



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

November 2021

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

2021 Pumpkin Patch Sets Record



We were in Camelot this year for the pumpkin patch. In October we had just over 4” of rain, BUT.... it all came during two nights. And for a couple of days the wind almost blew us away, but we still sold over 1100 pumpkins. Our grand total was higher than any other year: \$12,305.04!

We could only have reached this acme of sales with the help of each of you pitching in to move the palettes in and out of the patch, unload the truck, put the tent up, the lights and this year we had Blue Grass music on the weekends, but most of all, for the daily hours it took to staff the patch. Hats off to our

PUMPKINS continued on p. 11

From the Council Chair

CPFUMC Members,

Getting back to normal. Some say that we will never return to things exactly as they were pre-pandemic, but it does not stop us from trying. The Church Council met October 18th and voted to go back to the pre-pandemic service schedule beginning November 7th.

- 8:30 First Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:30 Second Service

The change is great news for the early risers and the people who like to sleep in, back to two options. Most importantly, it is great news that our council is trying to get back to normal.

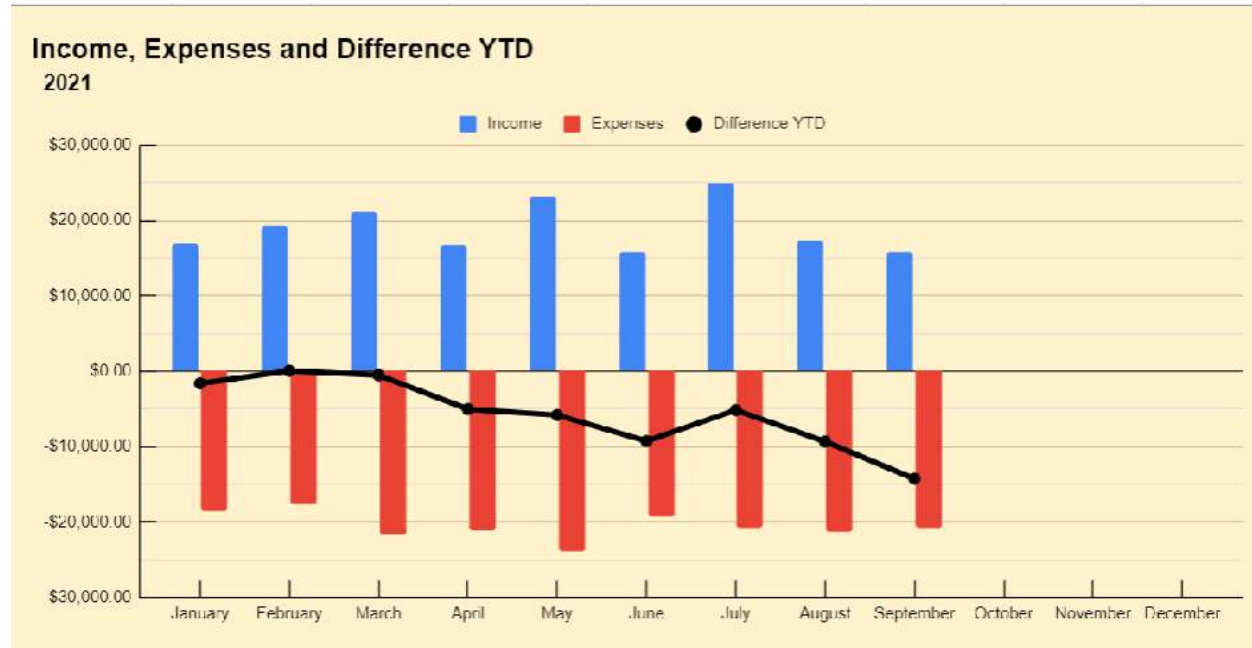
We overcame the problems COVID brought us. The church never missed weekly services. The trustees worked endlessly as we

CHAIR continued on p. 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

<u>Church Budget and Stewardship</u>	<u>p. 2</u>
<u>Jesus Rock Stars Corner</u>	<u>p. 3</u>
<u>New Service Times</u>	<u>p. 6</u>
<u>Be Light Youth News</u>	<u>p. 7</u>
<u>A Child's Haven Happenings</u>	<u>p. 9</u>
<u>Church Contacts</u>	<u>p. 11</u>
<u>This Month's Calendar</u>	<u>p. 12</u>

HELP US MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE!



We are currently experiencing a shortfall in offerings to the church's General Fund, which is the church's operating account and is used to pay all our bills. Expenses this year have unfortunately exceeded income by almost \$15,000. With our cash reserves steadily dwindling, would you consider helping us make up the difference over the last two months of the year? Any additional generosity on your part would be greatly appreciated!

CPFUMC ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS NOVEMBER 7

It's that time of the year again, where we ask you to prayerfully consider making a commitment to support the church financially in the coming year. Over the first three Sundays of November, we will be lifting up the needs, hopes, and dreams of the church and urging you to please fill out one of the blue pledge cards that enable us to plan for 2022.

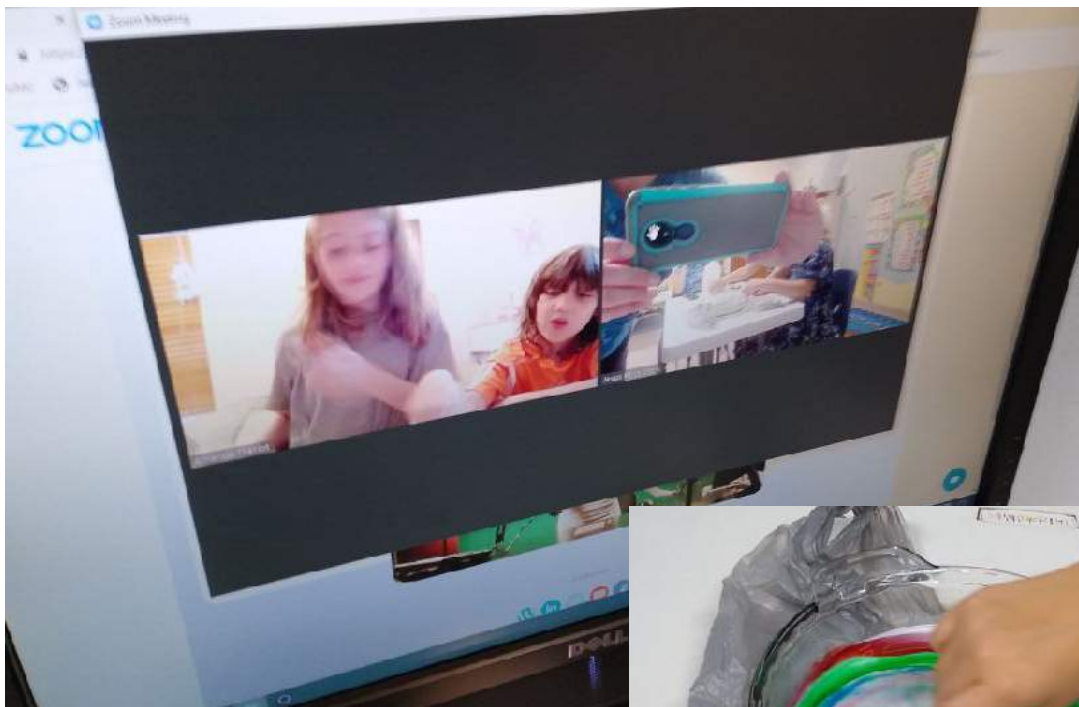


Commitment Sunday will be on November 21, when we are asking you to submit your pledge card. Let's pray for one another over these next few weeks during this important time. Each family's situation is different, but we are all encouraged to do what we can. Your giving makes it possible for us to do a whole lot of good not only for the church itself, but also for the community of Cedar Park and for the world!

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Debra Longoria

We have been learning about Moses. We remembered how Miriam took time to celebrate with a tambourine to sing and dance to thank God for his rescue by parting the Red Sea. We made milk art to celebrate and photos to share.



Currently, Carolyn is working with the children for the puppet show Christmas play. The play is about animals and each of their viewpoints when they see the baby Jesus in the barn. The children are working hard to learn their lines to be ready for the Christmas play. See email below, if interested in participating in the puppet show.

Animals at the Christmas Scene

You asked whatever happened to them? What have they been doing with themselves? Did they go on tour? Where are they now? The children have all the answers to your questions and more.



After five years on tour, the puppets return home to the Cedar Park First United Methodist Church. The last five years have been great but it is time to return to the place of their birth.

The children began play practice for their performance of **Animals at the Christmas Scene** by Tanis Harms on December 24, 2021. Be sure to mark your calendar for the answer to all your questions about the magnificent arrival of our Savior.

Bible Club:

We are continuing to learn on zoom about the Armor of God and each part in Ephesians 6:12-18. We have learned that the belt is truth wrapped around our waist, the breastplate is righteousness (right with God), shoes are for carrying the Gospel and standing strong with God. We will continue to learn more. We are making our own journals to remember the truth about God's word. We enjoy our time with our lessons, show and tell, jokes, games, and crafts.

I included a picture of the artwork of Leland, Josie and Rachel on their idea of God. We had their artwork displayed in the Narthex for two weeks, so everyone could see them.

All are welcome to Sunday school and Bible Club. Please email Amanda Theriot if you are interested in a zoom meeting. amanda.theriot@icloud.com



Student descriptions of their paintings:

Leland: god is nice god is cool god is kind you can put your hands to gather and pray god is always with you no matter what god is watching you you can't run away

Rachel: My painting is about my strong faith and trust when I see the church. The church makes me feel like I am in a growing community because people love me. I like my remodeled church because it went from disaster to the place of hope and freshness. I love the church because it's like being near God.

Josie: everyone is cheering and being happy about God. even the animals! every one from near and far are gathering to worship God! because he is watching us from above.

Poem by Josie:

God is kind God is sweet oh how it would be great to meet God is kind God is sweet God loves you God loves me God Loves everyone
God is kind God is sweet I love God He Loves me

HUGE WORSHIP CHANGES ANNOUNCED!



It's time to FALL back!!!

Just a friendly reminder to turn
your clocks back Saturday night one hour!!!

Are You Ready to FALL back? Hold Onto Your Hats This **Nov 7th!**

The Church Council approved a motion to return to the same services that were offered in early 2020 before the pandemic turned the world upside down. That's right! Sunday, November 7, 2021, CPFUMC will hold an Early Service at 8:30am, Sunday School at 9:45am and a Late Service at 10:45am. Finally, we will be getting back to our normal biorhythms for worship.

BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2021

What an amazing BE LIGHT YOUTH and A Child's Haven Board FALL FESTIVAL success! On a cool October morning, we gathered to eat tacos and prep for the fall festival. BE LIGHT YOUTH wanted to do something for our littlest disciples and their families at our connected preschool, ACH. They approached the Board of ACH about a fall festival back in September. The Board was thrilled and even came along side to partner with the youth group.

The morning was filled with fantastic costumes, hard work and loads of laughter. **Over 26 youth**, from our church and the Leander high school, alongside **10 adults**, set up tables for face painting, pumpkin decorating, surprise cups, cotton candy, treasure hunt, fishing, and a cake walk with he yummy treats donated. The cake walk was a super big hit! Karen Packard provided the iconic pumpkin reading nook for a slow down moment. And most folks began their adventure along the Trick or Treat Trail where the Bowkers, Bailey Rose (and grown ups), our newest visitors in Viking gear, the Gay family, chatted with the children and their families alongside some of the youth - including a real life SPIDERMAN posing for pictures and giving high-fives. One big hit of the festival were the SNO cones donated by Carolyn.

There were about **150 people attending** throughout the morning. We had families from the preschool, we had families from church, we had families join us from the pumpkin patch and we had families who sought us out from the neighborhood. We invited all to join the fun. Everything was free. Donations were accepted but not expected. That made a key impression on a few people. Every person I spoke with was delighted and happy with the experience of community.

For those who chose to donate, all funds were directed towards improving playground safety. A total of \$673 was donated in 3 hours. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all who donated resources, baked goodies and especially your time. God used it all to weave together a beautiful community.

Peace+
Suzette

BE LIGHT YOUTH schedule

November 2021

Friday, 11/5 Laura Daigle Concert

Sunday, 11/7 **The Truest Thing: "How We got Here"**

Sunday, 11/14 **The Truest Thing: "What Are We Meant to Be"**

Sunday, 11/21 **HANGING OF THE GREENS** and **The Truest Thing: "The Truest Human"**

Sunday, 11/28 ADVENT begins/ Hanukkah Activity/ **The Truest Thing: "Our Human Condition"**

December 2021

Sunday 12/5 **The Truest Thing: "Our Greatest Hope"**

Sunday 12/12 **The Truest Thing: "A Way Forward and God Won't Stop"**

Sunday 12/19 CHRISTMAS PARTY at Jozi's and CASTING CROWNS CONCERT

SAVE The DATES:

WINTER BEACH RETREAT December 30, 2021-Jan 2, 2022

BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2021

BE LIGHT YOUTH

HOLY LAND TRIP 2022 is scheduled to May 28- June 5, 2022. We have room for YOU!!
Trip specifics are available through this link: http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/EX22_052822T_60128_CedarParkFUMC_003_FINAL.pdf

All pilgrims must be registered by the end of November.

Church family- we ask that you start praying for our trip and for each of our pilgrims by name as we start to prepare for our travels at the end of the school year.:

1. Taylor Cleveland
2. Pam Gonzales
3. Jett Heermans
4. Jozi Heermans
5. Gigi Heermans
6. Abby Dubler
7. Shawn Dubler
8. Kevin Middleton
9. Spring Middleton
10. Mady Johnson
11. Benjamin Johnson
12. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

There are FOUR more spots open. Contact Pastor Suzette ASAP to discuss the possibility of YOU joining us on the trip of a lifetime. suzette@cpfumc.org



A Child's Haven Happenings

It has been a busy month at ACH! We started of October learning about community helpers and all the special parts that these people play in our everyday lives. We were lucky enough to have visits from both the firefighters and police. The children really enjoyed seeing Ms. Megan dress in firefighter gear and getting touch the police equipment.

The color of the month was orange. They had a wonderful time discovering all things orange in the world around them!



All of the children were thrilled to see the pumpkin patch! We have spent lots of time exploring pumpkins and learning about fall through sensory play. We are looking forward to celebrating Fall and Halloween at the end of the month at the Fall Fest!



Reanna Eddy, Director
A Child's Haven Preschool
<https://childshaven.net/>

CHAIR continued from p. 1

triumphant over the ice storm damage. We now have a beautiful new sanctuary.

Now we have a slight financial problem. The finance committee creates a budget and does their best to keep us within the budget. At this time, we received 95% pledge income, but less than 50% unpledged income. This shortfall created about a \$7,000 deficit. If you can help us with this shortfall, please mark your donation as unpledged. Whether your contributions are designated pledged or unpledged, it is a tax deduction for you.

Speaking of pledges, it is that time of year again. The finance committee is collecting pledge cards for 2022. Pledging helps the finance committee prepare the church's budget. The budget is not just for mortgage payment, utilities, salaries, building maintenance, but for everything above basic existence. Without pledges, the committee is simply guessing.

Did you ever wonder, "What if I cannot meet my pledge amount?" When considering your pledge contribution, we ask you to submit an amount you are comfortable giving. If something happens and you cannot meet the obligation, please let us know. The committee will say "Thank you for letting us know." You will not be required to go through financial counseling or anything. If you go over your pledge amount we also say, "Thank you so very much". Please help us make our budget, complete your pledge card.

PUMPKINS continued from p. 1

tireless workers. We get to keep \$4,097.58 for our General Budget and \$8,207.46 goes to the Navajo Indians of Farmington, NM.

Pictured below, day 1, starting with 1215 pumpkins. On the right is what was left near the end of our Pumpkin Patch sales.



Church Contacts

Find us online at 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

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



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carolynsmith2215@gmail.com
jodi_blount@hotmail.com
lund121@me.com

CPFUMC Calendar November 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 8pm - NO Youth -	1 4:15pm - Piano 7pm - TRUSTEES in- 7:30pm - Centering	2 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	3 3pm - Piano Lessons 7pm - Buckles &	4 4:15pm - Piano	5 4:15pm - Piano 7pm - BE LIGHT 7:30pm - Alcoholics	6
7 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 11:30am - BE LIGHT	8 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	9 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	10 3pm - Piano Lessons 7pm - Buckles &	11 4:15pm - Piano	12 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	13 10am - Sanctuary -
14 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 11:30am - BE LIGHT	15 4:15pm - Piano 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - Centering	16 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	17 3pm - Piano Lessons 7pm - Buckles &	18 9am - ACH - 9:30am - Mbr Care 4:15pm - Piano	19 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	20
21 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 11:30am - BE LIGHT 3:30pm - Worship @	22 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	23 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	24 3pm - Piano Lessons 7pm - Buckles &	25 4:15pm - Piano	26 NEWSLETTER Input 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	27
28 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 11:30am - BE LIGHT	29 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	30 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	1 3pm - Piano Lessons 7pm - Buckles &	2 4:15pm - Piano	3 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	4