



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,*

May 2021

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# *Connections*

## Newsletter

### Live Streaming Improvements

Now Available on YouTube and  
cpfumc.org

Did you know that our Sunday morning live streamed worship services are now available on YouTube and also on the church website? Since we began live streaming on March 22, 2020, our live stream worship services have *only* been available on the church Facebook page. While this is fine for those who have a Facebook account, it is limiting for those who do not and it makes us vulnerable to have all of our live streaming eggs in the Facebook basket. To enlarge our outreach, the live streaming team has expanded the number of places where you can watch and participate in the 10am Sunday morning worship service.

[Sunday 10 am Worship Bulletin](#)

Links to 10am Live Streamed Sunday  
Worship Service

[CPFUMC Website \(New!\)](#)

[YouTube channel \(New!\)](#)

[Facebook page](#)

The graphic above is clipped from the [church website home page](#). You can use the links in this yellow box to access any of the three options for participating in our Sunday

**STREAMING continued on p. 5**

### Letter from Council Chair

Dear CPFUMC Members,

Exciting things are happening inside the sanctuary. Have you seen the renovation video update from Sergio and Debra? If you have not seen the video, you will find it on the church's website homepage, [cpfumc.org](#). Sergio is working with the insurance company for the restoration.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**, do not forget, exciting things will happen. The Church Council has chosen this as a **target date for inside services**. Please keep the re-opening in your prayers.

Our social media presence is essential to keeping our church thriving. The LAN Administrator and the live stream team have gone above and beyond expectations and greatly increased access to our weekly services. Whether you are watching from YouTube or Facebook, you can make notes of your attendance, prayer requests, and make other comments. Our live stream team makes

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## JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

As we studied the Lent season the children were excited about Easter. A big thank you to Pastor Suzette and the youth for the individual Easter egg hunts.

We went onto our Easter season studies and explored the story of Doubting Thomas. It is faith in God that we hold onto.

The children also worked on God's creation.



The children are very proficient as Zoom techs. If you have a problem with Zoom, they know how to fix the problem.

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

# BE LIGHT YOUTH May 2021

Submitted by Pastor Suzette

Strawberry picking, mission work and fun times with cascarones, parent gifts and a taste of the Holy Land filled our April days. We headed out to Sweetberry Farms to pick the wonderful red fruit and snagged a scoop of strawberry ice cream too. We celebrated the wonderful ministry of the UMW at Montopolis Friendship Community Center once more. BE LIGHT YOUTH hauled, packed and hauled some more to help the ministry transition into a new era. We filled our vehicles twice over carting off SEVEN full loads of thrift store delights to other non-profits. We had fun and as always many hands make swift work and we received many thanks for our service. To balance our frequent mission work days, we ended our month with fun. A reminder of Easter as an on-going event of 50 days, started off the cascarones egg hunt and confetti fight! The YOUTH created gifts for their parents - hanging gardens to nourish those who nourish us. Lastly, but most tasty, we rounded out the time with a taste of Holy Land foods. As many of our YOUTH have not been exposed to the foods from that region of the world, we headed to a buffet which allowed for exploration in little amounts. Everyone found much to enjoy.



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## **Holy Land UPDATE:**

It is with a heavy heart I share we have postponed the Holy Land Trip once more. The Israel government is now requiring that all persons traveling to Israel be fully vaccinated regardless of age. As we have YOUTH under the current guidelines unable to be vaccinated in the timeline of our trip, I postponed it. The new date is yet to be determined as we have to wrestle with 13 travelers calendars in addition to getting our YOUTH vaccinated in time for whatever the new date will be. While we are deeply bummed, we also acknowledge God is in control and we will travel when it is best for us to travel. Good things are always underway with God. We will update once we set the new Holy Land Trip travel dates.

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

GRADUATION!!! With joy of all they have accomplished thus far and a tear of the closing of this season of their lives, we will celebrate our SENIORS at the outdoor worship at 8:30AM

## BE LIGHT YOUTH (continued)

on MAY 16th. You are invited to join Sarah Longoria, Karsten Lundstrom, and Spring Middleton pivot from high school to college and David Longoria pivot from college into career. We will have a small gathering after worship as well to pass along good wishes. Please contact Pastor Suzette if you have a graduation to include ([suzette@cpfumc.org](mailto:suzette@cpfumc.org)).

**UMARMY MIXED Corpus Christi Sunday, June 27 - Saturday, July 3.** ALL are welcome to come together in service. Please register at <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/3635/>. The cost for the week long immersion in faith development is only \$250 and does



include beach time. Please contact Pastor Suzette for scholarships (partial and full ones available). **DEADLINE May 31st.**

### **Calendar:**

May 9th - Happy Mother's Day - No YOUTH

May 16 - Celebrate graduating SENIORS at 8:30 worship and TACOS

May 23 - PENTECOST - campfire cookout at church NOON - yes, there will be s'mores

May 30 - Memorial Weekend No YOUTH

Senior Send Off will be first week of June.

## HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES (HCCM) THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

In January 2020, the United Methodist Women (UMW) organized their mission projects for the year. I was charged with organizing workdays at the Thrift Store. Six of us worked our first assignment on March 7 and then the COVID Pandemic arrived. This event changed many things for the country and our church.

Since the vaccine is now available, we hope to start up this vital ministry again. We donate food and money to this organization, but they also need hands-on volunteers. When we volunteered, they asked for a four-hour commitment. We discovered that standing on our feet for four hours was difficult. We might be able to share a shift from 9:00-11:00 a.m. or 12:00-1:00 p.m. for example. They need the most help on Friday and Saturday, so we are hoping to volunteer as a church once or twice a month. If you prefer to work with your church members, please contact me. If you prefer to work alone on your own schedule, please email the [thriftstore@hccm.org](mailto:thriftstore@hccm.org) or call 512-334-6464 or click [this link](#) to get more information.

The Thrift Store is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and located at 1501 Leander Drive, Building C, Leander, TX. Across from McDonalds on US-183 and Crystal Falls Pkwy in Leander.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anita Martin

512-250-0739

[anitamartin1705@gmail.com](mailto:anitamartin1705@gmail.com)



### STREAMING continued from p. 1

morning worship service. We now have two additional places to watch and participate in the Sunday morning worship service.

**YouTube** – The church has a [YouTube channel](#) which will now be carrying the Sunday morning live stream worship services. YouTube requires no account to view the live streamed service. Our YouTube channel also allows you to comment and submit prayer requests during the live stream.

**cpfumc.org** – The church website now has a [page](#) which will display the live stream service and instructions on how to view it. This page is view-only and does not (yet) provide for comments or prayer requests.

Why not give a try to one of these new live streaming worship service options some Sunday soon? The live stream starts usually around 9:50 am each Sunday morning.

See you soon in one of our new virtual church locations!

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sure we stay in touch with you. Please see the article about the improvements in this newsletter.

A Child's Haven has four summer camps this summer for preschool-age children. For more information, visit their website, [achildshavenpreschool.com](http://achildshavenpreschool.com), under the Summer Camps tab.

**Unfortunately**, no one has stepped forward yet to lead the church's **VBS program** this summer. Our church has held the same camp for several years using the "Mega Sports Camp" curriculum. We have trained volunteer staff and a complete curriculum if you wish to continue with the same camp. We just need you to come in and organize. Please contact Carolyn as soon as possible.



A big thank you to all who helped with the Trustees' workdays. As people are looking for a new church home, the physical appearance of the church is essential. It is only through your actions that the church always looks so great.

Are you finding yourself with a few spare hours each week? Please consider volunteering at Hill Country Committee Ministries thrift store. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Anita Martin.

Have you looked at the tasks of the church and told yourself, "I can do that"? Yes, you can. Right now, creativity is needed. We need you to help. There are many tasks where you can help. Please let us where you would like to volunteer.

We hope to hear from you soon,

Carolyn

Council Chair



# CPFUMC Calendar May 2021

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

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

## 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!