



The eNewsletter

November 16, 2017

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

Looking Ahead...

November 18

Thanksgiving Pounding
OCC Packing Day

November 19

Morning Worship
Sunday School

November 22

Service of Thanksgiving

November 23

Church Office Closed -
Thanksgiving

November 24

Church Office Closed -
Thanksgiving

November 26

Morning Worship
Sunday School

November 28

Mother's Encouragement
Group
Craft Kinship
Swap Kinship

November 29

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

November 30

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

December 2

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal and
Lunch

December 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Program

December 4

Ladies' Monday Night Luke
Bible Study

December 5

Mother's Encouragement
Group

December 6

Ladies' Wednesday Morning
Bible Study
Wednesday Night Dinner
Children's Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4.1-3

Do you remember those old Klondike ice cream commercials? The tagline of those commercials was "what would do for a Klondike bar?" My earliest memory of one of these commercials was from the mid-80's. A well-dressed man initially resisted the request to make monkey sounds and actions when asked but, seconds later, easily relents when a delicious Klondike bar was waved in front of him. The company's point was this: it is worth making a fool of yourself on television in order to enjoy our ice cream.

Inadvertently by implication, the question in the commercial draws out an important question for all of us. What would we do for the things or the people that we love? As Christians we ask a greater question, what are we to do for the One who we are to love? Or to put it a bit more Gospel-centered, what are we to do for the One who has loved us? This is at the heart of our Christian lives: love from God that transforms us to love living in His Sovereign reign.

This past weekend the CPC Youth went on a retreat at the Ponderosa Bible Camp. Our theme for the weekend was taken from the book of Ephesians. Chattanooga Christian School's Chaplain, Travis Hutchinson, led us through three sections in the epistle and focused his sessions on these three themes: Our longing to belong to Christ and His Church, the means of our belonging: the hands of God's Rescue, and result of our belonging: the familial relationship to which God brings us. These themes challenged our youth to understand the depth of God's love which directs our identities and choices towards Christ.

The verses from Ephesians 4.1-3 explains one of Paul's responses to our Lord's love. As he wrote to the Ephesian Church, he

was in a prison, likely chained. Yet he wasn't defined as a prisoner of the Jews or Romans. Paul was a prisoner for the Lord. His life circumstances did not define his calling or missional purpose; the transforming love of Jesus did. This is an important concept for every believer to understand. We cannot fully understand our identities until we see how they revolve around the missional purposes of Christ. If I define myself solely by my circumstantial vocation, (i.e. businessman, student, attorney) or by a relationship (i.e. parent, spouse, child, sibling) then I cannot see the greater mission to which God has given me.

Yet, I cannot see this greater mission from God until my core identity understands the Gospel. The real question is not, "What would you do for a Klondike bar?" but instead, "Do I know what God has done for me?" In this illustration, I am the Klondike bar – Jesus is the one asked, "What will you do for your people?" Jesus didn't make monkey noises but He was humiliated, mocked, dismissed, denied, rejected, abandoned, and ultimately crucified. He did it for something that was far more precious than some ice cream. He did it to reign over sin, death, and serve as the Kingdom of God, to which you have been called.

In other words, because of the work and love of Christ, I can be an attorney *for* the Lord or a student *for* the Lord or even a parent *for* the Lord. Like Paul, I can be a prisoner *for* the Lord when I understand the depth of God's love and work to bring me into something greater than my business, or family or government. When our identities reflect the greater mission of the Kingdom of God then we form a unity that is undeterrable. For when (and it isn't an *if* but a *when*) our identities change due to our circumstances, our mission remains because we belong to Jesus.

~Pastor Bennett



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule November 19

Front Desk
Anna Steere

Worship

Infants

Katherine Fisher
& Mindy Horton

Crawlers

Laura Fosgate
& Beth Griggs

Toddlers

Justin Martin
& Will Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Brenda King
& Selah Cross

Crawlers

Diane Lazor
& Sophia Cross

Toddlers

Jerry King
& Shirley Allin

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 18 is packing day! Please come to the Peseverers Classroom between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to help pack boxes to be shipped around the world.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

Delivery day is November 18! If you have any questions, or would like to help pack boxes or deliver, please contact Joyce Trask at futurejoyce@gmail.com.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed the following days for Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 23 - Closed

Friday, November 24 - Closed

Please note: no eNewsletter next week.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Please join us for a time of thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m., in Schum Fellowship Hall. No nursery provided.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 8. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for girls (8 years old and younger), with a \$20 family maximum. Please register at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend our annual Congregational Meeting, for 2018 officer election, immediately following the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 3.

ADVENT CALENDARS

The Advent Calendars for families with children (through 5th grade) are available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

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 November, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: E. Brown, J. Brown (formerly T. Schreiner), T. Gaither, D. Grant, and A. Sanders.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2018. These envelopes may be used for regular giving or giving to the Nursery Fund Pledges. Please email your order to Carol at cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org and let her know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly, or quarterly envelopes. Order forms are also available at the Welcome Center. Orders due by December 3.

TREES FOR TEAMS

Don't miss your chance to purchase a fresh-cut fragrant Fraser fir tree or wreath! The proceeds from the sale will go to local ministries serving children and youth, including CSM, a CPC supported ministry. All orders must be submitted by midnight on Wednesday, November 22, and will be available for pick-up at CCS on Saturday, December 2. You can make a purchase at app.myteamworks.org/treesfortotsteensteams. For more details, please contact Beth Griggs at 423.605.4754.

HUGS FOR SOLDIERS

Hugs for Soldiers sends out care packages and greeting cards to service members all around the world. There is a table set up outside of Pastor Bennett's office with cards ready to be filled out. Take a minute to write a Christmas greeting to a soldier! Prayers, encouraging words, and thankfulness for their service. The cards will be sent out the end of November. Please contact Edyne Vatt with any questions at 423.504.3127.

GRATEFUL GOBBLER

Annually, people from all walks of life gather together for the 5k Grateful Gobbler Walk, Run, Stroll held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the walk will benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families, an emergency homeless shelter located on site at the Community Kitchen. To register, please visit www.gratefulgobbler.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

The CPC Women's Ministry Retreat is February 23-25. Registration deadline is December 10. Cost is \$85 for a 2-person room or \$140 for 1-person room (\$50 deposit due with registration).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Nov 29 Soup and Bread

Dec 6 Spaghetti

Dec 13 Fancy Mac 'N
Cheese (with ham)