



A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,

April 2022

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Live From Cedar Park!

Live Streaming at CPFUMC is Two Years Old

It may seem quite routine today, but it is amazing to realize that it was only 2 years ago that we broadcast our first live streamed worship service from Cedar Park First UMC. It was March 22, 2020 that our first ever live streamed worship service was broadcast. Pastors Peter and Suzette with Jodi Blount were assisted by Neil and Jane Howard and an iPhone on a tripod. Jane ran the slides on our rolling cart TV monitor and Neil was the cameraman.



We actually had a [dry run the day before](#) so that we could figure out the best places to stand and soon realized how close we needed to be to the iPhone for decent sound. This was one week before we started using

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CPFUMC LIBRARY UPDATE

Submitted by Debra Longoria

We hope that all the church members will use the resources in the conference room, known as the LIBRARY. You are free to browse through the wonderful collection of books, dvd's, cd's, and Bibles. There are interesting studies on dvd's to check out.



There are books with subjects such as: Theology, Bible commentaries, Bible handbooks, religion, Bible studies, Christian

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CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK WITH US!

At the end of the forty-day season we call Lent, we arrive at Holy Week. On Sunday, April 10, we will celebrate Palm Sunday of our Lord's Passion, where we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and hear again the story of his betrayal, trial, crucifixion and death from the gospel of Luke. Later that week, we will celebrate the "Three Days," or in Latin, the "Triduum." These three days are our most holy days. They make up our most important single celebration of the year.

The three days of the Triduum are counted using the Jewish way of keeping time: from sunset to sunset. So, the first day of the Triduum is from sunset on Maundy Thursday (April 14) until sunset on Good Friday (April 15). The second day is from sunset on Good Friday until sunset on Holy Saturday (April 16). The third day is from sunset Holy Saturday to sunset Easter Sunday (April 17).

Does this make any difference—or is it only good religious trivia? Here's the difference that it makes. We tend to think of the Three Days as commemorating separate, distinct events: On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper, on Good Friday we recall the passion, and on Easter Sunday the resurrection. But in our liturgy, the church thinks about the Last Supper not as the last thing that happened on Maundy Thursday, but as the *first* thing to happen on Good Friday. What new insights into Holy Communion do you have when you think of it as the first act of Christ's passion? What new understanding of Sabbath—the day of rest—do you have when you reflect on the fact that Jesus slept in death from sunset Friday and all through the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday? And how might we spend our Saturday nights if we understood them to truly be the beginning of Sunday—not just during the Three Days, but year-round?

These Three Days are a single moment. We walk (or crawl) into this moment on Thursday night and walk (or dance) out on Easter day. In between, there's a flood of stories and songs, fasting and feasting. The Three Days are time out of time, the center of our year and of our life.

We hope to see you on all Three Days this year!



Calendar of events:

Palm Sunday of our Lord's Passion, April 10 – worship services at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

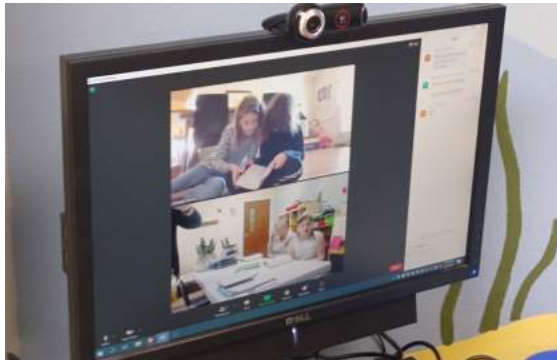
Maundy Thursday, April 14 – worship service at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15 – worship service at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17 – worship services at 7, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.; Easter egg hunt at 9:45 a.m.

JESUS' ROCK STARS

In March we've been learning about the Ten Commandments and how to put them into our daily lives. It's not easy to obey God. We learned that when we make a mistake, we can say we are sorry to God and then stop doing what is wrong. We read about how the people worshipped a golden calf and that made God very angry. Even Moses threw the two tablets from the mountain. He was furious with the people for not loving and worshipping God, but an idol.



Obedying is practicing to do good each day and that is difficult for all of us. We do our best to love God and obey his commandments. They are not suggestions but commands for us to follow.

We learned about the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. God wanted to be with the people, so he created the first church for the people to worship. We made the following: stained glass windows, decorated the Tabernacle with fabrics and ribbons, made incense with buttons and jingle bells, burned candles and used dish soap with water to fill eye droppers to fill the bowls with oil. The children gained a lot of insight on what was going on and why it was so important. We found the Ark of the Covenant box and put the 10 Commandments inside for safe keeping.

For April, we will start a short unit on Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection and what that means for us. We will listen to music from that period to gain some insight on the traditions and celebrations they had. We will read a "reader's theater" to also learn about what Jesus meant by eternal life.

Happy Easter to all and the children will be excited about the egg hunt on Easter morning. We meet for Sun. school both virtually and in-person.

Bible Club:

We are continuing a study on the Armor of God, our Bible verses, using our small notebooks to learn more about Jesus. We have activities that we're working on each time. We been playing Bible bingo and we take turns being the caller. We're going to try our first virtual board game at our next meeting.

We meet twice a month on Wed. on zoom.

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 -



Fabulous 48 Hour Mission Trip had us doing repairs at the La Feria UM church, building a wheel chair ramp for Erma in a single afternoon, followed by bowling with the La Feria YOUTH group and ended with worship on Sunday morning. Our YOUTH stepped up and led with using power tools and assembling the frames. They were also wonderful with making friends with the YOUTH group. The represented Cedar Park First UMC fantastically.

Next MISSION TRIP - UMARMY June 26-July 1st Please contact Pastor Suzette (Suzette@cpfumc.org) to register.

The Butterfly classroom is nearly finished. Mady has led many mission work days. The garden beds are built, filled with soil, a number of plants, and now seeds planted by the children at A Child's Haven. There will be a dedication ceremony in late April.

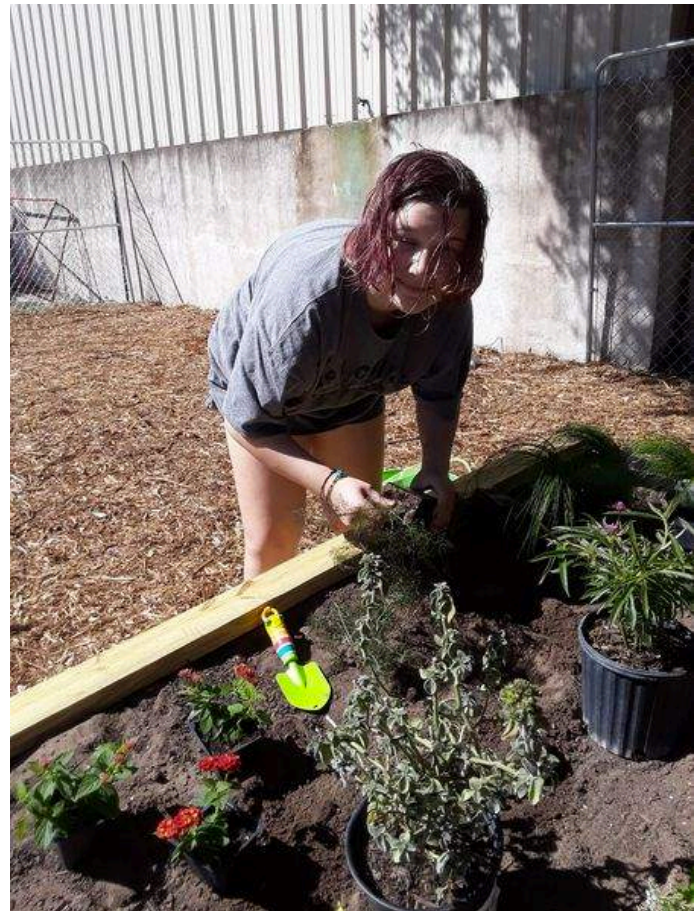
Calendar

Sunday, 4/3 - Finish the Butterfly classroom

Sunday, 4/10 - prep for Easter - fill eggs, practice lines for worship

Sunday, 4/17 HAPPY EASTER!! Youth lead Sunrise worship, help with church egg hunt, and then do the Easter Bunny Ring and Run

Sunday 4/24- Taste of Holy Land



A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Reanna Eddy

Spring as finally arrived! We have been enjoying the warmer days and spending lots of our time outdoors. We are looking forward to watching our plants grow in the garden and can't wait to taste the vegetables.

This month we learned about gentleness and how to show this to our friends, just like Jesus did. We talked about Zacchaeus and how Jesus showed gentleness and understanding towards him which in return, Zacchaeus decided to show this to others. Our memory verse was, "Let your gentleness be known to everyone..." Philippians 4:5



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biographies, Christian fiction, and devotionals for daily reading. There are hymnals and song books.

There are plenty of self-help books on: prayer, forgiveness, emotional healing, faith, relationships, caregiving, sickness, grieving, parenting, and dealing with stress. I currently added cookbooks and healthy eating ideas.

There are notecards, markers, thank you notes, notebooks, pens/pencils and paper.

If you want to refresh your spirit, pick a hymn to read, write a prayer, journal write, create a poem, draw, color, or just relax. Feel free to use the cd player to listen to a cd on the shelf to relax to some uplifting music. You are welcome to use the cards to write someone a thank you note or get-well card, so they know you are thinking about them.

Please note that the large bookshelf (with curtain at bottom) in the corner by the tv and window is for children's Sunday school materials and not for checkout.

We encourage you to visit the conference room to pick up a book and read. If you want to borrow resources, please sign the clipboard so we know where the materials are. Enjoy the fabulous resources and a quiet place to study or relax that our church has provided for us to learn more. All are welcome!

If you have any questions about the resources in the library, please contact us via email at longoria1@gmx.com or call 512-260-5073. God bless!



**Peter Cottontail is hopping by
Cedar Park First United Methodist Church
At 9:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 17th**

Plan to attend and bring your friends.

**It is time to dust off your Easter bonnets. Peter Cottontail is hopping
down the bunny trail bringing with him lots of joy.
Wear your best bonnet and bring your baskets.**

The image is a promotional flyer for an Easter event. It features a light blue background with a sunburst effect at the top. In the center, there is a row of seven colorful Easter eggs (green, purple, red, yellow, blue, yellow, and purple) sitting in green grass. The text is arranged in three main sections: the top section announces the event, the middle section encourages attendance, and the bottom section provides additional context and instructions. The text is bold and black, making it stand out against the light background.

Tax-Free Charitable Giving from Your IRA



Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?
Are you over 70½ years old?

If you answered “Yes” to both of these questions, then you are eligible to make tax-free charitable contributions from your IRA. Here is how it works:

If you are over 70½ years old and you have a regular IRA (not a Roth IRA), the government *requires* you to withdraw a portion of your IRA every year. It doesn't matter if you are retired or not, you still have to withdraw a certain amount. The IRS calls this amount a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can't just let your IRA investment grow indefinitely. The government wants to finally tax the tax-deferred income that you socked away during your wage-earning years. Your RMD is taxable.

However, IRS rules allow you to use a portion, or even all, of your RMD for charitable contributions tax-free. The IRS calls this tax-free charitable contribution from your IRA a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are really well-off, you can actually make tax-free charitable distributions from your IRA up to \$100,000 per year. The QCD counts toward your RMD, but **the QCD portion is tax-free** whereas the rest of your RMD is taxable. The QCD can be any amount you choose up to your entire RMD or \$100,000, whichever is less.

Going with the QCD is actually a better deal than taking the entire RMD, making a charitable contribution and then claiming an itemized deduction for the charitable deduction. This is because the QCD is never considered as income since it is sent directly from your IRA to the charitable institution. Thus, your overall income, and thus your taxable income, is lower.

You can set up a QCD to make tax-free withdrawals from your IRA on a recurring basis, for example, monthly, or in one shot every year.

You can set up QCDs for more than one charitable organization. The organization receiving your QCD must be a 501.c.3 charitable organization recognized by the IRS, for example a church like CPFUMC.

This is all described on the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-distributions-withdrawals> and in IRS Publication 590-B. Consult with your IRA holder or financial adviser to set up a QCD.



New Look for Donate Page

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Sign Up Log In Basket

2022 Pledge

Donate

Unpledged

Donate

Apportionments

Donate

Special Offering

Donate

Building Use

Donate

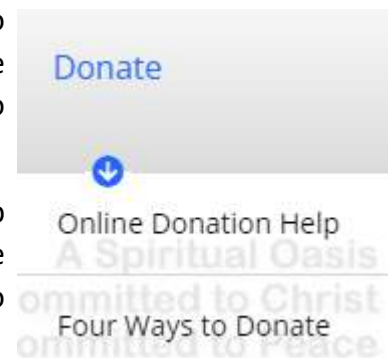
Youth Activity Payments

Donate

The [Donate page](#) on the church website has a new look (above). When you click on the Donate menu pick, this page appears. Just click on a donate button for the category of your donation and you will be asked to provide your bank or credit card information as before. You can make an account to retain your payment information for future transactions. Then you can just Log In to make a future donation once you have an account set up. Remember to write down your password somewhere! You can ask for a password reset by contacting the Finance Secretary, Ron King. We have a [one-page document on the church](#) website that explains the details. If you already have a Vanco account, your contact and payment information and any recurring transactions will continue. However, if you have not logged in to your Vanco account within the past 3 months, you will have to request a password reset to change a recurring transaction or to initiate a new one-time donation.

The older mobile app has also now been replaced by a new Vanco Mobile app. This app is available for iOS or Android devices in the Apple Store or Google Play. Vanco has a [short \(24s\) video](#) describing how to install and use the Vanco Mobile app.

The Donate link on the main menu of the church website also has a help link and a link showing [Four Ways to Give](#) to the church: online, mobile app, bank account bill payment and snail mail dropped in or mailed to our secure mailbox.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 14-16, 2022

TREASURE HUNT



Cedar Park First
United Methodist Church

A Spiritual Oasis
Committed to Christ
Committed to Peace
Committed to Service



TREASURE HUNT
VBS 2022
AB2 5055

June 14th – 16th, 2022



VOLUNTEERS

- We need your help!
- There are many areas we are looking for your assistance
 - Youth
 - Staff (must be Safe Gathering trained)
 - Setting Up on June 13th, 2022
 - Breaking Down June 17th, 2022
- Signup
 - Via the church website: www.cpfumc.org
 - Signup sheet are available



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wireless mics connected directly into the iPhone.



Our attendance records show that 62 people participated online that first Sunday via Facebook. We had to make sure that we had the correct licenses to live stream the musical content of the service. The slides were reviewed for copyrighted content to make sure that we could broadcast. We posted the video of that first live streamed service on YouTube, but we had to take it down because YouTube complained about copyright violations. Once we had all of our licenses in place, there were no more problems. The [earliest live stream service posted on YouTube](#) is from the following Sunday, March 29, 2020. Karen Goodman sang for

us that day. The Facebook video has had 411 views.

April and May 2020 were times of rapid experimentation, testing and expansion. By April 5, 2020, Palm Sunday, we had a fancy mic connected to the iPhone and provisions to connect a second mic. Portable tables were pulled up to provide a quick desk and workstation for the slide operator and Pastor Suzette monitoring the Facebook comments. Our sanctuary became a live streaming sound



studio.

By June 2020 we had expanded with a plethora of new live streaming equipment. The Church Council decided that we needed to make live streaming a permanent feature of our worship service. Hardy Porterfield and others donated lots of equipment: cameras, cables and computers. We moved all of our PA equipment (powered mixer, wireless mics) out of the bookcase in the corner of the sanctuary to portable tables at the rear of the room. You can see the early days in a [June 2020 live streaming system video tour](#). We got a \$3600 grant from our Endowment Fund and

purchased an equipment rack, power equipment, a UPS and a video switching device. ACA Electronics wired the sanctuary for a wall camera on the south wall, additional connections at the overhead projector and a network equipment panel in the northwest corner where the bookcase had been.

We formed a live streaming team in early 2020 and began designing a robust live streaming system to be housed in a sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary nave. We began constructing the sound booth on May 11, 2020 when we took Dan McNichols' pickup over to Home Depot and purchased sound booth materials. Russ Lundstrom helped Neil with the dado cuts on the red oak veneered plywood which Neil and Jane finished in their garage. By June 14, 2020 we were ready to begin assembling the sound booth in the sanctuary. The assembly crew included Neil and Jane along with Sergio Longoria, Dan McNichol with Dean and Lisa Feazell.



On June 20, 2020 we commissioned the new sound booth, about 3 months after our first live streamed worship service!

Final trim-out of the sound booth was on August 27-28, 2020 when the sound booth assumed its current form with red oak trim, swivel chairs and some carpeting on the raised floor.

Since 2020, the major milestones in the history of our live streaming effort have been (1) adding multi-casting to both Facebook and YouTube using technology from Restream.io (April 2021), (2) constructing a light bar to provide better lighting in the front of the sanctuary (July 2021)

and (3) adding a remote controlled PTZ camera on the south wall (February 2022).

Our current live streaming team includes Karen and Bob Bowker, Pam Clinch, Dean and Lisa Feazell, Todd Greer, David Gibbs, Mart Goodman, Neil Howard, Richard Inzunza, Sergio Longoria, Dan McNichol, Sue Sidney and Jorge Soto. We have a rotating schedule of service so that each person serves about once a month as either a slide show operator, camera operator or audio/video switch operator.

Join Us

We are constantly looking for new team members to join in our intrepid adventure. We offer training and encouragement for those willing to run the slides, cameras and the audio/video switch. See Neil Howard or Sergio Longoria if you are interested in serving on the Live Streaming Team.



Please Help Support Our Easter Egg Hunt



To the congregation,

We need your help to fill Peter Rabbit's bag of joy. Please consider donating individually wrapped candies. Larger items such as toys or larger candies will be distributed through numbered eggs. Place your donations in the box in the Narthex.



Students from A Child's Haven and the neighborhood children will be invited. Help us fill Peter's bag and bring lots of joy to the tiny faces of the children.



Let's all get together
for Sunday brunch!!
Sunday, May 1st
@ 9:45 a.m. between worship
services

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 April 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
LENT						
8:30am - In-Person	4:15pm - Piano	9:30am - Morning	4:30pm - Piano	10am - Methodist	11am - Women's	10am - PEO Meeting
9:45am - SS in-	6:30pm - Council	10am - Bible Study		4:15pm - Piano	7:30pm - Alcoholics	12pm - Piano
10:45am - In-Person	7:30pm - Centering	10am - HCCM				
12pm - Youth-		11am - Prayer Shawl				
		4:45pm - Piano				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
LENT						
8:30am - In-Person	3:45pm - Piano	9:30am - Morning	4:30pm - Piano	10am - Methodist	11am - Women's	12pm - Piano
9:45am - SS in-	7pm - TRUSTEES in-	10am - Bible Study		4:15pm - Piano	7:30pm - Alcoholics	
10:45am - In-Person	7:30pm - Centering	10am - HCCM				
8pm - Youth @		11am - Prayer Shawl				
		5:30pm - Piano				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Holy Week						
Palm Sunday srvs						
8:30am - In-Person	3:45pm - Piano	9:30am - Morning	4:30pm - Piano	4:15pm - Piano	11am - Women's	10am - PEO Meeting
9:45am - SS in-	7:30pm - Centering	10am - Bible Study	6:30pm - Buckles &	7pm - Maundy Thurs	7pm - Good Friday	12pm - Piano
10:45am - In-Person		10am - HCCM			7:30pm - Alcoholics	
8pm - Youth @		11am - Prayer Shawl				
		5:30pm - Piano				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7am - Easter	3:45pm - Piano	9:30am - Morning	9:30am - Mbrshp,	4:15pm - Piano	NEWSLETTER Input	12pm - Piano
8:30am - In-Person	7:30pm - Centering	10am - Bible Study	4:30pm - Piano		11am - Women's	
9:45am - SS in-		10am - HCCM			7:30pm - Alcoholics	
9:45am - Chldn Egg		5:30pm - Piano				
10:45am - In-Person		5:30pm - Prayer				
3:30pm - Worship @		7:30pm - AA Men's				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am - In-Person	3:45pm - Piano	9:30am - Morning	4:30pm - Piano	4:15pm - Piano	11am - Women's	12pm - Piano
9:45am - SS in-	6:30pm - Council	10am - Bible Study			7:30pm - Alcoholics	
10:45am - In-Person	7:30pm - Centering	10am - HCCM				
8pm - Youth @		11am - Prayer Shawl				
		11am - Prayer Shawl				
		5:30pm - Piano				