



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Church Directory in Progress



A team of members are preparing a hard copy church directory. When completed, it will be distributed one per family. We plan to update and reissue it annually. The directory will include member photos, contact information (address, phone, email), committee information, descriptions of our active ministries and church leadership information. We have set up a place for photo taking in the nursery after the 8:30 and 10:45 Sunday services. The Membership Care & Hospitality committee is gathering birthday and anniversary data (day and month only). Members can help by having their picture taken and submitting birthday and anniversary information on the cards provided at the nursery entrance.

Last day to get your picture taken for the 2024 directory is Sunday, September 29, 2024.

A conversation with Darlene Woehnker

Q: When was your first day at CPFUMC and what do you remember about it?

A: I don't remember the date but I first visited in October 2022. Everyone seemed very nice and inviting.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: Sue Chesnut mentioned to me how much she liked the church and encouraged me to attend. Also, the second time I attended Anita Martin remembered my name and that impressed me.

Q: In what city did you grow up? Where do you live now?

A: My family moved to Houston, Texas in 1969 and I lived in the Houston area from 1969 until 1985 when I

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BE LIGHT YOUTH – Check it out!

WE WORSHIP HARD WORK HARD AND PLAY HARD

WELCOME FALL – and we are running full tilt into it. Volleyball Palooza, Friday Night Lights, classes and homework plus more. We celebrated M's graduation last week with fabulous food and swing dancing and just plain ol' dancing too. What a joy to be uplifted and loved by our church family.

Looking to the season activities means:

PUMPKIN PATCH, FALL FESTIVAL and new this year – PUMPKIN CHUCKING!!

SEPTEMBER

Sun 9/8 – Pumpkin Patch team meeting

SATURDAY, 9/14 PREP the PATCH – meet 9 a.m. at church for breakfast tacos and palette placing

Sun 9/15 – dinner with Yesterday's Gone hangout

SATURDAY, 9/21 – UNLOAD pumpkins – be on alert

Sun 9/22 – pumpkin patch duty

Sun 9/29 – 5th Sunday – COMMUNION to our home bound

COMMUNION on a wing and a prayer

Do you know someone who'd appreciate receiving the gift of bread and juice delivered by the BE LIGHT YOUTH, please contact Pastor Suzette at suzette@cpfumc.org. We will bring the communion elements and pray with them.

OCTOBER

TUESDAY Oct 1st – National Night OUT

Sun 10/6 – pumpkin patch

Sun 10/13 – pumpkin patch

Sun 10/20 – German cultural exchange (Texas BBQ?) and pumpkin patch

Sun 10/27 – Party at the Patch

NOVEMBER

11/3 – Fall Back and PUMPKIN CHUCKING – district-wide event hurling pumpkins off the top of the Austin 1st UMC – 4:30 p.m. -7 p.m.

Looking ahead – White Christmas musical in Georgetown; Christmas Bazaar at Solea; Hanging of the Greens

ENGLAND

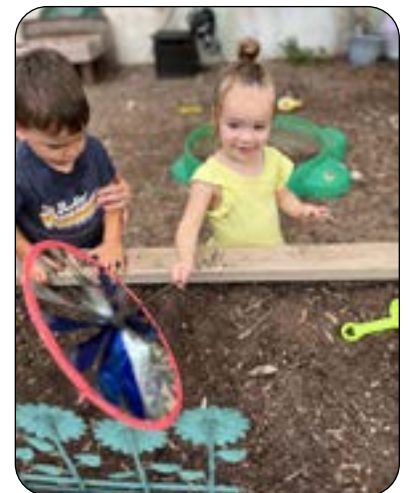
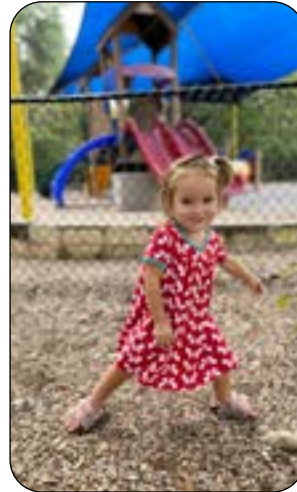
We are turning our thoughts towards England. This year's Sunday school lessons will have us exploring our Wesley Faith Heritage. We'll learn how the Methodist changed the world and the course of human history. Our trip is less than 10 months away – we will be flying out at the end of May for a lovely 10-day jaunt through London and the historic hills of England. Please join our adventure as we worship in the oldest Methodist church in the world and wander the streets Shakespeare explored as he grew into the great bard. Contact Pastor Suzette at suzette@cpfumc.org to join our journey.

A Child's Haven Happenings

Welcome Back!

We had a great first week welcoming the kids back to school. This week the teachers introduced the Fruits of the Spirit, and everybody is getting to know their new teachers and friends.

Yaheli Benitez, Director
A Child's Haven Preschool





Pumpkins Are Coming! **The Pumpkin Patch begins September 21, 2024!**

On Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m. the tent and palettes setup is scheduled so the area is ready for the pumpkins arriving on Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m. Once the pumpkins are unloaded, they will be ready for sale. The Pumpkin Patch is planning to open at 12:00 noon on Sunday, September 22.

Pumpkin Patch hours are:

Monday through Friday: Open 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays: Open 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.

Pumpkins are priced by size. Measure pumpkin circumference with a tape marked off in dollars.

Cash, check, debit/credit cards and cash apps are all accepted.

Volunteer:

We will need help setting up the tent and palettes on Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m. and with pumpkin unloading on Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m.! Our Pumpkin Patch is hosted by amazing volunteers – that's you!

[Sign-Up Here](#) to help with the Pumpkin Patch.



Songs, Sweets, and Stories for the Road

A benefit for Drive a Senior Northwest

September 14, 2024

Saturday 3:00—5:00 pm

Please join us for a trip to the 1950's! Saturday, September 14th, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun set in the 1950's at the delightful Town Square NW Austin. Enjoy entertainment, delicious sweets, 1950's themed fun, food, and fellowship in honor of Grandparents Day.

Come stroll around Town Square's unique 50's themed "town" with us (in the airconditioned space), sampling delicious desserts (baked and served by National Charity League North Austin).

Elvis tribute Mike Elliott will be singing our favorite tunes, and the amazing magician Cody Fisher will share his unique magic and comedy!

Town Square NW Austin is located in the Plaza 183 Shopping Center at the southwest corner of 183 and Anderson Mill, between Moonie's Burger House and Catch Air, with plenty of parking in the center's lot at 13450 Research Blvd., Ste. 106, Austin 78750.

All proceeds benefit the programs of Drive a Senior Northwest – providing free transportation for our senior neighbors for the past 38 years! We are supported by the community where we serve, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets (\$25 per person) may be purchased at:

<https://webmail.aceweb.com/interface/root#/email>

the link above (Zeffy is a free ticketing site for us, but they will ask for an optional donation to support their platform) or through our office at 512-250-5021 or email us: rides@driveaseniornorthwest.org.

No raffle items at this event, but there will be DOOR PRIZES!

If you are not able to join us, please consider making a donation to help DASNW continue impacting the lives of seniors in Cedar Park, Leander, and NW Austin!



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be collecting items for Yesterday's Gone to support their program, which assists women who have suffered abuse or trauma by offering housing, life coach services, and access to local resources. Yesterday's Gone guides them on a healing journey towards self-sustainability. Our Vision is to live in a world where no woman has to go back to an abusive situation.



If you want to contribute, you can order directly from their Amazon Wish List at:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38TGGEHFA9WLO/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

or you can bring items such as gas station gift cards, dish soap, laundry detergent, laundry baskets, toilet paper, paper towels, Swiffer mop refills, Lysol wipes, white kitchen towels and white towels for the body and hands and feminine supplies to the church.

Items will be collected through September 14th.

Posaunenchor Returns in October – Please Sign Up to Help

Posaunenchor, a brass band from Hamm, Germany, will arrive in about seven weeks at noon on Saturday, October 19 and stay until Tuesday, October 22, leaving in the morning of October 22. For those of you who remember, they were with us for a few days in 2018. During their time here you will have an opportunity to hear them play at least twice. They will play a concert on Saturday, October 19 somewhere to be determined. I am open for suggestions. On Sunday they will play during both our 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services.



The Posaunenchor group this year is made up of 24 musicians and a few family members, ages 11 to early 70s. They will tour Cedar Park and Lago Vista on Saturday.

While they are here, we plan to host them in our homes. A few church members have already volunteered to be HOSTS. HOSTS provide a place to sleep for 3 nights and provide 3 meals. We still need about 7-8 more HOSTS to accommodate everyone. We will need 8-12 DRIVERS to take them on the tour of Cedar Park on Saturday, October 19, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., and the tour of Austin 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday, October 21. If you would like to be a LUNCH PROVIDER on Saturday, October 19th, that would be very helpful. You can team up with other church members for the food provider opportunity: we can use multiple providers for the group of about 30 people. For all those of you who have already volunteered, Vielen Dank! Many thanks for your willingness to participate in this event. We will have a short meeting after the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 6 for all volunteers. During this meeting, we will go over guest/host assignments, the entire schedule for the Posaunenchor visit, maps of travel routes and transportation logistics. There will be an opportunity to have any and all of your questions answered.



This will be a wonderful opportunity for a cultural exchange. Language is not an issue since they all speak some English, most very well. If you are willing and able to help by providing a place to sleep for two or three people, or ride shotgun on one of the vans, or help by providing lunch or breakfast tacos, won't you please sign up on the sheets on the table in the narthex?

Contact Neil Howard if you have any questions at nhowardtx1@gmail.com.



CHANGE is good! The City of Cedar Park moved National Night Out to Tuesday, October 1st. This is a great opportunity for CPFUMC to serve our community.



Children have a great time, playing in the FOAM and yard games.

This is a time when adults can learn more about different ministries of the church and get to know others.

We need your help.

1. Helpers to setup – breakdown
2. Helpers to serve food
3. Helpers to oversee games/tables
4. Fliers for different ministries

If you can help, please contact

Carolyn Smith

Carolynsmith2215@gmail.com

512-970-9087

Let's build stronger, safer neighborhoods together!



Additional Volunteer Opportunities

Thrift Store: Volunteers are needed to receive and sort donations.

The shifts currently needed are:

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays. We are also looking for people to make donation pickups – whatever schedule works for you! Call the Thrift Store Manager at 512-334-6464.

Food Pantry: We are looking for regular volunteers for several shifts:

Wednesday AM (9-12), Monday PM (1-3), and Thursday PM (5-7).

Retail Pickup Drivers: We have added some stores to our donation pickup rotation so we could use some more drivers. This involves you taking your own vehicle to the store in the morning (between 8 am – 10 am), picking up the donations for the day and bringing them back to the HCCM food pantry. We also need a partner for our Monday Target driver.

He takes our van, but needs an extra hand for loading.

Please contact Kandy at kandy.chimento@hccm.org for more info!!

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

Trustees Board Chair Brad Lienhart

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

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

Trustees September Report

Trees are a beautiful thing and they make our Church property sing! But they have to be cared for and we have done no serious trimming or fungus treatment for several years. The most trimming was done by nature during our last ice storm in early 2023 and we had made a good choice before that storm to trim all the big tree limbs that hung over the sanctuary roof so we had no roof damage from that storm or future ice storms. It seems we have a storm every year.

We have just had a professional arborist out to cut down a big tree branch that had broken over the parking lot and now we have a diseased oak that needs to be treated – company name is GOOD GUY Tree Service, FM 620, N Austin. While they were on the property we asked them to do a complete appraisal of all the tree work needed to bring our property up to date and in spec from a tree management perspective. Their total estimate is \$5,506, and least you think otherwise, this is not work a church work group can do. It takes chain saws, cherry pickers, tall ladders, booms, climbing equipment, and big grinding equipment – not safe work for any of us church members.

BEFORE TRIMMING PICTURES BELOW



AFTER TRIMMING PICTURES BELOW



Naturally, we don't have this money in the 2024 Operating Budget, but this work should be done over the next 12 months to keep our property looking good and safe – \$2,300 of the work is around the Multi-Ministry Building where “A Child’s Haven” school is operated – and we certainly don't want a limb falling on a child's head. \$2,400 of the work is around the Memorial Garden and the Memorial Sanctuary. We have a Memorial Fund with a sufficient balance to cover this part of the expenditure. Sue Sidney is Chair of this fund and I will ask for her support. If any other members of the Church reading this report would like to make a small contribution to a new CPFUMC Tree Fund, that would be greatly appreciated. As Chair of the Trustees I am going to start that fund with a \$250 donation designated Tree Fund. Keeping our beautifully treed property in top-notch condition is a continuing work in progress and a major Trustee responsibility. We have brought all our buildings up to a “state of the art” condition – now it's time that we do the same with our forest.

Report prepared by Brad Lienhart – Chair CPFUMC Trustees. 7/22/24

moved to Austin. I worked for a company in Pasadena and they opened up an office in Austin and they wanted me to move and work in the office. I was more than happy to move out of Houston. My husband and I have lived in our home in Anderson Mill since 1990.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: I was a member at Bethany United Methodist Church on Anderson Mill since 1988.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I am married to Charlie since December 1989 and we have two daughters, Sarah and Theresa. Sarah is married to Sharud and they just had a baby boy in January 2024, our first grandchild. They live in south Austin. Theresa is married to Scott and they live in the Steiner Ranch area.



Q: Do you have any pets?

A: No, but Theresa and Scott have a dog, Cash, and we help take care of Cash so he is our family dog too.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time? Or what takes up a lot of your time?

A: In my spare time I love to spend it with my family and my grandson. I have a part-time job working on a yearly fencing directory and I work on that from home. Most of my time is spent taking care of our house, Cash, my mom and any volunteer work going on.

Q: Do you have a particular hobby? Is there one you want to learn?

A: I like to read and I like to travel. Charlie has a big family and we spend vacations with his siblings and spouses. We always have fun with his family. I would like to learn how to crochet and play the banjo.

Q: What's your favorite restaurant or favorite meal?

A: I guess my favorite is Mexican food and I love enchiladas. I don't have a favorite restaurant. There are too many to choose from!

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: Two of our favorite trips were to Alaska and to Hawaii. Both are beautiful states. We hope to visit every state in the U.S.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides...

A: Cleaning the house.

Q: Tell us something we might not know about you!

A: I love music and I played violin and viola when I was in middle school and high school. I never kept up with practicing so I could not play them now, but I enjoyed it when I was younger.

July 2024 Church Finance Report

Donations to the Church were up substantially in July, with total income for the month in line with what we need. Expenses also were close to our budgeted estimates and as a result we ran a small surplus for the month. However, we are still running a deficit for the year due to lower than expected income earlier this year. This deficit is not entirely unusual for the Church at this time of the year. We often have increased giving near year-end which closes our budget gap. We will need to do that again this year. The Church continues to have adequate reserves to meet our financial obligations despite our current year-to-date deficit.

Financial status through July 31, 2024:

Total Income:	\$163,494.51
Total Expenses:	\$173,677.82
Net Income/(Deficit):	(\$10,183.31)

The Livestreaming Team Needs Our Help!

The Livestreaming web page is now available from the website menu system under Tell me about ... Live Streaming. Check it out and sign up to help out on Sundays. Here is the link to the online signup sheet for slide show operators. Neil Howard highlighted the slides column in green to make it more obvious:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XcNo-bIIAHuXEoiMUh7OwJ3bD3EjJdPROTo7j-dDoJc/edit?usp=sharing>

We offer training so that the slide show operator will know:

- How to turn on the slide show computer monitor
- How to login to the slide show computer
- How to start the worship slides
- How to advance the worship slides
- How to go back
- How to play a slide show video
- How to end the slide show
- How to logoff the slide show computer
- How to turn off the slide show computer monitor
- How to use the slide clicker instead of the computer keyboard/mouse to advance slides

Basic keyboard/mouse skills are required. Familiarization with Microsoft PowerPoint is a plus, but not required. Basic information about the Livestreaming team is available on the church website at: <https://cpfumc.org/ls/>

Surplus Equipment for Sale

The church has a number of surplus equipment items for sale. Click on the link under the pictures for more detailed information. Church friends and members get a discount off the listed price. Contact Neil Howard at: nhowardtx1@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these surplus equipment items.



[TP-Link 8-Port Gigabit, 4-Port PoE Switch model TL-SG108PE](#), \$25



[TP-Link 8-Port Gigabit Switch model TL-SG108](#), \$10



[Shure Wireless Lavalier Microphone System](#), \$55



[Newer Video Tripod Fluid Head with Quick-Release Plate/Detachable Handle](#), \$25



[Opteka CXS-1 Should Stabilizer for Camera](#), \$25



[Bower VL15K 120-Bulb LED Video Light](#), \$22



[Azden SMX-10 Stereo Microphone](#), \$20



[Mennon DVs-16:9 Lens Hood](#), \$5



[Quick-Release Base Plate Compatible with Manfrotto 500AH/501](#), \$5



[GANA VGA to HDMI Converter](#), \$5
(Two units available)



[DTECH DT-7504 1 x 4 VGA Splitter](#), \$12

CPFUMC Calendar September 2024

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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church						
Today	September 2024	Print	Week	Month	Agenda	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sep 1 8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS In-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 10:45am Livestream Worst 12pm Youth	2 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 11am Prayer Shawl Minist 7:30pm AA Men's Group	3 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 7:30pm AA Men's Group	4 8:30am Red Shirts	5 10am Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm Piano Lessons	6 8:45am Men's Coffee 7:30pm AA Group	7
8 8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS In-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 10:45am Livestream Worst 12pm Youth 12pm Pumpkin Patch Tear	9 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 7:30pm AA Men's Group	10 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 7:30pm AA Men's Group	11 8:30am Red Shirts	12 10am Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm Piano Lessons	13 8:45am Men's Coffee 7:30pm AA Group	14 9am PEO Meeting
15 8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS In-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 10:45am Livestream Worst 12pm Youth 12pm Pumpkin Patch TEN	16 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Mini 7:30pm AA Men's Group	17 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM	18 8:30am Red Shirts 10:30am Ministry, Care & P	19 10am Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm Piano Lessons	20 8:45am Men's Coffee 7:30pm AA Group	21 9am Pumpkins ARRIVE!
22 2024 Pumpkin Patch	23 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 7:30pm AA Men's Group	24 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 7:30pm AA Men's Group	25 8:30am Red Shirts	26 10am Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm Piano Lessons	27 8:45am Men's Coffee 7:30pm AA Group	28 2024 Pumpkin Patch
29 2024 Pumpkin Patch	30 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 11am Prayer Shawl Minist 5pm National Night Out 7:30pm AA Men's Group	Oct 1 9:30am Morning Prayer S 10am Bible Study 10am HCCM 11am Prayer Shawl Minist 5pm National Night Out 7:30pm AA Men's Group	2 8:30am Red Shirts	3 10am Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm Piano Lessons	4 8:45am Men's Coffee 7:30pm AA Group	5 2024 Pumpkin Patch

Events shown in time zone: Central Time - Chicago