



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

February 2022

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter



acts of LOVE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

<http://actsoflovecec.com/>

Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 512-528-9948

Physical Address: 301-D S. West Drive,
Leander, Texas 78641

Mailing Address: PO Box 216 Leander, Texas
78646

**For more information about ACTS of Love,
please e-mail us at
office@actsoflovecec.com**

At ACTS of Love, we believe all teen parents should have the opportunity to graduate from high school. We serve teen parents and their families by offering free, high quality, Christ-centered early childhood education, which provides teen parents with the opportunity to return to high school and graduate; a nurturing place for their children to grow, learn, and develop; and a chance for their family to build a positive foundation for the future.

Meet Marta Santos, the new Early Childhood Director

Marta joined Acts of Love in 2019, where she continues to make a difference, not only for the children but also for families, for whom she is a mentor. Marta has spent 5 years in the area of Early Childhood Development, creating a safe, robust and an inclusive environment for all children while building sustainable relationships with families and key stakeholders in Childhood Development.

Marta graduated with honors from the prestigious Ibero Americana University, where she obtained a degree in Business Management. Over the years, Marta has owned several successful business ventures which she managed with a singular vision, of providing the best

[ACTS continued on p. 6](#)

<u>Jesus' Rockstars</u>	<u>p. 2</u>
<u>BE LIGHT YOUTH NEWS</u>	<u>p. 3</u>
<u>A Child's Haven Happenings</u>	<u>p. 4</u>
<u>2022 Church Budget</u>	<u>p. 5</u>
<u>VBS</u>	<u>p. 6</u>
<u>Church Contacts</u>	<u>p. 6</u>
<u>This Month's Calendar</u>	<u>p. 7</u>

JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children finished working hard on the puppet show in Dec. for the play. They used animals to share their perspective on how they saw the baby Jesus. They learned how to work as a team and did a great job with Ms. Carolyn leading them in something completely different. Having a puppet show play rehearsals both in person and online and then recording each act was no easy task and we applaud her efforts. Thank you, Carolyn for all you do for us!

Currently, we did a big review of Moses' life and how God showed his power over all the Egyptian gods and magicians and let the Israelites free. We are back both in person and virtual for Sunday school with Moses on his new adventure of preparing the people for the 10 Commandments and we will move forward each Sun.

We are excited about the new lessons on Moses and moving into Joshua so the children can learn about faith, trust, and obeying God. We meet in person or via zoom.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLUB

The Bible Club on Wed. via zoom is an opportunity for children to have some time to study the Bible, ask questions, learn how to pray, and have some fun as a group. The club is organized into two parts. The first part is to help children feel comfortable praying out loud in a group and our Bible lesson. The second part includes crafts, science experiments, games, telling jokes, sharing good things, doing silly acts, show-and-tell and guest speakers talking about a specific topic.

The children like to learn and have fun as a group. I feel it's important for the children to be able to have time and space to share their thoughts and to be silly.

We will start up again on Feb. 9th from 7 p.m.- 8 p.m. We will have our first lesson on the fruits of the spirit in Gal. 5:22 and talk about each subject starting with what love and joy mean. We will have a Valentine's party to celebrate God's love to us and how we can share it to others. We will have a treat, do an art project, tell jokes, and play a game. We hope you can join us. Feb. 23 would be a second club meeting to continue with the fruit of the spirit.

Kindergarten through 5th grade children are welcome to both Sun. school and Bible Club. Please contact Amanda at her email, amanda.theriot@icloud.com so she can send you two separate links. God bless!

Debra Longoria

BE LIGHT YOUTH

Greetings friends -

Already February is here . Have some fabulous connect and hang-time planned. Come. spend some time in a safe space where you can just be - be loved - be playful- be you authentically. No judgment. No pressure. Check out what's coming up:

January

The Chosen series began with episode 1 on 1/30. In light of our upcoming trip to the Holy Land, we will be watching and discussing the series: The Chosen. It is a fictionalized imagining of the back stories of the lives surrounding Jesus and of Jesus too of course. It will help us paint a picture of the places we will travel in June. If not on the trip, you can still join in the fun and conversation of what might have been 2,000 years ago. **NOTE we fly to Israel in 119 DAYS !!!!!!! (get those boosters and scan/submit your passports and vaccine cards)**

February

Sun 2/6: Noon lunch and The Chosen #2 with discussion;

SATURDAY 2/12 10- noon ish - ACH Garden mission project - build the raised beds for the preschool outdoor Butterfly Classroom - food and hot drinks provided.

Sun 2/13 8-9pm via Zoom: Valentine's Day Special Chopped Edition. Pick up sealed boxes with mystery ingredients. At 8pm, log onto Zoom from your family kitchen, and at the precise moment, we will unseal our boxes, take out the ingredients, then have 30 minutes to whip up a Valentine's Day treat. Photos of final project must be texted to Pastor Suzette. Braggin' rights as well as a \$10 Starbucks gift card up for the victor! **I MUST HAVE TOTAL PERSONS IN HOUSE PLAYING (parents and siblings can compete) by FEBRUARY 8th** in order to buy supplies for the Valentine's Day Special Chopped Edition!!!

MONDAY FEB 1/21 NO School - BE LIGHT YOUTH are going to visit King Ramses at the Houston Museum of Science!!! Here is the link:

<https://www.hmns.org/exhibits/special-exhibitions/ramses-the-great-and-the-gold-of-the-pharaohs/>

As I have a membership to the museum, first 10 people are free to the general museum and **ONLY \$20** (a \$50 savings per person!) to see the Egyptian King Ramses Exhibit. PLEASE email me:

pastorsuzette@cpfumc.org by **Sunday, FEBRUARY 6th if and how many from your house are going.** We will meet at the church at am. Drive to Houston. Eat lunch then head into the museum. We will tour the special exhibit and as much of the rest of the museum as time permits.

Have dinner near the museum then head across the Houston metropolis after the worst of rush hour is over. Return to church between 9:30-10pm. Cost total" \$20 for ticket, then cash for lunch/dinner and any purchases at the museum store. AGAIN, I must have numbers before I purchase tickets on Mon. Feb 7th. And YES YOU CAN INVITE YOUR FRIENDS - always...

Sun 2/27 at noon lunch and The Chosen #3 with discussion

March

Sun 3/6: at noon lunch and The Chosen #4 with discussion

FRIDAY 3/11- Sun 3/13 TENTATIVE RESCHEDULED MISSION TRIP to La Feria. Please let me know if you can join the trip on these dates, the first weekend of Spring Break

Sun 3/20 NO YOUTH

Sun 3/27 noon lunch and The Chosen #5 with discussion

Looking down the road - SAVE the DATES

Sun April 17th: EASTER YOUTH Sunrise service and Easter Bunny Ring and Run

Sat April 30 MID WINTERS: DISTRICT WIDE Youth Day -

Sat May 28 FLY TO ISRAEL in 119 DAYS from now!!!!!! Getting real y'all

Sun 6/26 - Thur 6/30 UMARMY near Waco - join YOUTH from all over Texas improving the lives of the community through service and fun.

Peace+
Suzette

A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Reanna Eddy

A Child's Haven has had lots of exciting things going on! We had our first family work day for The Butterfly Classroom, a garden and outdoor learning space, where ACH families worked side-by-side with CPFUMC families. It was a wonderful day full lots of hard work and laughter. I am looking forward to round two on February 12th when we will be building and installing the garden beds.

We also had turf and a new playscape installed on our toddler playground. The kids were overjoyed to run around on the newly designed space. I will try to have some pictures for y'all in the weekly happenings of those sweet smiles.

I want to thank everyone who has donated their money, time, skills, or who has lifted us up in prayers this school year. There is just no way that we could have done all of these amazing things without y'all! We hope that you too enjoy these upgrades to the grounds as we continue to grow A Child's Haven and spread God's love with our littlest disciples.

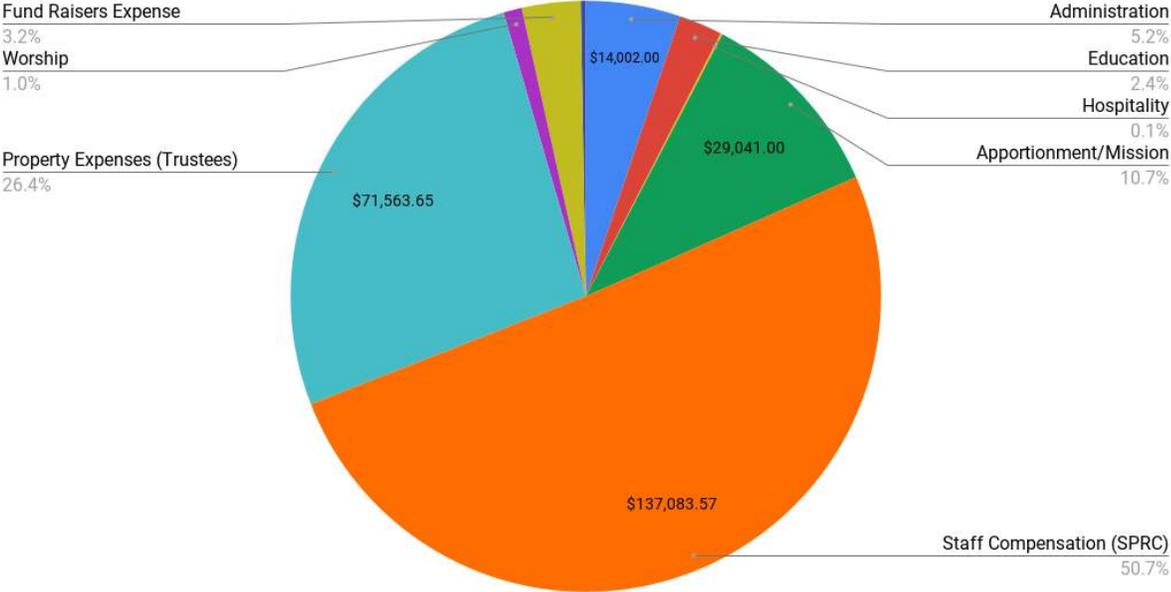


Church Council Adopts 2022 Budget

At its January 2022 meeting the Church Council adopted the Church budget for 2022. The accompanying pie charts show 2022 expenses anticipated for the year and 2022 estimated income. Our Church largely relies on individual contributions to support the Church's spending. And Church expenditures go largely to support our staff and building related expenses. In addition, we continue to provide substantial support to missions, including United Methodist Church apportionments. The adopted budget is a little over \$4,000 higher than the 2021 adopted budget.

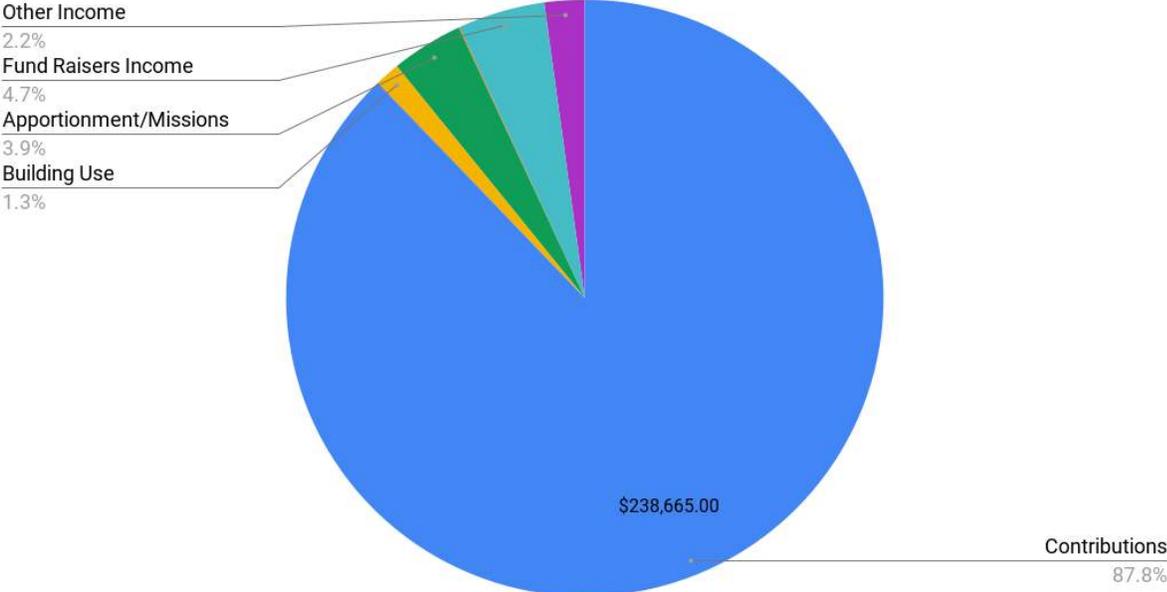
2022 Budget - Expenses

Total Budget = \$270,588



2022 Budget - Income

Total Budget = \$271,824



ACTS continued from p. 1

experience to her clients. She worked for several national and international firms, before finding her true passion, working with children and helping people and communities in need. Marta continues to seek excellence in both her professional and educational pursuits, she recently obtained her CDA (Child Development Associate) Certification and is a Certified Life Coach.

VALENTINE'S COLLECTION:

As the new Childcare Center at 301-D S. West Drive, Leander prepares to open we would like to show our support and appreciation by making a special Valentine's Day Collection:

Select a Heart from the Basket and bring the item during February to be delivered to the AoL Center in Leander

- Unopened baby food and formula
- Unopened diapers and wipes (all sizes)
- Clear Vinyl Exam Gloves-Medium | 3 Mil | Medical-Disposable | Powder-Free Latex-Free
- Monetary Donation (On website OR Check made out to AoL OR Cash

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.



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 February 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	31 4:15pm - Piano 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - Centering	1 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	2 7pm - Buckles &	3 4:15pm - Piano	4 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	5
6 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	7 4:15pm - Piano 7pm - TRUSTEES in- 7:30pm - Centering	8 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	9 7pm - Buckles &	10 10am - Methodist 4:15pm - Piano	11 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	12
13 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	14 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	15 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 4:45pm - Piano 5:30pm - Prayer 7:30pm - AA Men's	16 9:30am - Mbrshp, 6:30pm - Buckle & 7pm - Buckles &	17 10am - Methodist 4:15pm - Piano	18 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	19 10am - PEO Meeting
20 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 3:30pm - Worship @ 8pm - Youth @	21 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	22 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	23 7pm - Buckles &	24 10am - Methodist 4:15pm - Piano	25 NEWSLETTER Input 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	26
27 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in- 10:45am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	28 4:15pm - Piano 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - Centering	1 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 4:45pm - Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	LENT 7pm - Ash 7pm - Buckles &	3 10am - Methodist 4:15pm - Piano	4 4:15pm - Piano 7:30pm - Alcoholics	5