



The eNewsletter

July 20, 2017

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Director of Music Ministries...

Looking Ahead...

- July 21**
Jackson Memorial Service
- July 22**
Youth Water Night
- July 23**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- July 24**
HS and MS Game Night
- July 25**
Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study
- July 26**
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Mission: Chattanooga
Ladies' PM Bible Study
- July 27**
Swim Day
- July 28**
Fri-yay Funday
- July 30**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- August 1**
Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study
Women's Council Meeting
- August 2**
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- August 3**
Swim Day
- August 4**
Fri-yay Funday
- August 5**
Men's Breakfast
- August 6**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
- August 8**
Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study
- August 9**
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- August 10**
Swim Day

Belarus has become less a strange land and more an extension of my life.

On my first trip to Belarus in 2013 I was captured by the strangeness of everything; an almost bizarre-like world where everything was the same but also different. Food was... adventurous. Cities and villages were surreal, and sometimes I was left with the feeling that I was looking into paintings or photos and not truly experiencing them myself. I was meeting lovely saints in the Lord, but was unable to have anything other than basic communication with them.

The one thing that tied us together with them was music. Even with most of us not understanding the Russian language, we were able to have the same spirit about us and the same God was worshiped in ways that cannot be done in our own language or comfort zone.

I was able to go with double the number of people from CPC that went in 2013 this time, including my wife and daughter, and the experience was just as impactful but more familiar than I had anticipated. When I saw Stefan, our home church pastor whom CPC supports, his family, members of the Belarusian choir, and even members of churches we visited previously, there was always a feeling of reunion. I felt as if I was catching up or getting re-acquainted. Their greetings were sincere and joyous. My reactions were no longer hesitant but eager to have precious time with brothers and sisters.

When participating in worship services, the familiar far outweighed

the foreign. Their efforts and practices are the same as ours from a church perspective. Youth camps were being prepared. Mourning over lost ones was witnessed. There was a group for special needs at a church in Grodno at which we were able to sing. We helped with funds to afford these children and their parents the opportunity to go to camp. We shared pieces of music with each other, sang and played together in groups small and large, and stayed in their homes for beautiful times of fellowship.

Music opened doors as well. We were able to sing in Russian Orthodox churches and make connections with villagers because of it. We were having difficulty being able to go to one of the children's camps, but because of the children's musical preparations they begged us not to give up on the endeavor. We sang to each other in foreign tongues but a shared love.

What did I learn from all this? I learned that loving one another doesn't start with knowing one another completely. I discovered that language and distance only divides us as the church of Christ as much as we let it. I saw hungering and thirsting after righteousness from the perspective of the persecuted church. We laughed much more this time, and we felt a sense of emptiness when we were on our way home. But we know that even if we never pass that way again, that all of God's children will gather together again and sing God's praises around the Throne. *To God be the glory.*

~Jeremy Gaines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 23

Front Desk
Stacy Collins

Worship

Infants
Gretchen Brown
& Judy Foster

Crawlers
Cathy Smith
& Tavis Brown

Toddlers
Mollee & Daegan Brown

Floaters
Capps Brown

Sunday School

Infants
Alayne Griffin
& Lisa Grant

Crawlers
Karen & Madison Crago

Toddlers
Craig & Susan Miller

JACKSON MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Freda Jackson is Friday, July 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

BEAT THE HEAT GAME NIGHT

High School and Middle School Youth and their families are invited to a *Beat the Heat Game Night* on Saturday, July 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come enjoy water inflatables and games on the field.

SUMMER FUN YOUTH NIGHT

High School and Middle School Youth are invited to a *Summer Fun Youth Night* on Monday, July 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come enjoy games, popsicles, and a putt-putt golf tournament.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Do you like delicious ice cream and super fun water slides? Then you would really enjoy working with our Covenant children? We would love for you to consider helping in our Children's Ministry on Wednesday nights. Classes start on August 23, for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. We have a need for teachers and helpers for our kindergarten through 5th grade classes. Working with our Covenant children will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Contact Holly Lehmann at cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org or 423-667-2582 for more information.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Pastor Bennett's Installation Service is August 13 at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow in Schum Fellowship Hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m. Mark Whitacre is speaking on *From the Penthouse, to the Jailhouse, to Jesus*. Mark's life is the subject of *The Informant* movie. Come hear his story! Nursery provided.

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.

FRI-YAY FUNDAY

The Mother's Encouragement Group's next *Fri-Yay Funday* is Friday, July 28, 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.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

CPC members willing to serve in the Nursery, select your volunteer date(s) at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/X8FTK>. If you need help signing up, sign up at the Nursery table in the Lobby on Sunday or contact Joanna Watne by email at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDARS

The August Birthday/Anniversary Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.