



The eNewsletter

January 18, 2018

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

Looking Ahead...

January 21

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

January 24

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesday Night Activities

January 25

Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study

January 26

Men's Ministry Conference

January 27

Men's Ministry Conference

January 28

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Praise Team Practice

January 31

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesday Night Supper
Mission Conference Seminar

February 1

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

February 2

Valentine Dinner

February 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal
Waldecker Wedding Shower

February 5

Ladies' Monday Night Luke Bible Study

February 6

Mother's Encouragement Group
Women's Ministry Council Meeting

February 7

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

February 8

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

This semester our high school men will be going through a miniseries on spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are valuable practices for us as God's people. Sometimes we can treat these disciplines as if they are helping us to acquire spiritual merit badges or, conversely, we might resist them because we do not want anything to challenge that we are saved by grace through faith alone. However, spiritual disciplines are not ways that we grow to be more justified before God, but instead are ways we reflect God's steadfast love in our lives.

One of those spiritual disciplines, which is also a means of grace, is prayer. Volumes of books have been written instructing us how to pray. Culturally, prayer is often thought of as something to calm our anxieties or refocus our minds, however, biblical prayer is so much greater and deeper. At the heart of biblical prayer is a petition or offering to God of our deep pains, longings, joys, and thanksgivings. Prayer has two important functions in our daily lives. First, prayer is the means of our communication to the Lord. Second, prayer conforms our wills and attitudes towards His.

Prayer is our primary way of speaking and sharing with the Lord. There is never a stage of life or a condition in our lives that excludes or disables us from praying. God welcomes our prayers because they are reflections of our hearts and our dependency upon Him. When my son was two years old, he was making a clear attempt to sing *Jesus Loves Me* as we were driving home. He became perpetually stuck on the refrain "Yes, Jesus Loves Me". After repeating the line twenty or so times I sang along with him. "Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is

strong." Prayer is a declaration to God of how we belong to Him and how much we need His strength in our weakness.

As we contemplate prayer we may wonder if there is a correct time to pray. The Apostle Paul tells us that we should pray without ceasing. Paul is encouraging us to be in constant dialogue with the Lord. We should always be in communication with the Lord for our small needs and our life-altering problems. God never gets tired, bored, or upset over the amount of our prayers we bring before Him. God is never too busy to listen to us. Go to Him in prayer.

The prayers in the Bible can typically be categorized in various ways. There are prayers of praise (acknowledging the majesty of God), confession (confessing our sins before the holiness of God), thanksgiving (honoring the Lord for His provision), or supplication (bringing our needs to the Lord). These four categories create an acronym (ACTS) that can help us in our prayer life. Praying in this way can help focus our prayers on the various ways God is active in our world and in our lives.

Not only does prayer give us an opportunity to bring to the Lord our hearts, it also conforms us to Him. Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. In doing so He tells them that God honors a heart that is not seeking the approval of others by the boisterousness or eloquence of our words. Instead as we seek out God's will we begin to see ourselves as His people. The grace of God grows us into the image of Christ as we pray His will to be done rather than our own. To live under the will of God can be scary and painful. However, when we learn to rest in Him through prayer, we find peace when we align ourselves with what He is doing in our lives and in the world around us.

~Pastor Bennett



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule January 14

Front Desk
Kim Collins

Worship

Infants
Miranda & Clyde Haywood

Crawlers
Stephen & Iris Haywood

Toddlers
Rebekah Bennett
& Lucy Haywood

Sunday School

Infants
Volunteers Needed

Crawlers
Luther & Shirley Allin

Toddlers
Volunteers Needed

MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The Men's Ministry 2018 Conference is January 26-27, in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Lobby. Cost is \$15. For more details, contact Tony DeMarco or Doug McEachern.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2018

Please plan to join us for our 2018 Missions Conference, *A Clear and Compelling Call*. We will start off on Wednesday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall hearing from John & Kathy Lesondak (MTW - Slovakia). The Covenant Kids classes will also be having an *Up and Away* missions program in the Children's Wing. On Friday, February 2, an emphasis at the Valentine's Dinner will be funding Belarus missions. On Sunday, February 4, Dr. Ward is preaching in the morning. During the Sunday School hour, Christine Harrison (Wycliffe - The Seed Co) and John Mark Scruggs (RUF - UTC) will be sharing. Sunday evening, February 4, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather in Schum Fellowship Hall to hear from Gary Waldecker regarding information from around the world and concerts of prayer.

VALENTINE'S DINNER

The 6th annual CPC Valentine's Dinner is Friday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is *Do You Remember - A Covenant Prom*. Make new memories with your sweetheart. Wear an outlandish outfit and get your picture made under a balloon arch. The cost is free. Donations will be received to help assist Belarus missions. The world famous cake auction will also take place. Space is limited, so please reserve your prom tickets as soon as possible. Nursery registration required. Contact Jeremy Gaines for more information.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Judy Foster

Email grammienol@live.com

Angela Heisig

9112 Stoney Mountain Drive
Chattanooga TN 37421

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to pray for our college students as they start another semester.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

CPC members willing to serve in the Nursery, select your volunteer date(s) at www.volunteersignup.org/CCQKC. If you need help signing up, please contact Joanna Watne at 423.667.7347 or cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org.

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 January, the Youth Group has clean-up.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

January 24	Baked Chicken and Cheesy Grits
January 31	French Dip Sandwich with Oven Fries
February 7	Chicken Bacon Pasta
February 14	Soup and Bread
February 21	Butter Chicken
February 28	Baked Potato Bar