



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,*

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# Connections

## Newsletter



### Put God First in Your Life

Submitted by Carolyn  
Smith and the  
Stewardship Ideas  
Committee

Now that school has  
started and families  
are intensely absorbed  
in getting things

switched from the chaos and laissez faire  
schedules of summer to the much more regulated  
weekdays/weekends schedule that comes from  
the framework of the school calendar, some will  
experience tension and stress until the changeover  
occurs. Take a deep breath. A routine will be  
established soon.

At this hectic time in our lives, we may not take  
the time to cherish the simple things God gives us  
every moment of our lives – even turning a red-

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### Congregation Work Day October 5th

Twice a year in the spring and fall, the  
Trustees of our church sponsor a Work Day.  
Work Days are an opportunity for members  
and friends of the congregation to help out  
with chores and tasks associated with our  
buildings and property. The Fall 2019  
Congregation Work Day will be on **Saturday,  
October 5, from 9am until noon.** There will  
be a list of tasks available in early September  
and posted in the Narthex. Please help out as  
you can by volunteering for a task and  
completing it at a time convenient to you. You  
don't have to be there on October 5 to  
volunteer for a task. More detailed information  
will be available at the Sunday worship service  
on September 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions  
about the Work Day, please contact Neil  
Howard at [nhowardtx@gmail.com](mailto:nhowardtx@gmail.com).

## JESUS ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The Jesus Rock Stars are always happy to get together. We continued our discussion about the many kinds friendships and how God wants us to share his love with our friends.

We want to say thank you to Sarah Longoria who joined our class as a helper in July.

Elizabeth Talley has been with us for several years as a helper. She is now off to the next adventure in her life, college. We wish her amazing things.



The class dances to Father Abraham.



Jozie and Mason make a stain glass decoration for their rooms to remind them of God's love for them.

The Rock Stars will soon be preparing for our Christmas Eve performance. If you are interested in assisting please get with Carolyn Smith.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas play practice beginning in September.  
Rehearsal is during Sunday School. Plan to attend.

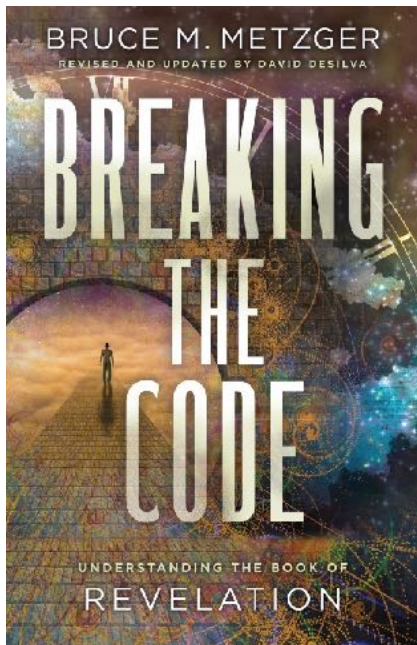
Empower – Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

## SPECIAL 12-STEP SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22

For many years Cedar Park First UMC has hosted a Friday night meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is the mutual aid fellowship started in 1935 for the purpose of helping its members to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. Many have found this program to be extremely beneficial.

AA is centered on a twelve-step program in which members admit that they are powerless over alcohol and need help from a “higher power.” They seek guidance and strength through prayer and meditation from God or a Higher Power of their own understanding; take a moral inventory with care to include resentments; list and become ready to remove character defects; list and make amends to those harmed; continue to take a moral inventory, pray, meditate, and try to help other alcoholics recover.

One Sunday, September 22, both worship services will feature talks from participants from our Friday night AA program. In addition, the 12 Steps of AA will be highlighted. Please make plans to be present for worship on this special day.



## PASTOR PETER TO LEAD STUDY OF REVELATION

The Book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God’s message in this peculiar part of the Bible? Beginning September 12, Pastor Peter will be leading a 7-week study of this enigmatic book, utilizing Bruce Metzger’s book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*. The study will take place at Maple Ridge Retirement Center, 1531 Juliette Way, on Thursday mornings at 10am.

Please indicate your interest in participating in this study by signing the sign-up sheet on the back table of the Sanctuary. Metzger’s book will also be available for \$12. Please consider joining us as we explore this fascinating book.

## YOUNG AT HEART TO MEET SEPTEMBER 25

Young at Heart is the church’s monthly fellowship group. We’ll be meeting again on Wednesday, September 25 at 11:30am in the Sanctuary. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. After lunch, Jane and Neil Howard will be sharing details of their recent adventures in Europe. Please make plans to join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and learning.



## First Call for Dinner

Introducing

# Tables for All

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

This is a small group adult fellowship meeting built around having dinner together in private homes. The rotation of participants - six to a meal - means we can get to know a different mix of people each time we meet for dinner over the course of one year. The host calls to set an agreeable date to all and also gets to choose the main dish. In potluck fashion, others bring the rest of the meal - salad, rolls, vegetable and dessert.

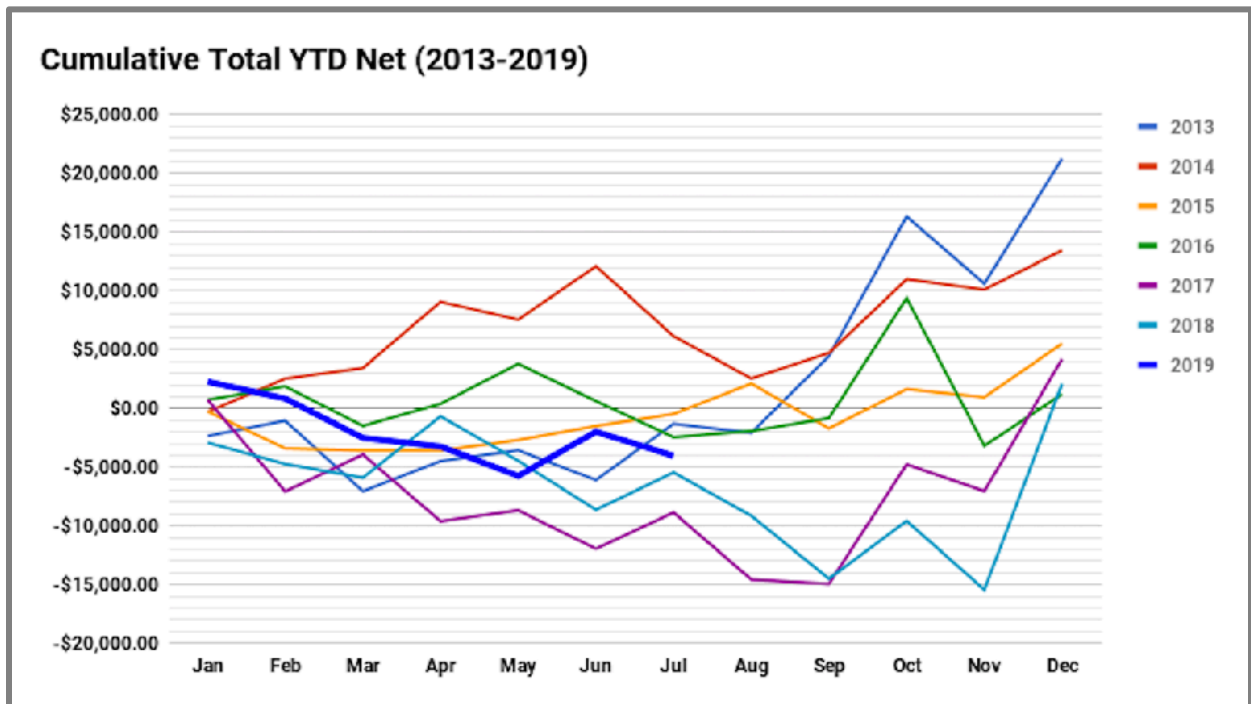
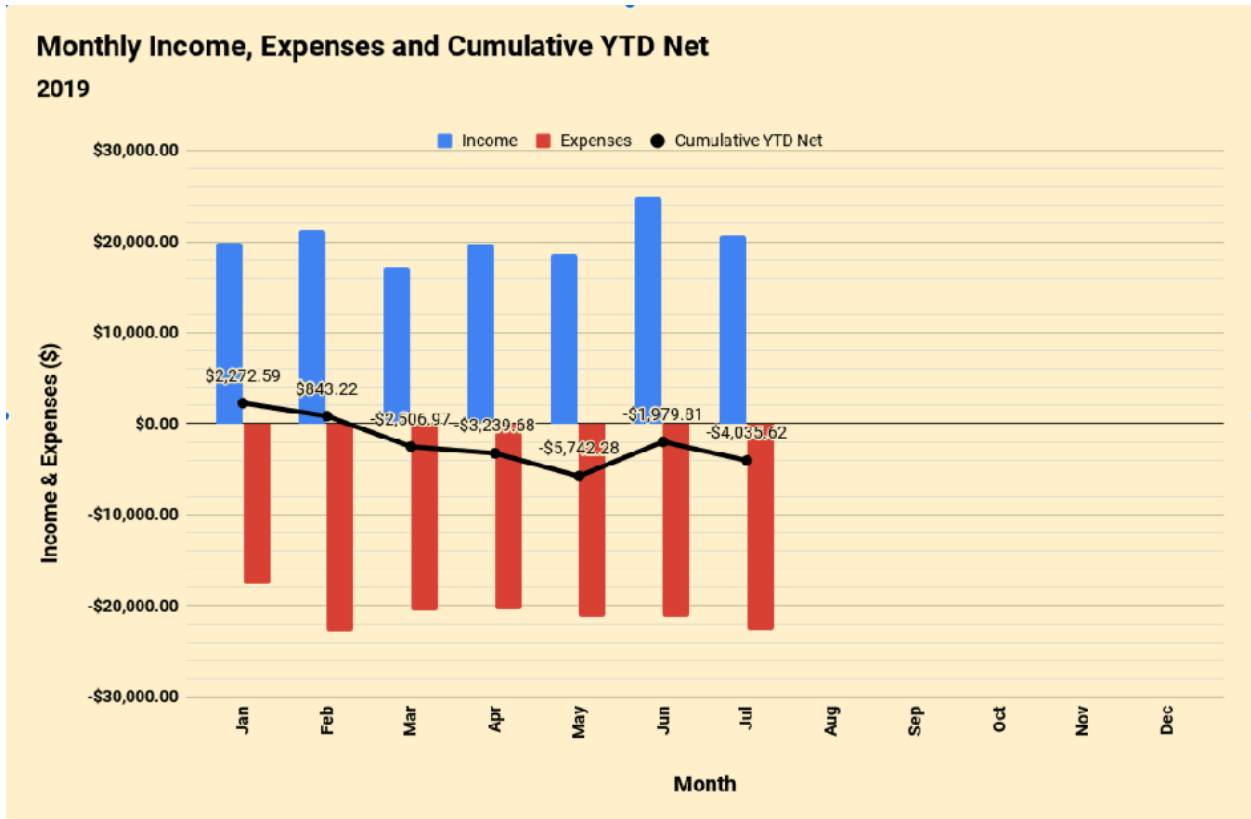
Once we identify all who are interested, we will play mix and match with the names to give maximum meeting opportunities to all who participate. Singles and couples adding up to six people come for dinner once a season. That's right, Tables for All meets four times a year. The more people who sign up, the more interesting it is. Please consider trying out this new adult small group meeting by contacting Carolyn Smith. Please also indicate whether you can or cannot be a host.

I am interested (name & contact info):

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I can be a host (circle one) Yes No

# Cedar Park First United Methodist Church Financial Information Through July 2019



## **GOD FIRST continued from p. 1**

light green just as we approach. If things are good, we may credit “luck”. If things aren’t so good, we look for someone to blame.

From another perspective, when a traffic light turns red in front of us during rush hour, it might be the signal we need to take a quiet minute to reorient our thoughts. We have time to safely send a prayer while waiting at red lights – thanks for our health, thanks for our family and friends, thanks for our church and Lord, thank you for being with me during bad times. (Who trained these Texas commuters anyway?)

When things are difficult, we can overlook seeing our situation as God giving us an opportunity to share ourselves. That’s when we need to take a moment to remember what counts.

This month’s Stewardship Ideas Committee article starts off with a recommendation to listen to a song recommended by Carolyn Smith. George Strait wrote this song on the birth of his daughter, “*I Saw God Today*”. Type this URL into your browser and make an appointment to listen. This version of the song also has pictures and the lyrics. We are so blessed to have our children. We are doubly blessed to be part of God’s world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzSO1LcYMP0>

We have so many things to be thankful for, and still, trying to fit everything into our lives at the busiest times can seem impossible.

Do you remember that children’s sermon with a glass quart jar, a measured amount of white rice and a counted number of ping pong balls, where the rice goes in first and the ping pong balls don’t fit and sit on top of the rice bed?

How can anyone possibly do and handle all we are asked to do?

It is a lesson in priorities: if you change the order you put the “ingredients” into the jar, you will find everything will fit. Put the big ping pong balls in first and then take the same quantity of rice and pour that in. The rice travels through all the nooks and crannies and the jar now holds everything. Amazing, Grace!

And so, it is with life. If you put God first in your life, you will find that you can still get everything done and things may even go more smoothly.

### **Tai Chi Class Change**

Effective September 5, the Tai Chi Classes will change from Mondays to Thursdays. The class times change as well. The class with over 100 moves will be first at 9:30am and the class with the first 17 moves will change to 11am. These day-of-the-week and time changes were not known when Edna introduced us to Tai Chi on July 28. Thanks for all those who came to preview her demonstration. She was delighted to meet some of the people with whom she shares the building.



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](mailto: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.

## Double Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

### Ingredients:

2 cups old fashioned rolled oats 12 oz. pkg semisweet chocolate chips  
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened 2 large eggs  
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar 1 Tbsp milk  
½ cup granulated sugar 1 ½ tsp vanilla  
1 ½ cups flour ½ tsp baking soda  
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa ½ tsp salt  
(Hershey's Premium European Style)

### Directions:

Butter 2 cookie sheets and preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium sized bowl, combine oats and chocolate chips and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat together butter and sugars until creamy. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and cocoa and add this to the butter mixture, stirring thoroughly. The batter will be stiff. In a small bowl, stir the milk and vanilla into the eggs, then stir this mixture into the butter mixture and combine thoroughly. Add chips and oats and mix well. With a 2 Tbsp scoop, drop batter 2" apart on cookie sheets. Bake 9-12 minutes until cooked through. Cool on pan 1 minute and transfer to wire cooling rack.

### Optional Dip:

Melt 9 oz. of white chocolate and 1 ½ Tbsp Crisco in top of a couple boiler over simmering water. Dip each cookie into the white chocolate to cover ⅓ of cookie. Place on rack over waxed paper to dry. Store between layers of waxed paper in an airtight container.

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

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



Pastor Peter Castles  
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# CPFUMC Calendar September 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

Sep 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth-NOT	2 7:30am - ACH No 12pm - Talley Piano 7:30pm - Centering	3 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 6:30pm - Wolves @	4 12pm - Book Group 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 6pm - Youth 6:30pm - Buckles	5 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley 5pm - GS #40530 @	6 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	7 9:30am - P.E.O. "JX"
8 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @	9 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	10 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	11 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 5:15pm - GS #40530 6pm - Youth 6:30pm - Buckles	12 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley	13 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	14 9am - UMW Meets
15 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @ 3:30pm - Worship @	16 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - Centering	17 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's 7:30pm - BS Pack	18 9am - District 9:30am - Mbrship 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 6pm - Youth 6:30pm - Buckles	19 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 1:30pm - GS #40530 3:30pm - Talley	20 <b>NEWSLETTER Input</b> 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	21 11am - Girl Scout
22 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @ 3pm - Soul Lift	23 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 7:30pm - Centering	24 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 7:30pm - AA Men's	25 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 5:15pm - GS #40530 6pm - Youth 6:30pm - Buckles	26 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley	27 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	28 9:30am - P.E.O. "JX"
29 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Youth @	30 12pm - Talley Piano 2:15pm - ESL - GED - 7:30pm - Centering	1 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Talley 6:30pm - Wolves @ 7:30pm - AA Men's	2 1pm - Easy Line 3:30pm - Talley 6pm - Youth 6:30pm - Buckles	3 9:30am - Tai Chi - 11am - Tai Chi 3:30pm - Talley 5pm - GS #40530 @	4 8:30am - ESL - GED - 6:30pm - Alcoholics	5 9am - Congregation