



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

A Child's Haven Welcomes New Director

A Child's Haven has a new Director this semester, Shannon Parker, a mother of 4, Aidan 18, Hunter 15, Zachary 13, and Madison 10, and a dog mom of two. She has spent the past 12 years in Marketing and Advertising. She majored in Horticulture and spent a lot of time with children Kinder-5th, educating and certifying them thru the Junior Master Gardening Program, Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension in summer programs. She loves gardening and the outdoors, her favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs, and spending time with her kids is her absolute favorite thing to do. She has 2 amazingly smart and talented children with Dyslexia and spent 2 years homeschooling, preparing for middle school and filling the gaps in their education. She looks forward to serving this school as director.

Shannon has hired several new staff members ... since some had children at home learning virtually ...wo needed to be there with them.

Please check the ACH website <https://achildshavenpreschool.com/> for up to date information and the various forms needed for registering a child and the protocols that will be followed to care for everyone...

Shannon has spent a great deal of time preparing for opening the school on Tuesday, September

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CPFUMC Family Members,

A tiny bit of light is coming through this long tunnel we have experienced for the last several months. The trustees' team for re-opening is preparing supplies and procedures. When we do re-open it will be one outdoor service with limited seating. We will use the program called "Save A Seat" to register and reserve your seat. More information we be given as it becomes available.

Unfortunately, Bob Bowker, the Great Pumpkin has not heard from many of you regarding working in the **Pumpkin Patch**. As of August 17th, Bob had few volunteers. The council voted to proceed with the pumpkin patch provided at least 15 people sign up to unload the pumpkins. A survey was sent requesting members to sign-up by August 31st. **Does Bob know he can count on you?**

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The Jesus Rock Stars are warming up their theatrical skills. We have been working on a couple of monologues these past few weeks. We hope to have a production soon.



Ms. Amanda lead the children in a discussion of how Jesus calmed the stormy sea of Galilee, Mark 4:35-41. Jesus loves us and he wants us to come to him when we are afraid.



To help the children understand they completed a science project. Using vinegar, representing them, they added baking soda, representing their fears. Their fears grow just like the bubbles grew. Then oil, representing Jesus is added. When they added the oil they saw the bubbles disappear just like our fears disappear when we give them to Jesus.

We thank Ms. Amanda for her lesson.

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.

BE LIGHT YOUTH September 2020

BE LIGHT YOUTH have been busy this past month pondering the importance of who we claim Christ to be and how that impacts or does not impact our lives. We have also been delving deeper into understanding and coping with anxiety alongside being in Middle and High school during a pandemic. Our POTATO COIN and FOOD collection was a wonderful success. We really enjoyed getting to see our church family as they dropped off coins, food and toiletries for people in need far afield and near at home. What a joy to serve together the good of God's kin-dom.

To accommodate the school year resuming and the technological boundaries of ZOOM, BE LIGHT YOUTH have a new meeting time. We will not be traveling for mission work beyond where we can return home to our own beds as we did for UMARMY this past summer.

The Holy Land Trip is still in place at this time. We are monitoring the health situation and will update after November. Currently, Americans are NOT allowed in Israel. Israel has been making exceptional progress in health protocols for social spaces so that when we do travel there, we will be under the best possible situation regarding Covid. They have been open for over two months without a case related to the Holy sites and hotels we will be visiting. Please keep the situation in prayer that we may be able to journey with health and joy.

NEW BE LIGHT YOUTH SCHEDULE Fall 2020

ALL on-line and in-person are NOW Sundays 11:30-1PM unless otherwise noted

When we meet in person BRING: face mask, water bottle, lawn chair, and lunch (I am investigating possible lunch donations as we move forward but for now everyone brings their own food and we gather under the trees distantly to eat). All YOUTH families must complete a one-time COVID covenant prior to being on the church campus.

Labor Day Weekend – No YOUTH – relax with your families

Sept 13th - online: Anxiety 2.2

Sept 20th - in-person - what's the deal on baptism? prepared to get WET!!

Sept 27th – MISSION day – painting mural at Montopolis; 1-4PM

SATURDAY Oct 3rd in-person Church work day 9-1PM

Oct 11th – NO YOUTH

Oct 18th - in-person What's up with communion?

Oct 25th - online: Anxiety 3.1

Nov 1st- in-person: All Saints Day - let's talk about death, shall we?

Nov 8th - online worship/discussion

Nov 15th online Anxiety 3.2

Nov 22nd in-person Hanging of the Greens

Nov 29th online Advent starts

Dec 6th in-person Mission activity

Dec 13th in-person Christmas party in a socially safe kind of way TBD

Dec 20 and 27th Winter break - activities TBD

Jan 3rd resume in-person

In-Person Outdoor Worship Begins

Beginning September 13th, come join us for onsite, in-person worship in our Memorial Outdoor Sanctuary on Sundays at 8:30 am (weather permitting). Worshipers must reserve a seat in advance, agree to abide by the Covenant and submit a signed Waiver the first time they attend. The Waiver can be downloaded from the blue Waiver form link at the bottom of the reservation page:

<https://cpfumc.org/mos-worship-service/>

Click on a yellow SELECT button to select the date of service you wish to attend, then click on the yellow SELECT button again to select the time of the service (there's only one choice right now), type in your name, email address, phone number and reservation information, then click on the yellow RESERVE SEAT! button to reserve your seat(s). You will receive a confirmation by email.



Celebrate the Return of our Pumpkin Patch

We WILL be having a Pumpkin Patch this year. Thank you to all who volunteered so far. But we need more help.

Our pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on Saturday, October 3rd at 9:00 AM. And based on experience, that is an approximate time, but if you volunteered to help unload, Bob Bowker (committee leader, aka, the Great Pumpkin) will keep you apprised of unloading updates. More unloading helpers are always welcome.



And in between now and October 3rd, we will need to transfigure some of our grounds into the patch itself. If you want to help arrange the receiving wooden pallets, or help with decorating, we do not have a date for that yet, but keep your eyes out as Bob will be providing the date and time soon.

Also, keep in mind the possibility of volunteering to staff the patch during one or more of the afternoon or evening shifts, more on this will be coming in the October newsletter as the event arrives.



A Child's Haven Happenings

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to reopen our doors at A Child's Haven on September 8th. This Tuesday, the sound of giggles, footsteps of small feet, and resounding love of Jesus will return to each

classroom. The staff has worked tirelessly to make sure that the school is ready to go with many new safety protocols for Covid in place. Our little ones health and the health of our community is one of our top priorities.

A Child's Haven offers Christian based childcare and education for children 18 months- 6 years. We are blessed with staff that truly cares about children and their spiritual, emotional, and academic growth. Within our school, we offer a Kinder Bridge program that provides students with a small classroom setting and many one one one opportunities with the our certified teacher.

We welcome you with open arms to our Child's Haven family and look forward to a fantastic school year.

Shannon P. Parker, Director



Sarah's Marching Video, April 2020

By Debra Longoria

When Covid-19 kept us at home during the shutdown in April, I became Sarah's model marching band student. She wanted to try out for section leader and needed someone to learn from her in her video. I felt confident that I could be her student since I was in band in high school. It was easy to start marching on your left foot and keep walking in a straight line until they gave another command to go left, right or about face. We did shows and had to march with small or large steps based off the spacing in the show. We also had to march backing up, knowing that others were in their places so we would not crash into anyone. I was ready to get started for the video.

Yet, this marching style was completely different and I was not prepared for what was coming in my first lesson. I had to keep my right leg still while moving my left foot to point. Then I had to move my left leg upwards while balancing on my right heel. I was out of balance and found myself grabbing a chair to practice good posture with arms down at my side and chin up. I practiced to get the skills good at a slow speed. Then it happened, I discovered it was going to get more difficult.

Sarah noticed that I did a great job and then started the metronome at a faster tempo than my slow-moving speed. Wait... what? I must go faster? I can barely do this ballet show gracefully and you want me to do this with a fast tempo?

She started the metronome and I heard the beats. She showed me what to do with her feet in tempo. Then, it was my turn. Oh, I kept saying to myself, "I can do this."

I kept the timing on the left foot and followed accordingly, but I started to drag and slow down. I did not do very well and got mixed up on the timing with my left foot. I grabbed the chair for support in the way a ballet dancer uses the bar for practicing balance. I had to use the chair to keep my balance, as my legs were tired and my muscles weak. Yet, I kept doing my best and refused to give up.

Sarah raised the tempo faster. Wait?... What? We are going faster? Will I end up on the floor from falling? Will I need to call 911 from this activity?

Sarah prepared her phone on the tripod to record. She warned me we would do two recordings. The first one with some mistakes from me and for her to re-teach the skills for me to practice. The second video with my corrected mistakes. I thought, "This should be a great comedy for the directors to laugh at."

Sarah smiled and said, "Okay, this is the tempo we need to have and we're ready. She counted down... 3,2,1...recording. Go!

After learning the fancy footwork in an hour that band members learn at band camp over weeks, I was ready to make a fool of myself. I removed the chair and was ready to perform this balancing act on my own. I heard the beats and Sarah counting to guide me. It was fast footwork and I worked hard to keep up with the tempo.

MARCHING continued on p. 7

Sanctuary Building Renovation Project

Give yourself a pat on the back! Thank you to all who have responded so far to our goal of raising \$53,000 for the Sanctuary Building Renovation project. As of September 1st, we have 33 pledges and contributions totaling \$37,630. Two thirds of that (\$25,180) is money in the bank and another third will arrive shortly after the new year. Remember, some people pledged money coming from their Required Minimum Distributions and with COVID-19, there is a recess on required withdrawals in 2020. Before January 5, 2021, all the pledged money should have arrived.



The actual rest room remodeling is estimated be about \$48,000 and the extra \$5,000 will pay for painting and new carpet. We are short \$15,370. If we do the painting ourselves and wait a bit for the carpet (subtract \$5,000), then we only need \$10,370 in new pledges or cash to reach our goal.

A big Thank You to all who have contributed so far!

MARCHING continued from p. 6

Once I finished, she gave me things to improve and praise on good work. Then, we recorded again with my corrected mistakes. She watched the video and said that it was great and submitted it. Yeah... I was done!

I share the story because I learned a lot from this experience. First, I realized how hard the students work in marching band to do all the footwork and play their instrument in tempo. The students do amazing things on the field and I have more appreciation for how they march from when I was in high school marching band. I thought it would be easy to make the video, since I had been in band. It was not as easy as I thought.

Secondly, I realized that we do not have to know everything because we can learn as we go. That is like our faith, as we take it day by day not really knowing everything but trusting God in all we do.

Thirdly, I am reminded that I need to practice the skills each day to read my Bible, pray and listen to others, as it is a discipline. It took discipline to practice how to move my feet with the correct tempo. Sarah would not be able to make my feet move, as I had to make the decision to practice until I got it correct. Chin up and keep the feet moving!

I am reminded:

Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Gal. 5:25 "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become

ACH DIRECTOR continued from p. 1

8 ... with a lot of precautions because of the COVID virus situation in order to protect church workers, preschool workers, and especially the children.

Due to that the doors/entrances to the MMB have been changed.... The main front door is now EXIT ONLY ... Office and church workers will enter the building through the side door(East/playground side) that enters Peter's Office. The Preschool will be using the back door on that same side of the building.and the entrances on the other side of the building through the toddlers playground. There has been installed a Ring Doorbell so that those in the office can see and speak to those wanting to enter through the main door.

ACH has staggered time for arrival and departure. A copy of where the parents need to go and what they need to do is here. The first few weeks ACH asks the church staff to Please park in the large parking lot during school hours until all the parents get accustomed to the new guidelines?

We all can help ACH in these ways :

1. 2-3 people assisting with check-in by walking the children AFTER temperature screening to class and getting hands washed to start the school day
2. Assistant teacher on Wednesdays in 3's class
3. OUTDOOR playground wipers
4. INDOOR surface wipers such as doorknobs and hard surfaces

If you are able to assist in these important tasks for the health of the children and teachers, please contact Shannon to offer your help (director@childshaven.net). I am sure she will welcome whatever time you can offer if it is one day a week on the playground or every morning during check-in. It will take a village this year more than ever before.

From Shannon: It would be especially helpful if we had 2-3 people in the mornings helping with check-in and walking the kids to their classes and washing their hands. Our teachers will be administering check in screenings and sign-in, and that would definitely be very helpful. We also need an assistant teacher on Wednesdays in the 3's class. It would be wonderful if we could have someone volunteer, as our enrollment is low and I did not want to hire another person for that day. Financially, I am not even sure that could happen.

It may also be helpful if we had someone helping wipe the outdoor playground after each use as well as maybe volunteer to walk around and wipe door knobs and hard surfaces. This may take a lot of strain off of our teachers as they teach and keep the kids hands, and surfaces they are using clean.

This may only be needed for the first few weeks until we get the pattern down and have a better idea of our new day to day regulations. I would only ask that these volunteers not be high risk or over the age of 65 if possible. Unless they have no pre-existing conditions and sign the waivers for both school and church.

COUNCIL CHAIR continued from p. 1

Neil Howard reported the church's service attendance is staying about the same and people attending Zoom meetings are going strong.

The finance committee is waiting for the government to finalize the requirements of the Paycheck Protection Program loan. At this time the committee believes the church has met all requirements to have the loan forgiven.

Pastor Peter will start a new book, **Sermon on the Mount** in September. The discussion group will meet weekly through Zoom.

Neil Howard and Pastor Suzette have suggested the possibility of hosting a movie night or drive-in worship movie night. Neil has agreed to be in charge of the technical aspects of the movie. The council is asking for someone else to take the lead in the organization of the movie.

Pastor Suzette is planning the final phase of the confirmation classes for three confirmands.

If you have any questions or would like to share something with the council, please email me, carolynsmith2215@gmail.com.

Your church council chair,

Carolyn

Church Contacts

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?

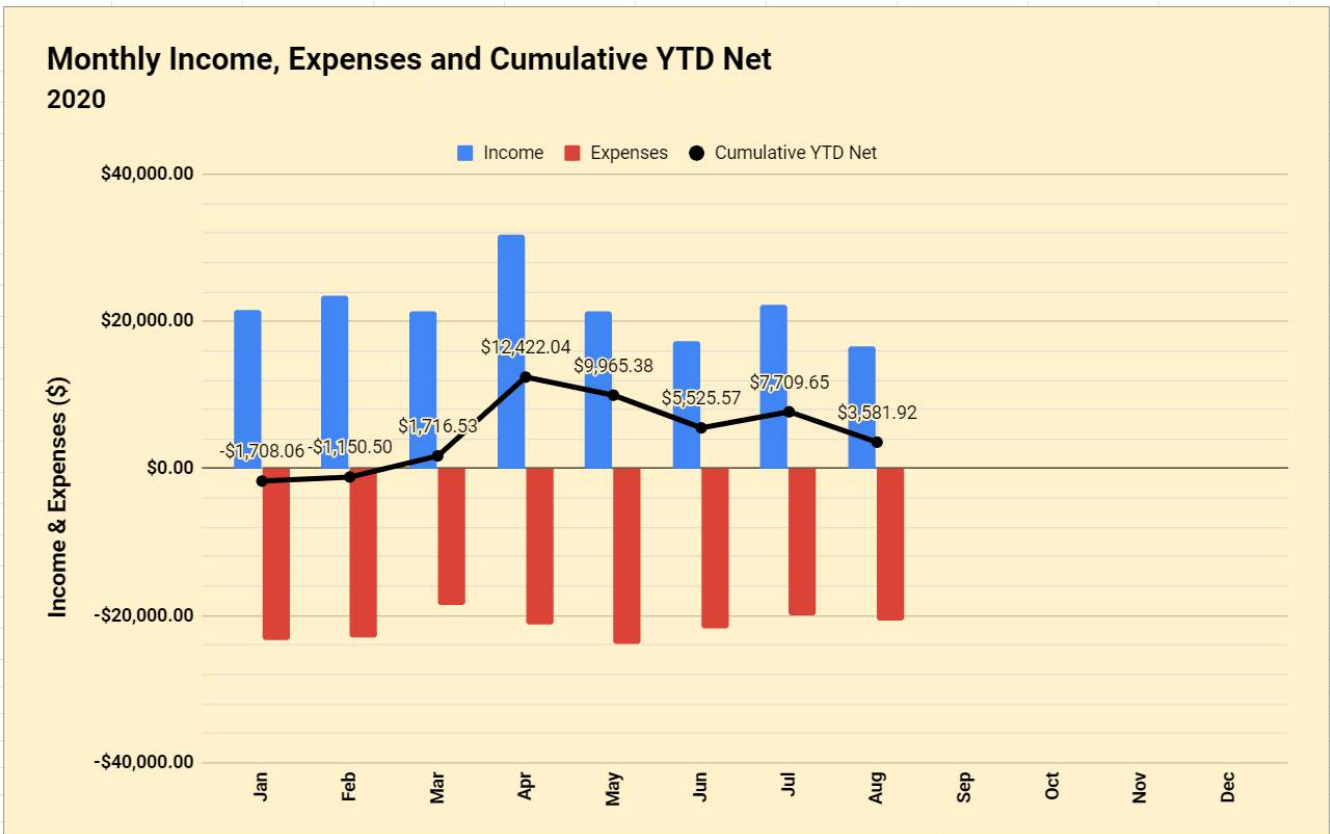
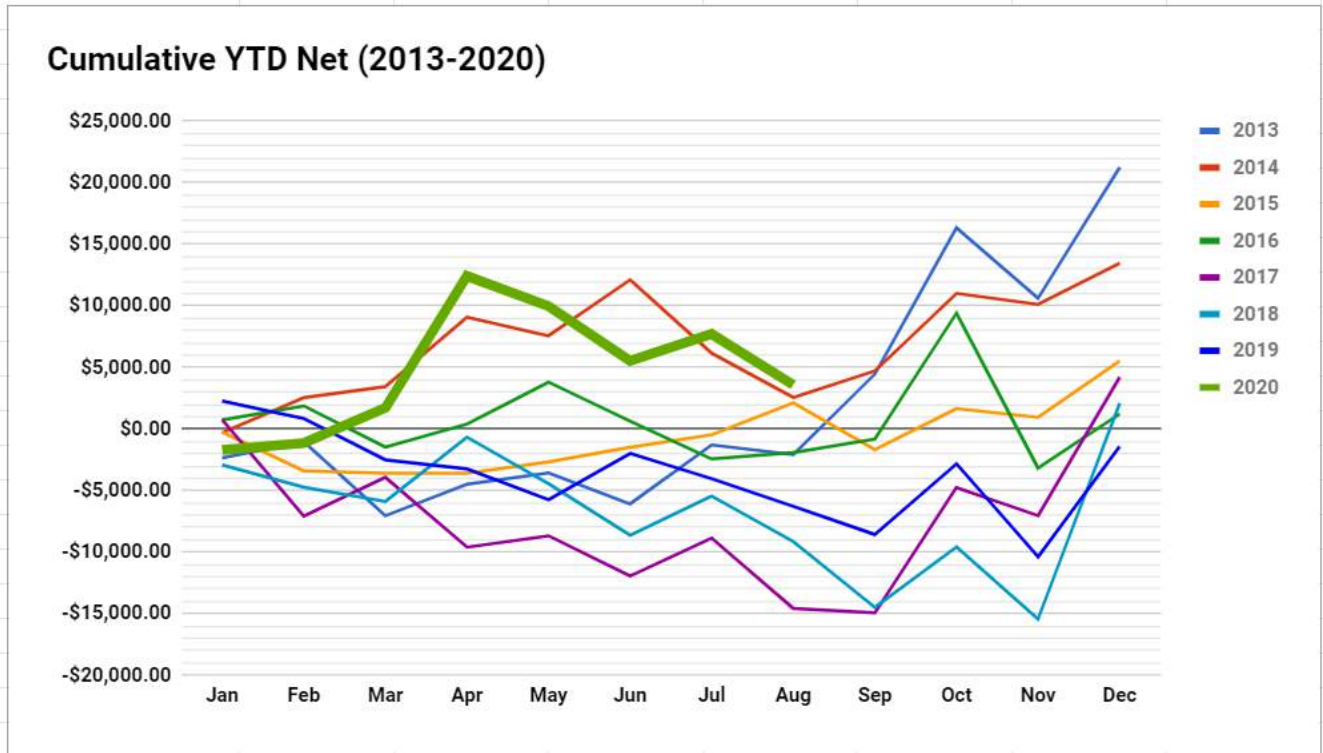


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Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!

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



CPFUMC Calendar September 2020. Click [here](#) to go to the

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 1pm - Bible Study 4pm - Youth @	31 9am - Tea Time 7:30pm - Centering	1 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA Men's	2 8pm - YOUTH	3	4	5
6 11:30am - NO Youth 1pm - Bible Study	7 9am - Tea Time 6:30pm - NO 7:30pm - Centering	8 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	9	10 10am - Book Study	11 6:30pm - Alcoholics	12
13 8:30am - Outdoor 11:30am - Youth 1pm - Bible Study	14 9am - Tea Time 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	15 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA Men's	16 9am - Mbr Care MCH	17 10am - Book Study	18 6:30pm - Alcoholics	19 9:30am - P.E.O. "JX"
20 11:30am - Youth 1pm - Bible Study 3pm - Commitment 3:30pm - Worship @	21 9am - Tea Time 7:30pm - Centering	22 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	23	24 10am - Book Study	25 NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	26 9am - UMW CapDist
27 11:30am - Youth 1pm - Bible Study	28 9am - Tea Time 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	29 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	30	1 10am - Book Study	2 6:30pm - Alcoholics	3 11:30am - Youth