



The eNewsletter

June 14, 2018

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- June 14**
Swim Day at the May's
- June 15**
Men's Proverbs Study
- June 17**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- June 18**
The Edge Camp Begins
- June 19**
Ladies' Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
WM Craft Kinship
Session Meeting
- June 20**
Ladies' Wednesday Night
Bible Study
Prayer Group
- June 21**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Swim Day at the May's
- June 22**
Men's Proverbs Study
The Edge Camp Ends
- June 24**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- June 26**
Ladies' Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
- June 27**
Ladies' Wednesday Night
Bible Study
Prayer Group
- June 28**
Swim Day at the May's
Youth and Family Skate Night
- June 29**
Men's Proverb Study
- July 1**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
- July 3**
Ladies' Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
- July 4**
Office Closed - Fourth of July
- July 5**
Swim Day at the May's

It was a couple of days before a boys and girls social at our junior high school. We did not have middle schools then. I was a little anxious with my mom on the shopping trip to purchase just the right threads for the event. Unsure about the rest of my ensemble, I was focused on getting a pair of Bass Weejuns penny loafers. My older brothers wore them on such occasions and I felt it was time for me to do the same.

At the department store my mom pointed out some similar and less expensive shoes. I countered, "but they're not Bass Weejuns." "What's in a name", mom asked? I countered with the non-persuasive argument of..."everyone is wearing them." I wound up getting the Bass Weejuns, but only after paying for the difference from my paper route money! (FYI, I still wear Bass Weejuns and I'm pretty sure not many are sporting that style anymore.)

What is in a name? The name Covenant appears often in our spheres. There's Covenant College and Covenant Theological Seminary and Covenant Presbyterian Church. There are actually a lot of Covenant Presbyterian Churches.

Covenant is hard to understate in its importance because there may be no clearer window into the heart of God than the inviolable truth of His **covenant** keeping character.

Consider God's covenant with creation. In essence God says, I will call it into being. I will make and sustain it. And I will perfect it.

In Genesis, God establishes His covenant with Adam and renews it with Noah, but it is through the life of Abraham, His friend – the man called out of Ur of the Chaldees to a land that He would show him – that God begins to reveal and magnify His intent for His people. Why did God choose Abraham? The Bible does not say. We simply know that God did what he chose to do. He chose whom He chose to choose.

It's the same with us. Why did God place His love and grace on me? Why did He choose you? Certainly, it's not based on anything in

us, but the basis of His choice was simply His. It was not of our goodness, our intellect, our morality, or our talents. He gives us the same gift of faith that He gave Abraham. He makes us "Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." Galatians 3.29

We see Him unfolding His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15. He promises to give Abraham more descendants than the stars in the heavens. God is revealing Himself as the God of the impossible. Abraham is 100 years old. Sara is 90 years old and childless. Any thinking person would assume that her childbearing years are long past, yet God plants in them the faith to believe that His words are true.

He instructs Abraham to bring animals. What is God doing? Though these actions seem very different to us, He is acting according to the custom of that day by which two parties sealed a binding legal agreement. It was like signing a contract, and it made perfect sense to Abraham. The parties to the agreement would cut certain animals in two and then walk between the animals and seal the deal. With their action they were adhering themselves to the agreement. Essentially, declaring a self-curse (death like these animals) should the covenant promise not be kept.

After Abraham cuts the animals in half and arranges the halves opposition each other, he falls into a deep sleep. In a vision, Abraham sees a smoking fire pot with a blazing torch – the presence of the God – pass between the carcasses. God protects Abraham from vowing a vow he's unable to keep. He is saying, "Listen, Abraham. There's no way you can keep this covenant. So, if someone is going to take a curse in this transaction, I will take it." There's no doubt that Abraham will be unable to keep covenant with God on his own. Only the eternal God of heaven and earth is going to establish and fulfill the covenant with His people.

What's in a name? There is a wonderful reason *Covenant* appears often within our sphere.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule June 17

Front Desk
Sherry Baierl

Worship

Infants
Esther McEachern
& Camille Ambrose

Crawlers
Elijah & Isaiah Harris

Toddlers
Jonah & Ezra Harris

Sunday School

Infants
Lucy Wykoff
& Volunteer Needed

Crawlers
John & Vangie Wykoff

Toddlers
David & Bekah Gernhard

FRI-YAY FUNDAY

The Mother's Encouragement Group is not meeting on Friday, June 15. They will resume meeting Friday, July 6.

THE EDGE CONFERENCE

The Middle School Youth who signed up for *The Edge* are leaving on Monday, June 18. Please be in the church parking lot at 2:00 p.m. for final instructions and details. The Edge campers are returning on Friday, June 22 at noon.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

SKATE NIGHT

CPC Youth and their families are invited to meet at Hamilton Skate Place on Thursday, July 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday nights are Christian Music Skate Night. For more information contact Abby at cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org.

LADIES' WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings during the summer (June 20 through August 8) at 7:00 p.m. in the Frederick Room. Emily Calloway will be teaching on *Good News for Weary Women: Escaping the Bondage of To-Do Lists, Steps, and Bad Advice* by Elyse Fitzpatrick.

SWIM DAY

Swim Day at the May's pool begins today, June 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This Thursday invitation is open to anyone at CPC each week until August 16. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and cleanup.

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 Middleton at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE

Be sure to get your tickets for the *Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation American Heroes Dinner* on July 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Former U.S. Navy Seal Rob O'Neill is the featured speaker. For tickets and more information, please visit www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. On Thursday, June 21, we will 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Marriage Conference is scheduled for November 2-4. The speaker is Dr. Dan Zink, professor of practical theology at Covenant Theological Seminary. Please plan to attend! More details to follow.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. You may email us at cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the Church Office by phone or email to set up an appointment.