



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

The Hallelujah Messenger

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.' Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin."

James 4:13-17 (NRSV)

January 2020

Dear Friends,

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Inserts:

Like many of you, I spend the last few days of December thinking about how I might be a better person in the next year. I assess my life, my dreams, my goals and my ambitions in my professional and in my personal life. I recently was given the gift of an extra hour on December 31st, New Year's Eve, to contemplate life in the New Year and all that might be before me. I had my day planned out with appointments and the never-ending to do list. And, I messed up. I missed an appointment by an hour and rather than being distressed about it, I thought to myself, "You've been given a gift! You have an extra hour to spend with God!"

I was in downtown Bastrop at the time, so I headed to Fisherman's Park to walk the riverfront trail and reflect and pray. It was a gorgeous morning. I saw the steam lifting up from the river. I saw dozens of turkey vultures by the water at the boat dock and in a tree nearby, I noticed an abundance of squirrels in my journey, some jumping from tree branch to tree branch as if chasing one another, and plants that you don't normally expect in these parts of the state, like bamboo (and a notice not to take them). I think I heard a woodpecker in the distance, a sound I've not heard since my childhood years in Beaumont. I discovered many entrance points to the trail via stairs from places of business, parks and even the library. I made a mental note as I climbed up and down these stairs as these are helpful when training for hikes in the mountains. I noticed the parade of geese coming up from the water by the playground, singing, or squawking praises as they walked. I had the gift of spending time with God in God's good creation and I was thankful!

I thought to myself, "This has to be at least one of my New Year's resolutions: to take some time during each week, to bask in the glory of God's good creation, outside, wherever I might be." God speaks to me in moments like these; and I am able to more freely speak to God in the great outdoors. It is glorious to me, and I hope to God, to spend time together like this.

What about you? Have you made at least one resolution for the New Year? Are you willing to share it or them with me?

All the best to you and yours in the New Year!

Chris

Pastor Chris

Worship Information for January 1, 2020 - January 31, 2020

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—COMMUNION SUNDAY

Pastor: Chris Bistline Scripture: Isaiah 60:1, Matthew 2:1-12 Sermon Title: Follow Your Star

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH: BAPTISM OF THE LORD—EMMAUS SUNDAY

Pastor: Chris Bistline Scripture: Isaiah 42:, Matthew 3:16-17 Sermon Title: Connect with your Belovedness

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Pastor: Chris Bistline Scripture: Isiah 49:1, John 1:29-42 Sermon Title: Know Your Name

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH: THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPPHANY

Pastor: Chris Bistline Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-4, Matthew 4:18-20 Sermon Title: Claim Your Vocation

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 5th—Bible Journaling @ 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 6th—United Methodist Women @ 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 8th—M.O.P.S.

Wednesday, January 8th—Geezers Lunch, Cedars Mediterranean Grill, Bastrop @ 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 9th—Outreach Planning Meeting—6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 11th—Emmaus Gathering at Wesley United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 12th—Emmaus Sunday—Wear your cross.

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

Wednesday—January 15th —Food Pantry— 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15th—Wednesday at the Well—Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Contest

Saturday, January 18th—Know Your Joy Workshop—Leadership Training— 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. , Seguin FUMC

Monday, January 20th—Martin Luther King Day—church office will be closed

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express the appreciation and thankfulness that I felt upon receiving your Christmas love offering. When I first set foot into Cedar Creek UMC I knew in my heart that you are a congregation who loves the Lord, who understands Christ's call to serve God's people, who strive to live into a life of gratitude and generosity, and who know full well the demands that are placed on a pastor's life in leading all into a deeper relationship with the Lord. Your generosity made my family's Christmas a lot brighter this year and for this I am ever grateful.

Grace and peace,

Chris

Pastor Chris

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 December 1, 2019; January 5, 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.

A new in-depth video-driven Bible Study will begin on January 12, 2020. Watch the January 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

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 December Activities

Visits (hospital, doctor)	
Cards	15
Texts	56
Calls	5
Email	
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.



Month	Week	Date	Food per Week	Adults	Children	Week	Month	To Date
December	2nd Wed	12/11	31	62	67	129		
								1933

CCCUMC 2019 Food Pantry Counts

WEDNESDAY AT THE WELL

Wednesday at the Well meals for the spring resume with the annual Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Contest sponsored by UMW on Wednesday, January 15 from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Activities following the meal in January include Covenant Bible Study, Meet the Bells, and Choir Rehearsal. Hosts are needed for each Wednesday during the spring. A sign-up sheet is 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.

OUTREACH

There will be a planning session for 2020 activities on Thursday January 9th at 6:30 p.m. We will evaluate some of the 2019 activities, and schedule many dates for 2020.

The Outreach Committee coordinates many activities that take Christ outside the church, or invite non-members to come into the church. Many of these activities are led by other groups or have on-going leadership, such as UMW, Scouts, MOPS, Lifeline Screening, Spanish services, blood drives, voting, the ramp team, Wednesday at the Well meals, and our food pantry and garden.

Other activities need discussion to set dates, determine leadership, decide the format for the next year, or even if they will be held next year. These will be the focus of the meeting. These include the Easter Egg Hunt, Blessing of the Animals, the Fall Festival, VBS, and supplies drives for Cedar Creek Elementary School.

All are invited to attend. If you cannot attend, but wish to help, contact Dot Files. There is a place for everyone to work on one or more of the activities!

Dot Files

2020 Outreach Committee Chair

filesarabians@yahoo.com

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. It's not too early to sign up for 2020. Applications are already coming in. If you wish to attend, but these dates do not work for you, contact Dot or Eben Files.

2020 dates: February 20-23 (men) and November 5-8 (women)

Our own Eben Files will be the lay director for the men's walk in February and Pastor Chris is serving as an assistant spiritual director. Team selection is in process, so if you are available to work the walk, submit an application at the greater Austin Emmaus website, or talk to Eben.

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. Contact Dot or Eben Files if you wish to carpool.

Saturday January 11, 2020 at Wesley UMC, 1164 San Bernard St, Austin 78702. 4:00 agape making; 5:30 pot luck, 6:30 music & worship

To help publicize Emmaus, the Greater Austin Emmaus Community asks those who have already attended to wear their colorful Emmaus cross lanyards the first Sunday in each month.

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

Sentenced to Homelessness

In this paraphrase from Genesis 4, we find the first murder of the Bible:

Eve gave birth to Cain, and then his brother Abel. Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a farmer, a tiller of the ground. In time Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. Abel also brought an offering of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but not for Cain and for his offering. So Cain became very angry and his face fell. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your face fallen? If you do well, will not your face be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." Cain told Abel his brother, and when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him. Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

I believe that by the time Cain was born, the Lord had already made known to mankind that for God to forgive sin, it was necessary for man to shed the blood of animals. Cain's giving an offering of plants was appropriate, as we learn in the time of Moses, but only after the forgiveness that came from animal sacrifice. [Now we are exempt from the law of blood sacrifices because Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient for all time.] Cain's offering of plants was a deliberate violation of God's instruction; Cain was telling God that the farm offering was a lot of work and God should be happy with it. The sentence imposed by God as judge made it very clear that God's law is supreme, not man's.

In time Cain established a new home, "east of Eden." But history has not forgotten Cain's sin or his punishment.

The Lord Provides!

Myron Remington

**Poinsettias decorating the chapel were
purchased in honor of or in memory of:**

Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Walter & Gladys Cain	Bob & Laura Essler
Joe & Margaret Chapman	Pete Collins
Frank Ridlon	Cal & Evelyn Bensema
Ed Rachui	Frank & Beth
Ray & Carol Hill	Ben & Maggie Coinley
Ernest Gilbreath	Janca & Ginnit
Jessie Arron Torres	Dawn Sconci
Eli Sandles	Robert & Evelyn Barg
Colt Bushrow	Vets with PTSD
Reznicek family	King Rawlins
Joseph Luze	Barbara Zinger
Calvin Schmeltekoft	Nancy Gambino
Grace & Red Rockwell	Jerry Bunnell
Craig Erderly	Shanna Pace
Harold & Michael Mason	Don Scott
Dorothy Droemer	Kaoni
Calvert Family	Marlena Litzau Sprouse
Maria McPhail	Wilson Godfrey
Ruth & Ben Coffey	Ralph Bistline, Sr.
Sharon & Keter Merchand	Michael & Alex Bistline
Ryder Merchand	Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Tampke
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Nogues	Parents & Grandparents
Walter & Mary Miller	Ed Laundry



Message from Newsletter Editor:

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY 1, 2020, NEWSLETTER IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 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

January 03 Joe Gambino	January 18 Ed Reznicek
January 03 Robert Severance	January 21 Laura Smith
January 08 Victoria Vavricek	January 21 Irene Sparks
January 09 Harlie Vavricek	January 26 George Priest
January 12 Tana Hennig	January 31 Rosalinda Serrano
January 16 Ross Crysup	January 31 Bob Wilson



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	Mike Meador
Pastor Chris Bistline	Shirley Meek
Shirley Cain	Sheryl Michalenko
Ruthie Coleman	Kim Newman
Jim Collier	Bill Nogues
Melba Conley	Jeanne Randall
Linda Cuatt	Tammy Rigney (Kent & Carolyn Smith's daughter)
Bob Dannewitz I (Nancy Weidner's father)	Debbie Somers
Bob Dannewitz II (Nancy Weidner's son)	Mike Taylor
Ginny Emens	Frank & Nancy Weidner, Isabella & Noel
Kathleen Erderly	Jimmy & Marion Whittle
Arnold & Gloria Essler	Thomas Whittle
Brandi Hall (Carolyn Smith's daughter)	Pamela Wilson
Joe Gambino	Our world and leaders
Dave Gramling	Military
Virgil Kennedy	All those unnamed that are
Lanny Kutz (Frank Weidner's friend)	in need of prayers
Patricia Landeros	
Roberta Laundry	



Christmas Tea



Gerri Priest and Louise Ridlon



Eben Files and Ed Reznicek



Kids table with Jill Adams



Contratulations to Pamela U-Wilson
Certificate of Appreciation for a job well done from Travis County Constable Precinct 5

Christmas Pageant



Spanish Service



"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

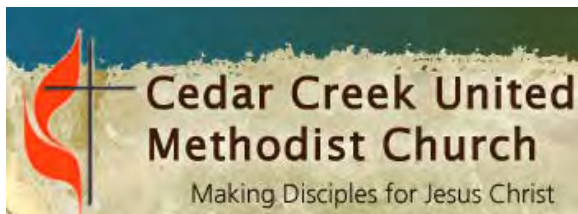
10:00 a.m.	Brown Bag Bible Study
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CEDAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION

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

		2020	2021	2021
Church Council Chair	Barry Cook			
Lay Leader	Sue Kratochvil			
Lay Delegate to Ann. Conf #1	Bob Severance	<u>Nominations Committee:</u>		
Alternate Delegate #1	Sue Kratochvil	Doedee Vann	Linda Cook	Louise Ridlon
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Connie Fannon	Mark Clingan	Edie Stimach	Connie Fannon
Board of Trustees Chair	Eben-Files	Mary Bailey	Bill Nogues	Joe Gambino
Finance Chair	Regena Baker	<u>Staff Parish Relations:</u>		
Church Treasurer	Bob Severance	Connie Fannon	Connie Stagman	Mary Ann
Financial Secretary	Janice Hoffman	Blanca Montez	Jill Adams	Shirley Ellis
Recording Secretary	Charlene Severance	Bryan Hohenstein	Jimmy Whittle	Belinda Rojas
Membership Secretary	Janice Hoffman	<u>Board of Trustees:</u>		
Website Communications	Cori Weaver	Trey Honeycutt	Robert Kramm	Ricky Requardt
Young Adult Representative	AnnaLisa Emmens	Robert Jones	Charles Weseloh	Juan Montez
United Methodist Women	Diana Jones	Sandy Walthall	Eben Files	Rosalie Kahanek
Scouting Liaison	Eben Files	<u>Lay Servant Ministries:</u> – Dot Files, Shirley Ellis, Eben Files,		
Children and Youth Ministry	Dot Files	Vicki Manno, Sue Kratochvil, Doedee Vann, Mark Clingan,		
Outreach Ministries		Sunshine Reyes, Blanca Montez		
Worship Leadership		<u>Finance Committee:</u> - Regena Baker, Bob Severance, Barry		
9 am Praise Band	Joseph Leggett	Cook, Connie Fannon, Eben Files, Sue Kratochvil, Janice		
11:15 am Choir	Beth Yost	Hoffman, Pastor Chris Bistline		
	Dot Files	<u>Community Events:</u> - Eben & Dot Files		
	Louise Ridlon			
Bell Choir	Dot Files			
Care Corps (Nurture)	Gwen Bunnell			
Funeral Receptions	Cherri Caudle			
CCUMC Prayer Chain	Janice Hoffman			
Usher/Greeter Coordinator	Rosalie Kahanek			
Nursery Director & Moppets Coordinator				
Newsletter	Vicki Manno			
Education/Library	Janice Hoffman			
Safety Policy Administrator	Mary Bailey			
Audio/Visual	Linda Weseloh			
	Sunshine Reyes			
	Blanca & Juan Montez			
	Shirley Ellis			
	Diana Jones			
Communion Stewards	Cynthia Gilbreath			
	Linda Cook			
Food Pantry	Rosalie Kahanek			
	Eben Files			
Ramp Team				
Wednesday at the Well				
Coordinator				
Emmaus Coordinators	Dot & Eben Files			

CEDAR CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5630 FM 535

P. O. Box 33

Cedar Creek, Texas 78612

512-303-1393

DEADLINE

For February 1, 2020, Newsletter Items
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020
 Email articles to jhoffmanccumc@aol.com