



The eNewsletter

August 10, 2017

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

August 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Pastor Bennett Installation
Service and Reception

August 15

Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study
Session Meeting

August 16

Covenant Corps Teacher
Training
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 17

Memorial Hospital Lunch
Last Swim Day

August 18

Fri-yay Funday

August 19

WM Cooking Kinship

August 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Kick Off

August 21

Nursery Staff Training

August 22

Nursery Staff Training

August 23

Wednesday Night Dinner
Mission Trip Reports
Wednesday Night Activities

August 26

Women's Council Meeting

August 27

Morning Worship
Sunday School

August 29

WM Book Club

August 30

Wednesday Night Dinner
Wednesday Night Activities

September 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

I've never been mistaken for a musician. I'm not proud to say that I don't know the difference between crescendo and crescent roll...both sound appetizing to me. But I have heard from reliable sources there is a required rule for a good performance. The most important notes in any musical composition are the first and the last. An audience may forgive an imperfect note that comes in the middle, but they'll not likely forget discordant ones that come at the beginning and/or end of a piece.

The last (Greek) word of the book of Acts is translated *unhindered*, though many translations render it with multiple words because of its complexity. Others move the word from it's final position for more readable sentence structure. In both cases, I think something may be lost in translation. Luke seems to intentionally make a point with this last word of his two-volume testimony of the life and continuing ministry of Christ. His last note was the provocative thought of the gospel unhindered. The Spirit of God continually improvising with a tune that will not be silenced. After the stories of Jesus's ministry were told, after recollections of His death and resurrection, after Jesus's ascension and the Spirit's promised outpouring, after all the resistance, disappointment, and surprises along the way, Luke concludes: "He (Paul) lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and unhindered." (Acts 28.30-31).

Through prisons and angry crowds, the book of Acts traces the birth and growth of the early church. The book begins with a few hundred believers in Christ and a collective will to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to all the ends of the earth. Opposition to this witness is described at every turn. Persecution, beatings, death, and imprisonment all threatened the voice of

the early church and ultimately the spread of the Gospel itself. But in spite of all this, Luke distills the history of the early church and the spread of the gospel by boldly describing the progression of God's kingdom as going forth unhindered. Luke wants us to remember the Good News goes forth despite us, and goes forth invincibly.

For anyone who will hear his testimony, Luke wants to conclude his eyewitness account with the dimension of the gospel that is most striking - namely, that these evidences are far from the end of the story. Luke wants hearers to be well aware that eyewitnesses to the power of Jesus will go well beyond his own eyes, his stories, his lifetime; our eyes, our stories, our lifetime. Though variant theologies and distorted claims will abound, though the world will delight in yet another conspiracy theory that promises the end of Christianity, Christ will go forth unhindered. For the Christian, this means we need not live discouraged or defeated by every novel plot to undermine Him.

Luke also begins on a grand note, "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us," (Luke 1.1). He sets out to declare the beginnings of the early church and the work of God from the very start to the end of time. He wants to be clear that we are invited to be a part of a story that will not fade away. Despite all appearances, despite dim turns in the melody, the story of Jesus was and will continue to be Good News that resounds unhindered. No person or power can thwart the new life Jesus proclaims, for it is moved by a Spirit who presses it ever-onward, ringing invitingly into the unexpected places of the world. The redemptive song of Christ and the Spirit who enables creation to add its praise will continue to move forth, unhindered.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 13

Front Desk
Diana Perrel

Worship

Infants
Rebekah Gernhard
& Grace Morrison

Crawlers
Kristin & Josh Sotelo

Toddlers
Mandi & Peyton Johnson

Floater
Logan Johnson

Sunday School

Infants
Tara Rimondi

Crawlers
Tim & Bonnie Schoap

Toddlers
Phil Spotts
& Vangie Wykoff

INSTALLATION SERVICE

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

YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

CPC Youth and Parents, please plan to attend our Youth Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, August 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

COVENANT CORPS TEACHER TRAINING

All Covenant Corps teachers and helpers are invited to a time of training on Wednesday, August 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. For more details, contact Holly Lehmann at hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org.

PAID NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

The Nursery is seeking paid workers, ages 14 and up, for Thursday mornings and biweekly Tuesday mornings. Additional hours may be available throughout the year. If you have experience with children and are interested in applying, please email cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org. Applicants must be able to attend training the evenings of August 21 & 22.

COVENANT CORPS

SLIDE back into Covenant Corps (for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade) on August 23, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fun water games, including a giant slip 'n slide and sprinklers, will be enjoyed during Covenant Corps' first session. Bring a towel and a change of dry clothes.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, August 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 or email the church office.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Jason & Catherine Coffey
4030 Timber Trace Drive Ooltewah, TN 37363

Justin Martin
3416 Glendon Drive Apt 2
Chattanooga, TN 37411
Phone..... 423.883.5869

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. The last Swim Day is August 17.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers resume August 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. During this first meal, there will be a Missions Report given, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., from various trips taken over the summer. All activities resume at 7:00 p.m., except Children's Choir, which begins August 30.

Suppers are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

- August 23 Barbecue Shish-Kabobs
- August 30 Soft Taco Bar
- Sept 6 Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
- Sept 13 Baked Potato Bar
- Sept 20 Breakfast
- Sept 27 Sliders and Fries
- Oct 4 Stromboli
- Oct 11 Chicken Divan
- Oct 18 Pork Pot Pie
- Oct 25 Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dogs)
- Nov 1 Chicken Bacon Pasta
- Nov 8 Enchiladas
- Nov 15 Butter Chicken
- Nov 29 Soup and Bread
- Dec 6 Spaghetti