



# The eNewsletter

June 15, 2017

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
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## *From the Pen of the Executive Assistant to the Pastor...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

- June 16** HS Guys Night Out
- June 18** Morning Worship  
Sunday School
- June 19** The Edge Youth Camp Begins
- June 20** Ladies Tuesday Bible Study  
Session Meeting
- June 21** Mission: Chattanooga  
Prayer Group  
Search Committee Meeting  
Ladies' PM Bible Study
- June 22** Swim Day
- June 23** The Edge Concludes  
Fri-Yay Funday
- June 25** Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Fisher 50th Anniversary  
Reception
- June 26** Belarus Trip Concludes
- June 27** Ladies Tuesday Bible Study
- June 28** Prayer Group  
Search Committee Meeting  
Ladies' PM Bible Study
- June 29** Swim Day
- June 30** HS Girls Night Out
- July 2** Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School
- July 4** Office Closed - Fourth of July
- July 5** Prayer Group  
Search Committee Meeting  
Ladies' PM Bible Study
- July 6** Swim Day

The anticipation of a visit from Grandma and Grandpa J was very exciting for young me. Grandpa would have balloons and Grandma would have tupperware boxes full of cookies that she made before traveling South. I don't remember if we had a lot of homemade cookies when I was young, but I do remember Grandma J's. Even as the years went on and the cookies were not as good or as plentiful, the child-like excitement was still present. My husband got to experience it and some of my older children hold on to that memory.

Grandma J was a good grandma. You never doubted that she wanted to be with you. She was always fully engaged with whatever you were doing. We did crafts and puzzles together, played the piano, colored, and I have many Easter egg coloring memories. She loved to talk and I loved to hear her stories, no matter how many times I had heard them before.

She taught me to cross-stitch and she tried to teach me to make clothes. She taught me to cook and to knit. She taught me many things, but one important thing she taught me was how to love my husband well.

Jason and I spent our first Christmas in Pennsylvania, at Grandma and Grandpa J's, only eight weeks married. The main purpose of the trip was not Christmas, but the celebration of the J's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. What an honor it was, especially as newlyweds, to see that kind of commitment.

Fast forward at least a decade. I marveled at the example of Grandma and Grandpa J's love for each other. They faithfully read the Bible together, they still held hands, told each other's stories, winked at each other, kissed often, rubbed each other's back. The love and respect (even if it seemed gruff sometimes to an outsider) expressed between them was something to behold. I cherished the way that Grandma J, like a school-girl crush, wore Grandpa's wedding ring after he passed, even tho it was way too big for her. Those two had such a passion for each other. A love that I pray Jason and I can imitate in decades to come.

When Grandpa J passed away, Grandma J was beyond sorrowed. I can't even begin to try to imagine the sense of loss she was experiencing. She was hopeful to follow him quickly, but the Lord had other plans. Plans for her family to honor her by caring for her.

I was only a small hand in Grandma J's care, but I enjoyed the times I was able to help. I understand her well-being was a bigger burden on others, but what an honor the Lord gave us all to tend to her these past few years. I truly loved my days this past year that I got to sit with her in the hospital. It was an odd joy to help in those days and just be with her.

It was clear in the last few months that Grandma J was getting weaker and less social. And no stories were being told. We are thankful she was able to join us for a Mother's Day lunch, no matter exhausting it was for her. A last family gathering. A cup of hot tea shared with her. A last plate of cookies enjoyed with her.

Our timing is not the Lord's timing. And we can never plan as perfectly as God.

*The Thrive* (her assisted living home) staff and residents were an incredible *other* family for Grandma J. They had truly missed her presence in her time of illness and weakness. Apparently, on her last day, she up, got dressed, went to Bible study, ate a great lunch, and hung out. They were thrilled to have her back. Then she went to her room, took a nap, and awoke in the arms of her loving, faithful Lord. What a blessing for all her friends at *Thrive* to have one last (fun) day with her. What a blessing that her last hours were enjoyable, rather than stuck in bed. And what a sweet reunion she and Grandpa J had that afternoon.

I look forward to seeing both Grandpa J and Grandma J one day. And maybe, just maybe, there will be a tupperware box of cookies waiting for me.

Most likely...the best cookies ever.

~Gretchen Brown



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule June 18

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern  
& Kelly Orthner

##### Crawlers

Joanna Watne  
& Lisa Hobbs

##### Toddlers

Josh & Renee Ray

##### Floater

Scott Orthner

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

John & Becky Pearce

##### Crawlers

Kim Collins  
& Amy Creamer

##### Toddlers

John Southworth  
& Stacy Collins

### HIGH SCHOOL GUYS NIGHT OUT

The High School Youth Guys are invited to join Justin Martin for pizza and bowling on Friday, June 16, 6:30 p.m. at Pinstrikes.

### THE EDGE CONFERENCE

The Middle School Youth who signed up for The Edge are leaving on Monday, June 19. Please be in the church parking lot at 1:30 p.m. for final instructions and details, transportation is leaving at 2:00 p.m. Campers are returning Friday, June 23, at noon.

### MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

On Wednesday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. we will have several service opportunities at CPC - grounds work, thorough kitchen cleaning, stamp ministry, etc. As always, the Prayer Group continues and welcomes others to join on Wednesdays. There is also a Ladies' Summer Bible Study that meets on Wednesday nights.

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary celebration in honor of Joe and Susie Fisher is Sunday, June 25, starting with a renewal of vows in the Sanctuary at 2:30 p.m. There is a reception afterwards in Schum Fellowship Hall until 5:00 p.m.

### FRI-YAY FUNDAY

The Mother's Encouragement Group's next *Fri-Yay Funday* is Friday, June 23, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Griggs' home. Bring your own food and drinks. Contact Beth Griggs with any questions at [bwgriggs@comcast.net](mailto:bwgriggs@comcast.net).

### CALENDARS

The July birthday/anniversary calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

### NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

Please make the following additions to your CPC Membership Directory.

#### Emily James

Emily is the 13-year old daughter of Steven & Rebecca James.

#### Claire James

Claire is the 11-year old daughter of Steven & Rebecca James.

#### Will James

Will is the 9-year old son of Steven & Rebecca James.

#### Ephraim James

Ephraim is the 8-year old son of Steven & Rebecca James.

#### Judah Rimondi

Judah is the 5-year old son of Chris & Tara Rimondi.

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the church office by phone or email to set up an appointment.

### SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool is Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and for cleanup.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. You may email us at [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org).

### HONORING THE SACRIFICE

Be sure to get your tickets for the *Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation American Heroes Dinner* on July 14, at 7:00 p.m., at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Lt. Col. Oliver North is the featured speaker. For tickets or more information please visit [www.honoringthesacrifice.org](http://www.honoringthesacrifice.org).