



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

May 2025

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections



June 14th and July 19th
9 am - 1 pm
Cedar Park FUMC
600 West Park Street Cedar Park

Register at
cpfumc.org
Children entering K through 5th grade

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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 \$105,000 per year. The QCD counts toward your RMD, but **the QCD portion is tax-free**

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A Child's Haven Happenings

In April, yellow and oval were the color and shape of the month. Our fruit of the spirit was Goodness and the verse we practiced was "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good..." Psalm 118:1

We celebrated Easter with a school egg hunt, as well as a special Easter story and snack. The school year is coming to an end, and we have a lot of exciting things happening in May. Read below for more information.

- Pastries with Parents: Thursday, May 1st from 8:45-9:15. We invite parents to join us in the church building for a sweet breakfast treat with their child to celebrate mom and dad.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: Monday, May 5th-Thursday, May 8th. Our teachers are amazing and they deserve to be spoiled! We show them our love and appreciation in a different way every day during this week.
- PreK-4 Graduation and Last day of School: Wednesday, May 14th
- Teacher In-Service day: Thursday, May 15th. ACH staff helps with school-wide cleaning before we close for the summer. No school for kids.
- We will not be offering summer camps this year. School opens back up in August!

I want to take a moment to thank all of the church members who have volunteered their time to our school, have provided any items, given donations, or helped in any way. Your help and support mean so much to us!

If you would like to learn more about our program or donate to our scholarship funds for next school year, please reach out to Pastor Peter or to me (director@childshaven.net). Thank you!

Yaheli Benitez, Director



BE LIGHT YOUTH - Check it out!

METHODIST ROOTS: ENGLAND 2025 is almost here.

We are traveling with EO tours who specializes in small group tours abroad for both young and more advanced young people. Our group size has shifted due to a variety of issues and where we had scheduled and priced for 14 travelers, we now have 10. We have room just for YOU to join us as we stroll about London, and gawk at St. Paul's cathedral where Wesley preached, and shop along the Stafford on Avon, where Shakespeare grew up before heading over to the homestead of the Wesley family near Manchester. We are book-ending our trip with free days in the great city of London where you can choose for yourself which museum or castle or West End play you'd like to experience. We are headed out at the end of May!

PLEASE contact Pastor Suzette if you would like to join our Merry Band of Travelers to learn about not only how God used the Methodist movement to alter the course of history but also enjoy the history and culture of England. (suzette@cpfumc.org)

See below photo highlights of recent Youth activities, which included Easter Sunrise worship, Confirmation of Kinsley and Rachel, Baptism of Kinsley and Alexis; remembrance of baptism for Karen, Kevin, Vicki, Rachel, and Josie, BE LIGHT YOUTH SUNDAY serving communion, showing up to support Audrey and Jessyka compete on ice for mom/daughter competition- placed 2nd, Confirmation Rally with Bishop Harvey in Kerrville, Vicki placing the Bishop's cross on Kinsley, worshipping with YOUTH across the Rio TX district, Supporting Karen at her spring performance of Color guard- nailing the gun toss, mulching the church then playtime - Twister and BBQ at Kinsley's house. Great times!





BE LIGHT YOUTH SPRING/SUMMER

MAY

Sun 5/4

Sun 5/11 – Mother's Day No YOUTH

Sat 5/17 Schlitterbahn 10-7

Sun 5/18 Graduation Recognition

Sun 5/25

ENGLAND: Methodist Roots May 28- June 4

JUNE

Sun 6/1 NO YOUTH

Sun 6/8 Returning from England—NO YOUTH

6/11-14 Rio Texas Annual Conference

Sat 6/14 VBS 9AM -1PM

Sun 6/15 Father's Day – NO YOUTH

Sun 6/22 -28 UMARMY MISSION TRIP

Sun 6/29 NO YOUTH



United
Women
in Faith

The next UWF quarterly meeting is **Saturday, May 3rd at 9:30 am** at **La Madeleine Lakeline**. Please join us for a time of fellowship and planning for our mission projects and Advent Brunch fundraiser.

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

- [Yesterday's Gone](#) is the transitional housing and support program for women in our area who have suffered trauma or abuse.
- Teen moms at [Head Start](#), the daycare program for ages birth through five for families meeting the federal low-income guidelines.

Please join us on May 3rd 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.

Vision: We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.


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whereas the rest of your RMD is taxable. The QCD can be any amount you choose up to your entire RMD or \$105,000, 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 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 (see page 13). Consult with your IRA holder or financial adviser to set up a QCD.**

 IRS Publication 590-B Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) For use in preparing 2024 Returns	Contents Future Developments 1 What's New 1 Reminders 2 Introduction 2 Chapter 1. Traditional IRAs 5 What if You Inherit an IRA? 5 When Can You Withdraw or Use Assets? 6 When Must You Withdraw Assets? (Required Minimum Distributions) 6 Are Distributions Taxable? 13 What Acts Result in Penalties or Additional Taxes? 22 Early Distribution Repayments 29 Early Distributions 24 Early Distribution Repayments 29 Excess Accumulations (Insufficient Distributions) 30 Chapter 2. Roth IRAs 33 What Is a Roth IRA? 33
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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!

A Conversation with Gigi Heermans:

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

A: A long time ago. I immediately felt like I was “home”. We had been looking for a church family and I knew from day one we had found it.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: The smaller congregation. I didn’t feel like just a number.

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

A: I grew up in Claude, Texas and I currently live in Leander.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: I grew up in the First United Methodist Church in Claude where I remained a member until finding CPFUMC.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I am the parent to Jett and Jozi. My dad is still in Claude and is 87. My sister still lives there with her husband and twin daughters.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Yes, Bert dog, a rescue.

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

A: What spare time? Between coaching at the high school and Jozi in theatre there is not much time to spare. I do like to go dancing, however and sing karaoke when I can.

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

A: I don’t really have time for hobbies but I would say dancing is my closest hobby.

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

A: Jardins is my favorite restaurant, however, a good steak is my favorite meal.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: Anywhere with my children – beach or mountains or home to the Texas Panhandle.

Q: I’d rather do anything besides

A: stress over bills each month. 😊

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

A: You all are my family, so I’m pretty sure there is nothing more to know, especially because I was born without a filter and tend to overshare.



CPFUMC Calendar May 2025

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-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	31 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Centering	1 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	2 8:30am - Red Shirts 5:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Big Book Study	3 10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	4 8:45am - Men's Coffee 4pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	5
6 8:30am - Youth Sunday 9:40am - Trustees 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - Livestream 10:45am - Youth Sunday 12pm - Youth	7 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Centering	8 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	9 8:30am - Red Shirts @ 5:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Big Book Study	10 10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	11 8:45am - Men's Coffee 4pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	12 9am - Confirmation Day 9am - PEO Meeting @
13 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	14 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Centering	15 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 5:30pm - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	16 8:30am - Red Shirts @ 10:30am - Mbrshp. Care 5:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Big Book Study	17 9pm - Cleaning Crew @ The whole church gets 10am - Sanctuary Prep 11:30am - Maundy 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7pm - Maundy Thursday	18 8:45am - Men's Coffee 4pm - Stephanie Plano 6:30pm - Good Friday 7:30pm - AA Group @	19
20 7am - Easter Sunrise 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth	21 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Centering	22 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	23 8:30am - Red Shirts 5:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Big Book Study	24 9pm - Cleaning Crew @ The whole church gets 10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - NA Group	25 NEWSLETTER Input Due 8:45am - Men's Coffee 4pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	26 10am - Van Rensburgs
27 8:30am - In-Person 9:45am - SS in-person & 10:45am - In-Person 10:45am - Livestream 12pm - Youth 12:15pm - Church	28 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Centering	29 9:30am - Morning Prayer 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 7:30pm - AA Men's Group	30 5:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - Big Book Study	1 9pm - Cleaning Crew @ The whole church gets 10am - Sanctuary Prep 4:30pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	2 8:45am - Men's Coffee 4pm - Stephanie Plano 7:30pm - AA Group @	3 9:30am - United Women