



The eNewsletter

April 12, 2018

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

Looking Ahead...

April 14
MS Youth Game Night

April 15
Morning Worship
Sunday School

April 16
Ladies' Monday Morning
Bible Study

April 17
Mother's Encouragement
Group

April 18
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

April 19
Memorial Hospital Lunch

April 22
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
Youth Praise Team Practice

April 25
Wednesday Night Activities

April 27
Taters & Tubesteaks

April 28
Ladies' Tea
HS Youth Movie Night

April 29
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Praise Team Practice

April 30
Ladies' Monday Morning
Bible Study

May 1
Mother's Encouragement
Group

May 2
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

May 5
Men's Breakfast
Women's Ministry Teacher
Training
5th Grade Promotion Party

May 6
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

A LAMENT

“a passionate expression of grief”

We weep with those who weep. We mourn with those who mourn. We cry with them to God for answers to our questions.

For we have come face to face with the terrible truth spoken by the Lord in Jeremiah 17.9, where He tells us “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; WHO CAN UNDERSTAND IT?”

The Lord has also taught us we live in a fallen world. Knowing this is true, we are still stunned when we come face to face with the consequences of evil. For our covenant child has died decades before reaching four score and ten. And not only is he dead, he's been murdered.

So where was the Lord? Was He paying attention? How could He allow, let alone decree, this horror to happen?

We strive to formulate answers to our questions, seeking to comprehend the Lord's purposes. We try to find words to comfort both those whose lives have been shattered and ourselves. We want answers to questions we never anticipated having to ask or answer. We want to understand the whys and wherefores. But now is time for weeping and mourning.

We hear the Lord tell us, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55.8-9).

We know this is true. But we're still numb. Like Jeremiah we cry, “Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of my people” (9.1).

We know there are answers to all our questions. We know there is comfort for our moaning. We know Job was right when in the midst of his overwhelming troubles, he could say, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

But we also know the answers and comfort we seek are sometimes long in coming. And so for now, we weep and mourn. As we should – just as Jesus wept as He stood by the grave of his friend Lazarus.

There are answers to all our questions. There is comfort for our moaning. But they are not simplistic, easy answers. And the comfort we seek may not be fully known until we stand before our Lord. And in the days, weeks, months, and years to come will still weep and mourn we remember these days.

And so with the Psalmist in Psalm 18 we call upon the Lord in our distress, and cry out to God for help. We do so knowing the One Who sovereignly rules over all hears our voices and our cries reach His ears. He will answer us, but only with the passing of time will we hear, know, and begin to understand.

With the Psalmist we ask, “When will you comfort me?” (119.82). With the Psalmist we ask the Lord to bless us with “great peace” so that “nothing can make [us] stumble” (119.165).

With the Psalmist we cry before the Lord, pleading with Him to give us understanding (119.169), so that our lips might once more “pour forth with praise,” and our tongues sing His praises (119.171-172).

And so we weep. But we do not weep as those who are without hope.

~ Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule April 15

Front Desk
John Pearce

Worship

Infants
Esther McEachern
& Gretchen Brown

Crawlers
Tammy & Lexi Bacon

Toddlers
Mancy & Tyler Bacon

Sunday School

Infants
Catherine Coffey
& Vangie Wykoff

Crawlers
Rachel Baierl

Toddlers
Josh & Diana Perrel

LADIES' TEA

Ladies, you are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, April 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for girls (10 and under), with a family maximum of \$20. Nursery (for ages up to 36 months) and Childcare (ages 3 to 5) are available by registration only. Tea registration forms are available at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Sign up by Sunday, April 22.

CLOTHES SWAP

The CPC Clothes Swap is tonight, April 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please contact Sarah Wade at sarahwade@catt.com with any questions.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Middle School Youth, please come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games in Youth Suite. We are playing on Saturday, April 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pizza will be served. Guys bring drinks, girls bring a dessert.

TATERS AND TUBESTEAKS

Join us for a night out with the family on Friday, April 27. The hot dog dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. in Coolidge Park. Stay for the Lookouts game at AT&T Park at 7:15 p.m. The cost remains \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Due to the increase of ticket prices, we need a more accurate headcount than previous years. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the Church Office.

BULLETIN PDF

Each week, a pdf copy of the upcoming Sunday Worship Service will be available on the CPC website via the *Bulletin* tab. Please use this to help your family prepare for worship each week.

YOUTH GROUP

There is no Youth Group this Sunday, April 15.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory:

Jonathan & Emily Calloway
530 Rolling Hills Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736

MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is June 4-8. Kids from kindergarten through entering the 6th grade are invited to join us for a week of music, drama, crafts, Bible, and fun! This year's musical is *What's Up, Zak!* Cost is \$30. Please register on our church website or fill out a form in the Lobby.

To volunteer to help with Music Camp, please use separate registration forms found outside Jeremy Gaines' office.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, April 19, 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.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

April 18	Chicken Divan
April 25	Baked Ziti and Caesar Salad
May 2	Taco Bar
May 9	Pigs in a Blanket and Baked Beans