



The eNewsletter

October 22, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

October 25

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
TVP Reformation Service

October 28

Reformation Celebration
Adult Wednesday Night
Activities

October 29

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 31

Turn Clocks Back Before Bed

November 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
HS SNL

November 3

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

November 4

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

November 5

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 6

Youth Fall Retreat

November 7

Youth Fall Retreat
Men's Breakfast

November 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Fall Retreat

November 9

Ladies' Monday Night Bible
Study

November 11

Wednesday Night Supper
Mission Conference Activities
Wednesday Night Activities

November 12

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 14

Missions Conference Brunch

As the time comes near for another celebration of Reformation Day, I want to talk about a consequence of the Reformation that is not often mentioned. We are aware of Luther's courageous stand against the sale of indulgences promoted by a corrupt and venial church, and of his insistence upon the Biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone. But there is another result for which we ought to be thankful, for the Reformation brought about a fundamental change in the understanding of God's heart toward sinful people like us.

The Roman church taught a system of salvation in which the grace of God was merited through the sacraments. After baptism (which the church said removed original sin), everyone started with a clean slate. The church provided many opportunities to gain merit, but it was up to the individual to ensure that their good deeds outweighed their sins. When someone committed a sin, they would confess it to the priest and would then be given certain things to do to pay for that sin. This was called *penance*, and it was one of the most important teachings of the Roman church. Viewed from this sacramental perspective, salvation depended heavily upon man's performance.

No individual could be certain they had accumulated enough merit; so many people lived in fear of death and hell. God, the ultimate Judge in this whole process, was seen as a stern and angry deity who kept track of every sin and who demonstrated his justice by condemning sinners. As a result, much of Christianity before the Reformation was characterized by guilt and fear.

Here is Luther's own testimony of how this system affected him: *"My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage Him. Therefore, I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against Him."*

It was the doctrine of justification by faith alone that transformed Luther's understanding of God's heart toward sinners. And we, who are too often focused upon our poor performance, need to be reminded about God's heart.

Listen to Luther again: *"If you have a true faith in Christ as your Savior, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God's heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. [When you] behold God in faith...you should look upon His fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger or ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see Him rightly but only looks on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across His face."*

John Calvin agrees in his *Institutes*: *"Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit."*

Part of what it means to be *True to the Reformed Faith*, is to affirm that, when we trust in Christ, God is no longer angry with us. Rather, God's heart toward us is fatherly, friendly, gracious, benevolent, and overflowing with love. Now, that's something worth celebrating!

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 25

Worship

Infants

Jeanie Ray
& Reita Pierce

Creepers

Lyndsey, Ellie,
& Daisy Bowman

Toddlers

Jason & Bret Bowman

Floater

Luke Bowman

Sunday School

Infants

Domekia & Ellie Gaines

Creepers

Heather Morrison
& Lucy Cleveland

Toddlers

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

October Coordinator:

Judy Foster

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students as you pray. Here are a few of the many we have:

Elizabeth Estes	Dalton State
Morgan Ferrel	UTC
Caroline Gunter	UTC
Andrew Helton	UT
Mackenzie Hobbs	Sewanee
Joyce Mutubwa	Chattanooga State
Luke Rogers	UT

NO SNL

Due to the TVP Reformation Service, SNL will not meet this Sunday, October 25

TVP REFORMATION SERVICE

Sunday evening, October 25, at 6:00 p.m. the churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery are meeting together at Covenant Presbyterian Church for a time of worship. A combined choir will practice at 5:00 p.m. to help lead worship during the service. Please plan to join us for this wonderful evening of worship.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It's time again for our annual collection of nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Please bring your donations of canned goods and staples and place them in the box outside Danny Grant's office by November 18. Monetary donations are always welcome (due November 15), and are needed to purchase perishable items (turkey, ham, etc.) on the day of delivery, November 21. If you know someone in need or if you, yourself, could use a hand this year, please contact the church office or an elder.

NURSERY SCHEDULES

Nursery Volunteer Schedules are available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

All Middle School and High School youth are invited to a "Modgnik" Fall Retreat, November 6-8 at Ponderosa Bible Camp in Mentone, Alabama. The cost is \$60.00. Danielle Wilkie is collecting registration and \$30 to secure spots. Space is limited. Full payment is due by October 25. Make checks out to CPC, with *Youth Retreat* in memo line. Please contact Chris Gregory for further questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember that bulletin and eNewsletter announcements need to be received by Wednesday for publication in the Thursday eNewsletter and the Sunday bulletin. Staff has editorial discretion for all announcements.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The November birthday and anniversary calendar is available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

Peggy Blevins
Email.....blevins@epbf.com
Emilia Marrs
Cell Phone.....423.351.3503
Steve and Joy Rogers
11322 Melanie Lane, Georgetown TN 37336

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, October 28, we'll celebrate our Reformation heritage with food and lots of fun-filled, informative activities, including: Bunyan Bounce House, Tetzels Toss, Calvin's Catapult, The Diet of Worms, Pin the Theses, Salvation Shot, and Reformation Rings...just to name a few! Supper is from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the activities are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Costumes are optional. Be on the lookout for the funny-looking fat friar.

PERSEVERERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Perseverers Class, led by Dr. Lamar Allen, begins a new study on the book of Hebrews on October 25. The epistle to the Hebrews has been called *a rare gem among the King's treasures*. The epistle deals with the supremacy and finality of Christ in beautiful but sometimes challenging language. Join us in a great study of God's Word in depth.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Stickers are available to place on the boxes marking age and gender of the child (see Judy Foster). There are donation boxes for items in the Ladies' Sunday School Classes. Please drop your items by any time. To help with shipping, make checks payable to *Samaritan's Purse* and place in the offering by November 15. Please pray for the precious children who will receive these boxes, that they will come to know the Lord as their Savior! **November 21 is the deadline for boxes and other items.**

CPC KIDS MINISTRY

The months of October-December in the Children's Ministry is super busy with lots of fun events. For those of you working with your children on their catechism memorization for Covenant Corps please continue to do this as we have just about seven weeks till our big reward party at Super Fly and we want all our children to be able to go. I hope your children are enjoying wearing their Covenant shirts they earned for saying catechisms. They sure look cute wearing them! If your child needs a catechism book or you need a list of memory work, please see your child's teacher and they will be happy to supply what is needed.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Please collect empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls for a special project being planned by the Women's Ministry. Place them in the box by the WM table.