



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

January 2022

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Update on Hill Country Community Ministries

Submitted by Bob Bowker

CPFUMC donations through 12/21/2021

Food / Health Care items
4,569 pounds

Monetary Donations
\$4,364.00



I have only been our representative for a few years and because of Covid 19 last year we can certainly not compare last year to this. However, in my humble opinion I think our congregation did OUTSTANDING.

There are many people who were able to eat better and more fully than they would have without your donations. Additionally, they were also better able to maintain their hygiene for the same reasons.

I am so proud to be able to represent such a giving and loving congregation.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROJECT

I am sure that most, if not all of you are aware of the Christmas tree in the Narthex with all of the stocking cut outs dangling from the branches. This is a project developed y several ladies from our congregation; Sue Sidney, Karen Bowker, Anita Martin, Pauline Eng, Laurel Fabian, Karen Packard, and Karen Goodman.

The idea was to collect and provide to HCCM a wide variety of toiletry items to assure the clients of HCCM has the e essay products to maintain good hygiene for themselves and their families. Identify below are the results of what YOU provided :

- 110 individually wrapped toothbrushes
- 104 tubes of toothpaste
- 25 bottles of shampoo
- 4 bottles of dish soap
- 33 and of meat
- 32 cans of corn

WOW! CPFUMC YOU REALLY STEPPED UP
THANK YOU

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy New Year to all.

The puppet show play was a success and the children worked hard to put on a great performance with an interesting lesson. We thank Carolyn, the children, and the parents for teamwork in doing this in person and virtually, on zoom. It was not an easy task but ended well. I hope you were able to watch the program either on Facebook or Utube.

We will start Sunday School on Jan. 16th at 9:45 a.m. We will review the life of Moses and how God was with him, Aaron, and the Israelites in their amazing story of escape from Pharoah in Egypt. We will learn about the Ten Commandments and move our way to see how Joshua works with the spies hiding in Jericho. We will see the amazing power of God to crush walls when people obey and listen to instructions carefully.

We are excited about a new year and fresh opportunities to learn, so we will be both in person and virtual on zoom for now. If you are interested in joining, please email Amanda Theriot and she will send you a zoom link for the class. amanda.theriot@icloud.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLUB:

We will start the club on Jan. 12th at 7 p.m. and if you are interested email Amanda with the above email address.

We will review the Armor of God in Eph. 6. We learned that truth is the belt around us. The breastplate of righteousness is being right with God. The shoes are the peace we have in standing firm and spreading the good news of Jesus. The shield of faith is our protection from the enemy and a way to describe our faith going before us. We are to put on the helmet of salvation to remind ourselves that we are saved when we believe and trust in Jesus and salvation if a gift that can't be taken away. We use the sword of the spirit, which is God's word to us, which can feel like a sword to poke us when we do wrong. We do wrong because we are learning, but the Bible helps us to learn to do good and help others. Prayer is the action that puts all the armor together as we stay alert and determined to follow God and obey his commands. Overall, we learned that armor is our protection from the devil that wants to frustrate and make our lives terrible. We thank God for his protection, love and will make a habit to put on our armor each day.

Our new topic, Fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22 will show us how we can be more like Jesus in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Life is difficult and we will discuss how each fruit will help us grow in our faith.

We play games, work on our mini notebooks with activities, do crafts, have show and tell and just have some fun.

We hope you will join us for fun in learning about the Bible and having friendships. All are welcome!

Happy 2022 and God Bless,

Debra Longoria

BE LIGHT YOUTH

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 Garden Project

We are so excited that Pastor Suzette's daughter, Madeleine, has taken on our school garden as her Silver Star project for Girl Scouts. She can use our help with prepping the land and assembling the garden.

Family work days will be:

Saturday, January 22 at 9:00 am

Saturday February 12 at 9:00 am

One more date to be announced

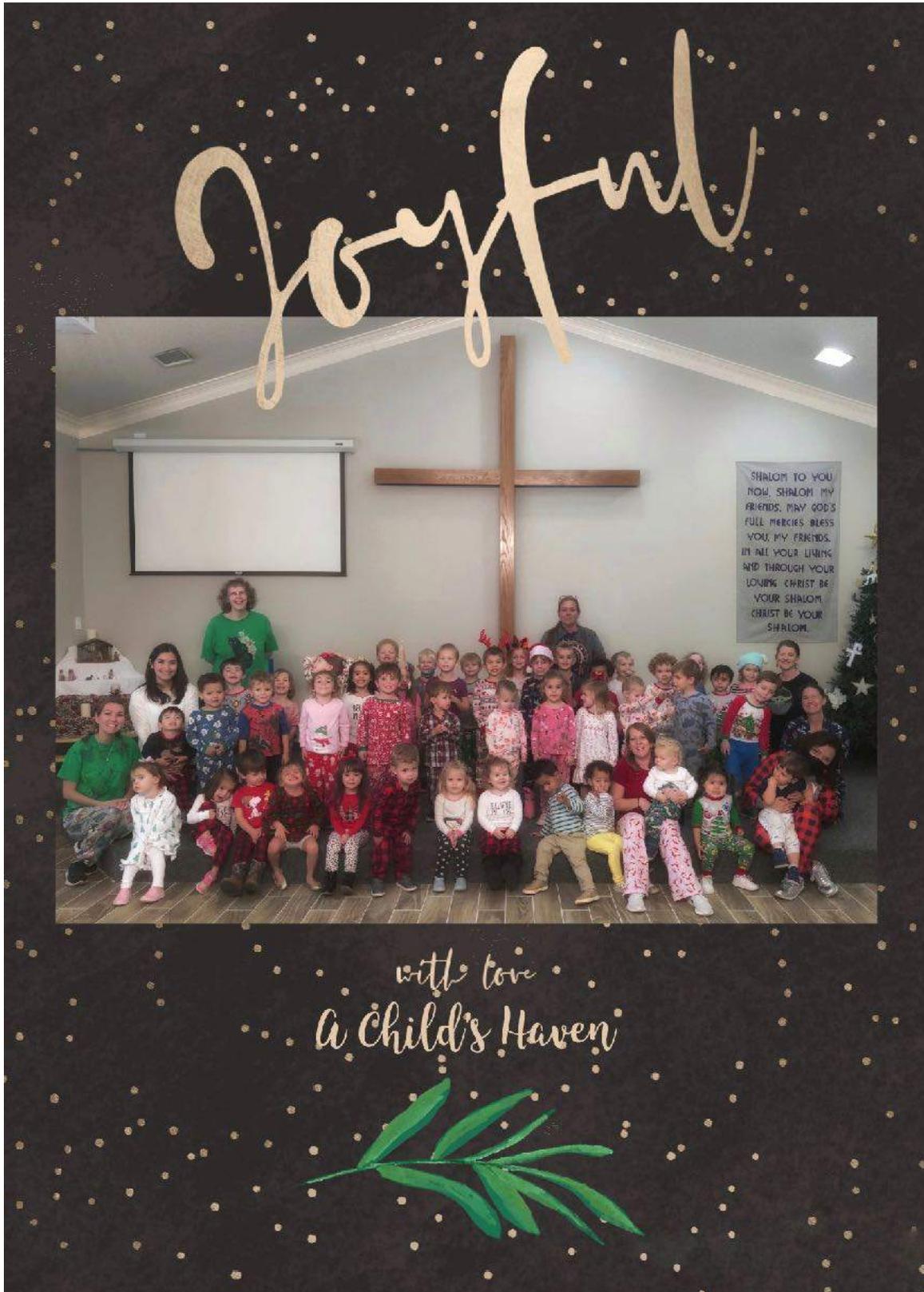
Madeleine's goal is to have the garden completed for spring planting.

Also Girl Scout related: **Cookie Season starts February 19th.** Last year, Mady collected donations for our healthcare heroes. We had thought that would be a one-time thing but alas, our healthcare providers are still working tirelessly on the frontline of the COVID pandemic with the fast spreading OMICRON. If you would like to say thank you to our dedicated medical teams, please contribute via check with Girl Scout in memo or on-line with the one time memo of Girl Scouts as well. I cannot express ow much good came from letting our hospital staff know we are thankful for their day-in-day-out service to the community. Any questions- contact Pastor Suzette suzette@cpfumc.org



A Child's Haven Happenings

A Child's Haven wishes you and all CPFUMC church members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



ANIMALS AT THE CHRISTMAS SCENE

The children were excited for their Christmas Eve production of ANIMALS AT THE CHRISTMAS SCENE, written by Tanis Harms of church-skits.com. The show was recorded through our Zoom sessions.



Cast:	Lamb and Mouse	Josie
	Cow	Leland
	Cat	Angelique
	Owl	Rachel
	Boy Donkey and Girl Donkey	Elizabeth
	Chicken	James
	Nativity Designer	Wyatt

Crew: Ms. Carolyn, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Laurel, Ms. Corrie, Mr. Clunie and Ms. Debra

Have you ever wondered what the animals thought at the time of Jesus' birth?
You can now watch the production on YouTube.
We wish you a blessed new year.



An update on our childcare center...

We have officially submitted our childcare application for our new center and we expect to hear back from Childcare Licensing in mid-January. This application took several months to complete, and submitting it is a BIG step in the process of reopening our childcare center. We want to thank everyone at Leander ISD for assisting us in the process. We are one step closer to welcoming new families to Acts of Love!

Each month, we share new ways you can support ACTS of Love.

- **PRAY...** We have officially submitted our application to childcare licensing. Please join us in praying for our final inspections; that God would guide Marta as she leads the program; and that He would provide all the resources needed for reopening our childcare center.
- **ACT...** Are you interested in volunteering at our childcare center? We are now accepting volunteer applications. Go here to find an application: <http://actsofloveceec.com/volunteers/>
- **GIVE...** Help us furnish our new facility by shopping our Amazon Wish List.



Our mailing address is:

ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center
PO Box 216



Stockings Filled !!

Items collected:

110 Tooth Brushes
104 Tooth Paste
25 Shampoo
4 Dish Soap
33 Canned Meats
32+ Corn
11 Soap

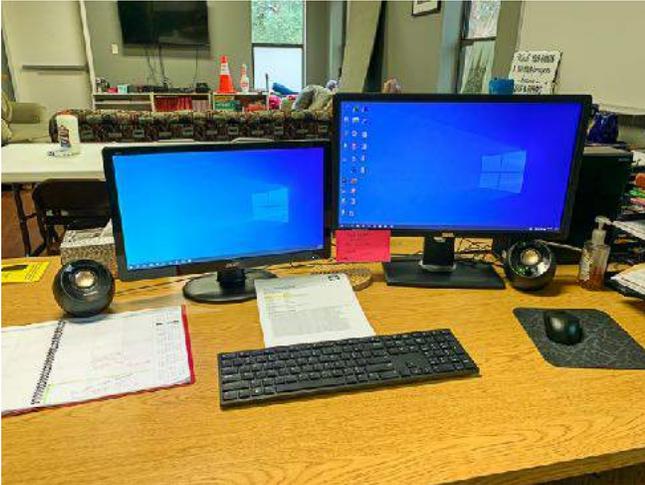
And Many Many miscellaneous items

Thank YOU

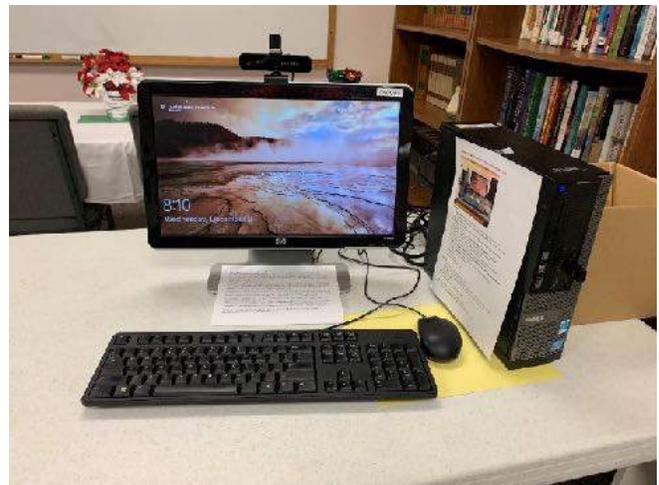
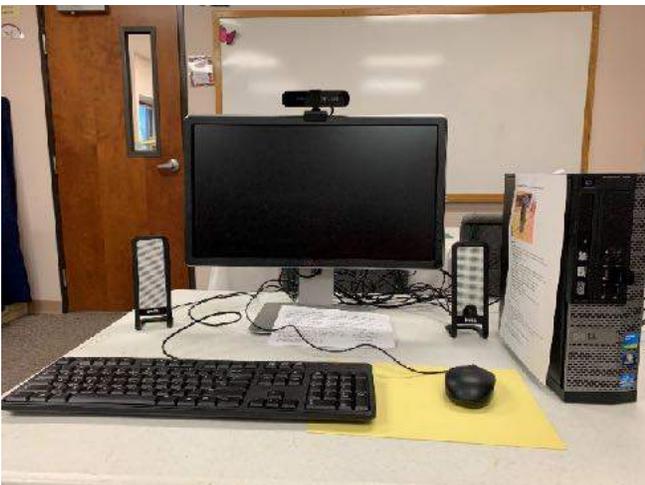
Two New Church Computers

Submitted by Neil Howard

Stewardship of the technology that we use is a part of our ministry at CPFUMC. In late November, we purchased two new desktop computers to replace older computers. Pastor Suzette got one of them and the finance committee got the other one. The new computers are [Dell OptiPlex 7090 small form factor](#) desktop computers with Intel i7-10700 processors, 16 GB of RAM and 512 GB NVMe storage disks. The computers will run Windows 11 later.



Since these new computers replace older computers at the church, we cascaded these machines into the “fleet” and sold off two of the oldest computers which were configured into complete computer systems using a couple of spare donated monitors, Wi-Fi and surplus keyboards and mice. We also added donated speakers and webcams to make them complete systems capable of videoconferencing via Zoom. These complete systems were purchased by church members who got some great hardware at a very reasonable price!



We took advantage of Dell’s Cyber Monday sale to purchase the new machines. Total cost of the new equipment was \$2198. Considering the cost recovery of the two computer systems we sold, the net cost of the new machines was \$920 each. The Trustees had previously approved this purchase using the Technology Fund, which is separate from our general operating budget.

VBS: IT IS TIME!

It is time to bring VBS back to the children, the community, and our church. We need to reach out to everyone to say, "We are here and ready to explore God's words with you."

There are many phases of the event that need your help, small or large. You will make a difference in our success.

Please contact:

Carolyn Smith carolynsmith2215@gmail.com

Amanda Theriot amanda.theriot@icloud.com

Debra Longoria longoria1@gmx.com

VBS is open to all elementary-age children.



Computer for Sale: Dell OptiPlex 7010 Small Form Factor, \$249 Computer, keyboard, mouse, MS Office, WP Office. No monitor. If interested, contact Neil Howard for details, nhowardtx1@gmail.com

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!

peter@cpfumc.org

suzette@cpfumc.org

carolynsmith2215@gmail.com

jodi_blount@hotmail.com

lund121@me.com



CPFUMC Calendar January 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - NO YOUTH @	27 7:30pm - Centering	28 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl	29 7pm - Buckles &	30 BE LIGHT YOUTH WINTER RETREAT	31	1
2 BE LIGHT YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person	3 4:15pm - Piano 7pm - TRUSTEES in- 7:30pm - Centering	4 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano	5 7pm - Buckles &	6 Tree Pruning - 3:30pm - Piano	7 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	8
9 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	10 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	11 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano	12 7pm - Buckles &	13 3:30pm - Piano	14 BE LIGHT YOUTH La Feria Mission Trip 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	15
16 BE LIGHT YOUTH La Feria Mission Trip 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 3:30pm - Worship @	17 4:15pm - Piano 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - Centering	18 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano	19 7pm - Buckles &	20 9:30am - Mbr Care 3:30pm - Piano	21 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	22 10am - PEO Meeting
23 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	24 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	25 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano	26 7pm - Buckles &	27 3:30pm - Piano	28 NEWSLETTER Input 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	29
30 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	31 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	1 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano	2 7pm - Buckles &	3 3:30pm - Piano	4 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	5