



October 2025

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

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

Come Help us in the Pumpkin Patch!



Every October CPFUMC gets the Pumpkin Patch open and starts selling pumpkins. Our neighbors love to bring their families to our Patch. Some have been coming for over twenty years. But we need your bright smile to greet our visitors and help them find the perfect pumpkin. Please sign up to work a shift. Two shifts are available each day the Patch is open: 2:30-5pm and 5-7pm. You can sign up in person when you're at church on Sunday or you can sign up online by clicking on [Pumpkin Patch signup](#).

For more information about the Pumpkin Patch you can or go to our webpage at <https://cpfumc.org/pumpkin-patchfall-festival/>.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

<u>A Child's Haven Happenings</u>	<u>p. 2</u>
<u>BE LIGHT YOUTH</u>	<u>p. 3</u>
<u>United Women of Faith</u>	<u>p. 5</u>
<u>World Communion Sunday</u>	<u>p. 7</u>
<u>Church Contacts</u>	<u>p. 7</u>
<u>This Month's Calendar</u>	<u>p. 8</u>

A Conversation with Anita Rizley:

- Q: When was your first day at CPFUMC and what do you remember about it?
- A: I started attending CPFUMC in 2024 after watching the online service for several months. However, in the mid 1990's I lived a short while on Nameless Road and I attended a service here with my mother. Shortly thereafter, she and I moved to NW Austin interrupting our attendance here.
- Q: Tell us about what drew you to CPFUMC.
- A: After moving to Cedar Park I drove past CPFUMC almost daily. I noticed several happenings that sparked happy remembrances from other churches I had been involved with, such as the Pumpkin Patch, A Child's Haven, and Sunday morning comings and goings. Having been raised a Methodist I felt a tug to visit and my goodness I am happy I did! I felt an immediate welcome.
- Q: In what city did you grow up? Where do you live now?
- A: My formative years K-12 were lived in four states; Oklahoma, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. My father worked with Northern Natural Gas Company when about half of today's existing pipelines were built in the 1950's and the 1960's. This took me to 4 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 3 high schools. My

CONVERSATION continued on p. 6



A Child's Haven Preschool

We had a fantastic first month of school. Teachers welcomed new and old friends, went over classroom expectations, and helped little ones feel safe and comforted during hard times.

During September, we talked about kindness. Children practiced the verse: "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." The color of the month was purple, and the shape of the month was circle. These are incorporated in their everyday activities and practiced throughout the month.

We had a great turnout for our Teddy Bear Picnic last week. Most of our families were able to attend and enjoy a picnic lunch with their child, while connecting with other families.

Coming up in October:

- Coffee, Community, and Prayer: Thursday, October 2nd
- Community Helpers week: Oct 7th-10th (We will have a fire truck and police officer visit).
- Fall Fest: October 25th
- In-school Halloween celebrations: Oct 29-30th (Costume Parade on the 31st)



BE LIGHT YOUTH Worship Sunday: Psalm 23

September 28, 2025

Psalm 23:1

Karen

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

As I study the Book of Psalm, I once read that Psalm opens with a choice - to walk our own way in life or walk God's way. If you pick God's way, Psalms can become God's given road map as His road leads to life. As you listen to our sermon today, you can keep this in mind to see how God's words bring you life.

Psalm 23:1 *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."*

Said in many stories in the Bible, the Lord is seen as our Shepherd. Sheep need many things - food, care, help, affection. A shepherd provides the needs of the sheep and keeps them safe. We, the children of God, resemble the sheep, while God resembles the shepherd. He takes care of us, giving protection over us, and giving us what we need. Though we live in a world which can certainly make us feel like we need to have a certain something to be happy, like the new phone that comes out or new clothes, this verse tells us that when we have God, we have all that we need. Take note that what we need might not be what we want or even what we think we need. God gives us what we actually need, and we can trust Him as He can see the whole picture and His plans are significantly better than ours. Through the ups and downs of life, God is with us, giving everything we could ever need.

Kinsley

Psalm 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

Sometimes I get anxious because life feels too fast, like I can't keep up. I worry about what people think of me, I worry a lot about my grades to make sure that my grades are good and ever since I started 7th grade I have been getting tested for a learning disability and I have been anxious because I don't know what is wrong with my learning disability and what I have.

But then I remember: "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters."

It's like God knows exactly when I'm at my breaking point. He doesn't ask me to fix everything—I feel Him leading me to rest, to breathe, to let go of the weight I'm carrying. The green pastures remind me there's still beauty in the world, even when I feel overwhelmed. The still waters remind me that peace is real, when the water is still and you're lying next to God or whoever just remember that God is always with you.

Psalm 23:3

Kevin

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

It's a simple verse, but it carries a quiet kind of power. The word "restores" suggests something has been worn down or broken. And rather than discard it, God chooses to renew it. Not just emotions, not just energy, but the soul, the core of who a person is. That kind of restoration goes beyond self-help or temporary relief; it's deep, quiet work that only God can do. And after restoring, He doesn't leave us standing still; He leads. Not aimlessly, but with direction and purpose, guiding us in ways that are right, even if not always easy. And He does it not because we've earned it or deserve it, but for His name's sake; because it's simply who He is. In a world that often leaves people spiritually tired or morally disoriented, this verse offers clarity: the God who restores also redirects, not for our credit, but as a reflection of His character: steady, faithful, and good.

Psalm 23: 4

Leland

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil because you are with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me.

This verse brings a message that God is always with us, and we don't need to be afraid when someone dies, something happens to someone we care about, or when things don't go as planned for us or someone we know. Remember that God is there, and everything will be okay because He loves and cares for us.

Psalm 23:5 **Josie**

You Prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows

I think this line has a lot of different meanings to it, when I hear, "you prepare a table before me," I think of communion, and "my cup overflows" I think about communion for that too because, the cup that has the juice, is overflowing with his 'blood' that he gave to us. He prepares the table before of us with his 'body' that he gave to us too. For "you anoint my head with oil," I think of Ash Wednesday when we get our heads anointed with oil.

Psalm 23:6 **Karen**

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The love of God - 'Agape' - is the highest form of love. It is the unconditional and unfailing love God gives us everyday. It is the type of love that is not based on who we are, like how good we do something or what we do, but is based on who He is. He loves us, in a way no one else can for He is love. This Psalm really encapsulates this as it can be seen from all of the verses.

In the 1st verse, we can see how God loves us so much as He gives us all we need, like a Shepherd to a sheep. He takes care of us, gives us food, care, help, and affection. When we have God, we have all that we need, for His love is sufficient.

From the 2nd verse explained by Kinsley, we can see how God gives us peace. He knows when we need a break from the world, and He gives us this. Kinsley also explained how the green pastures reminded her of the beauty in the world. This is one of the ways you can see the goodness and mercy following us in our lives, by taking a moment to look at nature and be reminded of peace when you see God's beautiful creations.

From the explanation of verse 3 given by Kevin, he points out how God restores and redirects our soul, not for us, but as a reflection of His character. This is an amazing symbol of 'agape'. The way he loves us so much that He helps us when we are broken, not because we are entitled to His help, but because He is a loving God.

From the 4th verse explained by Leland where he explained how we don't need to worry when things don't go our way, we can see the love of God as He is the one who makes plans for us, which we can always trust because we know that everything He does is planted in love.

The 5th verse explained by Josie, where she tied in the verse with the idea of communion, showcases one of the best examples of 'agape'. Communion represents the body and blood of Christ, and acts as a remembrance of what God did for us. For God loves us so so so very much, that He gave His amazing Son to save us. This action shows how unconditional God's love is and how far His goodness goes.

The 6th verse really ties it all together as it is ended on the note of how we can always see goodness and mercy everywhere, just like how we saw it in each verse of this Psalm. Now just imagine how much can be seen in the Book of Psalm, or even the whole Bible.

It's a great reminder that through the good and bad of life, God is always protecting us and is giving us goodness and blessings. To end this sermon, I'll leave you with a reminder: Whatever you go through in life, always remember that God, the God who loves you so very much and unconditionally, is there, right by your side.



United Women of Faith will have our quarterly meeting on November 1st at 9:30am.
Please join us if you can!

United Women in Faith
Advent Brunch

**JOIN US FOR BRUNCH, MUSIC
AND FELLOWSHIP**

**Saturday, December 6, 2025
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Cedar Park First UMC
600 W. Park St.
Cedar Park, TX 78613**

INVITE A FRIEND FOR TWICE THE FUN!

Please RSVP to:
Bonnie at bonhow@gmail.com or 623-216-6411

CONVERSATION cont. from p. 1

grandparent's homes in Hooker, Oklahoma and in Oklahoma City were visited regularly and they provided a foundation for strong family connections. Cedar Park is my current home.

Q: What church did you come to CPFUMC from?

A: Throughout my many moves, my main church home was Rockbrook Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska where I was also married. Upon moving to Austin, although not a formal member, my son Dylan was baptized at the First United Methodist Church of Austin.



Q: Tell us about your family.

A: I have a son Dylan and his wife Robyn. They have 5 cats that we love very much. I have a brother Ross and his wife Judi Beth. I have one niece Jillian, one nephew Todd, and one goddaughter Aryn. Also, lots of cousins.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: This is the first year of my life without four legged companions. My dachshund Hazelnut and my cat GracieNote passed recently.

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

A: I enjoy small road trips to surrounding towns and sites of interest. I also find solace in playing piano. I collect hymnals and enjoy exploring hymns from multiple sources. The poetry is beautiful and serves as a prayerful meditation daily. My most recent acquisition from a local Half Price Bookstore features songs from 44 countries and was published in 2000 by the United Methodist Church, Global Praise 2. Still, one of my favorite hymnals is the beloved Cokesbury Worship Hymnal.

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

A: I recently took up the art of paper collage.

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

A: Growing up my family usually had a roast beef dinner ready to place on the table after church on Sunday. This is a memorable comfort food I still find enjoyable sometimes. My favorite area restaurant is Maudie's Tex Mex.

Q: Where is your favorite vacation locale?

A: Home sweet home. A staycation!

Q: I'd rather do anything besides

A: Exercise.

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

A: I coordinated Youth Services programs at the Austin Public Library for almost 25 years. In the mid 1990's I trained as a Certified Music Practitioner providing music at the bedside for those in hospice care and for infants in ICU hospital care.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Recognizing the unity and interconnectedness of all Christians

OCTOBER 5TH IS WORLD COMMUNION/UMCOR SUNDAY

On October 5th, the first Sunday in October, CPFUMC and other United Methodist congregations will join many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating [World Communion Sunday](#). World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

On October 5th, followers of Jesus Christ in large churches and small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings and under tents, will gather to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion. Some will receive cubes of bread. Some will tear from a common loaf. Some will receive a wafer. Some will drink from a common chalice. Some will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Some will have individual glasses. Some will use wine; some juice. Some will offer both. Pastors will lead a variety of liturgies, in many languages. Clergy will dress traditionally, formally, and casually. Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we will all be celebrating our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

World Communion Sunday continues to be a special giving Sunday. This year we will be collecting money for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through UMCOR's efforts around the world, we are making a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upended by storms, wars, displacement, and hunger.

Please give generously to this special offering on October 5th.

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?

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

CPFUMC Calendar October 2025

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

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Oct 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS in-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 4 more	4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm AA Men's Group	8:30am Red Shirts 4:30pm Line Dancing Class 7:30pm Big Book Study	10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew	8:45am Men's Coffee 4:30pm Stephanie Piano 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group	2pm Katherine Piano Les
8:30am In-Person Worship 9:40am Trustees 9:45am SS in-person & Z 6 more	4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 11am Prayer Shawl Minis 2 more	8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study	10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew	8:45am Men's Coffee 4:30pm Stephanie Piano 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group	9am PEO Meeting 2pm Katherine Piano Les
8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS in-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 5 more	Columbus Day 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm AA Men's Group	8:30am Red Shirts 10:30am Mbrshp, Care & 7:30pm Big Book Study	10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew	8:45am Men's Coffee 4:30pm Stephanie Piano 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group	2pm Katherine Piano Les
8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS in-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 4 more	4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 2 more	8:30am Red Shirts 7:30pm Big Book Study	10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew	NEWSLETTER Input Due 8:45am Men's Coffee 4:30pm Stephanie Piano 2 more	9am UWF Zoom Meeting 9am Fall Festival in Pump 2pm Katherine Piano Les
8:30am In-Person Worship 9:45am SS in-person & Z 10:45am In-Person Worship 4 more	4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm Centering Prayer	9:30am Morning Prayer 10am HCCM 4:30pm Stephanie's Plan 7:30pm AA Men's Group	7:30pm Big Book Study	10am Sanctuary Prep 4pm Stephanie's Piano L 9pm Cleaning Crew	8:45am Men's Coffee 4:30pm Stephanie Piano 7pm Toastmasters 7:30pm AA Group	9:30am United Women in 2pm Katherine Piano Les