

Prayer Concerns

For the world:

Ecumenical prayer cycle: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda
All those affected by flooding central Texas

For our family and friends:

Horace Pennington	Jane Hilton	Jerry Troyer
Clara Crank	Alice Wiles	Jim and Ruth West
Mattie Brooks (Linda Sheneman's mother)		Dylan Howard (Anita Rizley's son)
Heather McClintock (Meg's daughter-in-law)		Charlie Woehnker (Darlene's husband)
David Read (Martha Orr's son)		Aylene Muniz (Jorge Soto's daughter)
O.T. and Dee Greer (Todd's parents)		Anita Stratmann's brother Herschel
Leona Mims (Nell Pennington's sister)		Mary Howard (Pam Clinch's mother)
Sergio and Diana Longoria (Sergio's parents)		Pam Clinch's brother-in-law Jude
Theresa Theriot (Amanda's mother-in-law)		Brenda Higgins' sister-in-law Margaret
Jodi Blount's mother LeRene and mother-in-law Sandra		

If you wish to add a prayer request to this list, please complete a Prayer Card available in the chair pouch in front of you and place it in the collection basket as you come forward for communion. Please indicate how the person we are to pray for is related to you.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27th

Reflection on
Previous Sunday

Monday
1 Kings 3:16-28
James 3:13-18

Tuesday
1 Kings 4:29-34
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wednesday
Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33
Mark 4:30-34

Preparation for
Coming Sunday

Thursday
Isaiah 14:1-2
Philippians 4:10-15

Friday
Isaiah 41:8-10
Romans 9:6-13

Saturday
Genesis 31:1-21
Matthew 7:7-11

Sunday, August 2nd
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Community only happens when we surrender to the process
of getting to know others and letting ourselves be known.

600 West Park Street, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

(512) 335-9540
CPFUMC.org

Cedar Park First
United Methodist Church

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



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26, 2026

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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** indicates an invitation to stand as you are able*

GATHERING

- WELCOME
- Peter Castles
- PRELUDE/BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
- Jodi Blount
- *GREETING
- Your decrees, O God, are wonderful;
Therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words, O Lord, gives light;
It imparts understanding to the simple.
- *HYMN OF PRAISE

"How Can We Name a Love"

UMH 111
- *OPENING PRAYER

Suzette Birch
- CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

- PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
- O Lord our God,
your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love,
that we may be obedient to your will
and live always for your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen
- FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21 (p. 226 in the pew Bible NT)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God!
- *GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:31–33, 44-52 (p. 14 in the pew Bible NT)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Thanks be to God!

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There are many different opportunities for spiritual enrichment here:

- Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45am
- Sunday School at 9:45am for adults, children, and youth
- BE LIGHT Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades) — Sunday, noon-1:30pm
- United Women in Faith — quarterly on a Saturday, 9:30am
- Young At Heart (older adult fellowship) — day and time varies
- Sanctuary Choir — performs Sunday at 10:45am, practices Sunday at noon
- Contemplative prayer group — Monday, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
- Tuesday prayer service — Tuesday, 9:30am in the Sanctuary
- Weekly Bible study — Tuesday, 10am in the Sanctuary and via Zoom
- Prayer shawl ministry — 1st Tuesday, 11am; 3rd Tues, 5:30pm in the Sanctuary
- Sanctuary preparation — Thursday, 10:00am in the Sanctuary
- A Child’s Haven (preschool) — Monday through Thursday, 9am-1pm

(Fall thru Spring; contact Yaheli Benitez director@childshaven.net for more info)

The United Methodist Church is a several-million-strong global church that opens hearts, opens doors, and opens minds through active engagement with our world.

John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as “practical divinity” has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.

We invite you to learn more about our rich theological heritage by visiting the website for The United Methodist Church (umc.org).

If you would like to learn more about Cedar Park First UMC or have questions about joining the church, e-mail one of our pastors or check “Desire a Call” on the attendance registration pad when you sign in today.

Rev. Peter Castles, Pastor

Peter@cpfumc.org

Rev. Suzette Birch, Pastor

Suzette@cpfumc.org

Dr. Jodi Blount, Music Director

Laurel Fabian, Nursery Coordinator

This week at Cedar Park First UMC

SUNDAY, July 26th

- 8:30am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
- 9:45am Sunday school for Adults:
Followers of the Word are studying the Ezekiel (MMB Conference Room)
Seekers are studying “The Apocalypse” (MMB Back Room)
- 9:45am Sunday school for Children and Youth (Youth Room)
- 10:45am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
- Noon Potluck Luncheon and celebration of Pastor Suzette’s ministry

MONDAY, July 27th

- 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, July 28th

- 9:30am Service of Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
- 10:00am Bible discussion group meets in the Sanctuary

THURSDAY, July 30th

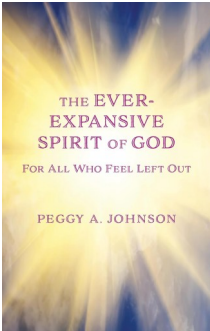
- 10:00am Sanctuary Preparation
- Noon Brown Bag Book Club discusses *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God* in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, August 1st

- 9:30am United Women in Faith meet at La Madeleine (Hwy 183 @ S Lakeline)

Looking FORWARD !!

August 26 Young at Heart Pot-luck Luncheon at 11:30am — bring a salad or dessert to share, with presentation by AGE of Central Texas on “Passion and Purpose”



BROWN BAG BOOK CLUB to meet THIS THURSDAY, JULY 30

Please join us for a discussion of Methodist bishop Peggy Johnson’s memoir *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out*. We will meet on this Thursday, July 30 at noon in the sanctuary. Bring a sack lunch and join us to read and discuss this 2026 UWF Reading Program selection. See the sign-up sheet in the Lobby to indicate your interest in participating and to pick up a copy of the book.

Visitors and Newcomers:

We invite you to participate to the extent you feel comfortable. *UMH* indicates a song from *The United Methodist Hymnal* (found under the chair in front of you). *TFWS* indicates *The Faith We Sing*, the soft-bound hymnal out on top of the chairs. Words will also be shown on the screen at the front. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us, and we thank you for the gift of your presence.

SERMON

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD (A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition)

**I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen**

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

**May God’s grace be upon these shawls
to warm and comfort, enfold and embrace.
May they provide a safe haven,
a sacred place of security and well-being,
sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.
May those who receive these shawls
be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace,
and wrapped in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

PRAYER SONG

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

UMH 328

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

People’s response: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

MISSION MOMENT

*THE PEACE

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 94

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .
. . . And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ . . .
. . . And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here . . .
. . . Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP
(Place your regular or special offering in the offering basket as you come forward for communion.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**
**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SENDING FORTH

SAYING FAREWELL

Pastor Suzette:
I thank you, the members and friends of Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, for the
love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for
the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,
and accept that you now leave to be in ministry elsewhere.**
We express our gratitude for your time among us.
We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.
**Your influence on our faith and faithfulness
will not leave with your departure.**

Suzette:
I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together
and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on
me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for GiGi Heermans,
who will be working in my place with your youth.

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting,
we give you thanks for cherished memories
and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions.**
Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*HYMN "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" UMH 133

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*SINGING THE SHALOM
As we depart, please join hands with your neighbor to sing a community song of peace.