



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

April 2021

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# *Connections*

## Newsletter

### GREAT NEWS!

**What is July 4th, Independence Day? The day the Continental Congress declared that the thirteen colonies were no longer under the rule of Britain. Our country continues to celebrate each year with great joy.**

**This monumental date now has another meaning for our “Mighty Little Church.” The Church Council voted last night to make giving Sunday, July 4th, the target date for REOPENING THE CHURCH.**

**What does target date mean, you asked? As you know, the Church suffered sufficient damage during the ice storm in February. The trustees continue to work with the insurance adjuster and the restoration companies. As of today, most of the cleanup and demolition are complete. Minor restoration has begun. Due to the uncertainty of a completion date, we are unsure when the contractor will finish the restoration.**

**The Church will follow CDC guidelines for reopening. The Council will monitor the progress monthly and update you.**

**A day to celebrate, July 4th.**

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## JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The children spent this Lent season to reflect on the teachings of Jesus. We discussed several parables.

Temptation taught us the difference between needing and wanting.



In the parable of the two sons we discussed the difference between saying you'll do something and actually doing it. We best serve Jesus and each other by "walking Jesus' way". The skit, "The Rich Fool" helped us to understand how serving Jesus is always the answer.

To join our Sunday School Zoom sessions, please contact Carolyn Smith,  
[carolynsmith2215@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith2215@gmail.com).



# BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette



Youth gathered on Easter at the Sunrise Service to celebrate the confirmation of Jozi and Mady, our two newest church members. They were wrapped in their red prayer shawls and the congregation witnessed and responded to their vows.

After the service they played Bunny Ring and Run at a few neighborhood homes.



## An Uplifting Story from our Water Disaster

Submitted by Jane Howard

On Tuesday, March 16, a small team of workers assembled to come up with the property damage report which would be filed with the insurance claim. Sue Sidney, Laurel Fabian, David Gibbs, Jimmy West, Anita Martin, and Neil and Jane Howard moved every chair and looked at every wet book.



Over all we lost 74 books due to water damage. They were swollen, wet and full of mold. Even recycling places would not take them, so into the trash they went. The chairs on the other hand are another story. We had 45 damaged and discolored chairs stacked directly under the water fountain of burst water pipe misery.

Each chair was examined and we sprayed enzyme to attack the mold which forms on every wet and drying surface. The worst damaged (45) were set aside and claimed as property damage on our insurance claim. But what do you do with 45 serviceable but disfigured chairs?

One solution is the great Park Street Market – open to all who pass by and have interest in what you have set out on the curb. We set out just four chairs to see if there would be any shoppers

interested in the damaged chairs.

This timing coincided with the work of moving great piles of mulch, so we had workers on site. So, when we were shoveling mulch into wheel barrels to spread in the flower beds and noticed a pickup truck stopped and loading the chairs into the bed of the truck, out we went to ask if they would like more chairs. A resounding yes was the answer. This was a team of parishioners from a new church starting in North Austin near Lamar Blvd.

They wanted all the chairs, despite the condition. “When you don’t have any chairs to sit on, any chair will do.” A couple of days later we got pictures of the chairs in their new home and a lovely thank you note from the truck driver, Josue Flores. They have 41 parishioners who are meeting on-line by Zoom with live music. Their gathering space is temporary but is now ready for in-person service when COVID restrictions are lifted and our chairs have found a wonderful new home.



“A bigggg thank you for the chairs 🙏 .

Hi Jane. This is Josue from La Gracia de Dios Church. We are very happy for all the chairs you gave us. We just want to bless you in the name of Jesus. Thank you.

Here are these pictures of the chairs in their new home. “

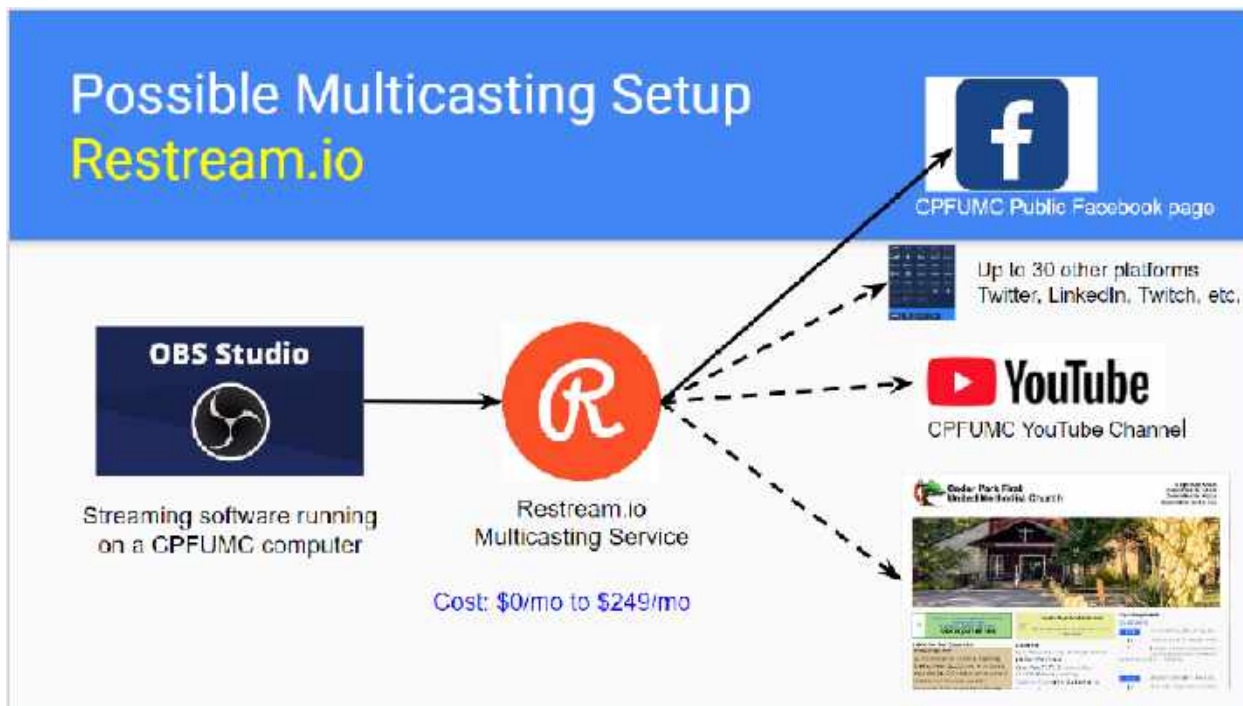


## Council Approves Multicasting Initiative

Submitted by Neil Howard

During the March 2021 Church Council meeting, Neil Howard made a 20-minute presentation entitled [\*Where Could We Go with Live Streaming? – More than just Facebook\*](#). The gist of the presentation was that we have been live streaming our Sunday morning worship service for over a year now to the church Facebook page only. There are more options than a Facebook-only live streaming strategy. Having more than one live streaming destination would allow us to expand our witness and outreach in the community and avoid potential future censorship actions from a single live streaming destination beyond our control. Neil presented various options and costs for multicasting including to destinations such as Facebook, YouTube and our own church website.

Following the presentation, the Council discussed the options and approved a tentative budget of between \$50-\$100 per month to expand our live streaming destinations beyond Facebook-only. The Live Streaming Team met on the Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, to begin testing two multicasting options. Using a service named Restream.io, the Team was able to live stream to a private Facebook page and to the church YouTube channel simultaneously. Based on this encouraging start, the Live Streaming Team decided to purchase a multicasting account with Restream.io, a local Austin-based company. The diagram below shows the vision of how our multicasting might look.



Instead of going to the single Facebook destination directly from the church, we can multicast to Restream.io and they will forward our live stream to additional destinations. Restream.io also has a consolidated chat feature which allow us to monitor comments/prayer requests from all our destinations combined in one place.

Stay tuned. CPFUMC live streaming worship services may soon be available on more than just Facebook!

## Vacation Bible School Director

Summer brings an exciting way for our church to serve our neighbors. The opportunity I am referring to is Vacation Bible School. VBS is a summer camp for elementary-age children. There are many different VBS programs to follow, although we have used a sports program for the past several years.

Are you good at organization and leadership? If so, we need you. We are looking for someone to volunteer to lead VBS. Several excellent people have signed up as your support staff.

Have you ever thought, "I can do that"? Now is the time to take action. Contact Carolyn Smith, [carolynsmith2215@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith2215@gmail.com) or 512.970.9087.

## **Spring Work Day Event**

The Spring work event begins on March 1st and ends 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 has been prepared by the Trustees, items that need a little TLC. This list has been posted to the church's web site so that you can add your name next to the item you wish to tackle. You can find the list by following [this link](#). 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.

After the catastrophic events of the winter storm and the flood that we experienced in the church building, the work of restoration and remodeling has begun. With that, the church building will be off limits for some time, but some of the tasks needed will be outside in the yard areas, parking lot, or the MMB. Please look in the list to see if there is something you can help the church with and once it is safe to go inside the sanctuary building we will make that known. Thank you

Sergio Longoria

Trustees Chair



# CPFUMC Calendar April 2021

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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, CP1UMC Youth, Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Apr 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 11:15am - Choir 8pm - Youth @	29 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	30 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	31 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	1 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	2 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	3 Congretation Work
4 Congretation Work EASTER 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	5 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	6 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	7 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	8 Congretation Work 3:45pm - Piano	9 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	10 Congretation Work
11 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	12 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	13 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	14 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	15 Congretation Work 9:30am - Mbr Care 3:45pm - Piano	16 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	17 Congretation Work
18 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 3:30pm - Worship @ 8pm - Youth @	19 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	20 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 5:30pm - Boy Scout	21 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	22 Congretation Work 3:45pm - Piano	23 Congretation Work NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	24 Congretation Work 11am - PEO Meeting
25 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	26 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	27 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	28 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	29 Congretation Work 3:45pm - Piano	30 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	1 Congretation Work

## Church Contacts

Find us online at [cpfumc.org](http://cpfumc.org)  
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at (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!

