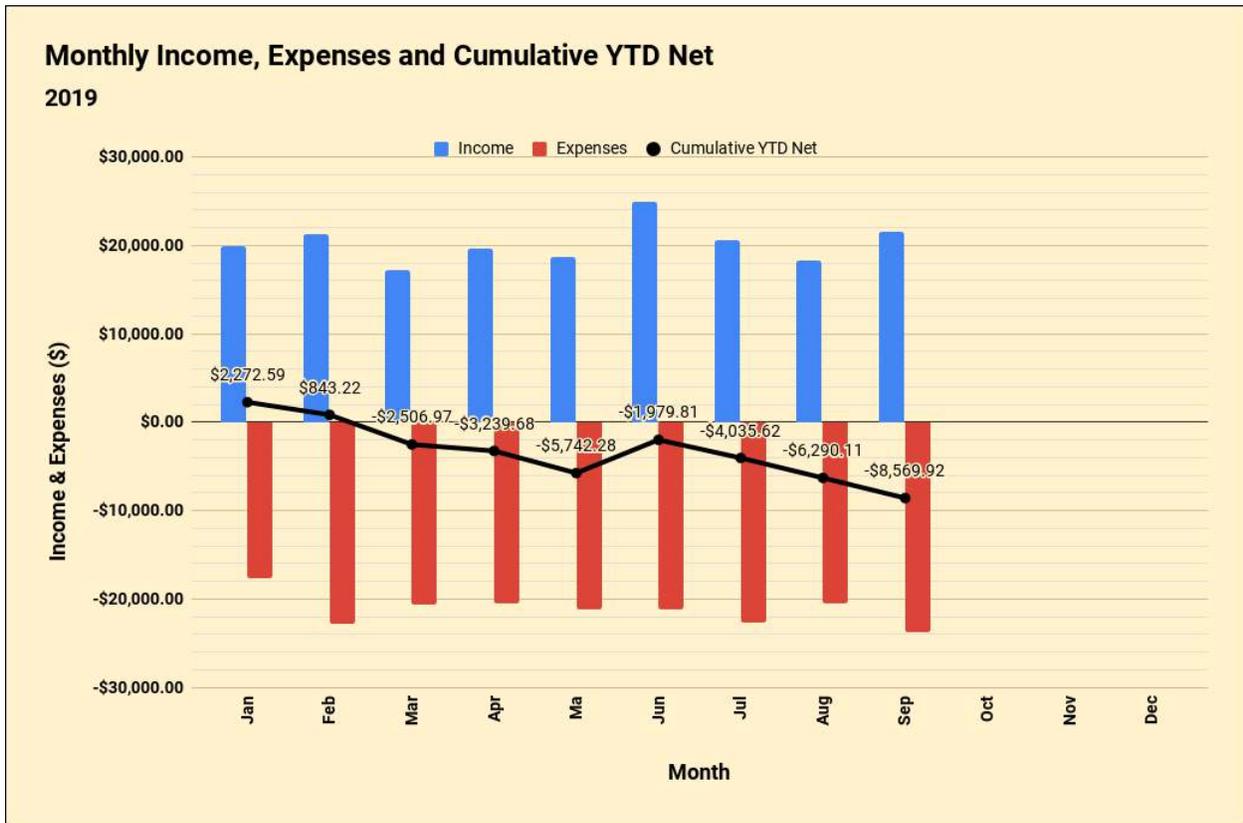
We meet weekly for lunch (THANK YOU for all our meal providers!!! We love your nourishment!!) then head to a modern worship with discussion about how it applies to their lives (so Pastor Suzette is NOT talking all the time). We use YouTube to explore music including adding Hebrew songs as we look forward to the Holy Land trip. We then have various activities from silly to serious. All are welcome to participate -need not be a teenager to join us.

Adding YOUTH touches to the Youth room along with completing a few odds and ends of the church work day. Planning our fundraising for the HOLY LAND 2021 TRIP. We will be launching an on-line silent auction to be shared far and wide via emails and Facebook. Parents be on the look out for meeting updates.

IN NEED OF a home/location for our Christmas party. Please let Pastor Suzette know if you are willing to host the best YOUTH ever or know of a low-cost venue for fun.

Peace, Pastor Suzette

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church Financial Information Through September 2019



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tasked with painting and completing tasks started by others. IN TWO DAYS: our YOUTH team patched holes in drywall, removed, cleaned, painted and rehung all the kitchen cabinets, used expanding foam to fill in gaps in the walls, painted the kitchen, living room, bathroom and bedroom, hung trim around the exterior doors, put on a latch for the screen door to keep out flies, and upgraded the bathroom safety. Our client had fallen getting out of the tub so we got her a shower chair, installed to hand rails and a shower head with a hose so she could sit while bathing. Additionally, Shawn created a beautiful mini-ramp for her kitchen doorway (where a ledge had developed as the house settled) so she can more easily and safely use her walker between the rooms. When Señora Maria came out of her bedroom to look at our progress, she started crying tear of joy! After our last day, the YOUTH gave her a potted flowers, she told us it was her 78th birthday that day! She could not stop smiling.

In the evening reflections, we used *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*, by Rueben P. Job. Each day we focused theologically on one of the rules: Do No Harm; Do Good; Stay in Love with God. We prayed, read scripture and the commentary then discussed how we do these in our daily lives beyond a mission trip. What obstacles do we face in living into these three simple rules? We ended our reflection with communion before joining the Benediction community down the hall. Our first night, we played UNO and learned it is an excellent tool for evangelism and sharing God's love. All can play and feel included. Lots of laughter was shared. Our second night we headed out for bowling. We had a great time relaxing with one another after a long day of work. Our last night, after we bid Señora Maria a happy birthday goodbye, we arrived at the Benedictine house to a surprise birthday party for Sister Ursula! It was a delightful celebration with all the asylum seekers, the other sisters, and friends hanging out, playing games, watching Pinterest in Spanish to learn how to make crafts we were doing together and, of course, having delicious food including fabulous cake. What a truly blessed way to end our mission trip.



Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, your YOUTH team truly shined, and were the LIGHT of CHRIST in a place of harsh realities with a dire need of hope. You have done well raising them into God's love. Thanks be to God.

**Join Us for the 2019
CHURCH CONFERENCE
Saturday November 9**

Every year Cedar Park First UMC gathers for a meeting with our District Superintendent to approve reports and elect leaders for the coming year. This year's Church Conference will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, November 9 at 10am. Other local United Methodist churches will also be present for this combined Cluster Conference. All members of the church are invited to attend.

facebook

Follow us on Facebook. Search for **Cedar Park First United Methodist Church** and you can like and share our posts. To have your upcoming events posted on the CPFUMC's Facebook page, please email information to Colleen Litaker, colleen.litaker@gmail.com

Don't forget once your event is over, send your photos and videos to Colleen so she may also post the information.

Find us online at cpfumc.org
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2
at this phone number:
(512) 335-9540

Want to contact a Church Leader or submit
something for a future Newsletter?

Pastor Peter Castles
Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson
Church Council Chair Steve Howard
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount
Children's Haven Director Lesley Foyt
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CPFUMC Calendar November 2019

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
 Nov 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @ 1pm - Center Prayer 1pm - SPRC @ MMB	28 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 7:30pm - Centering	29 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	30 11:30am - Young at 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - Buckles	31 9:30am - Pumpkin 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley	1 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	2 7:30pm - Centering
3 Centering Prayer 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @	4 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - Centering	5 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	6 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 5:15pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - Buckles	7 8:30am - Tai Chi - 10am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley 5pm - GS #40530 @	8 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	9 9am - UMW Meets 10am - Charge
10 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @	11 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	12 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's 7:30pm - BS Pack	13 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - Buckles	14 8:30am - Tai Chi - 10am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley 6:30pm - GS	15 NEWSLETTER Input 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	16 9:30am - P.E.O. "JX"
17 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3:30pm - Worship @ 3:30pm - Youth @	18 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	19 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	20 9:30am - Mbrship 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 5:15pm - GS #40530 6:30pm - Buckles	21 8:30am - Tai Chi - 10am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley	22 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	23
24 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Pot Luck - 12pm - Youth @	25 7:30pm - Centering	26 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	27 1pm - Easy Line 6:30pm - Buckles	28 8:30am - Tai Chi - 10am - Tai Chi	29 6:30pm - Alcoholics	30