



The eNewsletter

November 29, 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 Director of Music Ministries...

Looking Ahead...

November 30

Men's Proverbs Study
Youth Girls Night Out

December 1

Men's Breakfast
Youth Dude Day

December 2

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

December 3

Ladies' Monday Night
Hebrews Study

December 4

Mother's Encouragement
Group
TVP Meeting

December 5

Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

December 7

Men's Proverbs Study
Middle School Christmas Party

December 8

WM Hiking Kinship

December 9

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting

December 10

Ladies' Monday Night
Prophets Study

December 11

WM Swap Kinship

December 12

Wednesday Night Activities

December 14

Men's Proverbs Study
Women's Ministry Christmas
Dinner

December 15

High School Christmas
Progressive Dinner

December 16

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Program

If your life is anything like mine, the central decoration of the Advent and Christmas season may just be a calendar. We all live busy lives, but sometimes we just become all about the hustle and bustle and forget why we are doing what we are doing.

As a parent, it is important to support my children by being at their concerts and events. As a musician, there are many concerts and programs I hold an integral part in leading. There are many social opportunities we have that are related to our jobs, and there are neighbors in which we feel obligated to entertain.

Why are these things important? What about them gives them the ability to take up valuable real estate on the hallowed December calendar? Society wants to tell us that Christmas is all about family. Christmas is about presents and getting what we want. Christmas is about being swept up in a feeling - something magical that removes us from a lesser reality that we live in every day.

And society is right - but not in the way it sells it to us.

Christmas is about family. God the Father sent His Son, so that we as believers might be restored as brothers and sisters in Christ. Christmas is about the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, and giving us what we have longed for since the Fall. Christmas removes us from a lesser reality and gives us what is truly real. Christmas changes our outlook on everything because Christ coming to earth and living a sinless life impacts creation in a way that is greater than any magic Hallmark can create.

The events we have here at Covenant this December are not created as calendar filler. Each of these services helps focus us on Christ and His impact on the world; our obligation and joy to proclaim that message; and our love for one another as brothers and sisters united through Christ, our Brother.

With that, here are opportunities for us all to grow in that knowledge and love:

This year's children's Christmas musical, *The Christmas Express*, is being presented this Sunday evening, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come see our Covenant children, along with the help of Dr. Bill Higgins, lead us on a journey that highlights

what Christmas truly is about. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Mindy, Mrs. Meka, Mrs. Tammy, Mrs. Diane, and all helpers of our children's choirs this year. They all hope to see you this Sunday evening.

This year's sanctuary choir Christmas concert entitled *With Angels and Archangels* is taking place Sunday evening, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Our choir, along with full orchestra, will guide us through Scripture by developing a picture of how we should worship God by examining the angels' behavior. Using Scripture from Isaiah, the four Gospels, and Revelation, the examples to humanity found in God's Word will be highlighted to show us how to glorify God in all things, times, and seasons. The music is beautiful, encompassing many styles and composers. Christmas abounds with this concert.

Caroling and Desserts is held annually on the last Wednesday before Christmas, which this year is December 19. We as a church body gather at the church by 5:30 p.m. then split into groups to carol at shut ins' houses as well as neighbors. There will also be assisted living homes on the list, some of which are the homes of some of our senior members. The more people we have to go caroling allows us to go to more places - so please come and join us. No special talent is needed, and this is a family friendly event. All ages are welcomed! In fact, the younger children are the ones most enjoyed by those to which we carol. We then gather back at the church at 7:15 to eat desserts and fellowship together. We do ask that families bring at least one shareable dessert for fellowship time.

Our annual Lessons and Carols service is held on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. This service, tracing the story of the birth of Jesus chronologically through prophecy and Gospel, uses music and Scripture to bring us to the manger with hope, peace, joy, and love which are all fulfilled in Christ come to earth. Ending in candlelight, the service focuses us on Christ before we go and enjoy Christmas day with family and friends. This hour is one of the dearest in our congregation all year.

Please find time for these events on your calendar. Perhaps they will enhance others already there. Merry Christmas!

~Jeremy Gaines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 2

Front Desk
Sherry Baierl

Worship

Infants
Amy Wooten

Crawlers
Daegan & Capps Brown

Toddlers
John Wiczorek
& Sylvia Mills

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come enjoy the children's hard work and presentation of *The Christmas Express* on Sunday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

YOUTH GIRLS NIGHT

MS and HS Girls are invited to the home of Duane and Mindy Horton on Friday, November 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Becky Pearce is leading the girls in preparing a homemade dinner and dessert.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 1 at 8:30 a.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. The speaker is Army Retired General B.B. Bell. He has served in many theaters of operation around the world and has served as an advisor for the active Army while in retirement. He will be speaking on *What In The World Is Going On?* Nursery provided up to 36 months.

YOUTH DUDE DAY

MS and HS Guys are invited to come to the Men's Breakfast and then stay afterwards for a time of games and activities until noon. Dads are welcome to come and be involved as well.

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 \$5 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.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory:

Eric & Lucy Mantel
74 Clear Springs Road
Ringgold, GA 30736

Tom & Casie Runkle
304 Windy Hollow Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Mack Lonas
Email macklonas28@gmail.com

ADVENT CALENDARS

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

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 this 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.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Dec 5 Chicken Pot Pie
Dec 12 Beef Burgundy

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.