



The eNewsletter

November 10, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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Looking Ahead...

- November 11**
Talent/No Talent Show
- November 12**
Ladies' Shopping Adventure
- November 13**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Mission Committee Meeting
MS/HS GUBA Night
- November 14**
Ladies' Monday Night Titus
Bible Study
- November 15**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- November 16**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- November 17**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- November 19**
OCC Packing Day
- November 20**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting
- November 23**
Thanksgiving Service
- November 24**
Church Office Closed -
Thanksgiving Break
- November 25**
Church Office Closed -
Thanksgiving Break
- November 27**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- November 30**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- December 1**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
- December 3**
Men's Breakfast
- December 4**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Yesterday morning we woke to the news that Americans elected a new president. For some in our nation this news was delightful, for others it was devastating, and for others still, it simply was. What we must realize is that these varied reactions are reflective of differing reactions within our own communion. There are God-fearing Christians who love the Lord and our country, who placed their vote for Hillary Clinton. And, conversely, there are Christ-loving saints who placed their vote for Donald Trump. And there are many among us who read one of, or both of, those sentences with no small amount of consternation.

Most of us would be comforted by a community with a more monolithic political outlook; a group that all votes for the same candidates, based on what we believe to be obvious and clear principles. For some, the issue of abortion is the litmus test in all of their voting. For others, while they agree abortion is sinful and egregious, they believe there are other issues that are also Biblically-mandated that need to be kept in mind. Issues like protection of the poor from unfair policies and abuses based on injustices carried out through such policies. Both sides base their convictions on Scripture. Yet, both sides come to different conclusions as to the best way to politically enact their vision of the good. To further complicate matters, the Bible doesn't come with a voter's guide.

If we believe that one of the parties in our country is clearly the righteous one, then perhaps one of the greatest lessons we could have learned from this election was missed. Minimally, what this election should have shown is that American politics is a fallen affair and the Kingdom of Christ will never be fully realized within the kingdom of man. Because of this, well-meaning Christians might find themselves on opposite sides of the political divide and that is not because one is obviously hardhearted or the other hateful. Rather, it is because we currently see in part, we know in part and each of us is blinded by our own desires and built-in assumptions. Presently, none of our minds fully conform

to the mind of Christ. Further, God, in His own wisdom, has not given us a blueprint as to how every government on earth is to be run in minute detail and, therefore, we must allow one another room to disagree without questioning each other's Christian integrity.

While we may bemoan the lack of detail the Bible offers for all the complexities of American political policy, what it does reveal with clarity is how we can live a godly life in this present but passing age. Therefore, my exhortation to us, as members of CPC, would be to start by looking at and seeking to obey the obvious things before considering how to handle the more complex issues. For it appears by how we speak about our leaders and those with whom we disagree that we, as Christians in America, seem to have lost the Kingdom plot. Let me give a clear example of this in Paul's writings. "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1 Timothy 2.1, 2)

Paul urges in this text that we pray and thank God for our political leaders. That means we will owe God our thanks and prayers for Donald Trump, regardless of our party affiliation. If that is true, it is also true that we now owe those very things to God on behalf of Barak Obama. How does that comport with your current practice? Further, Paul tells us the reason we should do this is so that we can live a peaceful, quiet, godly, and dignified life. Have those sorts of adjectives (peaceful, quiet, godly, dignified) defined your political discourse? If we have failed in these things, it is because we have allowed partisan politics to define our identity to such an extent that it has usurped our Kingdom identity. If this is a *change* election, may it be because we as Christians reprioritize our heavenly citizenship so that it controls our earthly ethic. And may we show it by how we talk about and pray for those in power and how we treat those with whom we disagree.

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule November 13

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Creepers

Will & Melissa Horton
& Andrea Waldecker

Toddlers

Mindy Horton
& Katherine Fisher

Floater

Macie Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Domekia & Ellie Gaines

Creepers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

November Coordinator:

Judy Foster

TALENT/NO TALENT SHOW

Prepare to be dazzled by CPC talent on Friday, November 11, at 7:00 p.m. Desserts will be served and donations taken to assist choir members who are going on a mission trip to Belarus in June 2017. Don't miss out!

GUBA

High School and Middle School Youth and their families are invited to the next GUBA meeting this Sunday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Ken Henry will be teaching. Bring a dessert or snack to share.

YOUTH T-SHIRTS

CPC Youth and their parents, CPC Youth T-shirts are still available, while supplies last. Cost is \$10 each. Contact Gretchen Brown to purchase one.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, November 17, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call the church office.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Please join us for a time of thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m., in Schum Fellowship Hall. No nursery provided.

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.

For the month of November, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: E. Brown, T. Gaither, D. Grant, A. Sanders, T. Schreiner, and T. Smith.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Nov 16	Coq Au Vin (Mac 'n Cheese for kids)
Nov 30	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
Dec 7	Christmas Feast (Roast and Mashed Potatoes)

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Anna Steere

5301 Tennessee Avenue
Chattanooga TN 37409

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 marking age and gender of the child. Please fill a shoe box, donate items for the shoe boxes, donate money to cover shipping expenses, or help on Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom.

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. Delivery date is November 19. Please contact Joyce Trask at futurejoyce@gmail.com for details.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2017. These envelopes may be used for regular giving or giving to the Nursery Fund Pledges. Email cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org and let Carol know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly or quarterly envelopes. Order forms are also available at the Welcome Center. Orders due by December 4.

GRATEFUL GOBBLER

Annually, people from all walks of life gather together for the 5k Grateful Gobbler Walk, Run, Stroll held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the walk will benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families, an emergency homeless shelter located on site at the Community Kitchen. To register, please visit www.gratefulgobbler.org.