



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Live Streaming Will Continue Indefinitely

We have been live streaming worship services at Cedar Park First UMC since March 22, 2020. In case you were wondering, there is **no** plan to **ever** discontinue live streaming our Sunday morning worship service, even after the COVID-19 pandemic is ancient history.



The Trustees and Church Council previously authorized development of a robust live streaming system and construction of a sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary. The equipment for the more robust live streaming system has been in regular use since May 17, 2020. There is

LIVE STREAMING continued on p. 10

From the Council Chair:

CPFUMC Family Members,

“When will the church re-open?” Another month has gone by without an answer. We are confused about that answer more than ever.

The council is reviewing and studying data as well as gathering information as to what re-opening might entail. The answer to this has many variables. We all are ready to re-open the church, but we must do it slowly and as safely as possible.

Pastor Peter has given us guidelines to re-opening the church. In using the re-opening plan from the White House entitled “*Opening Up America Again*”, it states that a phased approach to re-opening should not occur until there is a “downward trajectory of documented cases within a fourteen-day period.” This is in agreement with the document entitled “*When and How to Reopen*

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

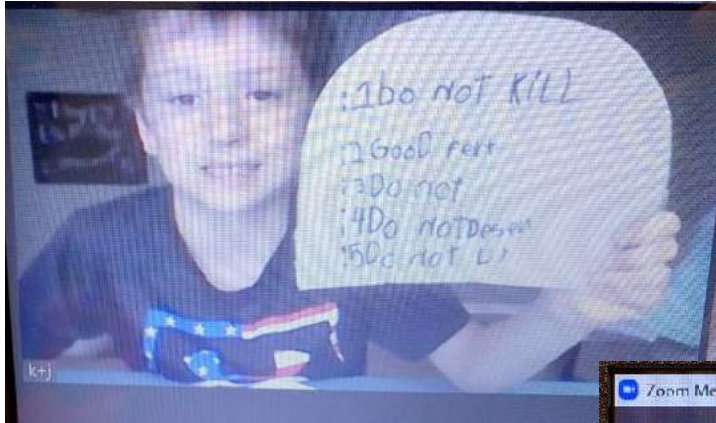
The Jesus Rock Stars have been busy in Sunday School. We shared our concerns, our joys, and our love for God. Sharing our love for the Holy Spirit we decorated rocks to place around our neighborhoods.



Maybe we all need to walk in Josie's neighborhood to find one of her lovely creations.



We helped Nehemiah build the wall around Jerusalem. Some built walls using Legos' and others used marshmallows with sticks.



The Ten Commandment study helped us to understand God's law.

Leland and Josie made individual rock slabs for their Ten Commandments.



Rachel is promoted from the younger Children's Sunday School class to the older class. In this promotion the children receive a Good News Bible with their name imprinted. Pastor Peter made a special presentation during the live stream worship service.

If you would like to join us during Sunday School or know a child in kindergarten through fifth grade, please email Ms. Carolyn for your Zoom invitation,
carolynsmith2215@gmail.com.

Rachel was excited to share her new bible with Ms. Sue.



BE LIGHT YOUTH May 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette Thorpe Johnson

We have 6 YOUTH and 3 adults planning to do UMARMY for the LOCAL mission trip NEXT week. We will be serving at HCCM, and Montopolis Friendship Center. We are building shade structures for both the playground and the gathering area, painting a mural, building community garden beds, mowing and sorting items for the two thrift stores.

We are in need of sponsors for each YOUTH and adult worker at \$99 each (3 of the 9 are already paid for by generous church members). We are also in need of funds for materials to build the garden beds, and shade coverings (already have about \$1000 in kind donations for one of the shade areas; next week we will be compiling the cost of concrete, wood, nails etc) . Please email Pastor Suzette (suzette@cpfumc.org) if you are interested in being a part of the mission team financially.

Currently, we are the ONLY mission team in Texas (!); we are still recruiting our sister churches but for NOW - YOUR YOUTH are the ones stepping forward. Well done church!!

We will celebrate our mission efforts with a Senior Send-off will be the Thursday of UMARMY at Sea World San Antonio (pandemic permitting).

Holy Land Trip has the YOUTH working painting decks, building fences, mowing yards, painting fences and various garden tasks. We raised about another \$2500 in the past two months through hard work and lots of sweat and most of all from generous supporters! Thanks to the Sidneys, the Howards, Edna, Sterling, Cilla, Clara and others. We are awaiting the new school year calendar to see what adjustments will need to happen for Spring Break 2021.

We began a new series with our YOUTH worship time: A YOUTH Study Managing Anxiety from the UMW. Extremely well received by the YOUTH. We will explore what anxiety is and isn't; when it is positive and when it is negative; how the teen brain functions and





chemical reactions to emotions; developing coping mechanisms and strategies which integrate physical and spiritual exercises.

Last but not least: We had a NEW YOUTH (Noah, 7th grade) from a new family (the Manfredini's- recently moved into the area) join us and he had a good time. He plans on joining us again. The YOUTH were absolute fabulous at welcoming him and it was as if he'd been a long time member of our group. CPFUMC YOUTH really are AMESOME!



Schedule for Be Light YOUTH July 2020:

Wednesday, July 1st - Midweek Manna, 8 pm
 Sunday, July 5th Happy Fourth of July – NO YOUTH
 Wednesday, July 8th - Midweek Manna, 8 pm
 Sunday, July 12th – **UMARMY LOCAL MISSION** starts!!
Monday, July 13-15th – local mission projects/return home each night
 (no Midweek Manna July 15th)
 Thursday, July 16 – Senior Send-off SeaWorld San Antonio
 Sunday, July 19th – NO YOUTH worship – naps instead!!
 Wednesday, July 22 – NO Midweek Manna
 Sunday, July 26th – YOUTH worship/ Managing Anxiety for YOUTH

Peace,
 Pastor Suzette

Live, from Cedar Park, it's Sunday Morning!



The final piece of the CPFUMC Live Streaming System was completed on June 20th as the Sound Booth in the back of the sanctuary nave was commissioned. This followed two work sessions by the live streaming team the previous Sunday and Thursday evening.

Last Sunday the basic shell and floor support modules were built and installed.



On Thursday evening, the center support, desktop and shelf were installed. Then the wiring was routed up through a removable floor panel.

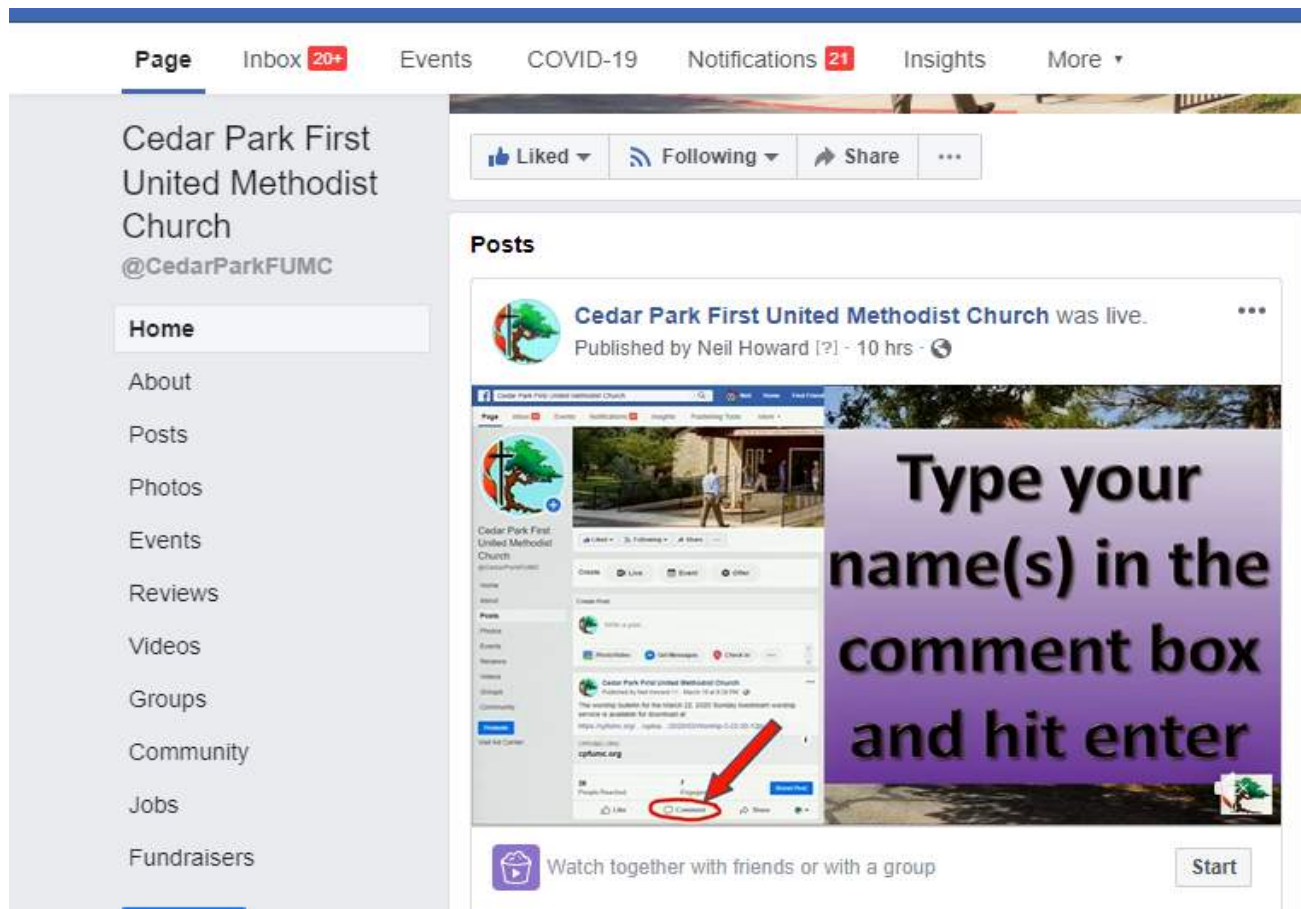


All that was left was final trim-out on Friday and equipment re-installation on Saturday. We were ready for live streaming again on Sunday morning!



Live, from Cedar Park, it's Sunday Morning!

Are You Being Counted?



The Rio Texas Conference tracks many things within our church. One of the main numbers they follow is worship attendance. We want to thank you for entering your name in the comment box during the live streaming.

How to be counted when not watching live? Add your name and any note you would like to share in the comment box. By adding your name, whether live or watching later, you are counted.

COUNCIL CHAIR continued from p. 1

after Covid-19,” produced by the former CDC director Tom Frieden’s organization PreventEpidemics.org (this document also states that if there is a 14-day decrease in cases, along with a decline in deaths over those 14 days, there should be a further 4-week waiting period before re-opening to ensure there is no significant increase after the initial 14 days). So, his criteria for re-opening would involve determining the trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases in Williamson County (the 7-day moving average), along with monitoring deaths. Peter agrees with Rev. Alex Shanks, who wrote in an article entitled *“Why Reopening a Church Is Different”* (referred to by Bishop Schnase in his recent Rio Texas Conference video message), “We need a new culture marked by a willingness to put the safety of others ahead of our personal preferences . . . This is not a time to focus primarily on what we may be sacrificing by not gathering, but how we are serving and loving all our neighbors by gathering too soon.”



You can help Pastor Peter and the council follow the data from Williamson County. The information includes data for Williamson, Travis, and Bell counties.

You will find the data on Williamson County’s website, <https://www.wilco.org/coronavirus>.

Click the link below the Williamson County COVID-19 Impact numbers to view the charts. Especially review the tab, Rate of New Infections.

For now, we cannot answer the question, “When will we re-open?”. We will get to come home again as soon as we can do it safely. Until then, please continue to view the live streaming on Facebook, wear your mask, washing your hands, social distance, and stay safe.

Your church council chair,

Carolyn Smith

LIVE STREAMING continued from p. 1

no plan to **ever** discontinue live streaming our Sunday morning worship service, even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. A 9:20 video tour of this system is available at <https://youtu.be/vgghWeAz-gl>.

There is now a regular rotation of 7 live streaming technicians (Neil Howard, Sergio Longoria, Todd Greer, Dean and Lisa Feazell, David Longoria and Dan McNichol) to sustain the live streaming effort every Sunday morning. If you would like to join this team, contact Neil Howard or Sergio Longoria.

Our pastors have adapted well to the new worship style and the opportunities that it offers as well as the challenges it presents.

Recently we have made improvements to the live streaming system in the form of a remote-controlled camera mounted on the south wall of the sanctuary. Hardy Porterfield donated this



camera pan and tilt mechanism. This allows us greater flexibility to bring new perspectives and camera angles to the livestream every Sunday. In addition, we have constructed a real, permanent sound booth in the rear of the sanctuary against the back (east) wall. This booth was designed and built by CPFUMC members.

The live streaming system was funded by a \$3600 grant from our Endowment Fund and approximately \$2500 in donations from members. If you would like to contribute to this effort, we have a Live Streaming Designated Fund. The major expenses were for rewiring the sanctuary for this system, purchase of some new equipment not already donated by members or already owned by the church, and materials for constructing the sound booth. With this substantial investment in time and money, you can understand why we will be continuing to use the live streaming system even after we again begin meeting for Sunday worship onsite.

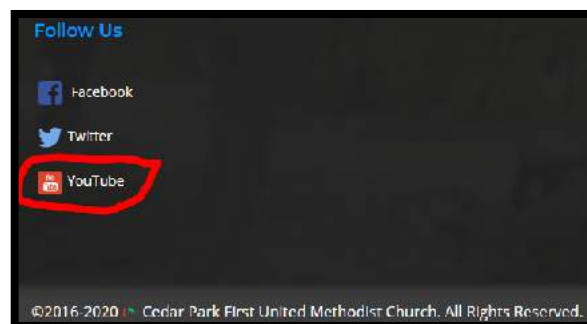
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LIVE STREAMING continued from p. 10

Catch the CPFUMC live streaming worship service every Sunday at 10 am on our *Facebook page* at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CedarParkFUMC/posts/>. Download the worship bulletin at the



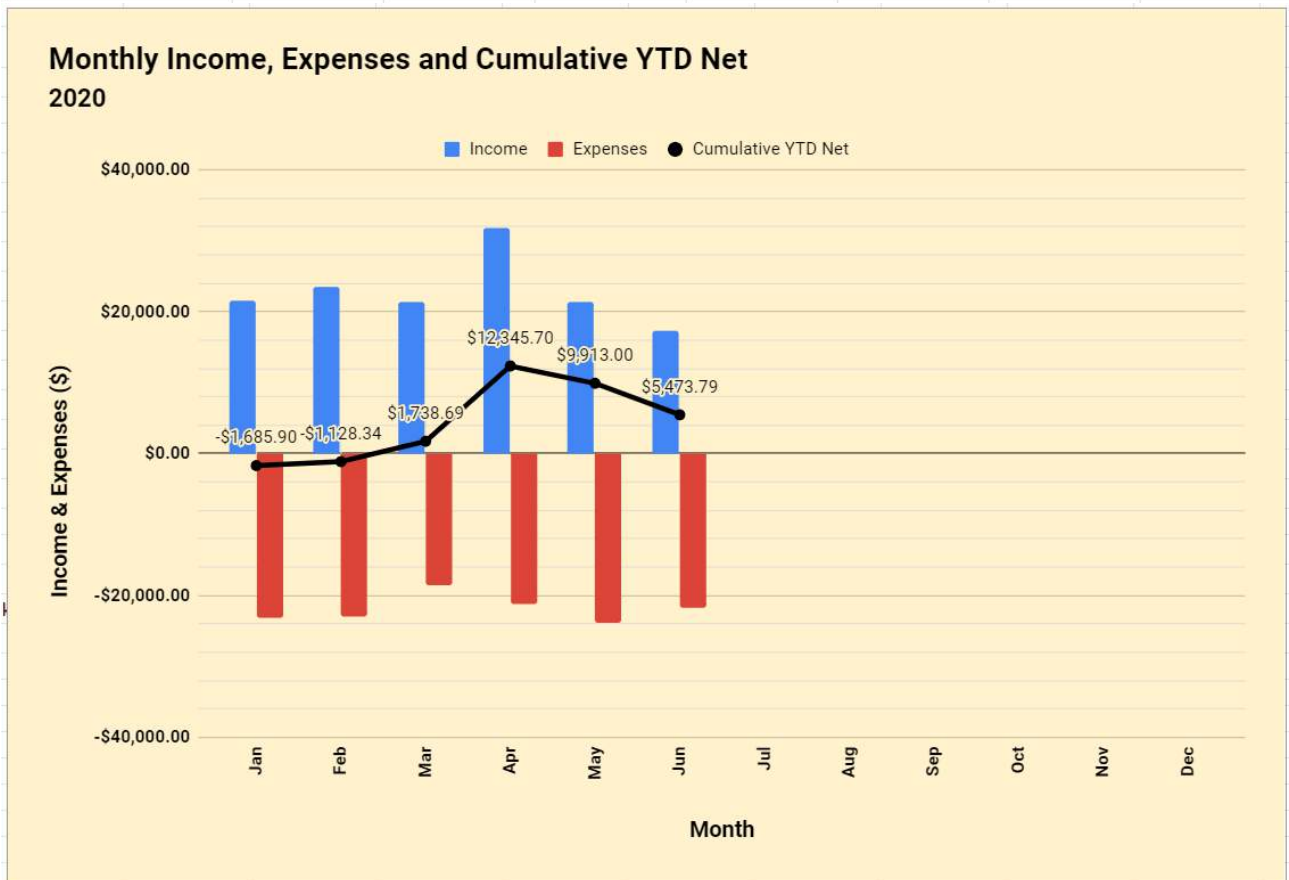
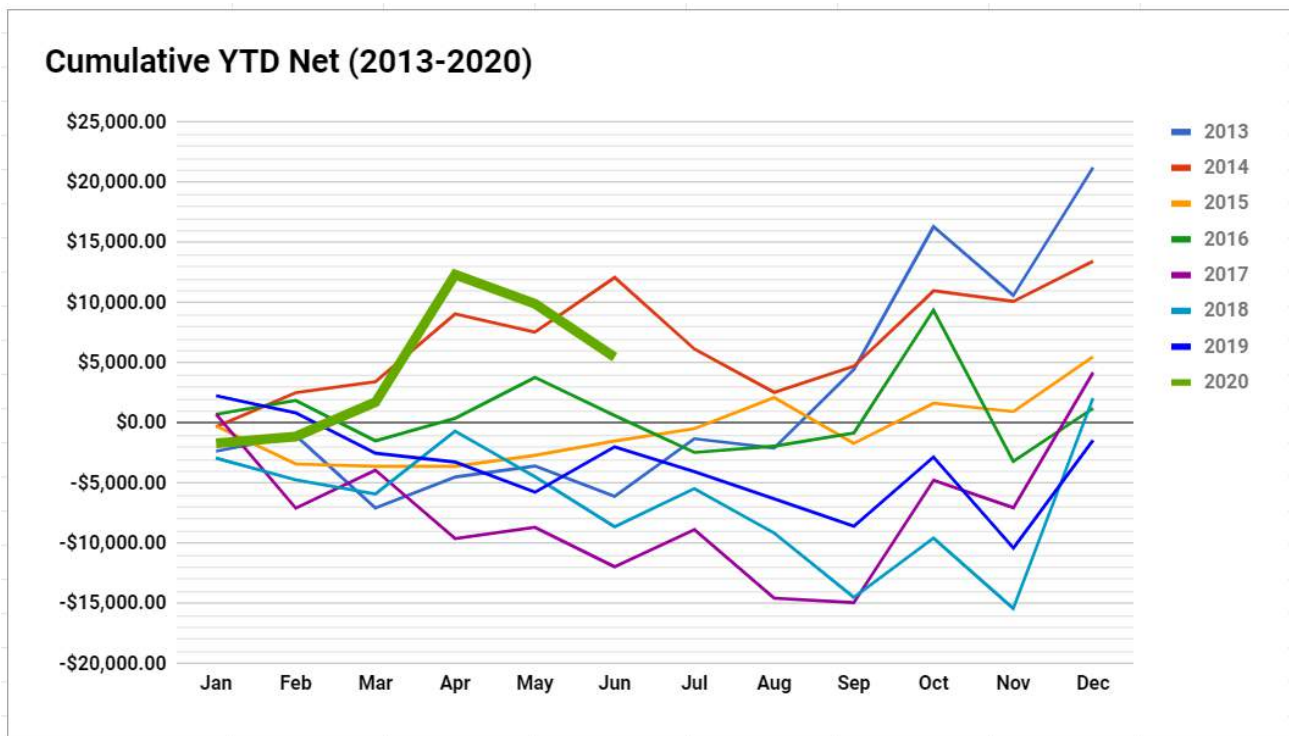
link on our website home page. Videos of each live streamed worship service are captured and posted on the church YouTube channel. The CPFUMC YouTube channel can be accessed from any page of the church website using the YouTube link down in the page footer:

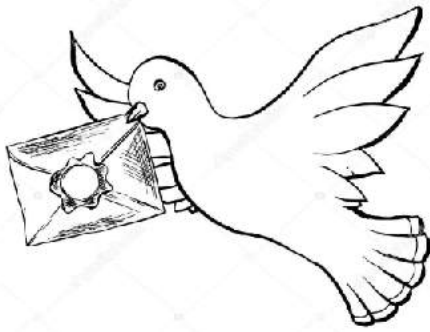


Links to videos of the latest and previous live streamed worship services are also available on the church website on our *Find Out What's Happening page* at <https://cpfumc.org/find-out-whats-happening/>.

Regardless of how you get to the live stream worship service, there is **no** plan to **ever** discontinue live streaming our Sunday morning worship service, even after the COVID-19 pandemic is ancient history.

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church Financial Information January-March 2020





Two Important Updates to the Rest Room Renovation Pledge Campaign

By Jane Howard

1. The first update to the pledge campaign is a pledge end date. We are asking you to make your pledges by July 14, 2020. Consider your pledge a vote to go ahead with this ambitious project. We need a quick response from you to determine if the renovation is feasible at this time. Without your pledges, this project will still remain a dream project for future consideration. Watch for the weekly update in the *Happenings* to track progress toward success in reaching our financial goal.
2. The second update is a change in the pledge fulfillment date to January 5, 2021. This allows those who might want to take advantage of the IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) recess for 2020 to fulfill their pledge in 2021 when the RMD recess is no longer in effect.

In all cases we need some idea of your pledge so we can determine if we have the wherewithal to commence this big project.

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 Carolyn Smith
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount
Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

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Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!

CPFUMC Calendar July 2020. Click [here](#) to go to the online calendar

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, Jul 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)
CP1UMC Youth, Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Online</div> <div>10am - Online</div> <div>1pm - Book of</div> <div>4pm - Youth</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Tea Time</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30am - Morning</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12pm - Reading Club-</div> <div>8pm - YOUTH</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>
<div>5</div> <div>8:30am - Worship</div> <div>9:45am - Sunday</div> <div>1pm - Book of</div> <div>4pm - NO Youth -</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9am - Tea Time</div> <div>6:30pm - TRUSTEES-</div> <div>7:30pm - Centering</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9:30am - Morning</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7:30pm - AA Men's</div>	<div>8</div> <div>12pm - Reading Club-</div> <div>8pm - YOUTH</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>
<div>12</div> <div>5pm - UMARMY LOCAL @ Cedar Park, TX, USA</div> <div>8:30am - Worship</div> <div>9:45am - Sunday</div> <div>1pm - Book of</div> <div>4pm - NO Youth -</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9am - Tea Time</div> <div>6:30pm - FINANCE</div> <div>7:30pm - Centering</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:30am - Morning</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7:30pm - AA Men's</div>	<div>15</div> <div>8pm - YOUTH</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8am - YOUTH Senior</div> <div>9:30am - Mbr Care</div>	<div>17</div> <div>NEWSLETTER Input</div>	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div> <div>8:30am - Worship</div> <div>9:45am - Sunday</div> <div>1pm - Book of</div> <div>4pm - NO Youth -</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9am - Tea Time</div> <div>6:30pm - Council</div> <div>7:30pm - Centering</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9:30am - Morning</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7:30pm - AA Men's</div>	<div>22</div> <div>8pm - YOUTH</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>
<div>26</div> <div>8:30am - Worship</div> <div>9:45am - Sunday</div> <div>1pm - Book of</div> <div>4pm - Youth</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am - Tea Time</div> <div>7:30pm - Centering</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:30am - Morning</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7:30pm - AA Men's</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8pm - YOUTH</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>