



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# *Connections*

## Newsletter

### **Rachel on the Painted Bridge**

by Debra Longoria

On Monday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, Rachel finished her piano lesson at the church and met me outside by the picnic table. I asked her, "Would you like to take a walk with me to see something interesting?" She said, "Yes, Mommy, I want to see if the deer are looking around or a bird or squirrel are up in a tree."

She was ready to get outside after a piano lesson. So, she ran around by the bridge enjoying the sunshine and looking for animals. I asked her, "What do you think of the bridge?" She answered, "Wow! It's so colorful and the cobwebs and spiders are gone." I took a picture of her standing on the bridge.

I explained that Pastor Suzette gathered our youth group to paint the bridge all these beautiful colors to protect the bridge from

**RAINBOW BRIDGE continued on p. 5**

#### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

<u>Jesus Rock Stars Corner</u>	p. 2
<u>Be Light Youth News</u>	p. 3
<u>Faith and Racial Reconciliation</u>	p. 6
<u>Church Work Day</u>	p. 7
<u>Church Contacts</u>	p. 8
<u>February Calendar</u>	p. 8

CPFUMC Family,

The new year is not an average year, but we welcome 2021 with open doors, open hearts, and open minds.

In 2020 the live stream team learned how to broadcast the church services live on Facebook and post to YouTube. You will find links to all these on the church's home page.

Guess what is new for 2021. The new LAN administrator, Neil Howard, is suggesting we look into broadcasting on other platforms. Feel free to recommend your preferred platform to Neil.

Did you remember to link your Amazon account with the church's Smile account? Thanks to Todd Greer, the church will be collecting 0.005% of your qualifying purchases. There is no charge to you for this donation.

The Finance Committee approved the 2021 budget.

The restroom renovation project is getting closer to the start date. The permits are at the City for approval.

The Trustees' Spring Work Event is from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you know of a project that needs to be completed or wish to complete a task, please contact Sergio Longoria at [trustees@cpfumc.org](mailto:trustees@cpfumc.org).

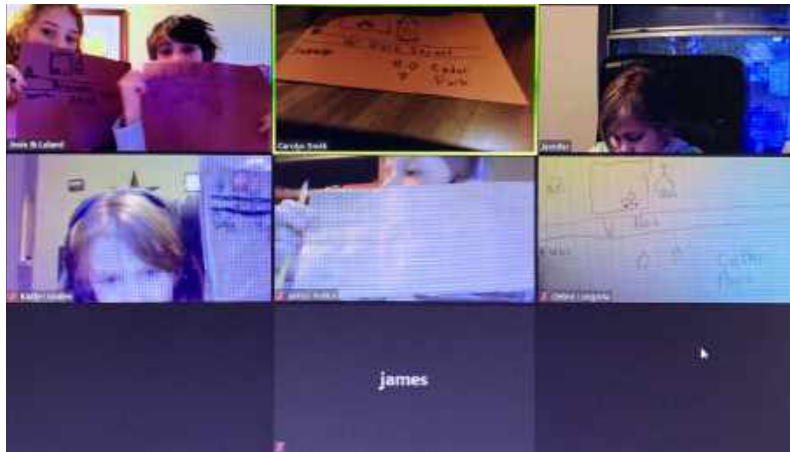
**COUNCIL CHAIR continued on p. 7**

## JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The children love to come together for their time to share and learn about God. We have talked about sharing God's Word with everyone.

When you let a child guide you, you will not see people's skin; you will see what is in someone's heart. That is how God wants you to see each other. As our lesson from Dr. Martin Luther King showed us, God loves everyone the same.



We created maps to our church to guide people to God's word.



God's Word in a bottle. That is a little outdated and a little old fashion, but it is a way our ancestors could have gotten a message about God.

Praying with others or by ourselves is the way we get messages to God.

# BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette

HOLY LAND TRIP UPDATE: We are GOING!!! The trip has been RESCHEDULED for May 30 - June 7th at the same price as before- Praise God!! We will have more details in the upcoming newsletters. For now, know we will be walking where Jesus walked and if you care to join our small group of pilgrims, there is still room for 3 more. Contact Pastor Suzette for details.

BE LIGHT YOUTH were busy in January: We spent two different times getting the Rainbow Bridge completed for the ACH. The children at the ACH are just delighted to tramp across A RAINBOW to and from



the playground. The ACH will be incorporating the Rainbow Bridge into its logo. It is really is a work of art thanks to the leadership of our very own Kevin Middleton.

We met over ZOOM a few times pondering how our relationship with Jesus can help us with our everyday relationships.

The last day of January, had us collecting coins and food to feed those who hunger both locally for HCCM and afar through the potato ministry. Then, after a lunch of breakfast tacos, we dug into the gardens under the oak trees alongside Shannon, the ACH director. Under her gifted eye, we are reclaiming overgrown areas, removing aged-out plants, and reconstructing areas for planting. It will become an outdoor living classroom for the both the children and the congregation to enjoy. We are very blessed that Shannon is guiding us through this multi-layered challenge with her background in



## BE LIGHT YOUTH (continued)



landscaping/agriculture/gardening. The long term goal is to develop the gardens as another ministry serving people in our neighborhoods.

Our YOUTH are quite active in sports this year. Both Taylor and Jozi are competing in volleyball tournaments on a regular basis. Mady is doing a Girl Scout service project. She is raising money to donate boxes of GS cookies to our local healthcare workers as a thank you from the community; her goal is to deliver 10 cases (120 boxes) to 10 hospitals in the Greater

Austin area. See her video link here: <https://www.facebook.com/suzette.thorpejohnson/videos/3898584586867883> If you wish to join in thanking our healthcare workers please contact: Pastor Suzette ([suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)) All donations must be in by Sunday Jan. 21. Please lift each of our YOUTH as they strive to gain skills and serve others while navigating the pandemic.

This month also brings TWO birthdays: Sarah on Mon. 2/8 and Abby on Wed. 2/10. Please consider dropping them a birthday card in the mail letting them know their church family celebrates them too!

Coming Up:

Feb 14th: Cheesy Valentine's Party is moved to virtual due to arctic weather forecasted. Pastor Suzette will deliver your Cheesy Valentine's party kits this week. Meet via Zoom at 8:30pm Sunday Feb 14th.

Feb 21st: Outdoor classroom work continues; breakfast tacos at 11:30 then we dig in again.

Feb 28th: hike and picnic; meet at 11:15 at church with water bottle and sack lunch

March will have us Zooming, working, as well as at the Austin Zoo and picking strawberries - yummo!

## RAINBOW BRIDGE continued from p. 1



water and sun damage. I asked her, “What do you think about how much work went into this project?” She said, “I see all the paint around me and it took a long time and they cleaned all the cobwebs really good.” I asked her, “I thought you liked animals.” She replied, “Well, not scary spiders when going across the bridge to go play.”

I asked, “Do you miss being at, A Child’s Haven?” She started to tear up and leaned into me, so I gave her a hug to comfort her. She whispered, “I miss my friends, teachers and Pastor Bonnie for chapel at the school and how much fun we had. Sometimes, I got in trouble with the teachers for taking too many rocks for my collection and had to put some back.”

She made the comment that she felt safe at school when I was not with her. She stated, “I liked being in pre-school, but I like 3<sup>rd</sup> grade because I can multiply, read interesting stories, do messy crafts, drink from a cup without a lid, and ride a bigger bike now.”

We looked at the bridge and I thought of the memories of the friendships, the problems, solutions, parties and children learning. I was thankful that I had a school for her to learn her pre-school skills and teach her about God.

I reminded her that she was in the very first class for the Kindergarten Bridge class and she made history. She was amazed at this concept. She asked me, “Is my name in the history books now?” I said, “Yes, the school has a record of who attended the classes and your name is there.” She smiled and said, “I’m glad you took me to this school to learn how to do things, even when I was sad you would leave me.” I replied, “I’m glad too and we found a church home as well.”

We would like to thank our youth and Pastor Suzette for the beautiful painting you all did on the cute bridge. There are a lot of memories for everyone of playing, using their imaginations, mistakes made, growing, caring and learning. Thank you too, A Child’s Haven where children can learn and grow in a caring and loving environment.


I’m grateful for the bridge that God gives to us as He extends His love to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, to give us life everlasting.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven!

## Christian Faith and Racial Reconciliation

I serve with USCLO - United States Christian Leadership Organization, which was founded by my fellow classmate, Rev Steve Miller, in seminary. The purpose of USCLO is bringing about racial reconciliation through proclaiming Jesus and working to correct areas of life where people of color are disproportionately negatively impacted. I invite you to participate virtually in our upcoming event which explores and celebrates the role of Black churches in working for justice. Learning our faith history from all sections of American life will open opportunities for conversations and perhaps collaboration in bringing about God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Please contact me with your thoughts.

Peace, Pastor Suzette



**THE BLACK CHURCH**  
**CHURCHES ORGANIZING FOR IMPACT**  
**& COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

---

**Saturday, 2/27/2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

AN ONLINE EVENT SPONSORED BY:  
**UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP ORG.**  
**TEXAS COALITION OF BLACK DEMOCRATS**  
**BLACK WOMEN'S PAC**

REGISTRATION: [USCLO.COM/CHOICE2021](https://usclo.com/choice2021)

## Spring Work Day Event

With the pandemic raging and the uncertainty of when this will end, even in spite of new medical procedures and a couple of vaccines, it is still too early to tell when we can all come together for a nice Spring work day at the church. So, as it was done last Fall, the Trustees have decided that we will make this a Spring work "event" (rather than a day). We have proposed that the Spring work event should begin on March 1st and end on April 30th. In this way, you can come in when it is convenient for you, work on an item you wish to work on and leave without having to worry too much about close contact with others. A list of items is being prepared by the Trustees, items that need a little TLC. Once this is complete, we will post it to the church's web site so that you can add your name next to the item you wish to tackle. Last fall we got great participation and 90% of the items got corrected, it was much appreciated. And we believe we will have the same enthusiastic response this Spring. God bless.

Sergio Longoria

Trustees Chair

### **COUNCIL CHAIR continued from p. 1**

Due to travel restrictions, the youth's Holy Land trip is temporarily postponed. Please be in prayer with them for their mission trip.

Neil Howard is putting together computer informational videos. You can find the link for the Windows Snipping Tool video on the church YouTube channel in the "1-Minute Lessons" playlist. There is a link for the church YouTube channel in the footer of every page on the church website.

In just a few weeks, ACH will have a garage sale and an online auction. Please contact ACH if you have items you can donate.

We welcome 2021.

Carolyn Smith

Council Chair





# CPFUMC Calendar February 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 7:30pm - AA Men's	3 1pm - Book	4 3:45pm - Piano	5 6:30pm - Alcoholics	6
7 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	8 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	9 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	10 1pm - Book	11 3:45pm - Piano	12 6:30pm - Alcoholics	13
14 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	15 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	16 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	17 1pm - Book	18 9:30am - Mbr Care 3:45pm - Piano	19 6:30pm - Alcoholics	20
21 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @ 3:30pm - Worship @	22 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	23 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	24	25 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	26 NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	27
28 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:30am - Youth @	1 Congretation Work 9am - Tea Time 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	2 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	3 Congretation Work	4 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	5 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	6 Congretation Work

## Church Contacts

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

[peter@cpfumc.org](mailto:peter@cpfumc.org)  
[suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)  
[carolynsmith2215@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith2215@gmail.com)  
[jodi\\_blount@hotmail.com](mailto:jodi_blount@hotmail.com)  
[lund121@me.com](mailto:lund121@me.com)

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