



The eNewsletter

May 10, 2018

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

Looking Ahead...

May 12

Youth Car Wash

May 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Sunday Evening Service
Middle School Youth Group
High School Youth Group

May 14

Ladies' Monday Night Luke
Bible Study

May 15

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

May 16

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Prayer Group
Session Meeting

May 17

Memorial Hospital Lunch

May 19

Touche Baby Shower
Caines 50th Wedding
Anniversary Celebration

May 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
Diaconate Meeting
Middle School Youth Group
High School Youth Group

May 23

Prayer Group

May 27

Morning Worship
Graduate Reception
Sunday School Promotion
Sunday School
Youth Family Picnic

May 28

Office Closed - Memorial Day

May 30

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Prayer Group

June 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting

This past Sunday we considered the wonderful blessing we have as believers to be "In Him," that is, united with Jesus Christ. And as we looked in Colossians 2, we considered Paul's two main points in verses 9-10:

- Everything God is, Christ is, because He is God. In Him, "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily." 2.9
- Everything Christ is, He is for us: we "have been filled in Him." 2.10

This second point is a wonderful encouragement to us as we live the Christian life because, although we continue to sin, we are clothed in the perfect righteousness and holiness of our Savior. As John Calvin writes, "Christ has been so imparted to you with all his benefits that all his things are made yours, you are made a member of him, indeed one with him: his righteousness overwhelms your sins; his salvation wipes out your condemnation; with his worthiness he intercedes that your unworthiness may not come before God's sight." [Institutes 3.2.24] This truth is the deep, fertile soil of gospel peace into which we are encouraged to sink the roots of our faith.

The truth of our being filled with Christ's fullness is found a number of times in the New Testament. It's almost as if God wants us to really understand this truth and embrace it as the overarching reality (some would say, "metanarrative") of our Christian experience. But, how do we go about imbedding this truth in our daily thoughts? How can we change the negative and often false narrative that so frequently dominates our thinking? These other passages give us some direction:

1. Think about the love of Christ for you. In Ephesians 3.14-19, Paul prays that "Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may... know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." As together we explore the limitless dimensions of Christ's love for us, we are filled with all the fullness of God. Christ's love for us is beyond our comprehension, but as we think about its extent and reality, we begin to see ourselves as Christ sees us.

2. Meditate on God's many promises to you. Peter writes, "He has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature." (2 Peter 1.4) God's promises in Christ assure us that we have been granted "all things that pertain to life and godliness" through knowing Christ. Our union with Jesus Christ – in all His divine fullness – brings us into fellowship with the very nature and power of God! Although we remain sinners, God has eternally committed Himself to us in Christ and has promised He will finish what He has begun in us. (Philippians 1.6)

3. Consider that Christ is full of grace and truth toward you. God's unmerited favor – His smile, if you will – and His true truth are both seen fully in Jesus Christ. John spoke of this in his gospel when he said, "And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (1.14) John then goes on to say, "For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (1.16) In Jesus, the Aaronic blessing is fulfilled: God makes His face shine upon us and gives us His peace. Focusing on the truth that where our sin increased, "grace abounded all the more" will begin to change the patterns of our thinking.

I mentioned in last Sunday's sermon that it can be helpful to begin our day with thoughts like these. Repeating these kinds of thoughts as a "morning liturgy" will encourage us to rehearse them throughout the day. A tool I have found helpful is Bishop Moule's "Morning Act of Faith:"

I BELIEVE on the Name of the SON OF GOD.
Therefore I am IN HIM, having Redemption
through His Blood and Life by His Spirit.
And He is IN ME, and all fullness is in Him.
To Him I belong, by purchase, conquest, and
self-surrender.
To me He belongs, for all my hourly need.
There is no cloud between my Lord and me.
There is no difficulty, inward or outward,
which He is not ready to meet in me today.
The Lord is my Keeper. Amen
Bishop H.C.G. Moule

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule May 13

Front Desk
Sherry Baierl

Worship

Infants
Volunteers Needed

Crawlers
Emily & Cami Calloway

Toddlers
Capps Brown
& Volunteer Needed

Sunday School

Infants
Volunteers Needed

Crawlers
Mark & Joanna Watne

Toddlers
Matthew & Jonmark Beatty

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Julie Touche is on Saturday, May 19 at 11:00 am at the home of Becky Pearce (2413 Ranch Hills Road, Chattanooga TN). Julie is having a baby girl and is registered at Target.

CAR WASH

The youth are hosting a car wash on Saturday, May 12, at noon at Advanced Auto Parts on East Brainerd Road. The car wash itself is free, please help by planning to get your car washed.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

Our next Sunday Evening Service is Sunday, May 13. Pastor Bennett is preaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit in our preparation for Pentecost Sunday.

COMPASSION SUNDAY

Our church is participating in Compassion Sunday on Mother's Day, May 13. This is part of a national event, sponsored by Compassion International, that helps us grow in our understanding of God's special love for the poor. Please begin praying now about sponsoring one or more of these children in need. Sponsorship packets will be available through Sunday, May 13. Please contact Bev Fowler with questions or stop by the table in the Lobby.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, May 17, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit next week, please call or email the Church Office.

YOUTH FAMILY PICNIC

All youth and their families are invited to an end-of-the-year family picnic at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 27, at 6:00 p.m. Drinks are provided. Bring a picnic and a few lawn chairs for your family.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration in honor of Render and Linda Caines is Saturday, May 19, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. This is a drop-in reception. Please contact Heather Harris with any questions.

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. Volunteer Sign Up will be closed after Sunday, May 13.

TEACHER RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 20, is Teacher Recognition Day at CPC. Be sure to thank all the teachers, helpers, and hallway monitors that have helped with Sunday School and Covenant Kids this past year.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 27, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, or doctorate programs. Please email the church office with the name of the graduate, the degree earned, name of school, and date of graduation.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers will resume August 22. A big thanks to Nicky Lewin for feeding us well this past year. Be sure to watch the CPC Info Emails for Mission: Chattanooga opportunities throughout the summer.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

CPC members willing to volunteer to serve in the Nursery, please select a few dates at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/MKTTY>. If you need help signing up or want to be added to the schedule rotation, please contact Crystal at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org.

PRAYER CALENDAR

The updated Prayer Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.