



# The eNewsletter

April 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...*

**April 29**

Taters & Tubesteaks

**May 1**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal  
Youth Talent Show

**May 2**

Ladies' Monday Night Bible  
Study

**May 3**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Council Meeting

**May 4**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Parent U  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**May 5**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

**May 7**

Men's Breakfast

**May 8**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

**May 11**

Last Wednesday Night Supper  
Illusionist Performance

**May 12**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

**May 14**

Youth Car Wash

**May 15**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Teacher Recognition  
Diaconate Meeting

**May 17**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group

**May 18**

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Session Meeting

**May 19**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

"I considered Atheism, but there weren't enough holidays". While the quote is offered up as a joke, it speaks a profound truth. It is not unlike Steve Martin's humorous song, "Atheists ain't got no songs", where he sings, "For Atheists, there's no good news. They'll never sing, a song of faith. In their songs, they have a rule. The 'he' is always lowercase." Both jokes are built on the same basic assumption; belief in God is attractive because it brings with it things like celebrations, songs, beauty, or put another way, joy. I know for many of us, as we reflect on our experience with Christianity, joy is not what immediately comes to mind. Yet, our less than stellar experiences do not diminish the truth that, if understood and practiced rightly, the Christian life is an attractive and desirous life. Unlike atheism, it has aesthetic appeal.

The beauty of this *good life* is a powerful weapon for the faith both as an apologetic to the unbeliever and as a help in our own sanctification. Thomas Cranmer wrote, "What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies. The mind doesn't direct the will. The mind is actually captive to what the will wants, and the will itself, in turn, is captive to what the heart wants." In other words, we don't always think really deeply in our decision making, rather certain things appeal to us at the level of desire and then we align our thinking and all our reasons for doing what we do with our wants. This is why celebration of the lovely is so powerful, it moves us at the level of our desires.

Think of the beautiful things our faith offers to us in story, songs, and festivities. We have the best story. Our story answers the question that lies at the heart of all human existence: how does one live and die happily? Our story is a romance, a war novel, and a tragedy that gives way to the comedy of redemption and resurrection. In this story, we behold the beautiful mystery of the incarnate God by whom the lost are found, the tragically flawed are made right, the ugly are loved in their ugliness, and by

that love are made beautiful enough to marry the Hero. Our story demands music and merriment. Have you noticed how music springs forth from the actions of God in Scripture? After exodus, a song erupts. With the death of Sisera at the hand of Jael, we sing. When God enters the story as a baby, music must be made. With the unfolding of human history in Revelation, new songs must be sung. The story also demands celebrations. All throughout Scripture and church history, the redeemed remember God's wonderful deeds by having feasts. Everyone loves a good party. Don't think so? Consider the power of Christmas in a culture that has sought to snuff out the memory of God from our collective consciousness. Yet come Christmas time, in the midst of the chain box store, I still hear *Joy to the World* over the speakers as I, and hundreds of others, shop for presents for the kids. Good parties are powerful.

So how does this serve as an apologetic and a help in sanctification? As an apologetic it witnesses to the unbeliever at the level of desire. It is awfully hard to argue against joy. As a church, the way we worship, speak of Christ, and do life together should tempt others. (Which means we shouldn't mumble through the liturgy, sing halfheartedly, get bored with the *good news*, or fail to remember God's work for us annually in joy-filled ways.) When people encounter us in the midst of these actions, while they might disagree with our verbal arguments, they won't be able to easily dismiss our delight. But doing these things does not just serve the watching world, it will serve to sanctify us. The more we see Christ as lovely through story and song and consider His church as a place of true life, the more our desires will be pulled toward God and His kingdom. And the will, as Cranmer taught, is captive to what the heart wants. May we as a body worship, serve, and live in such a way that we tempt the world and one another to desire the good life given through Christ.

~Pastor Pirschel



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule

May 1

#### Worship

##### Infants

Gretchen Brown  
& Sally Forrester

##### Creepers

Heidie, Charity,  
& Jenny Armao

##### Toddlers

Josh & Diana Perrel

##### Floater

Daegan Brown

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Peg May  
& Diane Lazor

##### Creepers

Eric & Lucy Mantel

##### Toddlers

Catherine Coffey  
& Vangie Wykoff

### April Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

### TATERS AND TUBESTEAKS

Join us tomorrow for a night out with the family. The hot dog dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. in Coolidge Park. Stay for the Lookouts game at AT&T Park at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Please call the church office today to sign up.

### YOUTH TALENT SHOW

All youth and parents are invited to attend our Annual Youth Talent Show this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

### COMPASSION SUNDAY

Our church is participating in Compassion Sunday on May 8. This is part of a national event that helps us grow in our understanding of God's very special love for the poor. Please begin praying now about sponsoring one or more of these children in need. Sponsorship packets will be available for you on May 8. Please contact Bev Fowler with questions or stop by the table in the Lobby.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FINALE

Illusionist, Jaden Maxwell, will perform on Wednesday, May 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

### YOUTH CAR WASH

The youth are hosting a car wash on Saturday, May 14, at Auto Zone on East Brainerd Road. The car wash begins at noon. The car wash itself is free, but you can make a pledge to sponsor a youth. Please plan to help our youth by getting your car washed!

### SENIOR POSTERS

All Seniors and their families are welcome to display a Senior Poster outside Schum Fellowship Hall for Graduate Recognition Sunday. Please put all posters in the church office by Wednesday, May 25. Be creative and fun displaying your photos!

### MUSIC CAMP 2016

Music Camp is June 6-10. Kids from Kindergarten through entering the 6th grade are invited to come and join us for a week of music, drama, crafts, Bible, and fun! Registration begins this week on our church website or you can fill out a form from the Lobby. See Jeremy Gaines for more details.

To volunteer to help with Music Camp, please use separate registration forms found outside Jeremy Gaines' office.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Joy Rogers

Cell Phone ..... 423.762.5310

### NURSERY

Members, if you have not signed up to be on the nursery schedule and you are willing to help, please contact Heather Harris at [jeh1224@aol.com](mailto:jeh1224@aol.com).

Also, if you are interested in being the Nursery Coordinator in June, please contact Heather.

### RENT-A-YOUTH

This program helps our students raise needed funds to attend youth activities. If you would like to *Rent-A-Youth* or would like more information about this program, please contact Tracy Horton at 423.706.1670 or [thorton@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:thorton@catoosa.k12.ga.us).

### KINSHIP GROUPS

This summer, the Women's Ministry is launching several Kinship Groups focusing on special interests: book clubs, hiking, and cooking to name a few. Members of these groups will meet once a month to share in their interests together. Sign up lists are at the WM Table in the Lobby. Contact Colleen Murphy or Eva Herberich for details.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Do you like animal crackers and enjoy working with children? We would love for you to consider working in our Children's Ministry, which is for children ages 2 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We have a need for several teachers and helpers during Sunday School and on Wednesday Nights. Working with our Covenant children will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Contact Holly Lehmann with any questions at [cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org).

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 29, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family so we can recognize everyone graduating since last spring. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, or doctorate programs. In the next few weeks, please email [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org) with the name of the graduate, the degree earned, name of the school, and date of graduation.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

May 5 Coq Au Vi  
(Mac 'N Cheese for kids)  
May 11 Hot Dogs