



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2

The Hallelujah Messenger

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me."*

Psalm 51:10

February 2020

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Dear Friends,

My earliest recollections of observing Lent began when I was in elementary school. I noticed my friend, Mary Alice, getting off of her school bus with a black smudge on her forehead. At the time I had no idea what it was. I learned it was the sign of the cross made with ashes that she received from her priest in her church earlier that day, to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. I had never heard of such a thing. We certainly didn't do this in the church I grew up in so it was all very foreign to me - this notion of receiving ashes on one's forehead and this season called Lent.

As Protestant churches began to realize the importance of recapturing some of the ancient traditions of the Church, we began to see services like Ash Wednesday introduced in our churches and become an integral part of worship in our Christian year. What's more appropriate than to be reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return than in the church?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 26th, and is a season of spiritual preparation leading up to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

During Lent, Christians spend time in self-examination, repentance and self-denial. Traditionally, the call is to the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving with the purpose of drawing closer to God.

The season of Lent lasts forty days, excluding Sundays. The number forty is a reminder that Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. The number forty is significant in other Scripture passages, too. For example, we are reminded that the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights; that God led the people Israel to Mt. Sinai for forty days and forty nights; that Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights and heard God's still small voice on the holy mountain among other examples.

I pray this season of Lent is a fruitful one for you, as you intentionally seek to grow closer to God by practicing spiritual disciplines as you prepare to greet the risen Christ on Easter!

Grace and peace,

Chris

Pastor Chris

Worship Information for February 1, 2020 - February 29, 2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND: FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Pastor: Chris Bistline **Scripture:** Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:1-12 **Sermon Title:** Embody Beatitude Living

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH: FIFTH SUNDAY AFTGER THE EPIPHANY

Pastor: Chris Bistline **Scripture:** Isaiah 58:11; Matthew 5:13-20 **Sermon Title:** Live with Integrity

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH: SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Pastor: Chris Bistline **Scripture:** Leviticus 19:10; Matthew 5:38-48 **Sermon Title:** Go Beyond

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Pastor: Sunshine Reyes **Scripture:** **Sermon Title:**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, February 2nd—Bible Journaling @ 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 3rd—United Methodist Women @ 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 5th—M.O.P.S.

Wednesday, February 5th—Geezers Lunch, MI Ranchito Cafe, Cedar Creek @ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5th—Wednesday at the Well—Taco Bar

Sunday, February 9th - Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 12th—Bible Study— 4:00 p.m.—on Nehemiah

Friday, February 14th—Bell Choir Rehearsal—10:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 15th—Sound Board Training—11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26th—Ash Wednesday

Friday & Saturday—April 3rd & 4th—Women's Retreat

Saturday, March 7th—Pet Wellness Clinic—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8th—Daylight Savings Time begins

Tuesday, March 17th—St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 28th—Plant Sale

Sunday, April 5th—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9th—Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 10th—Good Friday

Saturday, April 11—Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12th—Easter

Thursday, May 7th—National Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 10th—Mother's Day

Thursday through Sunday, May 14th—17th—Women's Walk to Emmaus

Monday, May 25— Memorial Day

Brown Bag Bible Study

Plug into a Bible Study!

***Sunday Women's study 4 p.m.**
room 201 Current study Nehemiah

***Brown Bag Tuesdays, 10 until Noon**
Video based studies with an occasional movie

***Men Reading through the scriptures**
Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m., Conference room

***Wednesday Covenant Bible Study**
6:30 to 8 p.m. after Wednesday at the Well

Sunday Afternoon Women's Bible Study

The Sunday Women's Bible Study continues to do Bible Journaling on the first Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm in room 201. That's February 2, 2020; March 1, 2020; etc. Most of the regulars have a special Bible set aside to work in, but any journal or notebook can be used, and small journals are available for new participants. Journaling supplies are provided. Contact Louise or Jennifer Ridlon with questions.

Other Sundays we do a DVD-driven Bible Study from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We are currently in the Nehemiah Code. A new study will start March 8th. Watch the March newsletter, or contact Dot Files for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Join us! There is a class for you!
Classes meet from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pre-K

Ages 2, 3 & 4 years old -Nursery Classroom

Children:

Annex Buildings

CCUMC Nursery:

Available for children 2 mos thru 4 years old

Adult Classes:

EMMANUEL AMBASSADORS:

upstairs Room 202

CROSS TRAINERS:

upstairs Room 201

NEW BEGINNINGS:

Conference Room

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP:

Prayer Room

M.O.P.S.

Mops is a non-profit group that meets at CCUMC, on the first Wednesday of each month, Sept. thru May. The moms meet for mutual support, education and community projects.

This year will celebrate the 9th year that MOPS has been a part of CCUMC's family!

The first meeting this school year was Sept. 4, 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and we are in need of **volunteers to help with childcare in the Nursery, 2-3 yr class & 4+ class.**

If you would like to **volunteer** or **re-volunteer** please **write your name, email/phone number** and email to **vicki.manno@gmail.com.**

Nurture Team January Activities

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Visits (hospital, doctor) | 1 |
| Cards | |
| Texts | 1 |
| Calls | |
| Email | 34 |
| Funeral Lunches | |
| Prayers | daily for all in need |
| Other | |
| Congregational Care Team point of Contact:: | |
| Linda Rachui 512-364-4175 | |

Trinity Travelers

The Travelers are up and running in 2020, with their first campout of the year already completed. A large group gathered at Schulenburg RV Park on January 8-12. Eight rigs made the trip, with more members staying in local motels, or drove up for the days activities.

The busy year ahead:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Feb. 13-16 | Brazos Valley RV Resort, Caldwell |
| March 19-22 | Leisure RV Resort, Fentress |
| April 16-19 | Colorado Landing, LaGrange |
| April 29-May 3 | National NUMC Rally, Blueberry Hill RV Park, Bushnell, FL |
| May 14-17 | River Shade RV Park, Seguin |
| June 11-14 | Longhorn RV Park, Neiderwald |
| July 9-12 | Skyline RV Resort, Bandera |
| Aug. 13-16 | Riverway RV Park, Llano |
| Sept. 10-13 | Roadrunner RV Park, Johnson City |
| Oct. 8-11 | All Texas Roundup TBD |
| Nov. 12-15 | Big Chief RV Resort, Burnet |

If you enjoy camping, playing games, visiting points of interest, or just watching the birds or the sun go down while fellowshiping with a great group of people, talk to Jimmy or Marian Whittle, Ed or Lois Reznicek, Bill or Jenny Calvert, Henry or Verla Tindell or Roberta Laundry.



CCCUMC 2020 Food Pantry Counts

| Month | Week | Date | Food per Week | Adults | Children | Week | Month | To Date |
|---------|---------|------|---------------|--------|----------|------|-------|---------|
| January | 3rd Wed | 1/15 | 15 | 30 | 22 | 55 | | |
| April | | | | | | | | |
| July | | | | | | | | |
| October | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 55 |

WEDNESDAY AT THE WELL

Wednesday at the Well resumed on January 15th from 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hosts are needed for each Wednesday during the spring. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Individuals or groups may host a meal. Proceeds may be designated for any church function or for the group. Contact Dot Files with questions: filesarabians@yahoo.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is currently distributing out of our church to 10 families each week, with one hot meal and the rest frozen. They need a driver each week on Tuesday starting at about 11:30 a.m. It takes about an hour. If you can help one day per month, that would be a huge service to the Meals on Wheels. Contact Shari Mailen at 979-716-6657 and/or Janice.

PIANO AVAILABLE

We need to re-home the "extra" piano from our music room. Another used piano is also available. Contact Dot Files for information. filesarabians@yahoo.com or 512-303-6417

HELP NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

Help is needed in putting together and publishing the church newsletter. If you are interested in taking over the responsibility of doing the newsletter each month, please contact Janice, Pastor Chris, or Connie Fannon. The responsibilities Janice has in the office have grown and make it more difficult for her to continue doing the newsletter. She is more than willing to train someone and help them learn what it takes to do the newsletter each month.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Welcome our new members

Mary Deene Shaddix and Deena & James Raynor



Emmaus Update!

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. This is a spiritual walk, not a physical one.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Each pilgrim is assigned a sponsor who will explain the walk, help with logistics, and answer questions. The Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) is adding an extra women's walk this year. Now is the time to sign up for the men's walk or May women's walk. If you wish to attend, but these dates do not work for you, contact Dot or Eben Files.

Women: May 14-17, 2020

Women: November 5-8, 2020

Our own Eben Files will be the lay director for the men's walk in February.

Gatherings of believers are open to everyone, including guests who have not yet attended a Walk to Emmaus. Gatherings dates are on Saturdays, every other month. The next gathering at Cedar Creek UMC will be July 11. Contact Dot or Eben Files if you wish to carpool to a gathering.

Saturday March 7, 2020 at Northwest Hills UMC. 4:00 training or agape making; 5:30 dinner provided by NW Hills UMC, 6:30 music & worship.

To help publicize Emmaus, the Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) asks those who have already attended to wear their colorful Emmaus cross lanyards the first Sunday in each month. Also, there are several vacant GAEC board positions, if any graduates want to get more involved.

The Greater Austin Emmaus Community (GAEC) website is: <http://www.austinemmaus.org>

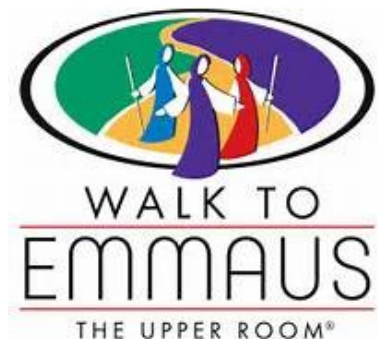
Walk dates, team & pilgrim applications, gathering information, prayer and agape sign-up lists, sponsor and other information are on this site. You can also sign up on the website to get information updates by e-mail.

For more information, contact Dot or Eben Files, or anyone who has already attended a Walk to Emmaus.

Dot and Eben Files

512-303-6417

filesarabians@yahoo.com



The Stewardship of Life

Homeless to Learn Toughness

Genesis 16 After God's promise to make a great nation of Abraham's descendants, Sarah didn't want to wait, so she persuaded Abraham to use her handmaid as a surrogate mother. Ishmael was born to suit the planning of Abraham and Sarah, not to carry out the stated plan of God.

Genesis 21:9-21 The fallacy of Sarah's plan soon became evident. The maid mocks her mistress Sarah, to whom apply the promises of God to Abraham. Verse 12 records God's promise of greatness for Ishmael to honor Abraham, the primary recipient of the promises of God for His people. Even when His instructions are ignored, God can choose when to grant a waiver to His conditions. By sending away Hagar and Ishmael, Sarah was solving her problem, but God used the situation to create in Ishmael a toughness that enabled him to thrive in homelessness, and to prepare Ishmael's descendants to challenge the future nation of Israel..

Genesis 25:12-18 records the progeny of Ishmael, the son of Sarah's handmaid Hagar. God chose to honor Abraham by creating another nation among his descendants. Notice that there is no honor to Sarah, whose idea Ishmael was.

A key lesson of the life of Ishmael is that God often blesses us even when we have not done what He had told us to do. I think in particular of a growing Christian who counseled an acquaintance to marry within the faith • ***Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*** • ***2 Corinthians 6:14.**** But then that same man married a woman of a different faith. The sign of God's forgiveness is clear in that, in answer to prayer, the wife converted to the husband's faith and their children grew up in a Christian home with early and strong Bible teaching. As a bonus, other members of the wife's family were influenced for good, where they might not have been any other way.

The Lord Provides!

Myron Remington

* NASB

Message from Newsletter Editor:

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 1, 2020, NEWSLETTER IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 2020. IF ARTICLES ARE NOT RECEIVED BY THIS DATE, IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER AS IT IS MY GOAL TO HAVE THE NEWSLETTER PUT TOGETHER, PRINTED AND READY FOR DISTRIBUTION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

If I have missed someone's birthday, if you know of events that you would like included on the newsletter, and/or if you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please send me an email at the address below. Please include CCUMC Newsletter in the subject line so your message doesn't go to my junk mailbox.

May your blessings be many and your troubles few!

Janice Hoffman, Editor

jhoffmanccumc@aol.com

BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| February 01 | Jadon Vann | February 17 | Kennith Karr |
| February 04 | Sheryl Michalenko | February 71 | Blanca Montez |
| February 05 | Aaron Travis | February 18 | Belinda Patterson |
| February 05 | Linda Weseloh | February 19 | Melba Conley |
| February 06 | Anna Lisa Emens | February 20 | Charlene Severance |
| February 07 | James Hays | February 21 | Edie Stimach |
| February 08 | Aaron Perez | February 23 | Dominique Rivera |
| February 09 | Sarah Scott | February 24 | Jennifer Barker |
| February 12 | Linda Cook | February 24 | John Zech |
| February 12 | Kathleen Erderly | February 25 | Andrew Montez |

PRAYER LIST: Please keep the following in your prayers and all those who are in need of prayers that we are unaware of.

| | |
|--|--|
| Dan & Cathy Aguilar | Shirley Meek |
| Pastor Chris Bistline | Cathy Meisetschlaeger family |
| Shirley Cain | Kim Newman |
| Ruthie Coleman | Ruth Ann Montalvo |
| Jim Collier | Linda Rachui |
| Melba Conley | Jeanne Randall |
| Linda Cuatt | Sunshine Reyes |
| Bob Dannewitz I (Nancy Weidner's father) | Tammy Rigney (Kent & Carolyn Smith's daughter) |
| Bob Dannewitz II (Nancy Weidner's son) | Rodger Stagman |
| Arnold & Gloria Essler | Frank & Nancy Weidner, Isabella & Noel |
| Brandi Hall (Carolyn Smith's daughter) | Jimmy & Marion Whittle |
| Joe Gambino | Thomas Whittle |
| Brian Hohenstein | Pamela Wilson |
| Virgil Kennedy | Our world and leaders |
| Lanny Kutz (Frank Weidner's friend) | Military |
| Patricia Landeros | All those unnamed that are in need of prayers |
| Mike Meador | |



"Discipleship Opportunities"

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | Praise and Worship Service |
| 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Ladies Grief Support |
| 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Sunday School Classes for all ages |
| 10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. | Pre-K Sunday School (ages, 2, 3 & 4) |
| 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Traditional Worship Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Fifth Sunday Services |

Tuesday

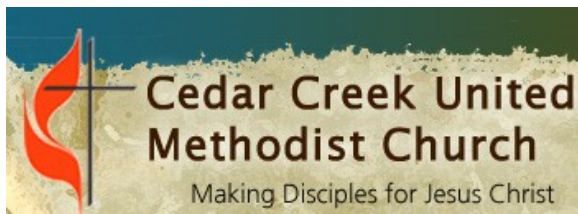
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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Brown Bag Bible Study |
|-------------------|------------------------------|



CEDAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION

To make disciples for Jesus Christ which can transform our world.

Cedar Creek UMC is a place where people discover God working in their lives.



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CEDARCREEKUMC.ORG

Administrative Council and Leaders for 2020

Church Council Chair
 Lay Leader
 Lay Delegate to Ann. Conf #1
 Alternate Delegate #1
 Staff Parish Relations Chair
 Board of Trustees Chair
 Finance Chair
 Church Treasurer
 Financial Secretary
 Recording Secretary
 Membership Secretary
 Website Communications
Young Adult Representative
 United Methodist Women
 Scouting Liaison
 Children and Youth Ministry
 Outreach Ministries

Worship Leadership
 9 am Praise Band
 11:15 am Choir

Bell Choir
 Care Corps (Nurture)
 Funeral Receptions
 CCUMC Prayer Chain
 Usher/Greeter Coordinator
 Nursery Director & Moppets
 Coordinator
 Newsletter
 Education/Library
 Safety Policy Administrator
 Audio/Visual

Communion Stewards

Food Pantry

Ramp Team
 Wednesday at the Well
 Coordinator
 Emmaus Coordinators

Barry Cook
Sue Kratochvil
Bob Severance
Sue Kratochvil
Connie Fannon
Eben-Files
Regena Baker
Bob Severance
Janice Hoffman
Charlene Severance
Janice Hoffman
Cori Weaver
AnnaLisa Emmens
Diana Jones
Eben Files

Dot Files

Joseph Leggett
Beth Yost
Dot Files
Louise Ridlon
Dot Files
Gwen Bunnell
Cherri Caudle
Janice Hoffman
Rosalie Kahanek

Vicki Manno
Janice Hoffman
Mary Bailey
Linda Weseloh
Sunshine Reyes
Blanca & Juan Montez
Shirley Ellis
Diana Jones
Cynthia Gilbreath
Linda Cook
Rosalie Kahanek
Eben Files

Dot & Eben Files

| 2020 | 2021 | 2021 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Nominations Committee:</u> | | |
| Doedee Vann | Linda Cook | Louise Ridlon |
| Mark Clingan | Edie Stimach | Connie Fannon |
| Mary Bailey | Bill Nogues | Joe Gambino |
| <u>Staff Parish Relations:</u> | | |
| Connie Fannon | Connie Stagman | Mary Ann |
| Blanca Montez | Jill Adams | Shirley Ellis |
| Bryan Hohenstein | Jimmy Whittle | Belinda Rojas |
| <u>Board of Trustees:</u> | | |
| Trey Honeycutt | Robert Kramm | Ricky Requardt |
| Robert Jones | Charles Weseloh | Juan Montez |
| Sandy Walthall | Eben Files | Rosalie Kahanek |
| <u>Lay Servant Ministries:</u> – Dot Files, Shirley Ellis, Eben Files, Vicki Manno, Sue Kratochvil, Doedee Vann, Mark Clingan, Sunshine Reyes, Blanca Montez | | |
| <u>Finance Committee:</u> - Regena Baker, Bob Severance, Barry Cook, Connie Fannon, Eben Files, Sue Kratochvil, Janice Hoffman, Pastor Chris Bistline | | |
| <u>Community Events:</u> - Eben & Dot Files | | |

CEDAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5630 FM 535
P. O. Box 33
Cedar Creek, Texas 78612
512-303-1393

DEADLINE
 For March 1, 2020, Newsletter Items
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
 Email articles to jhoffmanccumc@aol.com