



# The eNewsletter

October 19, 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 Assistant Pastor of Discipleship...*

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

#### **October 21**

WM Cooking Kinship  
WM Hiking Kinship

#### **October 22**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Church Picnic  
Getty Choir Rehearsal  
Praise Team Rehearsal

#### **October 24**

Officer's Training

#### **October 25**

Ladies' Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study  
Wednesday Night Dinner  
Reformation Celebration  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **October 26**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

#### **October 27**

HS Youth Pumpkin Carving  
Night

#### **October 28**

Getty Concert

#### **October 29**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
TVP Reformation Service

#### **November 1**

Ladies' Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study  
Wednesday Night Dinner  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **November 2**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

#### **November 3**

Autumn Golf Fellowship

#### **November 4**

Men's Breakfast  
Daylight Savings Ends

#### **November 5**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School

#### **November 6**

Ladies' Monday Night Luke  
Bible Study

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." - 2 Corinthians 5.17*

This Friday, Rebekah and I will be embarking on a two week trip through Switzerland and Germany to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. As we have been preaching through the five sola theme on Sunday mornings, the importance of both the Reformation and the need to be *Reformed*, has relevant implications in this day and age. Many Reformers bled and died for their desire to glorify and live out their faith in Christ Jesus alone. This makes it quite an exciting joy to celebrate and visit.

At the same time, our tour will spend significant time in Berlin, Germany; a city that led one of the most terrifying and brutalizing genocides in human history. If you have ever visited the Holocaust museum in Washington DC you are confronted with some of the vilest and wicked atrocities. This has given me pause to think about how these two dichotomous events in human history occurred at different periods but in the same area. Germany was fundamental with the formation of the Protestant Church and yet 400 or so years later it was the location of the formation of the Nazi regime. What do we do with such a contrast? If Germany was such a bastion of biblical grace and truth, how do we respond to what has taken place in our recent history?

First, like the Reformers, we need to build our lives around the fundamental truths of the Gospel as revealed in Scripture. These truths point us to the reality of our desperation and need of a triumphant Savior. Jesus describes this desperation in His Sermon the Mount in Matthew 5.3. He begins the Beatitudes with "blessed are the *poor* in spirit." Jesus tells us that those who are blessed are those who are spiritually bankrupt. I would imagine that most of us would balk at the idea of *wanting* to be financially bankrupt or *poor*

(without the "in spirit"). Why would being "poor in spirit" be to our advantage? Being poor in spirit makes us dependent upon the one who is rich in Spirit. When we take the posture of a receiver of grace then our hearts become satisfied with His provision. In this, our discontentment is no longer rooted in the pursuit of greatness or genetic purity. Instead it is reframed around the discontentment that those around us have not yet heard or submitted their lives to the King.

Second, like the Reformers, as we build our lives upon the Gospel, we look to God alone at work to enable our faithfulness. In Joshua 24.14, the tribes of Israel enter into a covenantal renewal. They hear the words of life from Joshua who tells them that they must fear (or reverentially awe) the Lord and serve him in sincerity and faithfulness – putting away the gods of Canaan and from Egypt. Joshua is telling Israel that their sincerity and faithfulness are derived from their disposition towards God. In other words, our actions to serve and follow Christ flow out of His work in us to enable us to fear Him.

Third and lastly, like the Reformers, we must trust in our God who is making all things new. He is beginning with us, His people, as the first fruits of that new creation. Our primary identity is no longer under the dominion of sin and death, it is now as a redeemed saint. This new creation enables us to understand and perceive our present day in light of the restoration of all things. We press on with faith, hope and love throughout our daily endeavors because one Day Christ will renew our world. Our hope is not in the success or failure of our daily lives. Our hope is in the name of the Lord, who will wipe every tear from our eyes.

~Pastor Bennett



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule October 22

**Front Desk**  
Janssen Firth

#### Worship

**Infants**  
Katherine Fisher  
& Mindy Horton

**Crawlers**  
Kansas Bradley  
& Josiah Cook

**Toddlers**  
Millie Sanders  
& Will Hrton

#### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Beth Griggs  
& Sharon Brauer

**Crawlers**  
Eva Herberich  
& Andrea Waldecker

**Toddlers**  
Jean Mauroner  
& Debby Gardner

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

- Oct 25 Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dogs)
- Nov 1 Chicken Bacon Pasta
- Nov 8 Enchiladas
- Nov 15 Butter Chicken

#### MISSIONARY GUEST

This Sunday, October 22, long-time CPC supported missionaries (MTW - France), Pete and Ruth Mitchell will be worshipping with us. Pete will be sharing during the Sunday School hour in Schum Fellowship Hall and Ruth will be in the Children's Wing.

#### CHURCH PICNIC

The annual Church Picnic is Sunday, October 22, at Heritage Park at 12:30 p.m. BYOPB (Bring Your Own Picnic Basket), drinks and desserts provided. Activities for everyone! If you are willing to help donate baked goods, please contact Becky Pearce at 423.381.2202 or rpearce16@gmail.com.

#### HIGH SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING

The High School Youth are invited to carve pumpkins with Abby at her house 474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA) on Friday, October 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Abby will supply the carving tools, be sure to bring your own pumpkin! Bring a snack to share!

#### TVP REFORMATION SERVICE

Sunday evening, October 29, at 6:00 p.m. the churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery are meeting together at Covenant Presbyterian Church to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Combined Choir Rehearsal starts at 4:15 p.m. Please plan to join us for this wonderful evening of worship.

#### REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Next Wednesday, October 25, Covenant Kids will celebrate our Reformation heritage with fun-filled and informative activities from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Field. Costumes are optional.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are served 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 October, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty after dinner: D. Elwood, J. Gaines, J. Harris, J. Hobbs, J. Wykoff, and T. Smith.

#### GETTY CONCERT TICKETS

The Getty Concert at the Memorial Auditorium, honoring the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation is Saturday, October 28. Tickets can be purchased at [www.tivolichattanooga.com/events](http://www.tivolichattanooga.com/events).

The Church Office still has a few discounted student and children tickets, if you are interested, please contact Gretchen Brown.

#### YOUTH RETREAT

The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is November 10-12 at Ponderosa Bible Camp. The speaker for the weekend is Rev. Travis Hutchinson, the Chaplain at CCS. Cost is \$65 per person, with a family maximum of \$150. Registration forms available outside of Youth Office. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 25. Please turn forms in to Abby Horton or Gretchen Brown.

#### AUTUMN GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Join your CPC family members at The Canyon Ridge Club on Friday, November 3. Consecutive starts, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$30. Fee includes green fees, cart, prizes, and post-play barbeque. Limited space, so registration is required. Contact Eric Mullinax, Tony DeMarco or the Church Office with questions or to register.

#### NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP

New City has invited us to join their *Benefit Concert for Anam* (Agape National Academy of Music in the Republic of Liberia) on Thursday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. at New City Fellowship (2424 E 3rd Street). The admission is free and a Love Offering will be collected.

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

Ladies, mark your calendar! The CPC Women's Ministry Retreat is February 23-25 at the Oak Haven Resort. Bev Mealor is leading a study *From Fear to Faith: Allowing God's Word to Transform Your Life*. Registration forms are at the WM table in the Lobby. Registration deadline is December 10. Cost is \$85 for a 2-person room or \$140 for 1-person room (\$50 deposit due with registration). Contact Dory George or Catherine Coffey for more details. Contact Heather Harris or Becky Pearce for available scholarships.