



The eNewsletter

October 20, 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...

October 23

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Church Picnic

October 26

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Reformation Celebration Party

October 27

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 28

Girls Night Out - Movie Night
Youth Fall Retreat at CPC

October 29

Youth Fall Retreat at CPC

October 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School
TVP Reformation Service

November 1

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
Women's Council Meeting

November 2

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

November 3

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 4

Marriage Seminar

November 5

Marriage Seminar

November 6

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Youth Leadership Team

November 7

Ladies Monday Night Job
Bible Study

November 9

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

November 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 11

Talent/No Talent Show

November 12

Ladies' Shopping Adventure

While watching some of our kiddos enthusiastically digging on the church playground, I thought of how dirty hands aren't appreciated. It seems children are born ready to dig into the mess before them, to experience the earth by getting it under their fingernails and in between their toes, and to delight in life by generally getting it all over themselves. But, it doesn't take long before we learn that dirty hands and faces are unacceptable, that jumping into mud puddles will come with a reprimand, and that finger-painting is only for those who haven't yet graduated to brushes. Moving from child to adult seems to involve cleaning up one's act in more ways than one.

The writers of the Bible were inspired by God to use metaphors of childhood in their letters to newly believing communities. Paul compares one's knowledge of God to the process of learning: "When I was a child, I spoke like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." (1 Corinthians 13.11, 12) Peter similarly encourages new believers to grow in love and knowledge: "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2.2, 3)

It is easy to read both of these examples and conclude that the ways of children are behaviors we are being told to *out-grow*. It is easy to allow our negative views on what is *childish* to inform the way we receive these exhortations involving what is *childlike*. But, instead of speaking negatively of childhood, I think, Paul is comparing our current understanding and vision of God to that of a child's, which will encouragingly grow clearer. Similarly, Peter is not urging us to grow out of our infant hunger...on the contrary; he's urging us to grow further into it. Indeed, there are some things of childhood that God would not have us to abandon with age!

Could we be missing things God offers by resisting the instinct of getting our hands dirty and insisting that the world only be seen in detached and tidy ways? Are things of the Kingdom lost on us, things of God and of Christ, because we have so stagnated faith into something that only touches spirit or mind, and not hands, feet, and body? Might we be stunted because we see this Kingdom as something only *distant* - a future hope for a future life - instead of something dynamically here and among us, calling us to a fully-engaged, hands-dirtying existence today?

Jesus told His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18.3) Neither Christ nor the kingdom He came to make known is a static entity, something that mattered long ago and might matter once again, but not here and now in this life as we know it. On the contrary, all of history, the stories of salvation and the incarnation itself, remind us that God is *far more* hands-on than this. The Lamb of God very physically took away the sins of the world. And with a God who is willing to become flesh and dwell among us, what makes us believe that we would be called to a faith that is anything less than hands-on as well? Even in His last days, Christ did not merely leave us with instructions to remember Him as a figure in history. He told us to remember Him, gave us a meal, and left us with a way to bodily *take-in* the very kingdom and story He proclaimed again and again.

Christ has given us permission to touch, to experience, to jump completely into the great and wonderful Kingdom in which God reigns. In this Kingdom, we can be as children who delight in knowing life with dirty hands, who like Thomas need the invitation to touch, and like Paul, see the need to give mind, soul, and body to the one who gave us all of Himself. *The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

~ Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 23

Worship

Infants

Jeanie Ray
& Reita Pierce

Creepers

Tammy Knotts
& Mollee Brown

Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

Floater

Capps Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Selah & Sophia Cross

Creepers

Mark & Joanna Watne

Toddlers

William Higgins
& Brandon Cross

October Coordinator:

Heather Harris

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Oct 26	Hot Dogs
Nov 2	Beef Enchiladas

30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Mission to the World (MTW), the PCA's foreign mission arm, has produced a *30 Days of Prayer for World Missions* calendar. This helpful prayer tool is available at the church's Welcome Center. Please commit to pray for our missionaries and ministries throughout the month of November. Particularly, pray for those in restricted-access countries where believers are often persecuted for their faith. The calendar also highlights the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 1, giving you the opportunity to join the worldwide body of Christ in prayer.

CHURCH PICNIC

Please plan to join us at our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, October 23, at Heritage Park at 12:30 p.m. BYOPB (Bring Your Own Picnic Basket), drinks and desserts provided. Activities for everyone!

YOUTH RETREAT

High School and Middle School Youth are invited to a Youth Retreat on October 28-29 in Schum Fellowship Hall. Details available on the Registration Form in the holder outside the Youth Office. Please turn in Registration Forms to Gretchen Brown by Sunday.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, October 26, we'll celebrate our Reformation heritage with food and lots of fun-filled, informative activities, including: Tetzels Toss, Calvin's Catapult, The Diet of Worms, Pin the Theses, Salvation Shot, and Reformation Rings. Supper is from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the activities are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Costumes are optional.

TVP REFORMATION SERVICE

Sunday evening, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. the churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery are meeting together at Covenant Presbyterian Church for a Reformation Celebration. Combined Choir Rehearsal at 4:15 p.m. Please plan to join us for this wonderful evening of worship.

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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Mark & Cindy Donaldson

1008 Reunion Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

The Marriage Committee invites you to their Fall Seminar on November 4, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and November 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in Schum Fellowship Hall. Pastor Pirschel is the speaker. Registration is required. Childcare provided for children 5th grade and under by registration only. Contact Jon or Heather Harris for registration details at jeh1224@aol.com. Cost is donations only.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There is no November Men's Breakfast. The Men's Ministry encourages all to attend the Marriage Seminar.

LADIES MOVIE NIGHT

Ladies, come enjoy an outdoor movie at the home of Diana Perrel on Friday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own lawn chair, snacks, and drinks. Popcorn will be provided. *While You Were Sleeping* will be playing. This is a rain or shine event! For more information, please contact Diana Perrel at 423.580.2421.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Labels are available at the Welcome Center to place on the boxes. Boxes will be packed on Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It is time again to begin preparing for our annual Thanksgiving Pounding. We are collecting staples and canned goods to help those in need. Please place items in the box outside of Pastor Mullinax's office. If you are going through a hard time this year, or if you know someone who is, please let an Elder or the Church Office know. The Pounding can be a tangible expression of God's love to someone who is struggling. Please contact with Joyce Trask at futurejoyce@gmail.com for details.