

Cedar Crossings

October 14, 2020 Edition



Cedar Cross United Methodist Church Statement of Inclusion

We the people of Cedar Cross United Methodist Church regard the love of God to be the foundation of our life and ministry.

We believe in the ever present love of God as witnessed through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We believe that each person is loved by God and is of sacred worth. Therefore, by God's grace:

We welcome all persons to our Church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize and discriminate against others.

We express God's hospitality by creating a safe, healing and transforming place for all to enter.

We celebrate the gifts of all who come seeking God, Christian community and justice in our world, and we welcome all into the life and ministry of our church.

We declare that we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God when we embrace diversity.

We uphold the motto of our denomination:
OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS.

Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Day

Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Day is always the second Sunday in October (October 10, 2020), and all of October is celebrated as Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Month. The celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers.



We so appreciate Pastor Jim, his steadfast guidance and support during this past year. Whether he says so or not, he is truly an essential worker for Cedar Cross United Methodist Church. Take a moment to send him a note, email or message him on Facebook.

A Thank you to Cedar Cross and Cedar Cross Cooperative Preschool Employees

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) would like to thank all of Cedar Cross and Cedar Cross Preschool Employees for their dedication and hard work during this pandemic, it has been a trying time for all. **Thank you** for being employees we can always count on! The entire team **thanks you** for everything **you** do.

*We are so grateful for all of your hard work. SPRC and our congregation **thank you** for everything **you** do. It's rare to come across people who are so dedicated and trustworthy.*

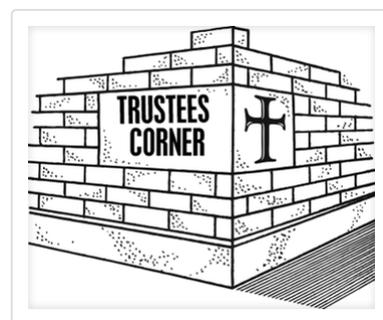
Trustees Corner

Our Church grounds look great! This is due to the wonderful work of Paul Olafson ,Larry States and the Gardening Buddies who are still tending their areas. Thanks to all!

We have finished all of the required changes for the reopening of the Preschool. Thank you to my Trustees Team, Katie Rugg and Jasmine Stilson. With your help and support we got it

done. Katie and Jasmine have been working since the beginning of summer, their commitment and willingness to reimagine made this possible. You ladies are a blessing to me and our Church Community.

There is on more thing we would like to do. Our bathrooms really need to be painted but unfortunately most of us have outlived our "painting days". We will provide paint and the necessary supplies but we are asking someone to use them. Please see article below if you are interested. The parsonage back steps, going to the back yard were replaced. Several of the treads were broken, it was a real safety hazard. We were fortunate that only the treads and a few supports had to be replaced . Be safe, see you next month, Ann Filibeck, Head of Trustees



Bathroom Beutification

Trustees are looking for a small team of painters to paint our two bathrooms at the Church. Due to Covid we would like a family or 2-4 friends who feel comfortable working together to volunteer their precious time. All paint and painting supplies will be provided. If you are interested, please call Ann Filibeck at 425-355-5304 and leave a message with your phone number and I will return your call as soon as I can.

Many Thanks! Ann Filibec. Head of Trustees

October and November Birthdays



October

10/01 Sharlotte Swanson
10/04 Gordon Norris
10/06 Brett Cain
10/08 Sandra Wilson
Emily Starr
10/11 Ken Eriksen
Gloria Hembree
10/17 Marilyn Donohew
10/18 Joshua Muthumani
Charles Lang
Kate Cain
Anne Davis
10/20 Amber Morrison
10/24 Shirley Oakley-Hewson
10/26 Lois Hillman
Curt Schindler
10/27 James Overbay
10/29 Becca Sarcona
10/30 Aaron Clarke
10/31 Mike Donohew

November

11/04 Bill Wiley
Betty Davis
Larry States
11/05 Jason Muthumani
Sybil Davis
11/06 Alexandria Cain
11/08 Asta Molver
Wes Livingston
11/11 Miriam Molver
11/13 Norene Hogle
11/14 Mike Hirano
Carl Rugg
Judy Wood
11/16 Roland Livingston
11/18 Madalyn Daly
11/23 George Hobson
11/27 Cameron Peddy
11/28 Alice Mitchell

Transitions

Pastor Jim and his spouse Paula and son Aaron are entering another transition after their loss of Kenneth. Pastor's spouse Paula will be residing in New Mexico for the time being as they continue to experience their loss. Pastor Jim will continue to live in the CCUMC parsonage with their son Aaron. Pastors Jim and Paula are not planning to get a divorce, but the separation at this time is needed for continued healing for the family. Pastor Jim and his

family ask for your prayers and care and compassion as they journey this transition in their family's life.

What Was the First Methodist School?

Education is a [core value](#) of The United Methodist Church that dates back to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th century England. Founder John Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life and that everyone should have access to education regardless of gender or class. In 1748 he enlarged a school he had opened for the children of coal miners near Bristol and named it the [Kingswood School](#). His goal for the school was to give young people a high-quality education so they could aspire to Cambridge or Oxford and to the professions. He championed education as a way to assure that leaders would act ethically and responsibly.

As the Methodist movement took hold and spread in the United States, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke demonstrated the same attitude in founding [Cokesbury College](#), the first of many colleges started by the denomination. The General Conferences of 1820 and 1824 charged annual conferences with the establishment of schools, literary institutions, and colleges. By the Civil War, Methodism had established or was affiliated with some 200 such institutions."

John Wesley's vision of making higher education accessible to all has inspired the founding of many educational institutions by the church. Today The United Methodist Church supports a network of 117 United Methodist-related [schools, colleges, and universities](#) in the United States, including 13 schools of theology.

The University of Puget Sound was founded by the [Methodist Episcopal Church](#) in 1888 in downtown Tacoma. The idea for a college in Tacoma originated with [Charles Henry Fowler](#), who had previously been the president of [Northwestern University](#). Fowler was in Tacoma for a Methodist conference when he spoke of his vision of a Christian institution of learning in the area. The conference committed to building an institution of learning which would by its ample facilities command the respect and patronage of Methodist people and advance the establishment of a school of learning which would be a praise in all the land.

In 1980, the university divested its attachment with the Methodist Church, and an independent board of trustees assumed full fiscal responsibility of the university.

Adapted from United Methodist News Service and Wikipedia.

– Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communication

Men's Leaders from Four Denominations Conduct Prayer Session:

Men's Ministries leaders in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME), the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), the African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion (AMEZ), and the United Methodist Church gathered last month for prayer in an on-line day of prayer and meditation. Bishop James Swanson, president of the General Commission on UM Men, asked

some 300 participants in the Zoom meeting: “Why should we gather for prayer when everyone is marching on the street?”

Bishop Swanson noted the disciples understood the importance of prayer. The Gospels reported the disciples only asked Jesus to teach them how to do one thing. “Teach us how to pray.” The bishop said prayer acknowledges we can’t change things on our own. “Prayer is the most underutilized weapon in our spiritual arsenal,” said the Rev. Dr. Eleazer Merriweather, pastor of St. Paul’s AMEZ church. “We need prayer like we’ve never needed it before,” said the Rev. Dr. Leone C. Moore, general secretary of Evangelism and Missions for the CME Church. He said moral decay, racism, and division in the U.S. underscore our need for prayer.

The Rev. Ronald Davis, a pastor in the AME Church, said the pandemic helped bring us together even while we remain in our homes, “the most essential part of our lives.” He encouraged participants to “take back the home” and make it more “Christ-like.” CME Church Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton said, “We can make a difference even in an unjust society. Don’t be discouraged, God will take care of us as we walk and work together.”

In the introductory meditation, the Rev. Scot Moore, director of men’s ministry for the AMECZ, called the 3-hour session an “historic event.” “I strongly believe this is a time the church should not only talk about unity, but it should show unity. Moore celebrated the diversity by comparing the gathering to a bouquet of flowers; each type of flower enhances the beauty of the whole bouquet. “Unity is not uniformity,” he said.

Dr. Alanzo Smith, an AMECZ, and Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, lifted up three simple words taught by John Wesley, founder of Methodism: 1) Do no harm; 2) Do good; 3) Follow the ordinance of God, such as prayer, searching the Scripture, and fasting. Hanke told the gathering about the Wesley Class Meetings formed by John Wesley in order to provide accountability for the participants. Today, these same type meetings can be held by Zoom. Participants ask each other “How is your soul today?” “Where did God try to lead you?” and “Where will you go to become an ‘on-growing’ disciple next week? —*United Methodist News Service*

From Pastor Jim

A Generous Life

It’s been well over a year since my mother died and I am still receiving requests for donations. When at first her mail was forward to me I was receiving requests on a daily basis. I don’t know what my mother gave to charity; I know what she gave to the church, and in addition it seems she gave to numerous organizations: Audubon Society, Doctors without Borders, National Cancer Society, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, Red Cross, MS Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Nature Conservancy, Hospice, and it goes on. Then there were also political donations! Does it make sense to say that I was not surprised but overwhelmed? My mother was a child of the Depression; she pinched pennies and then gave often large amounts. In our time this perspective is rare, isn’t it? She was a gentle soul but a person of strong conviction. Living out her values and convictions gave her a sense of meaning and purpose. When I first looked at the name of our Stewardship Program, “A Generous Life” I immediately thought of her.

I have one difficulty with the language of in the program. I will admit it is a bias; whenever I see

Good News Version before it translated the Beatitudes as “happy” rather than blessed, I tossed it across the room! That’s right, the word is happy. In the introduction to the devotional it says: *81 percent of respondents said they desired happiness over great achievement... so we know we want to be happy...* I’m glad we are not driven to achieve, but happiness is similar to achievement in that both are focused on the individual person. When the Bill of Rights says that all men (sic) equally have the right to pursue happiness it is not including a holistic vision of happiness. I don’t think when my mother gave to charity it made her feel happy. Life has more gravitas than that, doesn’t it? I prefer words like blessed, meaningful, purposeful and worthy, or how about fruitful? These words imply relations; being connected to something larger than my “happy” self. I also believe we hope that our lives will leave an imprint on that larger meaning, however small. Life is deeper than what the word “happiness” connotes. That was true of my mother.

Living a generous life is participating in God’s larger purpose, and it is part of living a life worthy of the gospel. My own bank account is about me; my gifts are about my dreams for the world. We need dreams for our world these days, don’t we? We need a better vision than we see in the news. Trump has stained the soul of our nation. The pandemic has made us anxious about the future. This is precisely the time we must search for meaning and fruitfulness. Even if our education system is difficult, we must continue to see in our children the work of God, and to impart upon them something more than narcissism and dread. The inverse to happiness is despair, and that path is stretched out before us; we must not take it.

Even as I grew older I still wanted to make my parents proud of me. Maybe “proud” isn’t the right word. I wanted for the imprint of their lives to move my own to a meaningful, relational and fruitful life. I have always too believed that the church is a place where the lives of saints that have come before us sing providing us all with worth and purpose. In the midst of difficult times we need each other; we need the communion of saints, and the church.

This pandemic has brought damage and injury to all of us, some more than others. This includes our church. I think everyone knows the state of our church right now. All churches are suffering for lack of funds. People move but no new people come. It is a time to endure knowing that better days on the other side. Before that time I ask all to continue to support CCUMC. This is really a special place. We have a mission in the world, one that will continue long after I am gone. But I do hope the imprint of my life, and some of my mother’s will continue to move the body in the way of love, justice and grace. P.Jim

How is Your Heart Today?

I don’t know if any of us imagined we would be restricted as we have been for this long. So, we were able, with the assistance of some mighty good people to create a Zoom Worship Service, and it has been good for us. I am not confident that things will change soon and I am missing small groups. Our denomination was built around small group meetings. WE all know the question: How is your heart today? It doesn’t have to be exactly that but some nuance of it. So, I’ve been working with Paul Daly to learn how to use Microsoft Teams, a platform similar to Zoom. Why Teams and not Zoom? Because Teams is free to us and it will be our own. When we get it all figured out I would like to invite people to small groups that are focused on the stress and grief we have been experiencing during this time of COVID-19. They would be sharing groups more than study groups – the text will be our lives. In these surreal

Sending me an email is perhaps the best method: osujim040@gmail.com I look forward to hearing from you. P.jim

Worship Schedule

October 18, 2020 <i>Stewardship III</i> <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Matthew 7:7-11 Genesis 32	"Revealed Through Prayer/ Wrestling with God"
October 25, 2020 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> <i>Stewardship IV</i>	Luke 11:37-44 Matthew 19:26-26	"Sealed by Faith/What's In Your Cup"
November 1, 2020 <i>All Saint's Day</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	1 John 2:1-3 Matthew 19:16-26	
November 8, 2020 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	
November 8, 2020 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Matthew 25:1-13	"The Urgency of the Gospel"
November 15, 2020 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	II Corinthians 12:1-10	"When I am Weak, Then I am Strong"
November 22, 2020 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	Matthew 25:31-46	"What Do We Think of the Sheep and Goats Now?"

Financial Update October 14, 2020

2020 Cedar Cross Financial Update Jan 1 - October 10, 2020					
Income	2020 Budget	Year to Date	Balance to Go	%	Used
Pledged	\$ 270,320.00	\$ 191,068.00	\$ 79,252.00	70.7%	
Unpledged	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 5,575.00	\$ 5,420.00	50.7%	
Loose Plate	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,202.00	\$ 5,798.00	17.2%	
VBS/Admin/Education	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 413.00	\$ 4,887.00	7.8%	
Trustee (4)	\$ 13,690.00	\$ 7,391.00	\$ 6,319.00	54.0%	
Pre School Income	\$ 89,380.00	\$ 27,729.00	\$ 61,651.00	31.0%	
(2)(3) Budgeted Income	\$ 396,690.00	\$ 233,378.00	\$ 136,312.00	58.8%	
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 17,780.00			
(5) PPP SBL - loan		\$ 34,097.00			
(5) Overall Income		\$ 285,255.00		71.9%	
Expenses					
Administrative	\$ 10,050.00	\$ 7,613.00	\$ 2,437.00	75.7%	
Programs	\$ 27,685.00	\$ 11,556.00	\$ 16,129.00	41.7%	
Apportionments	\$ 47,806.00	\$ 42,131.00	\$ 5,675.00	88.1%	
Trustee	\$ 58,322.00	\$ 40,969.00	\$ 17,353.00	70.2%	
Pastor Compensation	\$ 96,085.00	\$ 65,557.00	\$ 30,528.00	68.2%	
Staff Compensation	\$ 81,420.00	\$ 58,399.00	\$ 23,021.00	71.6%	
Pre School Expenses	\$ 78,075.00	\$ 50,866.00	\$ 27,209.00	65.2%	
Budgeted Expense	\$ 399,443.00	\$ 277,091.00	\$ 122,352.00	69.4%	
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 13,908.00			
(5) Overall Expenses		\$ 290,997.00		72.6%	
Notes:					
(1) Unbudgeted Items are monies that are designated and flows thru the budget or holding accounts.					
(2) Deposits are current thru 9/30/20: Offering \$8,068 Pre School \$509, Varco \$10,390 Total \$18,967					
(3) We are 8.6% behind in giving or \$34,115					
(4) Pre School Building Usage of \$4,815 included in the Trustee account.					
(5) PPP SBL loan of \$34,097 is included in the Income and Expense numbers.					

2021 Financial/Stewardship Update

Stewardship Update

We are in the middle of Cedar Cross Stewardship drive for 2021. You have listened to Pastor Jim for the last two Sunday about "A Generous Life". You are receiving an email daily with a devotional for the day challenging you to reflect when and how generosity has impacted your life.

With our church being closed due to COVID 19, you can rejoice because you are not seeing me stand before you every Sunday reminding you to make sure you turn in your pledge card and giving you an update on the status of the campaign. Some of you have already turned in your pledge cards and that data is shown in the below.

Please turn in your pledge cards by October 31, 2020 so that we can define the budget for the church by the end of this year. The Church Council needs to know how many funds are available to allocate for the staff, Programs and the for the maintenance and utilities for our physical church building and parsonage.

You can mail your pledge card to the Church address and please note Financial Secretary on the envelope or send an email to financialsecretaryCCUM@outlook.com.

Larry States

Finance and Stewardship Chair

2021 Financial Campaign Update		
	Pledged	Percentage
As of October 12, 2020:	\$270,320	
Pledge Cards Returned:	17	10.24%
Amount Pledged:	\$66,532	24.61%
Average Pledge for 2020	\$3,914	
2020 Pledge Cards sent out 156		
2019 Average Pledge was \$2,525		



Cedar Cross United Methodist Church

 Facebook

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