



The eNewsletter

March 10, 2016

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

From the Pen of the Pastor Emeritus...

Looking Ahead...

March 12

Women's Spring Seminar

March 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Canada Mission Trip Meeting
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

March 17

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

March 18

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible
Study

March 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Deacons Meeting
Morris Bridal Shower

March 23

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

March 24

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Seder Dinner

March 25

Church Office Closed -
Good Friday

March 26

Resurrection Egg Hunt

March 27

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

March 30

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

March 31

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

April 2

Men's Breakfast

My assignment is to write this week's newsletter article. Something about our upcoming Seder on **Thursday evening, March 24**, is warranted. I thought of a memorable article Pastor Caines had written on this special occasion many years ago. It certainly states what I'd like to say. So, with his permission...

"Almost every Sunday, members of our extended family gather around our table for a meal. Obviously we gather because we are hungry, but hunger is not the bottom line. We gather because we are family. As a family we share stories, ideas, observations, and concerns. Together we laugh, reflect, weep, and pray. We enjoy being with each other and thankfully acknowledge God's blessings upon us as a family.

We are family not simply because of blood, but more importantly because of the Blood. God has graciously claimed us for Himself and chosen to bless us by giving us each other. Therefore, we attempt to find those means by which to glorify Him in all we do, say, think, or feel. When we fall terribly short of that goal, we lovingly confront one another and wonderfully encourage each other to do what is pleasing in His sight. Such moments are not always immediately enjoyable or comfortable. But in the end, they have always helped to keep our eyes focused on Him by whose blood we have been cleansed from every transgression.

Thursday evening, March 24, we will gather as the family of God to eat a meal. We will celebrate a Seder (Sa-der) service, commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. This was the meal eaten together by Jewish families the first night of Passover. This wasn't a meal they ate simply because they were hungry. They ate this meal to remember the blood by which they had been saved and safely delivered out of the land of slavery. Likewise, we will gather not simply because we are hungry - though we do anticipate a delicious meal - but because of the Blood.

In Egypt the Jews killed a lamb and then used its blood to paint the doorframes of their houses. When the death angel saw that blood he passed over that house, sparing the life of the firstborn of that particular household.

When John first saw Jesus, he called Him the Lamb of God.

*In I Corinthians 5.7 Paul tells us that "Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." Interestingly, Paul then calls upon us "to keep the Festival." Now while it isn't a direct command to do what we will do **Thursday evening, March 24**, it is a reminder of how important it is for us to remember what took place in Egypt, the significance of the events of that night, how they anticipated the events that would occur at Calvary, and the great salvation that is ours because of the Blood.*

It will be a family meal. Our focus will be on remembering what God has done. Hopefully God will use our time of celebration to encourage us in our faith and "to spur (us)... toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10.24)

Most of us who gather will not be related. But all those who gather, in love with Jesus, will be fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, members of the Family of God. And the reason we will all be members of the same family is because of the Blood - that Blood symbolized by the blood shed in Egypt, that Blood was poured out by Christ on Calvary's cross, that Blood has paid the God-appointed penalty for our sins, that Blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness, that Blood makes us once and for all time members of the family of God."

Our fellowship hall isn't large enough to host the anticipated gathering. The Colonnade in Ringgold will be our venue. This site has worked well for us over the past several years. Trinity Presbyterian Church has been invited to join us. We hope you'll invite others. There's no charge, though an opportunity to contribute toward the costs is available at the end of the meal. Registration is required in order to properly and adequately prepare for the evening. You may register by completing the form in this **Sunday's bulletin**, calling the church office at 899-5377, or by an email to cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 13

Worship

Infants

Diana Bowers
& Judy Foster

Creepers

Dawn Reynolds
& Emilia Marrs

Toddlers

Nathan & Alayna Bowers

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Domekia & Ellie Gaines

Creepers

Sue Spalding
& Debby Gardner

Toddlers

Babs Leach
& Amy McLellan

March Coordinator:

Heather Harris

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Taylor Helton is on March 13, from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Taylor is registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond and potterybarn.com.

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Amy Morris is on March 20, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Amy is registered at Belk, Target, and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

WOMEN'S SPRING SEMINAR

The women of CPC are having 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 registered.

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, while honoring or remembering a friend or loved one, you may order an Easter lily for \$15. Order forms are available in the Lobby and need to be turned in to Carol by Sunday, March 13. You may pick up your lily following the Easter service.

EGG HUNT BREAKFAST

Our annual egg hunt breakfast is Saturday, March 26. This fun event is a fundraiser for the youth going to summer camps and mission trips. A full breakfast is served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter begins at 9:15 a.m., followed by the egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. for children ages 2 through fifth grade. Bring a basket only, as the eggs are provided. Allergy-free candy is available for those who need it. A collection box is located outside of Pastor Mullinax's office for your donations of individually wrapped candy. For more information, please contact Chris Gregory or Tracy Horton.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, March 17, 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.

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Genie Davis

Email geniedavis@epbf.com

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 16	Irish Shepherd's Pie
March 23	No meal (Seder Dinner)
March 30	Italian Stromboli
April 6	Baked Potato Bar
April 13	Pork Pot Pie

SEDER DINNER

CPC is observing Maundy Thursday, March 24, with a Seder Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold. Registration forms available in the Lobby.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DINNER

If you are a teacher or helper, or interested in helping, with 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Remember to se your clocks forward one hour this Saturday night, as Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13.