



The eNewsletter

November 30, 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...

December 2

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal and
Lunch

December 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Congregational Meeting
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Program

December 4

Ladies' Monday Night Luke
Bible Study
Ladies' Monday Night Peter/
Jude 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

December 7

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

December 8

Ladies' Christmas Dinner

December 9

Men's Breakfast
Middle School Youth
Christmas Party

December 10

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Children's Christmas Program

December 13

Ladies' Wednesday Morning
Bible Study
Wednesday Night Dinner
Wednesday Night Activities
Covenant Corps Christmas
Party
Session Meeting

December 16

High School Youth Christmas
Party

December 17

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

There are certain quirks a person who works in church music must live with, if not embrace, that many in their normal lives just don't understand. I was at my doctor's office earlier in the week making an appointment in April for my annual physical. Whatever date was called out I was able to say what day of the week it was. This amazed the nurse, but it was second nature to me. Every music minister knows when Easter is at least six months out, and everything in April relates to that date.

The same can be said of Christmas preparation. If you walk by my office from mid-June through July you have a good chance of hearing Advent and Christmas music. The choir begins preparing our Christmas concert in August, and I must prepare for them. When designing each year's program, from music to theme, whatever is leading my heart at the time will be the strand tying all elements together.

This year right after music camp, fourteen of us headed to Belarus. While there, every morning, usually on a bus, we had group devotionals led by Robert Row, a pastor at First Presbyterian, and our own Dan Steere. Through our own personal preparation as well as group discussion we focused on the humanity of Christ. Jesus being fully God and fully man is something we all confess, but quite often our understanding of Jesus is warped by us leaning too far to one side or the other of this mystery. Arguments have been had over the simplest of questions. Did baby Jesus cry? Could He drive a nail crooked? Was He ever sick? How did He learn Who He was? Did Jesus know the Scriptures from birth? How these questions are answered by you gives you a good barometer as to where on this mystery you find yourself.

The humanity of Christ is where I was focused mid-June and July of this year, and this is where we will focus this Sunday evening, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. The choir, along with orchestra, will lead us in a time of examining the importance of Jesus being fully man, and through Scripture, words to familiar songs, and readings written by Dr. Dan Steere, the hope is that our minds will be renewed and refreshed to see Jesus Christ in His fullness.

Please come. Bring neighbors, family, friends, and co-workers. This is one of those events in our church that is wonderful, non-threatening to those not affiliated with a church, and is filled with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And, please, a moment to say thanks.

I am very thankful for this congregation and its desire to worship the Lord with excellence. We could not do this without our wonderful accompanists, Alayne Griffin and Evangeline Wykoff, who share this passion and are always looking for ways to engage God's people in song through supporting us. Thank you to the choir, a wonderful, boisterous, fun-loving, talented family who lifts each other up with their commitment to each other and to leading God's people before His Throne every Sunday morning. I also want to give a special thank you to my family, who after twelve years can tell you the best place to take a nap in the church, how best to store chancel furniture, and how to run a sound board in an emergency. Thank you to my wife who always helps even when she doesn't feel like it, doing more than I could ever ask because I never have to ask. Above all, all thanks to God for His Indescribable Gift!

~Jeremy Gaines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 3

Front Desk
Josh Perrel

Worship

Infants
Sally Forrester
& Anna Reid

Crawlers
Catherine Coffey
& Stacy Collins

Toddlers
Rebekah Bennett
& Mary-Kate Oldham

Sunday School

Infants
Crystal Middleton
& Bethany Firth

Crawlers
Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Toddlers
Boo Mullinax
& Amy Creamer

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

He Knows Our Need, To Our Weakness No Stranger, a concert exploring the truth, mystery, and impact of Jesus Christ being born fully God and fully man, is Sunday, December 3, at 6:15 p.m.

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. Sunday is the last day to sign-up.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 9, at 8:30 a.m. Elder Ernie Brown is speaking on *God-given Journeys*. Nursery provided for children 36 months and younger.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come enjoy the children's hard work and presentation of *Christmas Hang Ups* on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Middle School Youth are invited to a Christmas Party including pizza and games, on Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Please bring a dessert to share.

High School Youth are invited to a Progressive Dinner Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16. Please meet in the church parking lot at 5:45 p.m. for initial instructions.

ADVENT CALENDARS

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

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.

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 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 December, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: K. Brown, T. DeMarco, M. Griggs, J. Hildebrand, E. Mullinax, and T. Wright.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Dec 6	Spaghetti
Dec 13	Fancy Mac 'N Cheese (with ham)

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed the following days for Christmas:

Monday, December 25 - Closed

Tuesday, December 26 - Closed

Please note: no eNewsletter December 28 or January 4.