



# The eNewsletter

November 19, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## *From the Pen of the Director of Youth and their Families...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

#### **November 20**

Ladies' Friday Bible Study

#### **November 21**

OCC Packing Day  
Thanksgiving Pounding  
Delivery Day

#### **November 22**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
HS SNL

#### **November 25**

Thanksgiving Praise Service

#### **November 26**

Church Office Closed -  
Thanksgiving

#### **November 27**

Church Office Closed -  
Thanksgiving

#### **November 29**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Shepherding Groups Meet

#### **December 1**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Council Meeting

#### **December 2**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **December 3**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **December 5**

Men's Breakfast

#### **December 6**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Congregational Meeting  
Children's Choir Program

#### **December 7**

Ladies' Monday Night Bible  
Study

#### **December 9**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Covenant Corps *Superfly* Party  
Youth *Superfly* Christmas Party

#### **December 10**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

We met Gabriel the other day...

Gabriel is waiting in line behind us with his mother. We've gotten a late start and have pulled into the Arby's parking lot just before sunset. I'm in a bad mood. King David, a man familiar with dark moods once said: *Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night.* In my sulky state I think I know how he must have felt. We should have left earlier. We should be halfway to Chattanooga by now, not stuck in Asheville with the sun setting, the temperature dropping and the rain pouring. But here we are.

As Reba and I approach our hungry, and, yes, loud children, curly fries and cheap toys in hand, my frustration grows. Why hadn't we gone through the drive-through? Reba can sense my resentment as it bubbles just beneath the surface.

My mental pity party is broken up by a loud moan. The kids turn their heads in unison as we all notice, for the first time, the boy in line. His legs are in braces, his body is bowed, he has no hair and apparently no ability to speak. He can, however, moan and point towards what he wants on the menu. He and his mother, who looks so tired, are taking in a late dinner too. As usual, my Heavenly Father has quickly put things into perspective and my pity party has been cut blessedly short.

Freed from the chains of self-pity, I feel led to speak to the mother but have no idea what to say. I awkwardly wander up to the counter and ask her if she would mind if our family prayed for her and her son. She seems genuinely grateful and asks us to pray for her son's bone tumors. "If you don't mind me praying" I ask, "what's his name?" Her response: "Gabriel, like the angel."

Back in the car Michaela prays for Gabriel first. Christopher follows but when he closes, Ella stays silent. Instead of praying she asks: "Daddy, am I a Christian?" The question catches me off guard. I fumble my way through the Gospel as best I can and then invite her to pray with me. As I close

she declares: "I'm a Christian now!" Thank you Gabriel, thank you Father, I pray.

"Wow, *that* was easy" I think to myself. "I want to be a Christian too!" Anna yells from the backseat. "Well ... okay" I say and then proceed to fumble my way through the good news of Jesus Christ again, closing with a prayer. "Yay! I'm a Christian", Anna proclaims. Gifts like this are just too good. Thanks for that one too Gabe! Thank you Father!

Then Abby yells "I want to be a Christian."

This is the God you and I worship. A God who gives lavishly when we least expect it. A Father who redeems the darkness of disease, self-centered unbelief and, ultimately, even death itself. A God who turns darkness into marvelous light. After trying in vain to hide from his Heavenly Father, David declares in amazement: *even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.*

Had we left on time we would have missed the blessing of meeting Gabriel and his mother, but God was too good to let us leave on time. Even though we've prayed for our children to know Christ since our engagement, we weren't expecting God to bring it about like this. His plans for our family were better than mine, and He brought them about in ways I would have never asked for or imagined. Regardless of what darkness you may be going through this season, you and I are invited to trust in the One who enters the darkness with us and then redeems it for His own glory and our eternal benefit.

Thank you, Gabe - Thank you, Father!

~Chris Gregory



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule November 22

#### Worship

##### Infants

Gretchen Brown  
& Sally Forrester

##### Creepers

Sandy Coffey  
& John Pearce

##### Toddlers

Josh & Diana Perrel

##### Floater

Daegan Brown

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Lynda Brown  
& Grace Morrison

##### Creepers

Heather Morrison  
& Lucy Cleveland

##### Toddlers

Jennifer McNeeley  
& Ernie Brown

#### November Coordinator:

Eva Herberich

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Packing Day is November 21! Please come and help pack boxes to be shipped around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

#### THANKSGIVING POUNDING

Delivery day is November 21! If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Trask, futurejoyce@gmail.com.

#### OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2016. These envelopes may be used for regular giving or giving to the Nursery Fund Pledges. Please email [cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org) and let Carol know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly or quarterly envelopes. You may also pick up an order form at the Welcome Center. Orders are due by December 1.

#### SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Please join us for a time of thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m., in Schum Fellowship Hall. No nursery provided.

#### CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come enjoy the Children's Choir hard work on Sunday evening, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.

#### SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Post Tenebras Lux, From Darkness Into Light* is presented Sunday evening, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. Come join the choir and instrumentalists as together we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King.

#### GRATEFUL GOBBLER

People from all walks of life will gather together for the three-mile Grateful Gobbler Walk held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the event are distributed to groups such as the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition to help the needy in our community. To register, visit [www.gratefulgobbler.org](http://www.gratefulgobbler.org).

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

#### CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 11. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for girls (8 years and under). Please register on Sunday at the Women's Table in the lobby.

#### ADVENT CALENDARS

The Advent Calendars for families with children (through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free, and the maximum family donation is \$15. No meal next week. Join us December 2 for Fettucine Alfredo.

#### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

Chris & Tara Rimondi

9137 Stoney Mountain Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

#### NEW MEMBERS

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

Phillip Boyd

8009 Plaxco Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

John & Sandra Taylor

Nathaniel, Matt\*, Ben\*

5415 Lodestone Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

Home.....423.910.0635

Cell Phone (wife).....330.990.6193

Email ..... jtt44313@yahoo.com

Lorelei Bradley

Lorelei is the daughter of Jonathan & Kansas Bradley.

Cami Calloway

Cami is the daughter of Jonathan & Emily Calloway.

Gideon Rimondi

Gideon is the son of Chris & Tara Rimondi.

Liam and Ava Lehmann

Liam and Ava are the children of Brian & Holly Lehmann.

#### OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed the following days:

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving

Please note: no eNewsletter next week.

#### CPC KIDS MINISTRY

The next few weeks are very busy and will go by quickly. Please be aware of our Covenant Corps calendar over the next couple weeks. November 25 we will be off for Thanksgiving. December 2 Covenant Corps will **not** be meeting so the kids choir can practice. **December 9<sup>th</sup>** is our SUPERFLY party!!!! If your child/children said their required number of catechisms, we would love for you to bring them to SuperFly at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, so we can get all checked in and ready to jump by 7:00 p.m. The church will be paying for them to jump. Parents must fill out a SuperFly waiver form for each child and adult before they can jump. The waiver form was sent home from Covenant Corp with your child last night. There are also more waiver forms available at the Welcome Center. Remember to bring the signed waiver form with your child to SuperFly! We will be jumping from 7:00-7:45p.m. and then our entire group will be meeting in the SuperFly parent lounge area for an awards ceremony from 7:45-8:00 p.m. It should be a ton of fun for both children and adults alike. Look forward to celebrating all your children's hard work of memorization at SuperFly on December 9, at 6:45p.m.

#### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Trending Now and Route 68 are joining the Kids Ministry at *Superfly*, December 9, 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.