



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

January 2021

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

How Utterly Amazing!

By Jane Howard

Hold onto your hats. I am about to report an utterly amazing result – we did it! Remember last summer when we were mired in the muck of the uncertainties of the coronavirus and we couldn't pin our hopes on anything changing soon? Well, collectively we just did an amazing thing: we raised enough money to completely refurbish our restrooms, and had a little left over for carpet.

As Glenda always tells us, "this is a mighty, little church". But for me your wonderful response reminds me of an old Edgar Guest poem:

It Couldn't Be Done

Edgar Guest

AMAZING continued on p. 6

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Jesus Rock Stars Corner	p. 2
Be Light Youth News	p. 4
Church Financial Information	p. 7
Amazon Smile	p. 8
Church Contacts	p. 9
January Calendar	p. 9

CPFUMC Family,

In many ways, 2020 was not a good year. Although looking back, our "Mighty Little Church" is doing well.

Did you know our church worship attendance has remained the same since the pandemic started? The church never missed a Sunday worship service. Thanks to our incredible live streaming team, we were able to begin broadcasting services immediately. The church has welcomed a new member, baptized a baby, and have met all our financial obligations.

Todd Greer set up an Amazon Smile account for the church. Once you link your purchases to the church's account, the church will receive .005% of your purchases. There is no charge to you; Amazon is contributing the funds. Please be sure to link your Amazon purchases to the church's Amazon Smile account.

The Finance Committee approved the disbursement of funds from the General Fund to:

\$1,450 to the Texas Methodist Foundation to pay-off A Child's Haven loan for the playground

\$2,000 for the LAN Technology Committee

\$2,000 for the Endowment Fund

COUNCIL CHAIR continued on p. 8

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The children are excited this time of year. Not only is Christmas coming, but their own Christmas Eve play. As in everything this year, we did it a little differently. The parents worked with their children and produced a fantastic Christmas production. Mr. Neil put everything together, and I hope it brought great pleasure to you.

The Cast:



Elizabeth invited us all to settle into our places, ready to experience this miraculous event.



Mary (Josie) told us what it felt like to be chosen by God to protect and raise his only Son.



Joseph (James) could not believe he was chosen to be the stepfather to God's only child.



The Innkeeper (Leland), if he had only known this was the Son of God.

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER



The Wisemen (James) followed the star to bring gifts to the King of Kings.



Elizabeth (Kaitlyn) knows all things are possible through God.



The Shepherd (Rachel) listened to the angels and followed their directions to Bethlehem.

If you did not get a chance to see the production, please visit the church's YouTube Channel or Facebook page. Links to both are at the bottom of the church's homepage, cpfumc.org.

BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette

December had the BE LIGHT YOUTH start painting the Rainbow Bridge for A Child's Haven redoing all the dark green areas that were well worn by many little feet headed to the playground. We also had two more visits with Pastor Bonnie as we built a geometrically challenging picnic table for St Luke UMC. Shawn did a great job getting us through what turned out to be a complicated project with many challenges. The table looks great and will serve both the church and the neighborhood in years to come.



We also had a BE LIGHT YOUTH Family Christmas OUTDOOR Celebration. We had separate stations to create gingerbread houses and roast hot dogs over a campfire. We adapted the White Elephant Gift exchange into a hunt (the gifts were hidden all over the church property and everyone had to go find a gift) after we had a "snowball" fight with fuzzy socks on the playground with YOUTH vs. Parents. The parents won obviously...ask any YOUTH. We rounded our party out with Pastor Peter serving a honorable judge handed out



prizes for the gingerbread house creations.

HOLY LAND TRIP 2021 UPDATE:

Thanks to the vast support of our beautiful congregation, we have earned what is needed for 10 people to travel to the Holy Land plus 3 more pilgrims who will join our crew. At the end of

BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2020

December, Glenda mailed a check for nearly \$38,000 from the funds both donated on behalf of the BE LIGHT YOUTH as well as the money earned through hours and hours over many days and months for work for members of our church. We are deeply grateful for both your support and for the connections we have made with each of you as we pulled weeds, or raked leaves, or moved boxes and more. Those moments are treasures in and of themselves,

It is with bummed hearts that we must also let you know that the Holy Land Trip is currently postponed. We received word last week that travel to Israel is not permitted at this time. We have requested to be rescheduled for early June but must await as the travel company rearranges schedules for all the trips planned for March and February. We will not lose our funds. They simply apply them to the new trip; if for some reason a person is not longer able to travel with the new dates, the cost of their trip will be refunded. It is possible we might have to earn more money if the travel cost increase but that is simply unknown at this time. So we ask you lift our travel plans in prayer so that we might indeed get to the Holy Land this year.

Looking Forward:

Please join us for BE LIGHT YOUTH happenings listed below. We are a soft landing in a world of rough edges.

We are CDC compliant and Safe Gatherings compliant. Please bring a water bottle and wear a mask for all in-person activities.

Start time is at NOON unless otherwise listed and make sure you have had lunch.

- Jan 24: Prep the outdoor education center for A Child's Haven
- Jan 31: **Noisy Coin/HCCM food contactless collection after church@ 11:15**; Hiking with picnic- parents included: **BRING a sack lunch to eat on the trail**
- Feb 7: on-line Friendship, me and Jesus???
- Feb 14 **Cheesy Valentine's Day party** - parents included - please let Pastor Suzette know y'all are coming to have correct number of supplies.
- ASH Wednesday Feb 17
- Lenten Season begins...we will be doing Scripture dives for the Season of Lent
- Feb 21: on-line - Genesis part 1
- Feb 28: in-person Genesis part 2
- **SAVE THE DATE: UMARMY Mixed June 27-July 3rd in Corpus Christi**

It Couldn't Be Done

Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But, he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.

from Collected Verse of Edgar Guest

I can't wait until we meet again in person. I want to give each one of you a big hug of thanks for your support in this number one project we all had dreams of seeing completed.

THANK YOU !!!



HELP WANTED

Our church is looking for someone to take over its bookkeeping duties, which involve tracking income and expenses, paying bills, preparing payroll, and generating monthly financial reports by using Intuit's Quickbooks accounting software.

This is a monthly salaried position which entails a time commitment of 3-5 hours/week. Basic computer and bookkeeping skills are necessary.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact:

Karen Packard

Staff-Parish Relations Chair

kvpackard@aol.com

928-246-2412

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY

**In-person outdoor services, each Sunday at 8:30 a.m., weather permitting.
Sign-up is required.**

Watch live on Facebook each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Visit us on YouTube.

Please find the links to these and more on our home page, cpfumc.org.

Smile and Shop on Amazon for a Donation to CPFUMC!

Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile. This program allows the donation of a small percentage of the majority of purchases to go to a favorite non-profit. We have set the church up on this program and it is ready to go!

In order to participate, simply follow the link below and sign in using your Amazon account. Once signed in, you will be given the option of permanently setting your future Amazon purchases to donate to the church. There is no cost to you the shopper or to the church for this service so shoppers should feel comfortable using the Smile program.

The link to use to start: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2356675>

Sign in as usual, tell Amazon you wish to keep using the Smile program for the church and start shopping. If you are already logged in to Amazon via browser cookie (as we are at the Greer house) then you may already be logged in when you click the link above. If so, you will still be asked to set the church as the charity to which you wish the donations to be sent.

That's it! Please let Todd or Neil know if you have any questions!

COUNCIL CHAIR continued from p. 1

\$2,000 to the Texas Methodist Foundation to pay down the mortgage

\$5,000 for the Sanctuary Building Renovation (restrooms)

As of December 21st, we received 50 pledges for a total of \$208,160 for the 2021 budget. This pledged amount exceeds the 2020 pledges. The committee will meet in January to set the 2021 budget.

Glenda Morrison and Walter Wilson submitted the forms to request the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan for forgiveness. The government has up to five months to approve the request.

A Child's Haven has a new treasurer, Karen Packard. Karen serves on ACH's board of directors and the church council.

What a better way to end the year, but with the beautiful Christmas services? The choir produced an amazing Christmas Cantata, and the children recorded several charming invitations to Christmas Eve services. If I do say so myself, the children's Christmas Eve service was terrific. The children reminded us of what Christmas is all about.

We welcome 2021.

Carolyn Smith
Council Chair

CPFUMC Calendar January 2021

Click [here](#) to go to the online calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - NO 1pm - NO Bible	28 9am - NO Tea Time 7:30pm - Centering	29 9:30am - NO 10am - NO Bible 7:30pm - AA Men's	30	31	1	2
3 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	4 9am - Tea Time 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	5 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA Men's	6	7 3:45pm - Piano	8 6:30pm - Alcoholics	9
10 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	11 9am - Tea Time 3:30pm - Piano 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	12 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA Men's	13 12pm - Book	14 3:45pm - Piano	15 6:30pm - Alcoholics	16
17 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @ 3:30pm - Worship @	18 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	19 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - AA Men's	20 1pm - Book	21 9:30am - Mbr Care 3:45pm - Piano	22 NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	23
24 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	25 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	26 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	27 1pm - Book	28 3:45pm - Piano	29 6:30pm - Alcoholics	30
31 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	1 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	2 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	3 1pm - Book	4 3:45pm - Piano	5 6:30pm - Alcoholics	6

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?



Pastor Peter Castles
Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson
Church Council Chair Carolyn Smith
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount
Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

peter@cpfumc.org
suzette@cpfumc.org
carolynsmith2215@gmail.com
jodi_blount@hotmail.com
lund121@me.com

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