



# The eNewsletter

May 18, 2017

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 Associate Pastor...

### Looking Ahead...

**May 20**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Party

**May 21**

Morning Worship  
Teacher Recognition Sunday  
Sunday School  
Waldecker Bridal Shower  
Gray Baby Shower  
Diaconate Meeting

**May 24**

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Search Committee Meeting  
Prayer Group

**May 26**

Taters and Tubesteaks

**May 27**

Women's Ministry Hiking  
Kinship Group

**May 28**

Morning Worship  
Promotion Sunday  
Graduate Recognition  
Sunday School  
Graduate Reception  
Youth Family Picnic

**May 31**

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Search Committee Meeting  
Prayer Group

**June 3**

Men's Breakfast  
Ladies' Leadership Training  
Class

**June 4**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School

**June 5**

Music Camp

**June 6**

Music Camp  
Women's Council Meeting

**June 7**

Music Camp  
Search Committee Meeting  
Prayer Group

**June 8**

Music Camp

**June 9**

Music Camp  
Fri-Yay at the Griggs

*Hey, bub! "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?...When the morning stars sang in chorus and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

These are just a couple of the questions from the long list asked of Job (Job 38.1 ff). God's interrogation bursts forth like thunder, breaking His long, unnerving silence with a clap that seems to drown out Job entirely. It's easy to view these questions as a harsh sting, as a silencing gavel to Job's objections, like the response of an exasperated parent putting an end to a child's inquisitive clamoring with the trump card of rank: "Because I'm the parent, that's why!!" It is God as Creator seen something more like God as Tyrant.

Our view of God is often a complicated collection of stories, images, memories, and emotions, some of which may well be more accurate - or heightened in our minds for whatever reason - than others. I too long read God's response to Job's pain and queries with the sting of a weary (and/or angry) parent. It was the counsel of another that helped me ask: what if these words aren't said irately, but with gentle lament for the created world in the life of even one struggling soul? What if these words respond to both the great pain of creation, where it groans in need, and the great beauty of creation, where it remains a wonder of good?

An elder from the church we served in Florida used to speak readily about the creation of the world through the landscape of gardening. (He had grown up an Ohio farm boy, then, after earning a PhD in chemistry, taught at a Christian college.) I remember hearing him simply read from the creation story. As he read aloud and commented on the story, I began to see his point(s). The second chapter of Genesis, the account of creation that Christians and Jews hold as sacred text, says that God planted a garden in Eden to the east...God, the Gardener.

I had never considered what such an identity of God might mean to me or to the world around me. Yet, here is one of the first passages in the Bible where we are introduced to who God - not as a warrior, nor a judge, nor a king, but first, as a gardener, a nurturer of all life, a protector and planter, a designer, a keeper and pruner concerned with life's flourishing. My own limited experiences with gardening brought to mind a different set of considerations than I typically thought of God having: delighting in dirty hands, my own investment in the thing I'd planted, the thrill of buds and fruit, the focused attention on emerging life, the compilation and cooperation of so many different factors - frost, rain, sun, compost, and insects - and the pleasure of simply being around things that were thriving. But, God, as a similar kind of gardener, can be traced throughout the Old Testament, in the psalms and in the prophets. Jesus, too, concurs: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15.1)

Such a reading of the world's creation and thoughts of the Master gardener tending to me, stirred a response similar to David's... when I survey this vast world, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars and all that you have established, what are mortals that you are mindful of them, human beings in whatever state of sadness or joy or smallness that you still care for them? (Psalm 8)

God as gardener, whose deep concern is life's flourishing, makes no better a case than in Easter's undoing of death and our life - union with the resurrected Son. How fitting that the place of the tomb and resurrection is also described as a garden, and Jesus Himself is mistaken as a gardener on that resurrection morning. The Maker of all creation, the Gardener who tends to His world, carefully continues to make things new.

~Pastor Mullinax



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule May 21

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern  
& Sally Forrester

##### Crawlers

David & Rebekah Gernhard

##### Toddlers

Catherine & Grace Pippin

##### Floater

Charlotte Pippin

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Jim & Connie Hildebrand

##### Crawlers

Tim & Bonnie Schoap

##### Toddlers

Phil Spotts  
& Kate Lambeth

### May Coordinator:

Judy Foster

### BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Andrea (Griggs) Gray is on Sunday, May 21, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Peseverers Classroom. She is registered at Babies R Us, Amazon, and Target.

### BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Audrey Waldecker is on Sunday, May 21, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Audrey is getting married on July 2. She is registered at Amazon and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

### THE EDGE

Middle School Youth, please turn in your final payment, along with your camp waiver and rafting waiver by Sunday, May 21. Contact Gretchen Brown or Abby Horton with any questions.

### PROMOTION PARTY

All rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders, you are invited to a Promotion Party on Saturday, May 20, at Duane and Mindy Horton's house from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided. Don't miss out on this fun, family evening to celebrate moving into the CPC Youth Group. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Lehmann.

### MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is June 5-9. Kids from Kindergarten through entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for a week of music, drama, crafts, Bible, and fun! Cost is \$30. Please register on our church website or fill out a form in the Lobby.

To volunteer to help with Music Camp, please use separate registration forms found outside Jeremy Gaines' office.

### MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

The Mother's Encouragement Group, which meets during the school year, has planned some *Fri-yay Fundays* over the summer months. We encourage families to join us, even if you haven't been able to attend our meetings before. All of these dates are swimming at the Griggs' home, *come when you can, leave when you must*, and also **BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK**. Please contact Beth Griggs with any questions at [bwgriggs@comcast.net](mailto:bwgriggs@comcast.net).

- June 9, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- June 16, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- July 7, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- July 28, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- August 4, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- August 18, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### YOUTH INTERN

The CPC Personnel Committee is delighted to announce that Abby Horton has accepted the position of CPC Youth Intern. Abby's official first day was Monday, May 15. She is working with Ken Henry and Pastor Jake Bennett when he arrives in July. Please be ready to get involved and participate as Abby helps implement summer activities and ministries. Abby's email address is [cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org).

### GETTY CONCERT

Covenant Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, North Shore Fellowship, and Signal Mountain Presbyterian are joining together to host Keith and Kristyn Getty in Concert at the Memorial Auditorium on Saturday, October 28, in honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The pre-sale of tickets, available only to these four churches are \$18, adult; \$15, student; and \$10, children 13 and under. CPC is offering a family maximum of \$50 for members as an encouragement for all to attend. This offer is only available until June 11. Please pre-order tickets in the Lobby.

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 28, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, or doctorate programs. Please email the church office with the name of the graduate, the degree earned, name of school, and date of graduation.

### YOUTH FAMILY PICNIC

All youth and their families are invited to an end-of-the-year family picnic at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 28, at 6:00 p.m. Drinks are provided. Bring a picnic and a few lawn chairs for your family.

### TATERS AND TUBESTEAKS

Join us for a night out with the family, Friday, May 26. The hot dog dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. in Coolidge Park. Stay for the Lookouts game at AT&T Park at 7:15 p.m. The cost remains \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Due to the increase of ticket prices, we need a more accurate headcount than previous years. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the Church Office.

### MEMORIAL DAY

The church office is closed, Monday, May 29. There will be no eNewsletter sent on Thursday, June 1.