



The eNewsletter

November 15, 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 Associate Pastor of Discipleship...

Looking Ahead...

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

November 27

WM Craft Kinship Group

November 28

Children's Choir Rehearsal
(no Covenant Kids)
Wednesday Night Activities

November 29

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

November 30

Men's Proverbs Study
Youth HS Girls Night Out

December 1

Men's Breakfast
Youth Dude Night

December 2

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Congregational Meeting
Children's Choir Christmas
Program

December 3

Ladies' Monday Night
Hebrews Study

How do you rest? As a child I hated being still; I wanted to be moving. I specifically remember very long car rides to visit grandparents in which I measured the distance by the number of television shows it would take to get to the destination. I would recall images, plots, dialogue, anything to spare me the boredom of simply being still. As I grew older I thought I had developed patience. Typically, however, I had learned to manage my anxieties or hide my frustrations with a pleasant demeanor and a patient façade. This isn't rest, however.

This month of November has been a time when I have been particularly contemplating a theology of rest. Many of us will have the opportunity to rest next week for Thanksgiving. In not too long, the students of CPC, will have a Christmas rest from their schoolwork. More formally, we have held two different retreats already this month; first the marriage retreat and then the youth retreat. Yet, the passivity from work is not real rest. I can be given all the time in the world and yet never know how or experience rest.

So what is biblical rest? The Bible does describe rest as a restriction from activity. In the case of Genesis 2, God refrained from continuing to create. The command to rest was built into creation. In Exodus 20.11, the Lord recalls His work of creation in the 10 commandments but uses a different Hebrew word to describe His rest. He uses a verb that denotes a level of settling or perhaps even of being satisfied. Rest is more than simple passivity, it is a disposition that reorients how we view our work and our lives.

As a chaplain I began to learn real rest. Ministry was challenging and demanding as there were many urgent needs that required pastoral presence. When spending time with those who are actively dying they need to hear the Lord's presence and faithfulness. We need to be

reminded of God's Word and His promises. Yet, we have to rest in the Lord's provision and timing. In such a state, only the Lord's intervention to bring His people home or for His return can undo the brokenness in our bodies. We might rally for a moment only to be tossed against the next wave of pain and sorrow. Could God grant rest to such faithful saints who were preparing their hearts to behold the face of their Savior? One of the many lessons I learned when confronted with the death of God's beloved children is their ability to rest in Him. Their suffering and sorrows would fluctuate but their ability to rest in their Savior grew in strides.

From all appearances these individuals had nothing that they could do. They couldn't go on a retreat, they were preparing for a great retreat. They often couldn't rise from their bed or even speak beyond a whisper, but they smiled when they heard God's Word resound. They weren't counting the television shows until they arrived at their final destination. No, they rested. They knew their shepherd's voice and they trusted Him. This was enough, this was satisfying.

As I have studied rest I believe there is something fundamentally relational about God's command for us to be still. He is not simply telling busy squirrels who are anxiously gathering food for winter to "knock it off". The Lord God is inviting us to spend time with Him, to enjoy His presence and to refocus our life around Him. From this invitation He is doing something more than telling us to be quiet; we are receiving something from Him. In this reception we are relinquishing our control, our wills and ultimately our lives to Him. In return He gives us exactly what we need, He gives us rest.

~Pastor Bennett



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule November 18

Front Desk
Sherry Baierl

Worship

Infants
Esther McEachern

Crawlers
Cami Calloway
& Rachel Baierl

Toddlers
Kallie Arbuckle
& Lexi Bacon

Sunday School

Infants
Sandi Schreiner

Crawlers
Heather Morrison
& Rachel Baierl

Toddlers
Luther & Shirley Allin

BABETTE'S FEAST

The film *Babette's Feast* will be shown this Friday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. *Babette's Feast* is a delightful story that gives a beautiful picture of joy and reconciliation in the Kingdom of God: "Mercy and truth are met. Righteousness and peace kiss" (Psalm 85.10). Childcare provided for those who RSVP with John Wykoff at johnwykoff@gmail.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 17 is packing day! Please come to the Perseverers Classroom between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to help pack boxes to be shipped around the world.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

Delivery Day is November 17! If you would like to help pack boxes, please come to Schum Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to help deliver food, please contact the Church Office.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Please join us for a time of thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. No nursery provided.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend our annual Congregational Meeting, immediately following the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 2. There will be no adult Sunday School classes that day.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 14. Wassail and hors d'oeuvres will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for girls (10 years old and younger), with a \$20 family maximum. Please register at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Registration deadline is December 9.

The Ministry Spotlight for the Christmas Dinner is Bridge Refugee Services. Please bring a donation for this ministry, suggested items include: bed sheets (new, twin or double), bath towels, disposable razors, paper towels, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, OTC pain medication, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, umbrellas, kitchen utensils, and lamps.

ADVENT CALENDARS

The Advent Calendars for families with children (through 5th grade) are available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed the following days for Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 22 - Closed
Friday, November 23 - Closed

Please note: no eNewsletter next week.

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 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.

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 Rich Denking with any questions.