



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

August 2025

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Church Website Update Completed

On July 14th the upgraded version of the [CPFUMC Church website](#) went live. The upgrade was not something that we planned for. It was required when the author of our theme (the “template” for the website) changed the page editing tool plugin used by the theme. We had been using the original page editing tool for nine years and were familiar with it, so the change to a new page editing tool was a major change and a new learning curve for those maintaining the website.

We actually outsourced to the theme author and paid for (member donated) the updating of the 82 pages of our original website. That way we knew that we would be getting all of the pages in the new format without spending hours and hours ourselves learning how to

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A Conversation with Dave and Sue Sidney:

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

A: We started to attend CPFUMC back in 2005. However, we had visited through the prior years as the church was growing under the care of Leander UMC.

Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.

A: It was close to home and we were searching for a new home church. John Vinson played Dartball with the group at LUMC so we knew them well.

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

A: David grew up in Central Bridge, NY, in the Schoharie Valley the breadbasket of the Revolutionary War. Sue grew up in the Albany NY area graduating from Greene Central School near Binghamton on the Pennsylvania border. We now live in Cedar Park.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: We attended the Leander UMC for about 20 years before moving to CPFUMC.

Q: Tell us about your family.

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United
Women
in Faith

Our next UWF quarterly meeting is **Saturday, August 2nd at 9:30 am at La Madeleine Lakeline**. Join us for a time of fellowship and planning for our mission projects.

Here's what the fabulous women of CPFUMC have been up to since our last meeting:

- Donated funds to two conference missions: the UWF "Pledge to Mission," which supports the work of UWF, and the Southside Community Center in San Marcos.
- Supported Yesterday's Gone July 26th flood recovery work day with donations of food and volunteer help.
- Supported one of our Head Start teen moms, Madison and her daughter Brielle, with food and gas money, gift cards, and other essentials. This would not have been possible without the generous gifts of our church members.

If you miss our summer meeting, the next quarterly meeting is planned for November 1st, 9:30 at La Madeleine.

From Madison, our teen mom:



"I moved recently out of a toxic household situation into an apartment for my daughter and me. I'm in school and still trying to find a job that supports my schedule. My only support at the moment is the child support I'm receiving so money has been super tight. I appreciate all the help you have given me. Thank you!"

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.

BE LIGHT YOUTH - Check it out!

BE LIGHT YOUTH AUGUST

The summer has flown past! Family visits, summer classes, trips across the country and across the Atlantic, plus Audrey and Jessyka on the World Stage for ice skating competition representing with awards has left summer spent behind us. Karen has already started Corpe practice and Pastor Suzette resumes teacher duties next Monday.

We welcomed Leland into BE LIGHT YOUTH this summer and he has fit right in from Sunday school classes to mission work – almost like he has been here all along. Even with Leland joining us, we now have more high school students than middle schoolers this coming year.



BE LIGHT YOUTH hosted a second one-day VBS in July with many of our Safe Gathering adults providing food, story time, and art activities. The BE LIGHT YOUTH travel side-by-side with our VBS guest increasing the fun for everyone and sharing God's love. It was a success.



Coming up:

Sun 8/2 Movie night with pizza

Sun 8/10 Back To School Worship blessing

Sun 8/10 Goodbye Summer Pool party

BE LIGHT YOUTH

Sunday, AUGUST 31 ENGLAND: METHODIST ROOTS (potluck 5th Sunday in August)

The entire church is invited to join in a potluck after worship on Aug 31 for a show and tell of the England trip as we traveled the path of the Wesley family, the founders of the Methodist faith. The YOUTH and other travelers will share reflections of the trip as well as a grand amount of photos while you eat. Come see what an incredible experience we had traipsing from London to Bristol to Epworth.



BE LIGHT YOUTH

Yesterday's Gone Flood Relief



Dear Volunteers,

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

This past Saturday was more than just a clean-up day... it was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with love, compassion, and a willingness to serve. Whether you were clearing trees, running chainsaws, offering encouragement, or handing out snacks and water, your presence made an impact far beyond what you could see.



Because of *you*, Yesterday's Gone took a big step forward in recovering from the flood damage — and in continuing to be a safe place for women healing from trauma and abuse. You showed up. You gave your time. You reminded us that we are not alone.

💛 **Watch our thank you video here:**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CZ3pHL2hz/>

If you haven't already, please follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**! Every follow and share helps us reach more people who need hope and healing. ♥

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YesterdaysGone501c3>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/yesterdaysgone501c3/>

With deep gratitude,

Angela Grill

Director of Community Engagement | Yesterday's Gone 501c3

W: <https://yesterdaysgone.org/>

E: Angela.Grill@yesterdaysgone.org

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Check out our video:

<https://youtu.be/hiLSW6Oq0x4?si=qDiqKi34MdNfZQkb>

Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/6WlxBqB>

Church Finance Report

In June, the Church had an operating loss of -\$4,928.80. Contributions were up from May, but still below the average of the first five months of the year. Pledged contributions were down -11% from the YTD average in 2025. There is seasonality during summer months. Other Income was also lower in June. Overall expenses were in line with the YTD average in June. The Church has a net loss of -\$7,644.51 YTD in 2025. The Church continues to have adequate reserves to meet its financial obligations.

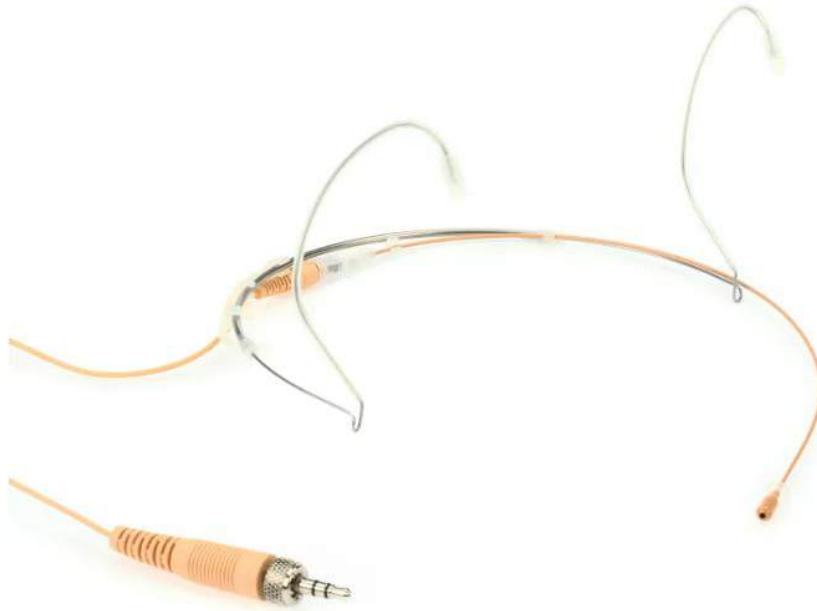
Financial status through November 30, 2024

Total Income:	\$ 139,348.57
Total expenses:	<u>\$ 146,993.08</u>
Net Income/deficit:	\$ (7,644.51)

Can You Hear Me Now?

Improving Worship Audio

Recently we purchased some head worn microphones for our pastors to use. The new microphones were paid for by our Technology Fund. We hope that the new microphones will improve pickup of our pastors' voices for both in-person and live streaming worship participants. Until now we have been using lavalier clip-on microphones. Lavalier microphones are typical for speakers and speaking events, however if the speaker turns their head quickly or moves around a lot, the lavalier microphone is not as effective as a head



worn microphone. The head worn microphone ideally places the microphone capsule 2-3 cm from the corner of the speaker's mouth using a wire frame that hangs over the speaker's ears and rests on the back of their neck. This makes the microphone capsule position relative to the speakers mouth much more stable than for a lavalier microphone.

Your Part

Of course, there's a part in this that you can play as well. If you are listening to the live stream, you have some control over the volume yourself. You can turn up the volume of course! You can also use headphones for a more direct sound in your ears.

For those attending the worship service in-person, our all-volunteer Live Streaming Team will crank up the volume in the sanctuary a little bit. Feel free to sit closer to the front if you have trouble hearing well. All participants need to realize that we all have different hearing abilities and one solution cannot apply to all. We can only do our best.

If you would like to contribute to the Technology Fund, please mark your donation "Technology Fund."

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convert all the pages. However, after all the pages were converted, we still had a lot of cleanup activities to make it look more presentable and to eliminate a large amount of scrolling on each page. We tightened up the design significantly and, in that process, we learned how to use the new page editing tool. All of this preliminary work took many days during May, June and early July.

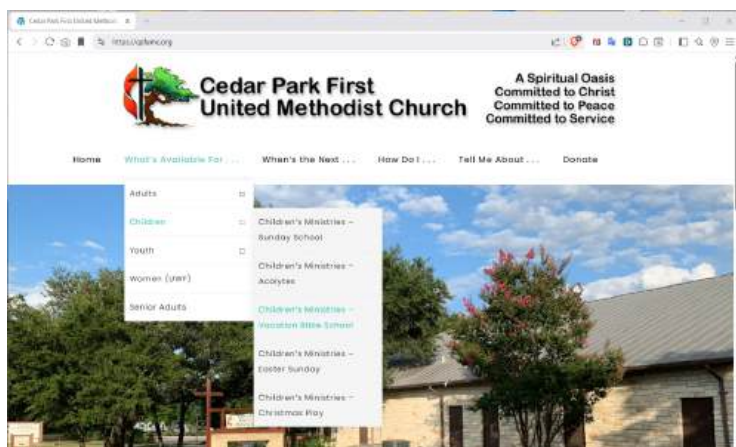
We took the opportunity to update many of the pages that needed updating anyway. [Ginger Goodin](#), [Pastor Suzette](#), [Pastor Peter](#), [Karen Bowker](#), [Amanda Theriot](#) and others contributed updates to their pages on the website.

Neil Howard, Todd Greer, and Lisa and Dean Feazell all provide weekly updates to the website in order to keep up with all of the live streaming videos and changes in schedule of events. Todd handles the Upcoming Events This Week as well as weekly and monthly updates listing our publications [Happenings](#) and [Connections](#), which are edited and produced by Stephanie Talley and Jill Lundstrom, respectively. Dean, Lisa and Neil handle the [weekly updates on the website](#) and our [Facebook page](#) on a rotating monthly basis.



Kevin Middleton has volunteered to manage the [Story of CPFUMC](#), the [Mission Trips](#) and the [youth pages](#) on the website with the help of the Youth, of course!

We hope that you enjoy the upgraded website. We encourage you to [take a look at it](#). There's a lot of information there from Sunday school classes for [children](#), [youth](#) and [adults](#) to the [pumpkin patch](#), [VBS](#), [how to contact the church](#), the [Church calendar of events](#) and [bios of our Staff](#).



looking for a place to worship and connect to a Christian community.

CONVERSATION cont. from p. 1

A: We have a son, John, who lives in Austin. Our daughter, Pam and her husband, Richard, and granddaughter, Taylor, live nearby in Cedar Park. Our other family of cousins live in the Northeast – Upstate NY, Maine and Virginia.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Currently we have no pets.

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

A: David likes to “surf the web” and smoke his pipe and visit via zoom with friends. Sue spends her spare time baking in the kitchen.



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

A: No special hobbies although we do keep a small garden plot and enjoy the tomatoes, bean, peppers and herbs. We like to take drives in the country...sometimes stopping in the Bluebonnet Café for PIE!! Sue loves the UMW/UWF and has had many adventures serving in mission with them. Have you heard the stories of serving Grape Dumplings for communion with the Native Americans of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. So many adventures!!

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

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A: David likes Olive Garden's eggplant parmesan!! Sue enjoys Reale's sausage and pepper pasta. We just like to eat all kinds of food.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: North Padre Island especially during turtle hatching season.

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: clean the house!!!

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

A: After 59 years together we still feel in love. David grew up on a farm with ponies, hunting, trapping and fishing in the Schoharie Creek. His beagle, Rover, was often with him. Sue loved playing her clarinet...in downsizing to move back to Cedar Park she gave it to the CP High School band for someone else to use.

We moved to Cedar Park from Poughkeepsie, NY, with IBM in 1978. We joined the LUMC fortunate to get to know Ada Mae Faubion and her family along with Lois and Beth Giddens. Our children had a wonderful time growing up being nurtured by the folks at LUMC. Our children joined that Sunday School class with Kara Faubion as the only children in the congregation.

We built a house in Leander in 1993 on five acres when the newly chartered city of Cedar Park condemned our neighborhood to make a place for the waste water treatment plan. We were in that house for 20 years before moving back to Cedar Park to be near our granddaughter as she started Middle School.

We have lots of "stories" to share but this is more than enough!

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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lund121@me.com



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

CPFUMC Calendar August 2025

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 3 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Bible Study 3 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Men's Coffee 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am United Women in
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 5 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Bible Study 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Men's Coffee 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YOUTH - Fiesta Texas 9am PEO Meeting
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Bible Study 3 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Men's Coffee 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group 	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Bible Study 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Red Shirts 10:30am Mbrshp. Care & 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEWSLETTER Input Due 8:45am Men's Coffee 2 more 	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 2 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Men's Coffee 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group 	
31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worsh 9:45am SS in-person & Z 4 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Day 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 3 more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Men's Coffee 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group 	