



# The eNewsletter

November 8, 2018

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## Looking Ahead...

### November 9

Men's Proverbs Study  
Youth Retreat

### November 10

Men's Breakfast  
Youth Retreat  
Hiking Kinship Group

### November 11

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Youth Retreat  
Missions Committee Meeting

### November 12

Ladies' Monday Night  
Prophets Study

### November 13

WM Council Meeting

### November 14

Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

### November 15

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch  
Parent Council Meeting

### November 16

Men's Proverbs Study

### November 17

Operation Christmas Child  
Packing Day  
Thanksgiving Pounding  
Delivery Day

### November 18

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

### November 20

Mother's Encouragement  
Group

### November 21

Thanksgiving and Praise  
Service

### November 22

Church Office Closed -  
Thanksgiving

### November 22

Church Office Closed

### November 25

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

## From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Perhaps some of you have a mother, like mine, who is very particular. My parents were in town this past week (their first visit to Chattanooga). Growing up, I knew that every item in our house, whatever it was, had its own place. A small item like a figurine, a coaster, or a Kleenex box rested on the coffee table in its own divinely apportioned real estate. An object with a 3 sq/in. footprint had its own predetermined 3 sq/in plot on the coffee table. The four legs of the coffee table itself occupied their own appropriately-sized habitat, imprinted upon the carpet. The vacuum cleaner, magazine rack, napkin holder, ficus, remote control, dog food (and dog) all had their home. Every living organism in the house (I suspect this included the dog) were expected to keep all things in their respective places. Mom was, and continues to be, particular.

As I prepare to make my way to Mentone, AL, this weekend to help Jeremiah with the CPC Youth Retreat, I am contemplating what it means "to set something" someplace. Peter advises us to "set [our] hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1.13). Setting one's hope on something (anything) is an awkward expression (see it again in 1 Timothy 4.10). Paul tells us to "set our minds on things that are above" (Colossians 3.2). How does one place *hope* somewhere or set one's mind on something? It is far easier to remember where the vacuum cleaner lives and return it.

This kind of "placing of things" in the Greek New Testament almost never includes the word "set." Instead, the Greek writers use a straightforward verb like *hope* or *think* and highlight it in magenta. This dramatic emphasis leads translators, rightly so, to use all caps; instead of whispering, "hope for grace," they shout, "deliberately and unequivocally, without further delay, set

your hope on grace!" I can almost hear my mom in the background, "Who moved the remote control!?"

Even if there is a need to be a little *less* particular about where household items live, it is very likely that we ought to be a little *more* particular about where we place our hope. Here is why this is important: we currently live in a world of infinite distractedness. NPR commentator David Shenk wrote that we are living in a "data smog." He wrote this eight years before YouTube. With distraction after distraction around us, it is hard to locate where we ought to place our hope. How effortless it is to place our hope, our most exciting desire on the next hyperlink, next episode, next update, or next app! Rapidly stuffing unimportant, irrelevant information into our heads, we turn our minds into "a garrett of unmanageable lumber" --attics stuffed with furniture, none of it organized in its own place (so observes preaching professor J. W. Alexander, in the nineteenth century!).

Setting our hope on the grace of Jesus, as Peter admonishes us, is a particular kind of discipline in which we doubt our natural instincts; we distrust our love for "the next;" we question our personal preferences; and we filter the information inputs all around us. We need to ask if we have placed this particular item, our greatest hope, in the right place. This is a skill that comes with practice, and it is a practice that needs to happen every day. That is, we must disentangle our hope from our cluttered world, hold it in our hands as we carry it to the living room, and place it on the coffee table, right where it belongs. Even in a world of impossible to navigate digital distractedness, Peter tells us to find where we have placed our hope and to deliberately relocate it where it belongs, on Jesus Himself. And then do it again, and again, and again.

~Pastor Jones



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule November 11

**Front Desk**  
Joanna Watne

#### Worship

**Infants**  
Millie Sanders

**Crawlers**  
Lauren Warren

**Toddlers**  
Ernie Brown  
& Colleen Murphy

#### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Polly Henry

**Crawlers**  
Mark Wilson  
& Sophia Cross

**Toddlers**  
John Southworth  
& Maggie Wade

### YOUTH RETREAT

The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is this weekend, November 9-11 at Ponderosa Bible Camp. The youth are leaving the church at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 9 and returning at noon on Sunday, November 11 (this is a different return time than originally stated). Please be in prayer for the 69 students signed up to attend, along with the 13 chaperones.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 10 at 8:30 a.m. Mark Wilson will be speaking on *God's Search and Rescue Operation*. Nursery provided for up to 36 months old.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2019. These envelopes are used for regular giving. Please email your order to Carol Beatty at [cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org) and let her know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly, or quarterly envelopes. Order forms are also available at the Welcome Center. Orders are due by Monday, December 3.

### GRATEFUL GOBBLER

Annually, people from all walks of life gather together for the *5k Grateful Gobbler Walk, Run, Stroll* held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the walk will benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families, an emergency homeless shelter located on site at the Community Kitchen. To register, please visit [www.gratefulgobbler.org](http://www.gratefulgobbler.org).

### PRISON MINISTRY

Are you interested in joining other CPC men in a rewarding one-on-one mentoring ministry at Walker State Prison? The next training/orientation session takes place at First Presbyterian Church (554 McCallie Avenue - meeting on the fourth floor of the adjacent Tower Building. Access is through the large glass doors in the buildings rear, which is found via a small alleyway entrance on McCallie between the church and the UTC building). The training is Saturday, December 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Juice, coffee, and donuts will be provided. Check out the website at <https://wspmentoringministryevents.shutterstock.com/>. Please contact the Church Office or Rich Denkinger with any questions.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts (no liquids, candy, gum, toothpaste, or war toys) to deliver to the needy children around the world at Christmastime. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Please write a note to the child to include with the gifts. Boxes will be packed on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Classroom.

Collection boxes are outside of the Parlor and outside of Pastor Mullinax's office.

### THANKSGIVING POUNDING

We are collecting staples and canned goods to help those in need. If you are going through a hard time this year, or if you know someone that is, please contact an Elder or the Church Office. The Pounding is an encouragement to those experiencing hard times and a great witness to a watching world when we love and support one another. Delivery date is November 17. Please contact Joyce Trask at [futurejoyce@gmail.com](mailto:futurejoyce@gmail.com) for details.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are from 5:30 p.m. to 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 November, the following Shepherding Groups are responsible for clean-up duty: D. Elwood/M. Wilson, K. Henry, D. Hobbs, T. Smith, H. VanderGriend, and J. Wykoff.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Nov 14	Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta
Nov 21	Thanksgiving - no meal
Nov 28	Soup and Bread
Dec 5	Chicken Pot Pie
Dec 12	Beef Burgundy