



The eNewsletter

August 18, 2016

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

Looking Ahead...

August 19

Officer's Leadership Training

August 20

Officer's Leadership Training

August 21

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
Youth Fall Kick-Off

August 24

Wednesday Night Supper
Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Session Meeting

August 26

Mother's Encouragement
Group: Imagination Station

August 28

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Ladies Kick-Off
Youth Leadership Team

August 31

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

September 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

September 5

Office Closed - Labor Day

September 6

Women's Council Meeting

September 7

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

September 8

Ladies Thursday Bible Study
Ladies Movie Night

September 9

PCA Women's Retreat

September 11

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
MS/HS Youth Hiking at
Cloudland Canyon
Diaconate Meeting

I'm not a fan of filmmakers releasing more than one ending to a particular movie. Apparently, offering alternative endings is a way to boost sales when movies bomb in theaters and then, are subsequently released on DVD. I'm usually muttering out loud, "So, which one really happened?" or "Did it end happily ever after, or did they all perish?"

It is not that I have trouble distinguishing truth from fiction; I know that none of the endings *really* happened. It's a movie...I get it. But, I can't help believing that the end of a story is the most important clue to its meaning. Imagine a murder mystery with multiple endings in which different characters are discovered to be the culprit. This would make all of the hints preceding the murderer's disclosure meaningless. Or imagine a great love story with different endings; one version ends with the hero and heroine marrying each other; another version ends with the hero or heroine leaving one another. The sense of satisfaction - that these two were destined to be together, that all of the conflict and obstacles of the plot could not stand in the way of the inevitable - would dissolve.

What really lies behind my frustration with multiple endings is my belief that the best writers have an end in mind from the beginning. They have the privileged vantage of being able to see how the story ends, and it is their responsibility to tell the story in a way that prepares the audience for the conclusion. This doesn't mean that they give the ending away; some of the very best stories have unanticipated endings. But even with a major plot twist, great stories leave their audience nodding their heads, realizing that the

story couldn't have ended any other way.

This is the sort of story that God is perfectly weaving through human history. From our vantage point, we can already see that He is a master of foreshadowing. He has given us some idea of how the story will end. (Listen to Pastor Pirschel's sermon on God's benevolent sovereignty, *God's Restoration of Offender and Offended* [<http://www.covenantchattanooga.org/sermons>] from this past Sunday morning if you were not there.) We know that it won't just taper off, but that there will be a final climax in which evil is soundly defeated, the saints are ushered into the very presence of their Lord and all is set right. But we can't see exactly how, in the midst of the [His] story, we will get to that point.

God, on the other hand, knows exactly how this great drama of history will end and all points leading there. He reminds us of this: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" (Isaiah 46.9b-10)

Once we finally reach the end, we will see how masterfully every step, great and small, in human history has led to that moment, how the end has been building since the beginning. God's story will be revealed in all of its glorious purposefulness, and we will have no desire for an alternative ending, once we see what He has in store.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 21

Worship

Infants

Gretchen Brown
& Diana Bowers

Creepers

Carla Stephenson
& Emilia Marrs

Toddlers

Nathan & Alayna Bowers

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Sandy Coffey

Creepers

Sarah & Betsy Wade

Toddlers

Mark & Joanna Watne

August Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

Parents of CPC Youth, please attend our Youth Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, August 21, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. The Fall Youth schedule will be presented. Please bring a dessert to share! Drinks provided.

LADIES FALL KICK-OFF

Ladies, on Sunday, August 28, the CPC Women's Ministry is hosting a Fall Kick-Off gathering in the Parlor during the Sunday School hour. Please drop by before, during, or after Sunday School to enjoy some refreshments and fellowship and hear about the studies and events that are planned for the coming year.

COVENANT CORPS

SLIDE back into Covenant Corps (for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade) on August 31, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fun water games, including a giant slip 'n slide and sprinklers, will be enjoyed during Covenant Corps' first session. Bring a towel and a change of dry clothes.

PRAYER CALENDAR

The updated Prayer Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

PERSEVERERS CLASS

The Perseverers Class is starting a study led by Dr. Lamar Allen on *Apostle Paul's Letters to the Romans*, beginning September 3. From its very first readers to present day Paul's detailed exposition of the Gospel in this letter has profoundly affected all who read it. Many have been converted by its message including Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. In the Preface to his commentary on Romans, Martin Luther wrote, "This Epistle to the Romans is the true masterpiece of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it everyday, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes." Join a great group for a verse by verse study of this wonderful Epistle.

MEG PLAYDATE

The Mother's Encouragement Group (MEG) is having a playdate at Imagination Station on Friday, August 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Beth Griggs with any questions at bwgriggs@comcast.net.

LADIES' THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study resumes September 8, at 10:00 a.m. Bev Mealor is teaching again, continuing the study on Genesis. Books are \$9. Nursery is provided. Please contact Bev Mealor for more information at 423.505.4048.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT MOVIE NIGHT

Girls Night Out Movie Night is Thursday, September 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Boo Mullinax's home to watch *The War Room*.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Men's Breakfast on September 17 is open to all Men and Women of CPC, as well as youth. The Men's Ministry is excited to announce that R.V. Brown is our speaker, a High School sports coach and founder of Outreach to America's Youth. R.V. is speaking on *Spiritual Battles*. Nursery provided. More details to come.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers resume next week, August 24. The first meal will be a time of eating and fellowship. All activities resume the following week, August 31, except Children's Choir, which begins September 7.

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. Children 4 and under eat for free, and the maximum family donation is \$15.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

August 24	Barbecue
August 31	Thai Red Curry (mild) Cheesy Pork and Rice for kids
Sept 7	Baked Potato Bar
Sept 14	Italian Stromboli