



The eNewsletter

May 12, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- May 14**
Youth Car Wash
- May 15**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Teacher Recognition
Canada Mission Trip Meeting
Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
Diaconate Meeting
- May 17**
Last Mother's
Encouragement Group
- May 18**
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Session Meeting
- May 19**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- May 20**
Ladies' Friday Morning Bible
Study
- May 21**
Ladies' Tea
- May 22**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Last SNL
- May 25**
Mission Chattanooga Begins
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- May 26**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
- May 29**
Morning Worship
Graduate Recognition
Promotion Sunday
Graduate Reception
Sunday School
Youth Family Picnic
at Heritage Park
Shepherding Groups Meet
- May 30**
Church Office Closed -
Memorial Day
- June 1**
Mission Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- June 4**
Men's Breakfast

In this week's newsletter I would like to take a quick look back and, also, to take a glance at what is ahead. Last week we celebrated Ascension Sunday. This week we will celebrate Pentecost. The week following Pentecost we will recognize Trinity Sunday. Some of these days may not be as familiar as others, so I would like to give a quick overview of the significance and purpose of each.

Last Sunday was Ascension. On this day, as a church, we remember when our Lord departed this earth and returned to heaven. While the Gospels and Acts do not see fit to give us all the details of what that arrival in heaven looked like, the Bible gives enough information for us to know what transpired. According to Peter, in the ascension, Jesus was exalted to the right hand of the Father (Acts 2.33). And according to Psalm 2, when God sets his Anointed one at His right hand, the Father will give the nations to Him as an inheritance. In other words, the Davidic King will rule the whole world.

What happens behind the closed doors of heaven in the Ascension, is made public at Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost, Jesus sent forth the promised Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies. The Spirit's presence to renew Israel and gather the nations is the proof that Jesus was indeed enthroned as King of all. That is precisely what Peter says in Acts 2.33, "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." What is the result of the Spirit's coming? Israel begins to be re-gathered and the nations come streaming into the Kingdom as the Gospel goes forth. People who were formerly divided are drawn together in unity and empowered for service under the newly crowned King.

Following Pentecost, we will celebrate Trinity Sunday. Depending on your background, this is likely the least known of these three days. Simply put, the church takes time to glory in the beautiful mystery of God: one nature, three persons. On this day we will baptize a covenant child into the singular Name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We will also recite the Athanasian Creed. While not used often in public worship, this creed has been confessed by western Christians since the 300s and has been used as a safeguard in theology since its inception. It does a wonderful job of holding before our eyes the fullness of what the Bible says about God without seeking to resolve any of the tensions that are created by doing so.

I trust that this marking of time will help remind us of our identity as a people who were brought into being by the Triune God acting in human history. The Father sent His Son to gain for Himself a people. The Son came, putting on human flesh, lived, died, and rose again. After which He ascended into Heaven. His first act as Liege of the world was to send forth His Spirit to gather His inheritance to Him. That is why you believe at all, because God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has been active in time and space. May the Lord's Days spent considering the past activity of God frame our vision and bolster our confidence concerning what He is doing at present. The work that began at Ascension and Pentecost continues to this day and will continue until all things are under the rule and authority of our Lord. Soli Deo Gloria.

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

May 15

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Kelly Orthner

Creepers

David & Rebekah Gernhard

Toddlers

Scott Orthner
& Wil Foster

Floater

Kallie Arbuckle

Sunday School

Infants

Jessica Greer
& Donna Armes

Creepers

Sherry & Rachel Baierl

Toddlers

Frank & Nicole May

May Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

YOUTH CAR WASH

The youth are hosting a car wash on Saturday, May 14, at noon, at Auto Zone on East Brainerd Road. The car wash itself is free, but you can make a pledge to sponsor a youth. Also, please help by planning to get your car washed!

Youth: if you need extra sponsor forms, they are hanging outside of Chris' office.

LADIES' TEA

You are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, May 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost for an adult is \$8 and children 12 and under are \$6. Kid-friendly and allergy-friendly options available. A nursery is also available for those who sign up. Registration forms are at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Sign up deadline is May 15. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Calloway at 423.432.1743.

Anyone wishing to volunteer china for the table or a cake stand, please sign up at the WM table.

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! Please register on our church website or 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.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, May 19, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. **We need volunteers to help deliver and hand out food.** Plus, if you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit next week, please call or email the church office.

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

This summer, the CPC Mission: Chattanooga projects begin Wednesday, May 25. Each week, activities will be on and off campus from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Details to follow.

RENT-A-YOUTH

This program helps our students raise needed funds to attend 2016 youth activities. Please contact Tracy Horton for more information at 423.706.1670 or thorton@catoosa.k12.ga.us.

PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED

Regular plastic grocery bags are needed for a weaving project of sleeping mats. Hundreds of bags needed, so don't be stingy! Mats will be used locally and for a Haitian mission. Please put bags in the box outside of Pastor Mullinax's office.

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. Working with our Covenant children will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Contact Holly Lehmann for more details and/or questions 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 with the name of the graduate, the degree earned, name of the school, and date of graduation.

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 have fun displaying your photos!

YOUTH FAMILY PICNIC

All youth and their families are invited to an end-of-the-year family picnic at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 29, at 6:00 p.m. Drinks are provided. Bring a picnic and a few lawn chairs for your family.