



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

December 2021

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter



Sounds of Christmas Program

The staff and families of A Childs Haven invite you to join us for **Sounds of Christmas** on **December 16th** put on by all of the ACH children. Doors will open at 11:45 and the program will begin promptly at 12:00 at the church.

DONATION TREE

At our Sounds of Christmas program, we will have a donation tree set up to raise funds for our playground upgrades. Our goal is purchase a new climber for the toddler playground. If you would like to donate, there will be envelopes clipped on the tree with a variety of donation amounts (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20). We appreciate all of the support from our friends and families!

Thursday Theologian

by Pastor Suzette

On Sunday, Dec 5th, United Methodist churches all over the Austin area, will gather virtually to celebrate and submit their annual report to the District Supervisor Laura Merrill. This yearly activity is both an accountability of the nitty gritty aspect of being a church in the world from insurance reports and money numbers. It is also an invitation for the congregation to reflect on what God has been up to in the and through the life of the church. Where have we served and where are there areas of growth needed? To that end, the Administrative Council asked that my Pastor's Letter be included in the church newsletter. I truly enjoy lifting up the amazing goodness of this beautiful family of Christ. You do love big and serve greatly. What a joy to celebrate each one of you.

Peace, Pastor Suzette

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Stockings to Fill



Help HCCM fill stockings for Santa!!

Items most needed:

- Tooth Brushes Individually Packaged
- Tooth Paste
- Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Canned Meats
- Corn

See the basket in the Narthex;
Take a stocking;
Provide the item(s)

Thank YOU

Computer Systems for Sale

We will also be having two computer systems available for sale in mid-December as we are upgrading a couple of existing church computers by replacing them with new ones. The computers for sale will be complete systems with solid state drives, Intel i7 processors, 8GB of RAM and the latest software updates. They will be in perfect working order. These computer systems will include: system unit, monitor, keyboard, mouse, webcam, speakers and Wi-Fi, plus all of the cables to connect them together. Perfect for a student of home office. The system units only weigh 13 pounds each and are 11"x12"x4". More details will be forthcoming in mid-December as these units are prepped for sale.



Dell OptiPlex 790 Small Form Factor, \$169

Intel Core i7-2600 quad core)
250 GB Samsung 860 EVO solid state drive
8 GB RAM
Windows 10 Professional
Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2019
HP w1858 18" monitor, with internal speakers
Keyboard, mouse, webcam and Wi-Fi
All connecting cables

Dell OptiPlex 7010 Small Form Factor, \$189

Intel Core i7-3770 (quad core)
500 GB Crucial MX500 solid state drive
8GB RAM
Windows 10 Professional
Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016
Acer S200HQL 20" monitor
Keyboard, mouse, webcam, speakers
and Wi-Fi
All connecting cables



Contact Neil Howard, nhowardtx1@gmail.com if you are interested.

Brother Laser Printer for Sale, **\$64 BLACK FRIDAY SALE!**



Brother model HL-L2320D

This is a perfect compact size printer for a student or home office. It is compatible with Windows and Mac operating systems. The toner cartridge is brand new (100%) and the drum has 90% remaining life. The printer has been lightly used: only 13739 pages printed in 5 years, a duty cycle of only 229 pages/mo. The power cord and a USB 2.0 cable are included. This printer accepts a high-capacity (2600 pages) toner cartridge (TN660) as well as the standard-capacity (1200 pages) toner cartridge (TN630).

Specifications

B&W (Monochrome) only, duplex (double-sided) capable, 30 pages/minute max, 8MB standard memory, 2400x600 max resolution, toner save mode

250 sheet paper input capacity, 100 sheets output bin capacity. Plain, Bond, Envelopes, Labels

Paper Handling – Duplex Mode

Letter (8.5x11), Legal (8.5x14), Folio (8x13)

Paper Handling – Manual Feed

Letter (8.5x11), Legal (8.5x14), Executive, A4, A5, A6, B5, B6, Envelope, Custom Sizes 3.0-9.5w x 5.0-14L, 16-43 lbs. bond

Paper Handling – Paper Tray

Plain, Bond, Envelopes, Labels, 16-28 lbs. bond

Recommended monthly print volume: 250-2500 pages

Maximum monthly duty cycle: 10,000 pages/month

USB 2.0 connection interface

Airprint, Brother iPrint&Scan, Cortado Workplace capable

Dimensions: 14"W x 14.2"D x 7.2"H, Weight: 15 lbs

Contact Neil Howard, nhowardtx1@gmail.com, 512-720-1990 if you are interested in this printer.

BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2021

We have been up to all manner of good and fun things in the past month. We have pondered what is real and authentic about our lives and what is just the world pushing labels on us in our discussions of "The Truest Thing About You." We also hung us Sterling's Christmas lights to prep his Holiday Spirit as well as doing the Hanging of The Greens to prep our spirits towards Advent this year. We discovered many of the decorations had been impacted by the Winter Storm Freeze damage last February. We sorted and hung what remained. The Chrismon ornaments were gone as were a few other items.

Shawn Dubler came in on lunch that week and decorated the two wreaths leading into worship. Nancy Holms jazzed up the giant wreath outside and added delightful pillows to create a double warm welcome for all coming to worship. Sue Sidney arrived with Chrismon symbols, patterns and meanings as well as the stuff to make new Chrismon ornaments - including a few glue guns and a bunch of glitter! The BE LIGHT YOUTH created the wonderful new Chrismon ornaments along side YOUTH parents - Gigi and Jessyka. I just struggled with the glue gun. Afterwards we headed to Mods Pizza (thanks to our generous YOUTH meal sponsors) before going to see the new Disney movie, Encanto. It was a great day.

Looking forward:

December 5th and 12th - continue our discussions about Truest Thing About You

December 19th: CHRISTMAS PARTY and CASTING CROWNS Concert!!! Jozi is hosting the party - bring a treat to share and a \$10ish white elephant exchange gift (we have a lot of fun with these and it gets competitive in a good way). After the party, 10 of us will be attending the Casting Crowns Christmas concert. If you are interested, contact Pastor Suzette to be wait-listed in case someone is not able to go last minute.

RSVP PLEASE for these TWO things below

BE LIGHT YOUTH WINTER RETREAT - Rockport t TX

Thursday, Dec 30th meet at church at 4pm; return to church Sunday, Jan 2nd 9pm. . We are staying at Pastor Suzette's property in Rockport. There is limited space and we really need to have a head count. The cost is \$50 to cover food/activities. **Please let Pastor Suzette know if you would like to sponsor a YOUTH for a weekend stepping away from the stress of teenage life into a retreat with God.**

WINTER MISSION TRIP - La Feria, TX

MLK weekend. Leave Friday, Jan 14 after school - return Monday, Jan 17th 2022 BUILDING WHEEL CHAIR RAMPS and doing repairs at the local church which will be hosting us. We will build a ramp for a local family, worship with the church and do repairs to the church. **Please let Pastor Suzette know if you would like to sponsor a YOUTH on mission for \$50.** We have free housing/showers and access to the kitchen. Would you like to come and be our chef? We are simple and easily pleased YOUTH when it comes to food. We'd love to have you another adult take on that role and bring us a mid day treat. Please speak with Pastor Suzette if you would like to do low-key yet critical mission work while the YOUTH raise the hammers.

A Child's Haven Happenings

A Child's Haven would like say a BIG thank you to the women of CPFUMC who helped make our Annual Thanksgiving Feast a huge success. Our families enjoyed getting together to celebrate the many blessings that we have. We couldn't have done it without y'all. Your time given to ACH is very much appreciated.

We had fantastic month of November. The children learned about Thanksgiving and what it is really all about, being thankful for the people and things that we have. They also worked on their memory verse, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." Proverbs 3:5 to support their learning about the Fruit of the Spirit, faithfulness.



On December 16th at 12:00, we will be having A Songs of Christmas performance. We invite you to join us to listen to our littlest disciples sing their hearts out!



A Child's Haven wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Reanna Eddy, Director
A Child's Haven
Preschool
[https://
childshaven.net/](https://childshaven.net/)



LETTER continued from p. 1

Pastor Report Cedar Park First United Methodist Church 2021

This past year has been fruitful and productive at Cedar Park First United Methodist Church. Our technology team continued to improve and upgrade the on-line church community and worship experience. Our amazing team of Trustees, Finance and Admin Council navigated both a bathroom remodel and an epic water damage claim via the February Freeze. We began hybrid in-person and virtual worship on July 4th. We have maintained the hybrid model with all of our activities nearly- from Sunday school, prayer groups, YOUTH, and committee meetings. Our congregation members continue to express appreciation and gratitude for being able to connect despite physical restrictions.

BE LIGHT YOUTH has been vibrant throughout the pandemic challenges. We continue to live into our motto: Worship Hard, Work Hard, Play Hard. We have joined in concerts with thousands of other Christians, and other YOUTH groups in the Austin area as well as joining YOUTH from all over Texas for worship as part of mission work. Be LIGHT YOUTH led the Easter Sunrise worship as we confirmed three youth into the church. Our mission work is a crucial aspect of our YOUTH identity. We usually have two mission tasks each month if not more, including building a picnic table for St Luke UMC, building outdoor class for A Child's Haven preschool, painting the iconic rainbow bridge for the same preschool and completing the mural for Montopolis Community Friendship Center, UMARMY mission week in Corpus Christi. BE LIGHT YOUTH created new traditions such as Easter Bunny Ring and Run for our elementary families, and a Fall Festival which brought together not only the church and preschool but students from Leander ISD and families from the surrounding communities. And play is a part of all our worship and work in addition to strawberry picking, Cheesy Valentine's zoom party and stay-at-home gnome art party, outdoor Christmas party with gingerbread house decorating, Senior Send off and Spring Break mission/play day where hard work was followed by a trip to the zoo and a private movie screening.

Pastoral care has been crucial as we navigate long-term collective pandemic trauma. Many more hours spent in prayer, calls, home visits, and meetings over coffee or ice cream to help people process and invite God into the conversation. I offered the closing blessing for the UMW Montopolis Friendship Community Center. I have also continued volunteering with Kairos Prison Ministry as able with restrictions and at Texas State United Campus Ministry as well as for racial justice through US Christian Leadership Organization.

Together, we continue to grow in Christ, moment by moment, living out our faith journey together by the grace of God.

Peace+

Pastor Suzette Thorpe Johnson
November 13, 2021

CHURCH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD DECEMBER 5

Every year Cedar Park First UMC gathers for a meeting with our District Superintendent to approve reports and elect leaders for the coming year. This year's Church Conference will be held in online via Zoom on Sunday, December 5 at 4pm. Other local United Methodist churches will also be present for this combined Cluster Conference. If you are interested in attending, email Pastor Peter for the link.

One of the important duties of the Church Conference is to elect leaders for the coming year. Here is the list of leaders being proposed:

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carolyn Smith (Lay Leader/CC Chair)
Meg McClintock (Council Secretary)
Peter Castles (Pastor)
Jane Hilton (Financial Secretary)
Neil Howard (LAN Administrator)
Steve Howard (Finance Chair)
Ron King (Financial Secretary)
Sergio Longoria (Trustees Chair)
Anita Martin (UMW representative)
Karen Packard (SPR Chair)
Suzette Thorpe Johnson (Pastor)

NOMINATIONS

Peter Castles (Pastor, Chair)
Carolyn Smith (Lay Leader)
Nancy Holmes – 2022
Jane Hilton – 2023
Karen Bowker – 2024

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Carolyn Smith (Lay Leader)
Pauline Eng – 2022
Karen Packard – 2023 (Chair)
Jill Lundstrom – 2023
Bob Bowker – 2024
Meg McClintock – 2024

FINANCE

Steve Howard (Chair)
Martin Goodman
Jane Hilton (Financial Secretary)
Ron King (Financial Secretary)
Sergio Longoria (Trustees Chair)
Karen Packard (SPR Chair)
Carolyn Smith (Council Chair)

A

LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL

CONFERENCE

Sergio Longoria
Karen Packard
Carolyn Smith (alternate)

TRUSTEES

Sergio Longoria – 2022 (Chair)
David Gibbs – 2023
Dan McNichol – 2023
Sheryl McNichol – 2024
Carolyn Smith – 2024
Jorge Soto – 2024
Clunie Van Rensburg – 2024
Miranda Williams – 2024

ENDOWMENT

Peter Castles (Pastor)
Steve Howard (Finance Chair)
Sergio Longoria (Trustees Chair)
Carolyn Smith (Council Chair)
Martha Orr – 2022
Pam Clinch – 2023
Richard Inzunza – 2024

MEMORIALS

Clara Crank
Sue Sidney

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sue Sidney

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY

MINISTRIES DELEGATE

Bob Bowker

A CHILD'S HAVEN

PRESCHOOL BOARD

Reanna Eddy (director)
Yaheli Benitez (teacher)
Malory Blanton (parent)
Marla Ferguson (teacher)
Hilary Williams (parent)
Karen Packard (church)
Sue Sidney (church)
Suzette Thorpe Johnson (Pastor)

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

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!



CPFUMC Calendar December 2021

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

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