



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

While We Are Suspended

Worship Services on Facebook Live

Worship services inside our church building are suspended effective immediately subject to re-evaluation on April 20, 2020. Please join us online at our [CPFUMC Facebook page](#) where we are planning to live stream our future worship services on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am beginning March 22, 2020. If you cannot make the live streaming event, we are



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We need your support!

Walter Wilson, Finance Committee

Friends, we find ourselves in strange times: Many of us are trapped at home, perhaps venturing out once a week or so for groceries. Others go to work each day down streets that seem all but deserted. Still others, including some in our congregation, are on the front lines of dealing with the epidemic. These people risk their own health to care for others; those who are sick now, and those most at risk of becoming sick.

Pastor Peter, Pastor Suzette, Jodi, and a brave crew of our members behind-the-scenes are working hard to bring us an online service each Sunday, and to facilitate online meetings and Sunday School classes. It is humbling to think of the effort, the assemblage of equipment and

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The children have been busy studying the parables of Jesus and his teachings during this Lent season. Using a Lent calendar, the children are able to reflect daily on things to remind us how Jesus wants us to live. While studying about “Doubting Thomas”, we discussed what emotions he must have felt as he put his fingers in Jesus’ side.



Kaitlyn used this illusion to see a hole in her own hand.



James and Rachel learn how Jesus was a servant in “Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet”.

We have all been experiencing new things in the last few weeks, some good and some disturbing. In the midst of all this uncertainty, the Jesus Rock Stars had an amazing adventure. We had our Sunday school meeting remotely through Zoom. In this lesson we studied the parable of the “Two Sons”.



We made sock puppets. We read a skit where the children were not agreeable to help. But at the end the one who said “no” did the chore anyway. Jesus wants us all to help one another. We should be servants for each other.

Unfortunately, we ran out of time. It was a great meeting and we look forward to more Zoom meetings until we can meet again.

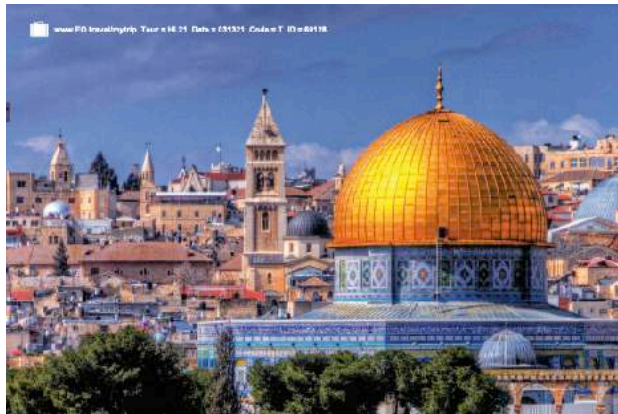


Safe Gatherings Trusted con Confianza

When we see people in need, without hesitation we respond. Are you ready to be able to respond without hesitation? The Methodist Church has made it mandatory that anyone working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults must be Safe Gatherings certified. This is a certification which will take a couple of hours online, safegatherings.com.

If you are renewing the notices are being sent by email, about 45 days before your expiration date. Please look for the email and follow the instructions to renew.

If this will be your first time for certification, please go to the above website to register. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Carolyn Smith, carolynsmith2215@gmail.com, 512.970.9087 or Jane Howard, quilterjaz@gmail.com.



Bible Land EXPLORATION

March 13-22, 2021

Join Cedar Park First UMC & Rev. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

Join Cedar Park First UMC & Rev. Suzette Thorpe Johnson on this Bible Land Exploration tour in 2021. This tour departs on March 13, 2021, and returns on March 22, 2021. On this tour, you will see sights like the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea by the Sea, Jerusalem and many more! This tour starts at \$3,696* from Austin.

For more information go to For more information go to

<http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/h121031321t60128#.Xi9xQhdKhTZ>

Can't join us but still want to be a part of it? Contact to Suzette to find out how to support our Youth for the trip!



WE NEED YOU!
MEGA Sports VBS
June 15 – 19, 2020
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
CPFUMC's grounds

We are looking for:

- **Rally Coach** – the daily lesson
- **Sport Coaches**
- **Assistant Sport Coaches**
- **Huddle Coaches** – discussion leaders
- **Concession Coach** – one more needed
Sue Sidney and Par Keys
- **Spectators** – watches from sideline
- **First Aid Coach** – David Longoria, EMT
- **Registrants**
- **Photographer** – needs own camera
- **MEGA** - in costume

We have begun planning this year's VBS and invite you to help us make this the best year. In 2019, we had approximately 60 children and youth. You are needed to help us keep the Safe Gatherings ratio of 1 to 8.

In 2019 we offered basketball, cheerleading, soccer, and golf. We have not finalized the sports for 2020. If you have a sport which you would like to lead, please let us know.

Most of your **Safe Gathering** certificates will expire soon. Please look for an email from Safe Gatherings approximately 45 days before expiration. You will need to complete this two-step process to renew your certification. If you are new to this training, please find the sessions at <https://riotexas.org/safe>.

Be the first to sign up and reserve the position that is right for you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Carolyn Smith or Amanda Theriot.

BE LIGHT YOUTH March 2020

submitted by Pastor Suzette

Greetings Family - your YOUTH have been busy as ever even in these different times. We are still a community which worships hard, works hard and plays hard.

We have had movie night, games, worship and a mid-week check-in to just hang out and blow off steam as needed. We are also set for our first mission project of being kindness in the midst of the COVID 19. The YOUTH will be creating chalk messages of hope and fun throughout Cedar Park and beyond.

This coming **Friday**, we will be doing one of the on-line [virtual board games](#) . Just click on the underlined link to check it out and see which game sounds interesting to you. It's a whole new world of possibilities.

WEDNESDAYS - ZOOM ROOM check-in. This is a short "hey, how are ya?" just to break up the week.

FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS - we will gather on-line once more to play games (charades/scavenger hunts/snap chat) and /or movie night.

SUNDAY YOUTH WORSHIP returns! VIA ZOOM we will resume our YOUTH worship! It will be at 4PM We will watch YouTube music videos, read scripture, pray and learn more about this God thing together. Confirmation will resume through our explorations too.

All are welcome to join our activities (see below) just shoot Pastor Suzette a message (suzette@cpfumc.org) or text (512-694-2175) It is a great time to jump into YOUTH if only for this season as other activities are shutdown for a time.

HOLY LAND UPDATE: the trip is in a holding pattern until we get a handle of the timeline from COVID 19. The worst case scenario would be delaying the trip another year but nothing has been determined yet. The YOUTH are still able to do some OUTDOOR jobs to keep working their way to the Holy Land. Please contact Pastor Suzette and she will arrange with the YOUTH parents getting the task done if possible. Health concerns are first priorities for everyone yet weeding a flowerbed can be handled within guidelines so all are kept safe. It will be a task by task assessment. Ask and we shall see what can be done.

Y'all, we will get through this together by the grace of God - not somehow but victoriously!

All will be well. Peace,

Pastor Suzette

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planning to save a video recording of the service and have it available for viewing on our [Facebook page](#). Scroll down the Facebook page until you come to a section called Posts. On Sundays at 10:00 AM, you will find our worship service live and in progress there. Click the Play arrow over the still video image to join the live stream in progress. After worship services are over, a recorded video will be available for viewing on our Facebook page and also on our church website at <https://cpfumc.org/find-out-whats-happening#livestreamingvideos>.

Based on feedback received so far, those listening on a smartphone should use consider using earbuds or put their phone in speaker-phone mode if they cannot hear the service very well. Those listening on a laptop or desktop computer should ensure that their sound is turned up using the sound controls in their computer operating system. See [here](#) for Windows 10 instructions. We are also making improvements by using a wireless mic and moving the camera closer for the Children's Sermon.

Note: You will need to have a Facebook account to see the CPFUMC Facebook page for the live streaming worship service. Getting a Facebook account is free and only takes a couple of

Sunday School Classes by [Zoom](#) Video Conferencing

Sunday school classes in the church buildings are also suspended. We plan to conduct Sunday School classes by Zoom video conferencing. The leader/teacher of the class will send an email to all class participants (or their parents in the case of children) with an invitation to join the class by video conference or audio-only call in. Contact your Sunday School class leader/teacher by email to ensure that your email address is on their list to invite to the Sunday School class video conference. We now have a CPFUMC videoconferencing account with Zoom which allows up to 100 participants for a meeting of up to 24 hours. However, we cannot have simultaneous classes, so we might have to stagger Sunday School video conference class times. Or, if you wish to use a free, personal Zoom account, you can have up to 100 participants, but only a 40-minute class. We started several Sunday School classes by Zoom on March 22nd. Contact your Sunday School teacher/leader to get your invitation by email. Here is a quick, 69-second Zoom video tutorial: [Joining a Meeting](#). For those hosting meetings or classes, check out the [Zoom Video Tutorials](#), a collection of short training videos.

Church Committee & Group Meetings & Classes by [Zoom](#) Video Conferencing

In-person committee meetings, group meetings and classes at the church are suspended. We plan to conduct church committee/group meetings by Zoom video conferencing. The leader of the committee/group/class will send you an email with an invitation to join the committee/group/class meeting by video conference or audio-only call in. Contact your committee chairperson or group leader by email to ensure that your email address is on their list to invite to the video conference meeting. We now have a CPFUMC video conferencing account with Zoom which allows up to 100 participants for a meeting of up to 24 hours. Here is a quick, 69-second Zoom video tutorial: [Joining a Meeting](#). For those hosting meetings or classes, check out the [Zoom Video Tutorials](#), a collection of short training videos.

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For help with assessing or upgrading your home computer for video conferencing, read the [short article we have prepared](#).

Offerings and Pledges – Online Giving, Mobile Giving and Snail Mail

Since we won't be passing the offering plate on Sundays for a while, we have a several options for online and electronic giving:

- The [church website Donation page](#) is a convenient place to make a one-time or recurring donation online using your checking or savings account, or a debit or credit card. We have an [article with some helpful details](#) about how to make an online donation using the website.
- You can set up your personal checking account bill-paying feature to make one-time or recurring electronic payments to the church in the same way that you make electronic payments for your utilities (water, gas, sewer, electricity) and mortgage. We have written a [short article](#) explaining how to do this with an example. Most banks have a smartphone app, so you can even do this on your mobile device.
- Speaking of mobile devices, if you prefer to make online donations with your smartphone, we have a [GivePlus app](#) for that! Here's a [short video](#) that explains how it works.
- You can also use the good old reliable US mail to send a check to Cedar Park First UMC, 600 West Park St, Cedar Park, TX 78613.

Church Office

The church office is closed through April, subject to re-evaluation on April 20, 2020.

Building Use by Outside Groups

Our campus is CLOSED until further notice. All scheduled events which use our facilities have been cancelled.

Questions? If you have any questions, please let us know [by email](#) or call the church office at 512-335-9540.

ZOOM WITH US!

Since we are sheltered in place for a while, CPFUMC has begun using Zoom videoconferencing for many activities. For instance, on Sundays at 1pm Pastor Peter is leading a study of the book of Revelation via Zoom. On Tuesdays, there's a prayer service at 9:30am and a Bible study at 10am, both of which are conducted using Zoom. On Wednesdays, many of us are gathering via Zoom at noon to discuss the past week's meditations from Reuben Job's book *40 Days with Wesley* – a lovely little book which features a devotional meditation for each of the 40 days of Lent. Please consider joining us for any or all of these events. If you're interested, email Pastor Peter Peter@cpfumc.org, and he can help you get ready to ZOOM!!

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technologies, and the hours of tests, practices, and reviews that these people have invested to make our Sunday broadcasts possible.

Beyond this a whole slew of activities goes on despite the crisis: Prayer needs are met; The infirm are tended to; Visits (even if they must be virtual) are conducted; Phone calls are made. All through our congregation, people are interacting one-on-one, checking on and caring for each other. This is a family.

Just as in normal times (remember normal times?), it is important to keep things going with our prayers, our service, and our gifts. Although the building may not be getting the use to which it is accustomed, we still have a mortgage. Although the lights and the heater may get a bit of a break, there are still essential services being carried out during the week by brave and dedicated people at our church. They need your support.

Please, don't let your pledges lapse! It is easy to think, "Well, church is closed for a couple of weeks, I'll catch up when I get back." But if everybody did this, we would be in serious trouble pretty quickly. Now, I know that there are some people in our congregation who are thrown out of work by this crisis. There may be people who are concerned about paying their bills, let alone their pledges. We are here for you. Your church is here for you. This family is here for you. If you find yourself in need of the benevolence of the church, I encourage you to reach out to Pastor Peter or Pastor Suzette and let them know. But for most of us: we are fortunate and life goes on; perturbed perhaps, but uninterrupted. Please let our gifts be uninterrupted as well.

If you are in a position to donate a little extra (maybe, for example, because the government is sending you money you don't really need), I encourage you to consider doing that as well. This kind of situation puts a lot of people in a precarious position, and we may expect to have unexpected opportunities to minister to our community. It is important ("meet and right", as the liturgy used to say) that we should do this.

Even though you may not be able to travel, there are four good ways to donate to the church:

1) Mail a Check: This is my favorite. Doesn't require any equipment or involve wrestling with a computer. All you need is an envelope and a stamp. Mail to the church at: 600 West Park St. / Cedar Park, TX 78613. If you need a supply of envelopes and stamps just call me. (Walter's cell phone 512-217-3588).

2) Use the Church Website: Don't tell anybody I said so, but this may be even easier than #1. Just open the website (cpfumc.org), click on "Donate" at the top right, and follow the instructions. You don't have to create a log-in if you don't want to (but if you do it will save you from having to type your address and bank information every time you use the website). You can use a credit card (great for those of you who collect airline miles), or use a check. Don't be afraid of putting the check numbers in the form; the website is secured and the numbers are the same ones on every check you ever wrote to anybody. Ever. In the world. I can still see my mama looking at me as if I were crazy. Really. It's ok. If you get stuck with the website you can call me.

3) Use your bank's Bill Pay service: If you're already using your bank's Bill Pay page to pay your other bills, you can add the church as a vendor just like you did for your other bills. Use the church address, and the bank will mail a check to the church. So it's like #1, only you make them do it. They

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even pay for the stamp! If you're not already set up with bill pay, then you should make a note for when we're allowed to go out again to go down to your bank so that they can spend ten or thirty minutes telling you why it's just the best idea ever.

4) Get the iPhone app: I know people who can no longer order Pizza if they don't have their iPhone. (Android people, I'm talking to you, too!) If this is you, there's an app for that.

Most of us will probably stick with choices 1) or 2). The best news is: **You only need to do one of the four!** Complete instructions for all of these are on the website and are linked elsewhere in this newsletter. If you need envelopes and stamps, call me.

We will come through this storm. I look forward to the day when we can once again celebrate "Passing the Peace"; free from the fear of spreading germs and back to the more ordinary fear of just being painfully shy.

May peace and comfort be yours.

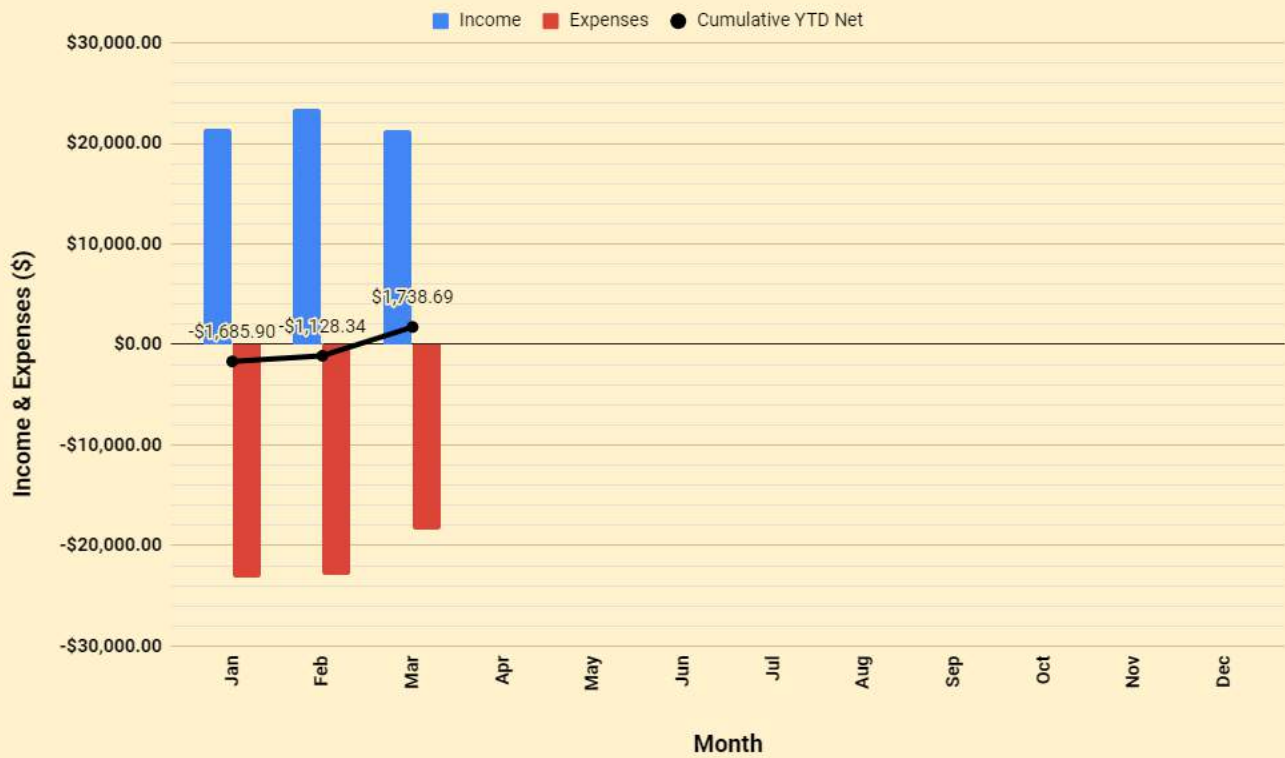


The Trustees of CPFUMC are responsible for helping the congregation care and maintain the property that God has given us: our buildings and grounds. Twice a year the Trustees sponsor a Work Day to focus on those areas needing attention. The Spring Work Day was scheduled for March 28, 2020, but has been postponed until a later date. As a member or friend of the CPFUMC congregation you are invited to help out in any way that you can. We have a list of approximately 40 tasks. The Spring 2020 Work Day task list is still available for signup [online](#) and we invite you to take a look and possibly plan ahead for when we can safely get out and do some of this work. We hope to see you well and happy when we are able to meet together again.

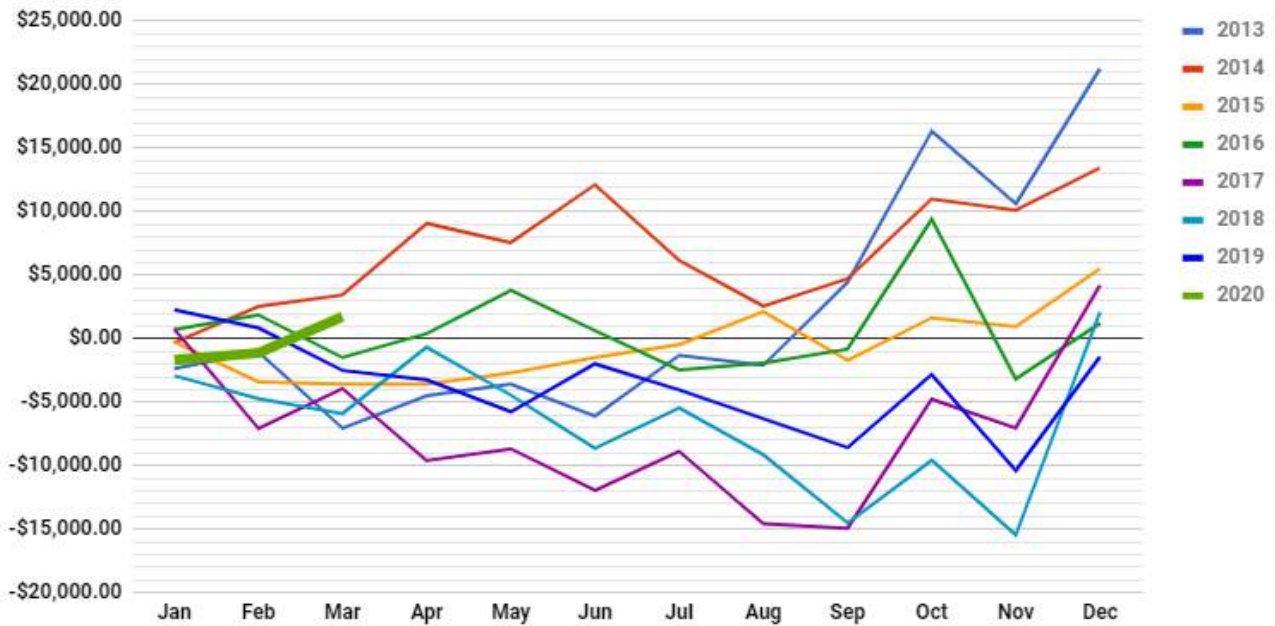
Cedar Park First United Methodist Church Financial Information Through March 2020

Monthly Income, Expenses and Cumulative YTD Net

2020



Cumulative YTD Net (2013-2020)





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 April 2020

Click [here](#) to go to ONLINE Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am Online Worship 12pm Youth 1pm Online Revelation S	30	31 9:30am Prayer 10am Bible Study	Apr 1 12pm 40 Days Wesley	2 5pm UMW Via Zoom	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Services 10am Online Worship 1pm Online Revelation S 4pm Youth	6 Holy Week 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 6:30pm Online Trustees	7 Holy Week 9:30am Prayer 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Stories and Joke	8 Holy Week 12pm 40 Days Wesley 12:30pm Stories and Joke 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mar	9 Holy Week 10am Children's Chapel 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	10 Holy Week 12pm Online Good Friday 12:30pm Stories and Joke 7pm YOUTH Friday Fun N	11 Holy Week
12 7am Online Easter Sunris 10am Online Worship 1pm Online Final Revelati 4pm Youth	13 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 6:30pm Online Finance Co	14 9:30am Prayer 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Stories and Joke	15 12pm 40 Days With Week 12:30pm Stories and Joke 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mar	16 10am Children's Chapel 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	17 NEWSLETTER Input Due 12:30pm Stories and Joke 7pm YOUTH Friday Fun N	18 11am Angela's Piano Recit
19 10am Online Worship 4pm Youth	20 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S 6:30pm Online Council Mt	21 9:30am Prayer 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Stories and Joke	22 12:30pm Stories and Joke 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mar	23 10am Children's Chapel 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	24 12:30pm Stories and Joke 7pm YOUTH Friday Fun N	25
26 10am Online Worship 4pm Youth	27 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	28 9:30am Prayer 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Stories and Joke	29 12:30pm Stories and Joke 8pm YOUTH Midweek Mar	30 10am Children's Chapel 12:30pm Stories and Joke 4pm Tea Time w/Pastor S	May 1 8:30am ESL - GED - Comr 12:30pm Stories and Joke 6:30pm Alcoholics Anonym 7pm YOUTH Friday Fun N	2 9:30am Confirmation Retr 5pm ACH Spring Fundrais