

Cedar Cross UMC

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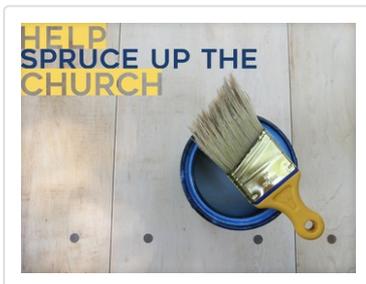
CROSSINGS

A Progressive Christian Community - November 11, 2020

Teen Feed

Dianne Bjorn has been the Cedar Cross United Methodist Church focal point for Teen Feed, she has served in this position for over twenty years. She has made the decision to step down. **We need someone to replace her in coordinating this effort for Cedar Cross.** We will miss her dedication to serving the Teen Feed youth in the university district. **Are any of you interested in taking on this position?**

Dianne received an email from Teen Feed asking about continuing to feed the youth for 2021 so they could do their planning. Since they needed a response, Larry States informed them that until a vaccine for COVID-19 is out and we have taken the vaccination we would not be attending Teen Feed on the second Monday of each month. However, Larry committed us to send \$200.00 a month until COVID is over.



Bathroom Beautification

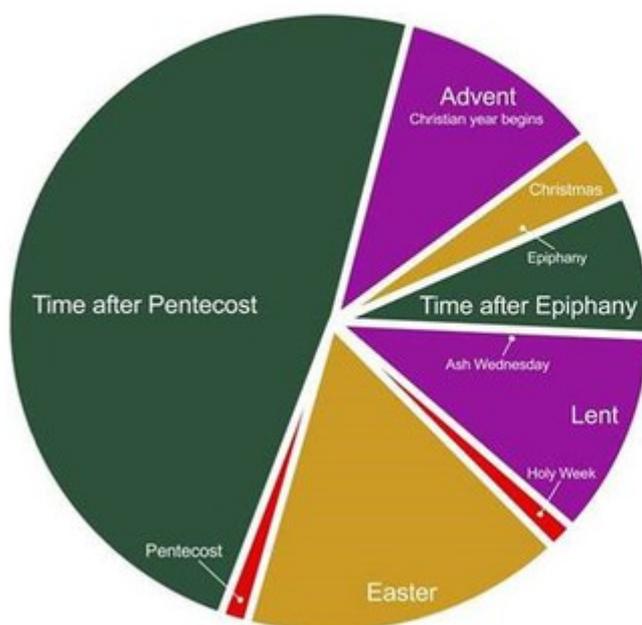
Trustees are looking for a small team of painters to paint our two bathrooms at the Church. Due to Covid we would like a family or 2-4 friends who feel comfortable working together to volunteer their precious time. All paint and painting supplies will be provided. If you are interested, please call Ann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

November Birthdays

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

The Christian Year



Colors of the Christian Year

The colors express visually what is happening in the life of the church. Each color symbolizes the nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

- Advent – purple or blue
- Christmas – gold or white
- Ordinary Time – green
- Lent – purple
- Holy Week – red
- Easter – gold or white
- Pentecost – red
- Ordinary Time – green

Created by United Methodist Communications

What Is Ordinary Time?

The Christian year includes two central cycles focused on major events in the life of Christ: the Christmas cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and Easter cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). The colors associated with the different seasons express visually what is happening in the life of the church. Each color symbolizes the nature of the festival being celebrated. Each of these seasons begins with a time of preparation and anticipation followed by a time of celebration. Ordinary Time follows each cycle.

The word "ordinary" here does not mean "routine" or "not special." Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Epiphany). This term comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, meaning "numbered" or "ordered," and *tempus ordinarium*, "measured time."

The first period of Ordinary Time, called the Season after Epiphany, begins on Epiphany Day and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). The central theme of this season is the calling of disciples and the early ministry of Jesus.

For some, this will mean a focus on evangelism, as found in the Old Testament and [Gospel readings](#) for each week. For others, the focus will be preparing to help others grow in their discipleship. The [Epistle reading](#) each week emphasizes this.

The second period of Ordinary Time, the Season after Pentecost, follows the Easter cycle. It begins the day after Pentecost and continues to Advent. The purpose of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.

Every year, Christians experience the contrast between the central seasons of Christmas and Easter, where we see God in the events around the coming of Christ, and the in-between times, where we see, speak about and join God's ongoing work in the world. We thus experience two regular cycles of preparation, celebration and action in ministry each year, with the Ordinary Times as the primary periods of action.

Produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

From Pastor Jim

Bishop's Recommendation

At our Charge Conference our District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Galang presented to us our Bishop's priorities in ministry for the coming year. It is organized follow the General Rules as follows:

1. Do no harm: this addresses our response to the coronavirus pandemic.
2. Do good: the dismantling of racism.
3. Stay in love with God. Reimagining Life Together.

Here I will be addressing the first of these: Do no harm.

The first thing Bishop Stanovsky warns against is letting down our guard. Recognizing that it is common after a period of time, as we become used to the reality of the pandemic, we relax a bit. Maybe it is a bit in defiance or maybe we just forget. She advocates for us to be diligent in washing our hands, wearing masks and social distancing. And she says, "Our tendency to view risk through the prism of our emotion... hurts us during a pandemic." In a recent sermon I talked about the role of emotion in our election process. When we connect our identity with our emotions we create our own truth. The result is everyone having their own truth and a lack

of evidence that any of these 'truths' have basis in reality. What we want to be soon becomes what we believe to be: "The virus will just go away." When we 'view risk through the prism of emotion' there is no common denominator upon which to dialogue. You have your beliefs and I have mine – all we can do is argue.

The second thing Bishop Stanovsky brings up is about freedom and sacrifice. She bemoans those who emphasize individual rights and discourage wearing masks and social distancing. "Individual liberties activists even carry guns to protests and to government offices to make their point." This is effectively to DO Harm. I believe we should call this as we see it. Our Church has been vigilant in securing the health of our people. What's more, by doing so we secure the health of our neighbors. Reverend Galang said to me, the last thing we want is for one of our churches to become a super-spreader. Meanwhile Trump held his rallies and many churches went ahead and opened in various ways. Our Bishop asks, 'what would Jesus do?' What is more important, the safety of our people or personal freedoms?

Third, Bishop Stanovsky encourages us not to be dismal. Something like, keep your head up. "As you encounter other people on the street or in the grocery store, whether or not their faces are covered, let your eyes meet their eyes, as an affirmation that you see them." I will be the one to say, this is hard. Not this specific example alone, but the whole idea of keeping positive and hopeful.

I am as frustrated with the corona virus as anyone. All of us are aggravated in one way or another. It is particularly hard when we cannot see an end to the pandemic. In our frustration it is tempting to just get out there and try to live a more normal life again regardless of how it affects others. But that is not who we are. We are a people who first 'do no harm.' We take seriously the question, 'what would Jesus do?' So, would Jesus celebrate Thanksgiving with the family and perhaps some friends too? This is not my dilemma; we haven't celebrated Thanksgiving for a few years. Situations vary. Do we set a limit on the number of people who can gather? Do we limit it to immediate family members? State health officials are discouraging Thanksgiving gatherings. In her last post on COVID our Bishop didn't mention Thanksgiving and it sticking to strict safety measures. We all have freedom to make our own decisions. As United Methodists in the process of deciding we have to ask, 'what is it in these circumstances to do no harm? See you on zoom. P.Jim

Worship Schedule

November 15, 2020 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	II Corinthians 12:1-10	"When We Are Weak, Then We Are Strong"
November 22, 2020 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	Matthew 25:31-46 The Judgment of the Nations	"Christian Karma"
November 29, 2020 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Mark 13:26-37 The Little Apocalypse	"Is This the Apocalypse?"
December 6, 2020 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, Comfort my people..]	"From Whence Cometh the Comfort?"
December 13, 2020 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>		Questions Sunday
December 20, 2020 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Luke 1:26-37 Jesus' Birth Foretold	"In the Worst of Times"
December 24, 2020 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	To Be Determined	
December 27, 2020 <i>The First Sunday after Christmas</i>	Luke 2:22-40 Jesus Resented the Temple	"The Year in Review"

Financial Update November 11, 2020

2020 Cedar Cross Financial Update Jan 1 - November 3, 2020

Income	2020 Budget	Year to Date	Balance to Go	% used
Pledged	\$ 270,320.00	\$ 216,029.00	\$ 54,291.00	79.9%
Unpledged	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 5,930.00	\$ 5,070.00	53.9%
Loose Plate	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,202.00	\$ 5,798.00	17.2%
VBS/Admin/Educatic	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 4,860.00	8.3%
Trustee (4)	\$ 13,690.00	\$ 7,636.00	\$ 6,054.00	55.8%
Pre School Income	\$ 89,380.00	\$ 30,482.00	\$ 58,898.00	34.1%
(2)(3) Budgeted Inco	\$ 396,690.00	\$ 261,719.00	\$ 134,971.00	66.0%
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 18,322.00		
(5) PPP SBL - loan		\$ 34,097.00		
(5) Overall Income		\$ 314,138.00		79.2%
Expenses				
Administrative	\$ 10,050.00	\$ 8,667.00	\$ 1,383.00	81.6%
Programs	\$ 27,685.00	\$ 14,606.00	\$ 13,079.00	50.6%
Apportionments	\$ 47,806.00	\$ 42,131.00	\$ 5,675.00	88.1%
Trustee	\$ 58,322.00	\$ 43,380.00	\$ 14,942.00	72.9%
Pastor Compensation	\$ 96,085.00	\$ 68,304.00	\$ 27,781.00	68.2%
Staff Compensation	\$ 81,420.00	\$ 62,337.00	\$ 19,083.00	72.0%
Pre School Expenses	\$ 78,075.00	\$ 55,994.00	\$ 22,081.00	65.2%
Budgeted Expense	\$ 399,443.00	\$ 295,419.00	\$ 104,024.00	70.6%
(1) Unbudgeted Items		\$ 16,675.00		
(5) Overall Expenses		\$ 310,848.00		74.5%

Notes:

- (1) Unbudgeted Items are monies that are designated and flows thru the budget or holding accounts.
- (2) Deposits are current thru 10/18/20: Offering \$1,195 Pre School \$175, Vanco \$1,143 Total \$2,513
- (3) **We are 7.3% behind in giving or \$28,958**
- (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

2021 Stewardship Campaign Update			
	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	
	\$270,320		
As of October 12, 2020:			
Pledge Cards Returned:	48	28.92%	
Amount Pledged:	\$152,952	56.58%	
Average Pledge for 2021	\$3,187		
2021 Pledge Cards sent out 156			
2020 Average Pledge was \$2,525			
Commitment to Special Offerings			
New Building	\$4,000		
Food Bank	\$300		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$200		
Fresh Fruit	\$300		

Stewardship Update

As of November 1, 2020 46 families have pledged their financial support for 2021 in the amount of \$151,152.00. We still need to have pledges in the amount of \$119,168.00 to meet the Cedar Cross goal set of \$270,340.00 for 2021 to fund our planned salaries, ministries and outreach programs at the current level.

The COVID 19 pandemic and the fact that we have not been able to worship together in person has impacted Cedar Cross monetary in 2020 and it looks like that will continue into 2021. The Church Council has been meeting each month to evaluate and determine if we could pay staff salaries. Fortunately, we think that we will be able to pay all the staff salaries with the exception of the Nursery staff and all other bills with the use of a \$34,097 SBL PPP loan for 2020.

The Staff Parish Relations and Finance chairs are concerned for 2021 about being able to pay staff salaries particularly if the pledge goal of \$270,320.00 is not achieved. Currently, \$213,000.00 is Cedar Cross payroll so you see that is a major portion of the budget. Statistically, Cedar Cross in the last eight years, we typically receive around 65% of the pledge cards sent out each year. The average pledge has increased from \$1,986 to \$2,524. So, logically, for 2021 if you use the same percentage of cards returned that would be 101 cards returned and using the average pledge from last year of \$2,524.00 that would show a return of \$252,500.00. The reasoning behind giving you this data is to **make you aware** that any pledge cards returned after the Stewardship program on October 28 is usually less than the average pledge noted above.

It is important that you turn your pledge cards as soon as possible. Until all pledges are returned, we are unable to develop/forecast a budget for next year.



Cedar Cross United Methodist Church

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