



# The eNewsletter

January 28, 2016

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 Senior Pastor...*

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

#### **January 30**

Youth Bowling Party  
Martinez Wedding Reception

#### **January 31**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Corporate Prayer Meeting

#### **February 1**

Ladies' Monday Night Bible  
Study

#### **February 2**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Council Meeting

#### **February 3**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **February 4**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 5**

Valentine Dinner

#### **February 7**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Handbell Ensemble  
Rogers Baby Shower  
Youth Super Bowl Party

#### **February 10**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **February 11**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 13**

Youth Babysitting Service  
Project

#### **February 14**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

#### **February 16**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group

#### **February 17**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Parent U  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **February 18**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

As your pastor, there are several things about the worship series that encouraged me greatly. First, I was encouraged to see our body respond to the request to have a corporate Sunday School with, judging by the numbers, such enthusiasm. I know that the weekly Sunday School hour is a time of great community and care at CPC. Yet, when those were suspended for three weeks, instead of seeing it as a reason to depart after worship, the vast majority of you remained to engage with the teaching. I am appreciative of that and very encouraged by the spirit displayed in that engagement. Second, the whole process of teaching and the conversations leading up to the teaching have increased my admiration for, and confidence in, the Elders of this church. God has been generous to CPC in supplying leaders of wonderful character and humility. I could not be more encouraged by the sincerity of their dialogue, the wisdom of their counsel, and their humility displayed in being teachable on this topic. What I admire about these men is that they are all fighting for a common cause under the banner of our common King for the common good of this congregation. And in discussions about matters like these, the tone and temperament of the men who lead this congregation is to be commended. I am grateful for them. Finally, I am appreciative of the sincere questions posed by those who are working through things that are new or difficult for them. The willingness to hear, to question, to wrestle, and to learn is a virtue.

After reflecting on the series, it seems there are some areas that could have received a more thorough treatment but due to time constraints did not. As one of my favorite professors used to say, "You can't say everything when you say anything because if you try to say everything when you say anything you will be so busy saying everything you will never say anything at all." That said, I wanted to address one area in particular. In our discussions, we talked about the need for reverence and awe in the service, coupled with a grateful joy. These, according to Scripture, are non-negotiables

in worship. Because God is who He is, it is appropriate that we approach Him as our superior. Simply put, we don't approach Him flippantly or lightly. With that in mind, we must ask if the styles and forms we use help us, as a community, approach God in a way that shows Him honor. But also, in light of what God has done for us, we must approach with hearts brimming with thanks coupled with joy. So, we must seek the best ways to express communal joy, knowing that if we were expressing these things as mere individuals we might express these things differently. I believe we should work as a church to ensure that our service does all it can to see that our worship keeps these things in mind. That being said, it does not follow that our style at CPC is the only style of worship that can communicate these realities. While I think it has much to commend to it biblically, historically, communally, and aesthetically, it is not stylistically the only way. There are other styles and other cultures that will communicate these non-negotiables in different manners than we seek to communicate them at CPC. That is to be expected. At the same time, we do not need to say that every style suggested in worship can do the heavy lifting of communicating a holy joy. Notice the issue therefore is not contemporary, traditional, or otherwise. Rather, the question becomes *is what we are doing in accord with Scripture and fitting for the corporate event we have entered into*, coupled with *will the forms we employ be helpful in shaping a body for the long haul?*

More could be said, but space is limited. For those who want to understand this more thoroughly I would invite you to Wednesday evening study where we continue to have this conversation on worship. And please don't hesitate to ask me or your Elders any questions you may have. God bless you all!

~Pastor Pirschel



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule January 31

#### Worship

##### Infants

Crystal Middleton  
& Becky Pearce

##### Creepers

Cathy & Katie Smith

##### Toddlers

Gerald & Donna Schreiner

##### Floater

Maggie Middleton

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Bethany Firth  
& Peggy Bandy

##### Creepers

Karen & Madison Crago

##### Toddlers

Jean Mauroner  
& Andrea Waldecker

#### January Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

### BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Joy Rogers is on Sunday, February 7, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Joy is registered at Target and Babies R Us.

### YOUTH BOWLING

All High School and Middle School Youth are invited to go bowling at Pin Strikes, for \$10, on Saturday, January 30, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### CHURCH WIDE PRAYER MEETING

Spend some time in prayer with your church family. On Sunday, January 31, come pray together in Schum Fellowship Hall from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### PRAYER CALENDAR

The updated Prayer Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

### VALENTINE DINNER

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine Dinner and Cake Auction, benefitting the 2017 choir mission trip to Belarus, will be held Friday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure to register, 15 spots left. Nursery registration required (ages 3 and under). Please contact Jeremy Gaines with any questions, [jgaines@covenantchattanooga.com](mailto:jgaines@covenantchattanooga.com).

### BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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

### SABBATICAL

A long-planned sabbatical for Pastor Mullinax will take place in February. Exemptions from regular duties throughout the month have been granted, so that he'll be able to spend time in study, prayer, reading, and relaxation. Please pray for the Mullinaxes as they are away. "Thank you for this generous and tangible measure of care for us!" ~ Eric & Boo

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

#### Linda Bennett

6220 Shallowford Road, Apt 176  
Chattanooga TN 37421

#### Barbara Tapley

456 Gibson Pond Road  
Chattanooga TN 37421

#### David Close

Email..... [dkclose428@gmail.com](mailto:dkclose428@gmail.com)

#### Beverly Middleton

Email..... [bmiddleton@epbf.com](mailto:bmiddleton@epbf.com)

#### Jim & Connie Hildebrand

(No landline)

Cell phone (husband) ..... 423.645.7803

Cell phone (wife) ..... 423.653.4917

### YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

All High School and Middle School Youth are invited to Chris and Reba Gregory's home for a Super Bowl Party, February 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### 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.

For the month of February, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: T. Horton, B. Higgins, D. Elwood, and T. Schreiner. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 3  | Jambalaya Pasta (Mac 'n Cheese for kids) |
| February 10 | Breakfast                                |
| February 17 | Baked Chicken and Cheesy Grits           |
| February 24 | Pork Enchiladas                          |