



# The eNewsletter

November 30, 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...*

**December 3**  
Men's Breakfast

**December 4**  
Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Congregational Meeting  
Youth Leadership Team

**December 5**  
Ladies' Monday Night Job  
Bible Study

**December 6**  
Mothers' Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Council Meeting

**December 7**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**December 9**  
Ladies' Christmas Dinner

**December 11**  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Children's Choir Christmas  
Program

**December 12**  
Ladies' Monday Night Titus  
Bible Study

**December 14**  
MS/HS Youth Pizza Party  
Superfly Party  
Wednesday Night Activities

**December 15**  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

**December 18**  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Diaconate Meeting  
Sanctuary Choir Christmas  
Program

**December 20**  
Mothers' Encouragement  
Group

**December 21**  
Caroling & Desserts

**December 23**  
Church Office Closed -  
Christmas

**December 24**

The Holidays are upon us! When I say "upon us", I mean it in the same sense as, "the Philistines are upon us!" The page is barely allowed to turn on Thanksgiving before America's version of Christmas crashes the party wearing a Santa hat and offering deep discounts. The food has hardly digested and many are off to go shopping for that next event. The Thanksgiving feast has just wound down and people are busily replacing their faux fall foliage with evergreens and twinkling lights. Ready or not, it's Christmas everyone!

This is how we have come to mark time in our consumer culture. It was Thanksgiving. Now it is Christmas. Then will come New Year's. Next is Valentine's Day. On and on it goes, and therein lies the problem. The way we mark time has an insidious falsehood built into it. The lie that subtly whispers, "On and on it goes." We move so rapidly through our consumerized version of the calendar there is no place to turn out and take in the long view of what lies ahead. There is no set aside time where we, as a culture, are taught to consider what happens when the calendar runs out of days. There is no season to meditate on the fact that at some of our holiday meals there are empty seats at the table that will never be filled again. Time has marched on and it has left some of us behind. At what point in the year do we stop to consider this? What would we call this holiday and what box of décor do we pull out to set the mood?

It may sound morbid, but the Church does have a time set aside for that exact purpose: Advent. Everyone marks time in some manner but the question is how is it to be marked in light of the fact that, "time, like an ever rolling

stream, bears all its sons away"? What is history and where is it headed? We look behind, and we see the repeated cycle of life and death. The temptation is to look ahead and to assume that this is what the future holds as well.

Advent enters into our yearly calendar just prior to the celebration of Jesus' birth, in order to teach us the ultimate goal of His birth. This Child comes to make all things new. As wonderful as that is, it presupposes a reality that we try our best to forget, that all things *need* to be made new. This present existence isn't good enough, no matter how much we try to cover the ugliness and hurt by wrapping it up in shiny paper and smothering it in sentiment. We have pain. We cause pain. We sin and are sinned against. We have the scars and the list of regrets to prove it. And, in the end, we all die and we have the innate sickening sense that we will have to answer for all we have done. How can we as mortal creatures cope with this reality looming large on the horizon of our lives? Plan the next event and do it quickly!

Thankfully, Advent confronts us with the very thing we work hard all year long to ignore; the end. But through the confrontation, Advent leads us to consider both the magnitude of our neediness and the magnitude of the gift given to the needy at Christmas; the gift of the God-man interrupting human history to deal with our sin and the misery it causes once and for all. In Advent, we are reminded that this same Jesus will interrupt history again to bring an end to the cycle of our madness and grant us peace in its place. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

~Pastor Pirschel



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule December 4

#### Worship

##### Infants

Crystal Middleton  
& Brenda King

##### Creepers

Maggie Middleton  
& Alison Colberg

##### Toddlers

Jerry King  
& Donna Schreiner

##### Floater

Gerald Schreiner

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Sandy Coffey  
& Lisa Grant

##### Creepers

Kate Lambeth  
& Amy Maclellan

##### Toddlers

Catherine Coffey  
& Vangie Wykoff

### December Coordinator:

Rebekah Gernhard

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend an important Congregational Meeting immediately following the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 4.

### ADVENT CALENDARS

The Advent Calendars for families with children (through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, December 3, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. Andrew Smith is speaking on *God is Good*. Nursery is provided.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 9. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for girls (8 years old and younger). Please register at the Women's Ministry table in the lobby or contact Dory George at [snailmail.dg@gmail.com](mailto:snailmail.dg@gmail.com) to register.

### LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Our last Wednesday Night Supper of 2016 is a Christmas Feast (Roast and Mashed Potatoes) on December 7 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 December, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: J. Brown, K. Brown, M. Griggs, J. Hildebrand, M. Lander, E. Mullinax, and T. Wright

### BUDGET REPORT

Thru November 30:

Budget:	\$1,453,125
Actual:	\$1,216,658
Shortfall:	\$236,467

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Mark & Marie Wilson

10113 Burgundy Drive, Frisco TX 75035

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

This is your last chance to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2017. These envelopes may be used for regular giving or giving of Nursery Fund Pledges. Contact Carol at [cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org) and let her know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly, or quarterly envelopes. Order forms are also available at the Welcome Center, due by December 4.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come enjoy the children's hard work and presentation of *Angels We Have Heard* on Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Good Tidings of Great Joy*, a concert centering upon the message of hope, peace, love, and joy the Incarnate brings to the world, is Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.

### COVENANT CORPS AT SUPERFLY

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, December 14, children in Covenant Corps, ages 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, will be rewarded for all their hard work on their catechisms and Scripture memorization by getting to jump, bounce, and flip at Superfly. Please make plans to join us from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to jump, but registration is at 6:45 p.m. It will be a fun evening for the whole family!

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle School and High School Youth are invited to CiCi's Pizza on Wednesday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m. Following dinner, the Youth are joining the Covenant Corps classes at Superfly from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.