



# The eNewsletter

February 11, 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...

#### 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

#### February 19

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible  
Study

#### February 21

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Membership Sunday  
Handbell Ensemble  
SNL

#### February 24

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### February 25

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### February 26

Girls Night Out

#### February 28

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Shepherding Groups Meet  
SNL

#### March 1

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Council Meeting

#### March 2

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### March 3

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### March 5

Men's Breakfast

If you were scrolling through my iTunes collection, it would likely stand out that I have an inordinately large collection of different versions of the folk song *Wayfaring Stranger*. I have collected many versions over the years, from Emmylou Harris, to Johnny Cash, to Natalie Merchant, to Jack White (but not Ed Sheeran, a man has to draw the line somewhere). The reason I personally love the song is that it gives expression, both poetically and musically, to the pains of this present existence.

*I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger  
I'm traveling in this world of woe  
Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger  
In that bright land to which I go  
I'm going there to see my Mother  
I'm going there no more to roam  
I'm only going over Jordan  
I'm only going over home*

The singer is a traveler. The place of his journey is a place filled with pain. The threats are all around him; sickness, toil, danger, and death. At least one of these intruders has already forcibly entered into the singer's world, taking his mother in the process. Death has come and, with death, separation and woe. Yet the singer's destination is his solution. When he gets home, to his true home, he will travel no more and all that haunts and threatens now will be forgotten memories.

Most any time I intently listen to this song, I get a bit choked up. Art can be powerful in this way. It is the same reason why someone, like myself, likes sad movies. I think it is valuable to engage in different forms of art that make us feel like this for the same reason the Bible instructs us to visit the house of mourning, for we will find wisdom there.

One of the hidden blessings of being a pastor is the privilege of entering into people's hardships. It is also why it is so

important, as a community, to get to know one another's stories. Stories of struggle are all around us, if we have thought to ask and ears to hear. If we are willing to bend our ear to hear the pain of others, we might find ourselves being bent as well. Bent to sympathize with sufferers. Bent to see the pain that surrounds us in this world. The reason that matters is because sympathy matters. Grace begins with compassion and compassion is something we can be lacking if we haven't been through a particular grief ourselves.

The power of stories, music, movies, poems, or art is that they can take us down a road already traveled by others. They let us into another's struggles, even if just a wee bit. This allows us, if we are open, to see the world through their eyes and walk a piece of the road wearing their shoes. If done honestly, we will find that they are our shoes as well. This sort of engagement can be a needful reminder to us that life can be harsh, that we are frail, that pain is real, and that the curse intrudes upon all our lives in one insidious way or another. This reminder should do at least two things; engender empathy which leads to love for the suffering ones and also stir in our own hearts the pain of alienation that leaves us longing for something better. If we long for something better, something more permanent, something without the heartache of this age, this will ultimately lead us to one person; the Man of Sorrows, who entered into our misery, embracing our curse, in order to secure for us the land with no sickness, toil, or danger. May all the restless wanderers, who feel displaced in this present life, find true rest in Him. May we, who have found solace in Him, learn to share His heart of compassion for our fellow weary travelers.

~Pastor Pirschel



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule February 14

#### Worship

##### Infants

Grace & Heather Morrison  
& Lucy Cleveland

##### Creepers

Heidie, Jenny,  
& Charity Armao

##### Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

##### Floater

Kallie Arbuckle

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Diane Lazor  
& Peg May

##### Creepers

Eunice Martin  
& Julia Gracy

##### Toddlers

Frank & Nicole May

#### February Coordinator:

Peg May

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

February 17	Baked Chicken and Cheesy Grits
February 24	Pork Enchiladas

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the month of February, the Young Marrieds Sunday School class is joining the Calvin & Hobbs Sunday School class for a discussion on *The Gospel and Sexuality*. Dr. Kevin Eames, a psychology professor from Covenant College, will be leading the discussions. This topic will cover a variety of cultural issues such as marriage, homosexuality, gender identity, living together before marriage, gender roles, and more. Due to the mature subject matter, parents can determine if they want their children to attend or not.

### MEALS FOR MOMS

*Meals for Moms* is our ministry to new CPC moms and their families. If you would like more information about taking a meal to our new mothers, please contact Rebekah Gernhard at [atkinson.bekah@gmail.com](mailto:atkinson.bekah@gmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the church office by phone or email to set up an appointment.

### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, February 18, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit this week, please call or email the church office.

### FREE BABYSITTING

The CPC Youth are offering free babysitting at the church on Saturday, February 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please be sure to sign up at Chris' office or on the table near the Welcome Center.

### BUDGET REPORT

A copy of the approved budget for 2016 is available at the Welcome Center.

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to pray for our college students as they are just starting a new semester and are studying hard.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined Covenant Presbyterian Church.

#### Dory George

4537 Alabama Avenue  
Chattanooga TN 37405  
Phone..... 423.693.1740  
Email..... [snailmail.dg@gmail.com](mailto:snailmail.dg@gmail.com)

#### Richard and Sandra Cook

9217 Berkshire Circle  
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Email (husband) [rgriffincook@yahoo.com](mailto:rgriffincook@yahoo.com)  
Email..... (wife) [skaycook2@yahoo.com](mailto:skaycook2@yahoo.com)

#### Shaun and Kristie Brock

Tucker\*, Travis\*, Archer\*, Trinity\*,  
Fletcher\*  
1002 Elaine Trail, Chattanooga TN 37421  
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#### Noah Wiersma

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Lookout Mtn GA 30750  
Phone..... 270.304.7114  
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Erin Creamer - Erin is the daughter of James and Amy Creamer.

Avery Crago - Avery is the daughter of Mark and Karen Crago.

Ella Gregory - Ella is the daughter of Chris and Reba Gregory.

Connie Sanders - Connie is the daughter of Adam and Millie Sanders.

### 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, 4 and under eat free. 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.