



The eNewsletter

February 25, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

Looking Ahead...

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

March 6

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Mission Trip Meeting
Handbell Ensemble Practice
SNL

March 7

Ladies Monday Evening
Bible Study

March 9

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

March 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

March 12

Women's Spring Seminar

March 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Helton Bridal Shower
SNL

March 15

Mother's Encouragement
Group

March 16

Wednesday Night Supper
Handbell Ensemble Practice
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

I've come undone. These words, or at least the reality they convey, are what I have sought to avoid all my life. No one longs to see the world they have constructed torn down in a mere moment. While we all have romantic notions of our lives changing instantly for the better through things like inheritance, overnight success, Prince Charming, or winning the lottery, not many of us relish the idea of the landscape of our life suddenly being changed in dramatic fashion for the worse. In fact, much of our daily energy is invested in keeping the cosmos we have created rightly ordered. If things change, they should change for the good. And, like most Americans, we believe the good only comes by addition, never by subtraction (with the singular exception of weight loss). When it comes to our personal lives we are all theologians of glory. We hold this truth to be self-evident; the trajectory of our kingdom should only flow upward.

Then there is cancer. Then she tells you, thirty years later, she cannot muster any more love for you. Then the money runs out while your creditor's zeal does not. Then the little ones you loved and knew so well are no longer little and are completely unknown to you. What do we do when these alien destroyers intrude into the atmosphere of our world? Normally, because we are in the business of building, we seek to fix the situation. There is a valiant call to arms as we mount our defense. We set about to find solutions. But what happens when there are no solutions to be found, no defense to be offered? When all our

attempts to control and manipulate have run their course and to no avail? When we find our powers paltry and discover that we are just human after all? When we are left in the midst of the dust and ash of what we imagined was our life, what do we find? We find ourselves. And unfortunately, what the mirror of devastation reflects back to us is hardly the self-promulgated vision of glory we had formerly imagined.

But what if there was a world in which the very bottom was the closest we had ever come to the top? What if there was a kingdom, unlike the one now lying decimated before us, in which humility was the only commodity of value to the ruling class? If there were only a place where death was the beginning of life. Of course the paradox of the crucified God teaches us these very truths. The mystery of the cross teaches us that we shouldn't be so quick to run from our ruin or hide from our humiliation. In God's economy, these darker places are where the light of resurrection glory is most likely to be found. Think about it, who could have imagined that God's victory over sin and death would have come, paradoxically, by means of death? So while no one should go looking for suffering, when we find ourselves in the midst of it, we should remember the mystery of God's ways revealed in the Cross. As Samuel Rutherford, the famous Scottish Minister said, "When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines."

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule February 28

Worship

Infants

Kelly Orthner
& Judy Foster

Creepers

Rebekah Gernhard
& Sandy Coffey

Toddlers

Scott Orthner
& David Gernhard

Floater

Grace Pippin

Sunday School

Infants

Amy Wright
& Donna Armes

Creepers

Amy Creamer
& Catherine Coffey

Toddlers

Luther & Shirley Allin

February Coordinator:

Peg May

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. the women of CPC are having a Leap Year Game Night at the church. Ladies, bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Please contact Dory George with any questions at 423.693.1740 or snailmail.dg@gmail.com.

MISSION TRIP MEETING

If you are interested in the Canada Mission Trip this summer, please attend an informational meeting on Sunday, March 6, at 12:15 p.m. in the Frederick Room.

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. Tony DeMarco is speaking on *Christ walked into the Life of an Ordinary Man*. Nursery provided.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DINNER

If you are a teacher or helper for the Children's Ministry (2 year olds through 5th grade), on Wednesdays or Sundays, you are invited to a fellowship potluck on Sunday, March 20, right after Sunday School. If you minister to our children during Sunday School, please bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, rolls, or dessert). If you minister to our children on Wednesday night during Covenant Corps, please bring a main dish. Drinks will be provided. Please contact Holly Lehmann with any questions, at hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org.

WOMEN'S SPRING SEMINAR

Mark your calendars! The women of CPC will have a Spring Seminar, on Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. *When it rains, sometimes it pours*. Cost: \$6. Nursery available for those who register (infant to age 5). Registration deadline is March 6.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Tracy Horton

Cell.....423.702.1670

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 March, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: J. Harris, D. Hobbs, J. Coffey, T. Smith, and E. Mullinax. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

March 2	Soup 'N Bread
March 9	Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole
March 16	Irish Shepherd's Pie
March 30	Italian Stromboli
April 6	Baked Potato Bar
April 13	Pork Pot Pie
April 20	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
April 27	Taco Salad

ATTENTION

On Wednesday nights, please do not take food throughout the church building.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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

SEDER DINNER

Mark your calendars. Our Seder Dinner is March 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold. Details to follow.