



# The eNewsletter

August 23, 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 of Discipleship...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

**August 24**

Men's Proverbs Study

**August 26**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

**August 29**

Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**August 30**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

**August 31**

Men's Proverbs Study

**September 1**

Youth at Covenant College  
Soccer Game

**September 2**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School

**September 3**

Church Office Closed

**September 5**

Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**September 6**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

**September 7**

Men's Proverbs Study

**September 8**

Men's Breakfast  
Youth and Family Hike

**September 9**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Missions Committee Meeting  
PM Service

**September 12**

Wednesday Night Activities

**September 13**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study  
Parent Council Meeting

**September 14**

Men's Proverbs Study

**September 15**

PCA Legacy Conference

"Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any." - Isaiah 44.8

This past Monday, a few trees fell in our fairly new backyard. This was my first time chopping down any trees of significant size. After watching a few instructional videos online and practicing on some smaller trees in the yard, I was ready to begin. I believed that I had prepared myself fairly well. I cleared the vines and the brush in the way. I had examined the height and direction I wanted the trees to fall. Confident and ready I turned on the chainsaw and began to slice into the tree.

After the initial few seconds, all of the warnings from the instructional video started to take shape in my mind. Had I cleared enough brush? Was I going to avoid the dreaded "widow-maker" loose branches from up high? How close to the house was the tree anyway? My fears were quickly assuaged by the reality that there was now a significant cut into the tree and I was going to have to bring the tree down regardless of my fears. I reassured myself that "the Lord provides" and continued to cut from a different angle. It was not long before additional thoughts flooded my mind. I began to visualize the reality that this once a firm, vibrantly, green tree was no longer going to be vertical. Then I heard the first creak as the tree began to fall and I realized that I had no clue what was actually going to happen next.

There are mundane moments in our lives when we endure similar experiences. Whether they are in our callings or in particular relationships, the Lord often places us in situations where we have very little control. We might think we know the outcome but when we realize how powerless we are we become prone to fear. Our reactions in these fears can range from paralysis to overcompensation. These responses are never healthy.

These situations which cause a propensity to fear are not the problem, however. The problem is our willful embrace of fear; which is ultimately a turning away from the Lord. Much like Adam and Eve who were restricted from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God has always given His people reminders that they are not in control. These boundaries are not designed to invoke fear in us, but to draw us to our proper place of dependency upon Him.

Most of the time we experience these "out of control" moments as anything but enjoyable. Our knowledge that God is in control and our preparation for these moments must still be met with a decision to not be afraid. The persistent command in Scripture to "not be afraid" implies a choice. Turning to the Lord in the propensity of our fears causes us to grow in our faith because it invokes a willful decision to place our certain knowledge about God into the uncertainty of our circumstances. God's people are given reasons to not give into fear and most frequently it is because the Sovereign One is *their* Lord. Fear turns to faith, not in seeing the outcome of the situation, but in the moment of crisis when the creaking of the tree is heard. It is because God is my Rock, *and the only place of sure foundation*, therefore, we cast our fears aside and embrace someone who is bigger than our fears. This dispensation in our hearts turns fearful circumstances into joyous expectations of trusting that God is at work.

By God's grace I do not have any tree shaped holes in my house. That is not always the case in our lives though. There are times when the outcomes are very painful. Even in this, we must continue to not live in persistent fear but in the certain superiority of *our* Lord whose faithfulness exceeds the greatest of fears in this world; even sin and death.

~Pastor Bennett



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule August 26

#### Front Desk

Catherine Coffey

#### Worship

#### Infants

Mindy & Lucy Haywood

#### Crawlers

Stephen & Iris Haywood

#### Toddlers

Sylvia Mills

& Clyde Haywood

#### Sunday School

#### Infants

John Wykoff

& Volunteer Needed

#### Crawlers

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

#### Toddlers

Dory George

& Bethany Firth

### LADIES' THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study is at 10:00 a.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Bev Mealor will be leading a study through Genesis. Childcare will be provided through age 8, by registration only.

### YOUTH COVENANT COLLEGE SOCCER GAME

CPC Youth will be traveling up to Covenant College on Saturday, September 1 for a soccer game. Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m. Transportation is available from the church at 1:45 p.m. Contact Jeremiah for more information at [jhill@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:jhill@covenantchattanooga.org).

### LEGACY CONFERENCE

The PCA's CDM Ministry is hosting a *Legacy Conference* on September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CPC. Join us in learning how to serve God's purpose in older adult ministry. Sign up at [pcacdm.org/legacy-conference](http://pcacdm.org/legacy-conference). Cost is \$65, through September 10, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Pastor Bennett for more information.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The suggested donation for adults \$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 August, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: J. Bennett/B. Higgins, K. Brown, T. DeMarco, T. Horton, E. Mullinax, M. Stevenson, and T. Wright.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Aug 29	Taco Bar
Sept 5	Philly Cheesesteak and Oven Fries
Sept 12	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
Sept 19	Baked Chicken and Chees Grits
Sept 26	Butter Chicken
Oct 3	Baked Potato Bar
Oct 10	Chicken Enchiladas
Oct 17	Lasagna
Oct 24	Chicken Divan
Oct 31	Pigs in a Blanket

### COLLEGE MINISTRY

As your college students begin their fall semester, please send their name, school, and mailing address to the Church Office. If they are living at home, please make sure we have that information also. Send information to the Church Office at [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org).

### MARRIAGE RETREAT

The CPC's Marriage Retreat is November 2-4 at Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, Tn. The cost is \$195 a couple which includes 2 nights and 5 meals. This year the speaker is Dr. Dan Zink from Covenant Theological Seminary. Dr. Zink will be discussing *Intimate Allies: Cultivating a Purposeful Marriage*. Registration forms are available in the Lobby. **SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER.** Please return the forms and payment to Jon or Heather Harris.

### YOUTH & FAMILY HIKE & PICNIC

CPC Youth will be led by Tony Horton on a hike at the Chickamauga Battlefield. Bring lunch and friends to enjoy a hike, a picnic and games afterwards. Please meet at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, at the Wilder Tower area on Glenn-Viniard Road, Chickamauga, GA.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men AND WOMEN of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 8 at 8:30 p.m. Ted Strawbridge will be speaking on *Church Planting in the Kingdom of God*. Nursery provided up to 36 months.

### ONE CONFERENCE

The 2018 PCA Women's ONE Conference is scheduled for October 5-6 at New City Fellowship. The cost is \$75 for registration prior to August 24 and \$100 for registration between August 24 through September 21. Please talk with Heather Harris if you would like to attend but need some WM scholarship help.

### NEW EMPLOYMENT

Thank you to Holly Lehmann for her service as Children's Ministry Director for the last eight years. On August 25, Holly is stepping down from that position to work as the new director of the after school program at Ringgold Primary School. Please be sure to express your gratitude on Sunday of all her hard work over the years.