



Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

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

Posaunenchor 2024 Visit



Once again, as in 2018, we had a visit from the Hamm Mark Posaunenchor (Trombone Choir) from Hamm, Germany. This year there were 24 guests whom we hosted in our homes during their 4-day visit, October 19-22. Posaunenchor played music for both of our worship services, played a 90-minute concert at Solea on Sunday the 20th, played a 15-minute serenade for A Child’s Haven parents and students and then toured downtown Austin and the state capitol on Monday the 21st, with lunch at Chuy’s Barton Springs, before their 9am departure on Tuesday the 22nd. We also had a 49-minute presentation about Hamm by Markus Wesselmann during the potluck lunch on Sunday.

The Posaunenchor visit was organized by Neil and Jane Howard who have been friends with these Germans for about 35 years. However, the majority of the hosting effort was provided

POSAUNENCHOR continued on p. 12

A Conversation with Nancy Holmes:

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

A: I believe it was one Sunday 11 years ago. I had moved, at my children’s request, back to Texas from Colorado. I’ve lived in Texas, off and on, for 20+ years.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: My Presbyterian church in the small town of Delta, Colorado was small and we all grew to know and support each other. I wanted that same “small church” feeling and I found it at CPFUMC.

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

MEMBERS continued on p. 14

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

<u>A Child’s Haven</u>	p. 2
<u>Be Light Youth</u>	p. 3
<u>Youth Midwinter Retreat</u>	p. 5
<u>Stewardship Appeal</u>	p. 6
<u>Finance Report</u>	p. 6
<u>Solea Holiday Craft Bazaar</u>	p. 7
<u>United Women in Faith</u>	p. 8
<u>Trustees Report</u>	p. 9
<u>Church Contacts</u>	p. 9
<u>Hill Country Ministries</u>	p. 10
<u>New Monitors Installed</u>	p. 11
<u>This Month’s Calendar</u>	p. 15

A Child's Haven Happenings

We would like to thank church members and volunteers for helping us make our Fall Fest a great success. We were able to have lots of fun games and stations, including the pumpkin promenade, where everyone was happy to win yummy treats. We had a great turnout for trunk-or-treat, and kids went home with bags full of candy and prizes! We couldn't have done it without you, THANK YOU!

October was a busy month. The fruit of the spirit was patience, and we practiced the verse "Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him" Psalm 37:7a. We worked with the color orange, and rectangle was the shape of the month. We also learned about community helpers and had a visit from Sergeant Officer Pelt, as well as the Cedar Park Fire Department. Children were very excited to see the fire truck up close, and learn about fire safety. Our students made beautiful art creations for the Fall Fest silent auction, and enjoyed a special serenade from the German Band. Next week we will continue with our Halloween festivities, and close the week with a Costume Parade on Thursday at 12:50pm.

Coming up in November

- Coffee, Community, and Prayer: Thursday, November 7th
- Thanksgiving Family Luncheon: Thursday, November 21st at 11:30am

Yaheli Benitez, Director
A Child's Haven Preschool
<https://childshaven.net/>



BE LIGHT YOUTH

– so much to join in and delight that God is Good –
CHECK IT OUT:

What a busy joy-filled month of October. We worked the patch and cleared the rotting pumpkins - please give the BE LIGHT YOUTH an extra thanks when you see one - they really did not enjoy that activity and yet they cleared them every week. They will be first in line to final clean up too.

The long weekend brought an "Almost Lock-In" with another round at the patch then dozens and dozens of cookies courtesy of Sue Sidney. We created crafts to accompany the cookies, for the Solea Holiday Craft Fair (Saturday, NOV 2) then spent some energy developing our understanding of the complexities of emotions.

The third weekend in October was a doozy! We were joined by the



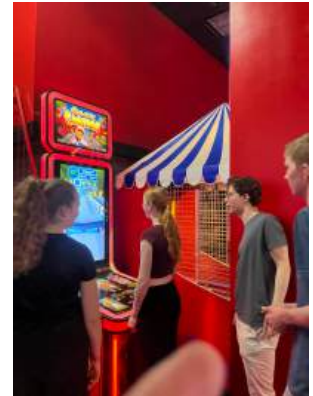
parents and teachers from A Child's Haven along with area high school students to create a delightful community event just right for the season. Many games, crafts and trick-or-treating was done with smiles and giggles all around. There was over \$700 raised. Our German friends arrived as we were



ending the festival and while they awaited lunch, we invited them to join the festival. They had never done a "pumpkin promenade" but quickly caught on to walk with the music. They got a kick winning the wonderful homemade goodies the church had provided. More smiles all around.



Of course, this was but the first of many moments of smiles and laughter as we got to know our new and returning friends from Hamm, Germany. We shared meals and they shared their wonderful music. The BE LIGHT YOUTH snuck them off to PinBallz, a vast game arcade with go-karts, carnival type games, and more inside of a former Wal-Mart store. It is big. We provided game cards and had a truly American experience - one even won a stuffed toy the first try. We hustled them



to their Solea concert that afternoon just in the nick of time.

Looking forward:

Tuesday, Oct 29 at 6:45 Jozi's Senior Volleyball game at Leander HS

SATURDAY, NOV 2: Solea Holiday Craft Fair at Solea starting at 10am

FALL BACK Sunday Nov 3 (another sweet hour of sleep)

Sunday, Nov 3: cleaning up the patch; then PUMKIN CHUCK at Austin First UMC with a dozen area church youth groups - meet at church at 4PM

Sun, Nov 10: plan for backpack mission project

Sun, Nov 17: prep for Santa Shop for Mom and Pop

Sun, Nov 24: Thanks for Giving Potluck and Hanging of the Greens

Sun, Dec 1 NO YOUTH Thanksgiving break

Sun. Dec 8 White Christmas Musical at 2PM at Georgetown Palace Theatre with Sterling

Sun. Dec 15 or Sun. Dec 22 Christmas Party

Sun Dec 29 deliver poinsettias and presents to nursing home members after church.

Sun. Jan 5 no youth



England Methodist Roots is still coming in MAY and we still need to earn funds. Please consider hiring the BE LIGHT YOUTH to do your tasks around the house so we can make our way to where Methodism all began by John and Charles Wesley in the late 1700's. Please email Pastor Suzette (suzette@cpfumc.org).

MIDWINTERS Friday Jan 10-Sunday Jan 12

Following is the information about Midwinters. If you could sponsor a YOUTH or even do partial sponsor that would be a tremendous help as we have families with multiple members attending and \$175 plus \$175 plus \$175 adds up to a lot quickly. Please email Pastor Suzette (suzette@cpfumc.org) to let her know you are sponsoring a youth so she can plan accordingly. Thank you for supporting this amazing spiritual retreat for our BE LIGHT YOUTH.



Unplug from the busyness of life and gather with friends old and new at the 2025 Youth MidWinter Retreat this January. Find space away from your phone to reset, relax, and connect with God and each other through worship. Youth and adult volunteers from across central Texas will spend Friday night through Sunday morning enjoying the beautiful Texas Hill Country at Highland Lakes Camp in Spicewood as we gather for an awesome weekend full of worship, fellowship, and fun.

What: Youth MidWinter Retreat

When: Friday, January 17 (7 pm) – January 19 (10:15 am)

Where: Highland Lakes Camp (5902 Pace Bend Rd N, Spicewood, TX 78669)

Cost: \$175/person

Deadline: December 20

[Adult registration](#)

[Youth registration](#)

Please note: You MUST complete a separate Highland Lakes Camp Release Form linked on the last page of each registration.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to Ryan Jenson: ryan@oakhillumc.org

Notes:

- As we seek to draw closer to God and one another, **youth are not permitted to bring their phones to MidWinter this year.** Should an emergency arise, youth at camp can contact their families and be contacted by their families through their individual youth directors.
- A limited number of partial scholarships are available as needed. Please request a scholarship form through your youth director.
- All adults attending MidWinter must be Safe Gatherings certified.
- Adult to youth ratio requirement by church is 1:8 with a minimum of 2 adults per church group.

2024 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL BEGINS NOVEMBER 10

Giving Moments will be offered in worship during the last three Sundays of November, as a part of our annual stewardship campaign. It's called "stewardship," because of Jesus' stories about stewards in the Bible. A steward is charged by the master with caring for the master's property. The master owns the property, but the steward is responsible for it and accountable to the master. Jesus says it is the same between God and us. Everything we have — our time, talents, and financial resources — are gifts from God. We are called to be good stewards of these gifts and to give back generously.

About 75 percent of Cedar Park's annual budget is supported by pledges. Pledging enables the Church to plan its programs and budget. Pledging can seem scary. How do we know that we can fulfill that annual commitment? While it is important to fulfill a pledge, the Church understands that changed circumstances can make that difficult. You only need to inform the Church, if some unforeseen event prevents you from fulfilling your pledge.

Over the next few weeks, think about what God and our Church has given you. Pray about what is an appropriate response to God's generosity. Saint Paul famously said about giving: "Each must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion . . ." (2 Corinthians 9:7). So whatever you give, and whether you pledge or give in some other way, the Church will be grateful, and you will be blessed.

This year's stewardship campaign concludes on November 24th, Commitment Sunday. Please prayerfully consider what you can give for 2025 and be prepared to return your pledge card that Sunday, or before.

—Steve Howard, Finance Committee Chair



Church Finance Report

The Church had another good month financially in September. Donations for the month were a little above our monthly estimates and expenses were close to our budgeted estimates. We also had some Pumpkin Patch income in September. As a result we had net income of almost \$4,100 for the month. However, we are still running a small deficit for the year. Most of our Pumpkin Patch income will show up in our October statements so we should have positive net income at the end of October. The Church continues to have adequate reserves to meet our financial obligations.

Financial status through September 30, 2024

Total Income:	\$ 218,754.67
Total expenses:	\$ <u>220,372.13</u>
Net Income/deficit:	\$ (1,617.46)

SOLEA HOLIDAY
CRAFT
Bazaar+

HANDMADE & MORE

FREE FRIENDSHIP BRACELET 4-18 YRS

FREE COFFEE BAR & POPCORN

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

JEWELRY • STAINED GLASS • CROCHET

GREETING CARDS • TEXTILES

HOME DECOR • BAKED GOODS • CAKE

FACE PAINTING • PURSES • APRONS

SHAKLEE • PAMPERED CHEF • MARY KAY

GREETING CARDS • GOURDCRAFT

HANDMADE PET ITEMS • EMBROIDERY

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

9AM - 2PM

SOLEA CLUBHOUSE

1520 JULIETTE WAY
CEDAR PARK, TX 78613

FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/
CRAFTERSATSOLEACEDARPARK





United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Advent Project

The next UWF quarterly meeting is Saturday, November 9th at 9:30 am. We will be doing a hands-on Christmas mission project and discussing how to prepare our hearts and find peace in the joy and chaos of the holiday season.

We have two wonderful programs we are supporting that are consistent with our mission to be in loving outreach to women, children and youth:

- [Head Start](#) is the federally funded free daycare program for ages birth through five for families meeting the federal low-income guidelines. We are supporting the program in Leander, which covers Cedar Park, Leander and Liberty Hill. It currently serves 66 children with 100+ on the waiting list. UWF previously supported teen moms through Acts of Love, which has been folded into Head Start.
- [Yesterday's Gone](#) is the transitional housing and support program for women in our area who have suffered trauma or abuse.



We are providing gift cards for families in these programs this year.

If you would like to donate, you can make a monetary donation in the offering basket labeled "UWF Christmas Mission" or place gift cards of \$10, \$15, or \$20 from HEB, Walmart or Target in the UWF jar in the Narthex. We will be collecting donations and gift cards through December 8th.

Please join us on November 9th as we gather in fellowship as women of the church support these important ministries in our community.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Mission: We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Trustees Report November

It is the Trustees job to keep the CPFUMC buildings and property healthy and in good working order. The Trustees also have a role in the financial health and sustainability of the Church. We do that through good operational planning, preventive maintenance, and spending every dollar of your donations wisely. We also have a role in encouraging the congregation to increase donations to meet our spending budget. We usually encourage an increase in giving of at least 3-5%, to keep up with inflation. I will be standing in front of you again in early November making this request. Our little Church is in a very healthy physical and financial condition--we just want to keep it that way.

Thanks to everyone who has given to our new Trees and Grounds Fund. This has helped pay for the major trimming Good Guys Tree Service did for us a couple months ago. But our little Church forest has an appetite and constantly needs nourishment. The Trees and Ground Fund helps us look after our Church Forest which numbers at least 50 beautiful trees on our 6.3 acres. A \$100- \$250 donation every year would be greatly appreciated. Also stay tuned to how we will use some of these monies to construct a natural walkway through our heavily wooded back 3 acres so we can connect with a new walkway from the new Cedar Park library opening November 1. This is a project we will try to do as much as possible with our own labor. Hopefully by mid-year 2025 you can walk 6 blocks back through our CPFUMC walkway and right to the front door of the new library. It should make for some exciting field trips for our ACH students and Church Groups of all ages. This can be our new Zen Walking Memorial Trail.

Brad Lienhart Chair of Trustees and the Endowment Committee.

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

peter@cpfumc.org

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson

suzette@cpfumc.org

Trustees Board Chair Brad Lienhart

lienhartb@yahoo.com

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount

jodi_blount@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

lund121@me.com

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

Hill Country Community Ministries NEWS

Thanks to our September Food Drive groups!

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible groups who organized food drives for us throughout September.

Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact and because of your efforts, we can continue supporting those in need and making a difference in their lives.

Your dedication to fighting hunger inspires us all, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership. Thank you for being a crucial part of our mission!



Help Us Provide Holiday Meals

Holiday Meal Kit

- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Corn
- Gravy
- Green Beans
- Instant Potatoes
- Pie Crust & filling
- Canned fruit
- Sweet Potatoes

HCCM

Items are subject to change based on food availability

By: Corbin Sherman

Believe it or not, even though it may not feel like it, summer is officially over, fall is here and the holidays are right around the corner!

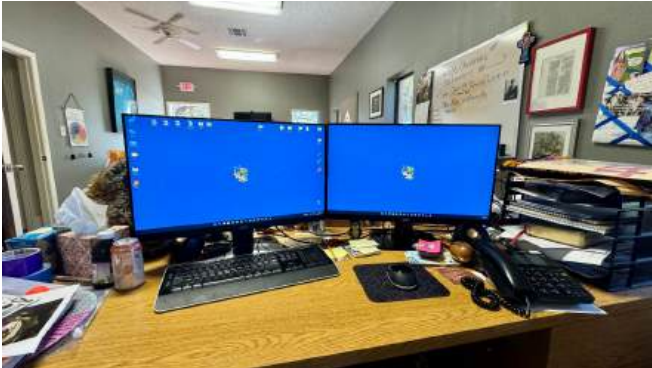
HCCM is busy gathering up holiday dinner items to ensure our clients can enjoy a festive dinner this season.

Your donations of instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, gravy, green beans, etc. will help us spread joy and nourishment to our community members facing food insecurity.

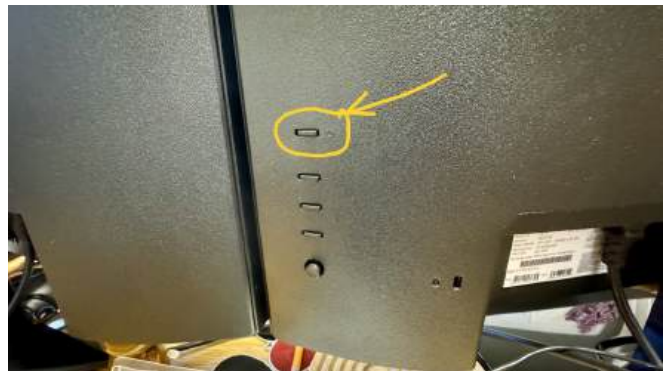
CPFUMC Challenge: Let Us collect 100 cans of Cranberry Sauce and Sweet Potatoes

27" Acer Monitors Installed

Last week we received a donation of eight virtually new Acer 27" model KB272 Ebi monitors. Five of these new monitors were installed recently in the church: two in Suzette's office and two in Ms. Yaheli's office with some Pebble speakers to provide sound.



One of the Acer 27" monitors was installed in MMB Classroom 3 with some NEW Pebble speakers.



The monitor ON/OFF switch is on the BACK of the monitor. It is the small button at the TOP of the stack of buttons.

One of the 8 donated monitors has already been sold to a member. The remaining two 27" Acer monitors are up for sale on the [Austin Craig's List](#) and [Nextdoor.com](#) for \$65. (\$60 for church members).

We will soon have two 23" and three 24" full HD (1920x1080) monitors for sale. Two of the 24" monitors have speakers. These monitors for sale will come equipped with power and video cables. Anybody want a second monitor to make a dual monitor setup?

POSAUNENCHOR continued from p. 1

by those who opened their homes and hearts to these visitors. Pastor Suzette was the “Hostess with the Mostest,” hosting 5 young guests. Hosting also were Debra and Sergio Longoria (4), Howards (4), Mark How (2), Sheryl and Dan McNichol (2), Darlene and Charlie Woehnker (2), Karen Packard (2) and Martta Howard, Neil and Jane’s daughter, (3).

Transportation to and from the Austin airport, a 50-mile, 2-hour tour of Cedar Park and Point Venture was provided by a fleet of cars driven by members and friends: Steve Howard was involved in all the driving efforts as were Neil and Jane. Other drivers were the rest of the Howard family: Heather, Jim and Martta, as well as the McNichols’,



Helen Trahan, Don Steussy, George DeMarines and both the Longorias. All trips were completed safely with tour drivers providing “Colorful Local Commentary” during the 2-hour local driving tour.

Meals for Posaunenchor were provided by the hosts and members, but breakfasts and the huge Sunday Potluck were organized mainly by our awesome Membership Care & Hospitality Committee led by Karen Packard, Sue Sidney, Anita Martin, Nancy Holmes, Nell Pennington and breakfast taco, donut and breakfast casserole providers Don Stratmann, Sue Chesnut and Jess Lienhart. We are still trying to figure out what young Germans like best for breakfast!



Based on the post-visit email traffic, our hosts really enjoyed their guests. Some great friendships were formed and we all reaped way more than we sowed. Funny how that works when you step out a bit from your comfort zone and trust in God’s capacity of infinite love. We all now feel that we have brothers and sisters living in Hamm, Germany.

More Posaunenchor Memories



MEMBERS continued from p. 1

A: I was born, raised and educated in Madison, Wisconsin. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1958. I have lived in many places and now I live in my own home in Leander.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: My husband, Jerry, and I were married 51 years before his death in 2011. We have three children; Audrey, Jeff and Bob. Audrey and her family live in Israel. Jeff and his family live in California, and Bob and his family live in Cedar Park. I have 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Yes, I'm a dog person and now I have Lily. She is a sweet, smart, and bossy little white dog, part chihuahua and something else that gave her white, soft, non-shedding fur. I'm also a horse lover. I've owned a few over the years.

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

A: At my age, I have a lot of spare time. I fill it by tending my property, reading, writing, sewing, singing in the church choir and enjoying my Cedar Park family. Cooking has always been a welcome task. I specialize in German cuisine and I am always ready to bake a thing or two.

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

A: I have been studying Spanish in class and on the internet for many years and I'm embarrassed to say that I'm not fluent. Probably never will be. When a situation comes where I could speak, I freeze like a deer in the headlights of a car. When the situation has passed, I can think of what I could have said with great fluency. Other than that, I would like to learn to fly. I already know how to swim, ride a horse, ski, play tennis (all in the past tense).

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

A: A good barbecue dinner at County Line at the Lake. I also like Thai food and some Mexican food although Mexican food doesn't sit so well anymore. I do like Mediterranean food as well. Oh well, I'm a foodie.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: It used to be anywhere there was a mountain to ski down, but in recent years I've enjoyed visiting various cities in Mexico. My favorite is Oaxaca, Mexico. The Mole there is the best and the coffee too. I love to travel.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: Bookkeeping!

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

A: My husband and I managed a Dude ranch in Arizona for 6 years after retiring from the corporate world. A movie was made about us called "The Good Life".



CPFUMC Calendar November 2024

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
2024 Pumpkin Patch 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	4:30pm - Stephanie Piano 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	5:30pm - Stephanie Piano	10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano	8:45am - Men's Coffee 7:30pm - AA Group @	
8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	4:30pm - Stephanie Piano 7:30pm - Centering	ELECTION DAY 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	8:30am - Red Shirts 5:30pm - Stephanie Piano	10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano	8:45am - Men's Coffee 7:30pm - AA Group @	9am - PEO Meeting @ 9:30am - United Women
8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	9am - Wedding in MOS 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	8:30am - Red Shirts @ 5:30pm - Stephanie Piano	10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano	8:45am - Men's Coffee 7:30pm - AA Group @	
8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	4:30pm - Stephanie Piano 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 5:30pm - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	8:30am - Red Shirts @ 10:30am - Mbrshp, Care 5:30pm - Stephanie Piano	10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano	NEWSLETTER Input Due 8:45am - Men's Coffee 7:30pm - AA Group @	
8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	4:30pm - Stephanie Piano 7:30pm - Centering	9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	8:30am - Red Shirts 5:30pm - Stephanie Piano	Thanksgiving 10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Piano	8:45am - Men's Coffee 7:30pm - AA Group @	