

THE CORNERSTONE

"Mobilizing Disciples to fulfill God's passion to save and transform lives"

January 2022 Volume 18 Issue 1

www.centralparkcc.org

In This Issue

Growing by Seeking
page 2

Growing by Seeking
continued
page 3

Student Ministry
page 4 & 5

From our Elders
page 6

Children's Christmas
page 7

Women's Ministry
page 8

Important Info
page 9

News & Notes
page 10

Persecuted Church
page 11

Prayer & Praise
page 12

January Events
page 13

Serving You
page 14



Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Friday, December 31st and Monday, January 3rd in observance of the New Year.

*May the blessings of the new year
fill your heart & home with happiness!*

Changes for the New Year

Monday Evening Prayer Meetings

Please note, the Monday evening Prayer Meeting time has been moved to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and pray together as a church family.

Change in Children's Evening Program

Beginning Wednesday, January 5th our kid's program, previously held on Thursday evenings, will move to Wednesday nights. Kids K-5th grade are welcome to join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by lessons, games and fun until 8:00 p.m. Questions? Please contact Pastor Jeff at 785-845-4131.

With this change, the Women's Wednesday evening Bible study will be moved to the 3rd classroom off of the Fellowship Hall.

a message from
OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Growing by Seeking

Ephesians 3:16-20

We need to come before God. We need to pray for the power of God's love, and Paul (in his letter to the Ephesians) essentially wanted the readers to experience God's great love toward them, toward sinners.

In Ephesians 3:16-17 Paul says *"...that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..."*

Church, this is the vision. This is the picture of God's love for us, according to the vast richness of His glory. He has given believers the Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and also Christ to dwell in our hearts.

Let that sink in for a second. He is the very One who left His home in glory, the One who came to this earth, the One who cast out demons and healed the sick, the One who laughed and cried, the One who turned water into wine, the One who fed thousands upon thousands of people with just a little bit of food.

The One who was mocked and beaten and betrayed, the One who was crucified, the One who was resurrected, the One who now sits enthroned at the Father's right side. Church, this is the One who dwells in our hearts! That's Christ. He dwells in our hearts.

That is a picture of love. I know it's a picture of love because I know I don't deserve that. I don't deserve for Christ to dwell in my heart. I am keenly aware that my heart is not a suitable home for a king.

I know how much work needs to be done to my heart. There are chambers of my heart that are so wicked; but, through faith Christ has stepped into that space and is repairing what is broken.

Then Paul finishes out this section about love saying, *"¹⁷you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

So if we break down those four pieces, it magnifies the fullness of God's love.

Breadth. When God demonstrated his love by becoming man and living on earth, that was no narrow love.

When He loved the woman who was caught in adultery, when He loved little old Zacchaeus, when He loved back-stabbing Judas...He showed His love is broad enough to cover everyone, no matter where they are or who they are.

continued on page 3

Growing by Seeking...continued from page 2

Length. How long is God's love for you? Have you ever thought about that? When does His love for you run out? When does it end? When did it begin? Was it when you first believed that He loved you? Was it when He first created you that He loved you? Was it when He created the world? No. God's love has no start date.

Charles Spurgeon says this about the length of God's love for you. "It's so long that your old age cannot wear it out, so long your continual tribulation cannot exhaust it, your successive temptations shall not drain it dry..." Praise the Lord. "...like eternity itself it knows no bounds."

Height. How high does His love reach? As high as the heavens? Yes. As God sits above the entire universe, so sits His love for you.

Depth. How deep does the love of God run for you? Deep enough for His Son to be crushed by the weight of all the world's sin? Deep enough to send Jesus to the darkness of the grave? Yes, that deep.

We're only a couple days away from the new year, which means we have an opportunity this year to grow as individuals and as a church into becoming a people of prayer. When you begin to understand the breadth, length, height, and depth of His love, why would you not spend more time with Him?

More than your resolve to get swoll in the gym this year, my earnest hope and plea for you is that you would grow exponentially in your prayer life and that we would mature as a church in knee-bending prayer.

Most great movements in history got their start by a small group of people who gathered together and got on their knees and sought the Lord.

Just so you know, there is a group already going after that. Right now, a small group of people in this church are attacking the enemy with petition after petition before the Lord. And let me tell you, there is plenty of room for you!

I want that for us. I do, not so we get any attention from the world, not so we would be famous, not so we have anything we ourselves can boast in, but because His name is great.

And so, to end out this message, I ask you to simply pray. I am not going to pray on your behalf, I am asking you to take a step in boldness right now and to pray, and to pray with expectancy!

STUDENT MINISTRY



Jeff Martens

High School & Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 6:00.

High School Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pastor Jeff's house. Lunch is served.

Contact Jeff at 785-845-4131 with questions.

Make Jesus Famous!!

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **“Follow me.”** ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵**Philip found Nathaniel** and said to him, **“We have found Him** of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶Nathaniel said to him, **“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”** **Philip said to him, “Come and see.”** ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward Him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathaniel said to Him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you.**” ⁴⁹Nathaniel answered Him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**” ⁵¹And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Today, more than ever, we are being pursued, we are being pulled in every direction. Things distract us from hearing the voice of God. People are chasing after us all the time and we give into the temptations of the world. Our parents, friends, jobs, and even sports, pull us further and further away from God.

We know that Satan is chasing after us, using our time and attention to distract us from what's really important and slowly destroying us (1 Peter 5:8). Too many times we forget that Jesus is also chasing after us, He even leaves the 99 to find us (Luke 15:3-7).

We all need friends to remind us of what really is important. Once Jesus told Philip to follow Him, he got up and went straight to tell his friend Nathaniel about Him. At first Nathaniel mocked the idea of anything good coming from Nazareth. Does this sound familiar? What good can come from Topeka? What good can out of me? However, Philip didn't back down and simply said “Come and See.”

As they approached Jesus He SAW them coming and explained how He saw him by the tree. **Jesus SEES us.** He knows our pains, our sorrows, our doubts. He knows our story. In the end, Jesus basically told Nathaniel to “wait and see what I can do. You haven't seen anything yet!!”

You see, Philip didn't keep Jesus to himself. He made Jesus famous!! He took five seconds to change someone's life. Philip saw a friend distracted by the world, distracted by Satan, and pointed him to Jesus, and then he let Jesus do the rest.

Jesus is calling and pursuing us. God can use His pursuit of us to pursue others. Will you follow Jesus no matter what it costs? If someone were to follow you around for a week, would they see that you have been with Jesus? We need to be the friend that other friends know, without a doubt, has spent time with Jesus. We need to see through all the distractions of this world. He must increase and I must decrease (John 3:30).

Let's make Jesus famous, take five seconds to change a life, and point others to Him!!

RENT-A-YOUTH THIS WINTER

Need your snow shoveled? What about your house cleaned after the holidays? Rent a youth from CPCC to do any odd job, and you'll help send them to summer camp in 2022. All jobs need to be arranged through Jeff and all earned money given to Jeff to be applied to the student's account. Contact Pastor Jeff at 845-4131 for more details!

STUDENT MINISTRY



Miranda Bohlander

Kid's Evening Program

Kids Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesday nights for Kid's Night from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dinner is served

**Contact Jeff at
785-845-4131
with questions.**

Thankful

December 2021 has flown by! Well actually, I feel as if all of 2021 has gone by so fast. Life, when you reach adulthood, seems to me to go by faster. I was just thinking about my first day on staff at CPCC. It was January 1st, 2018. It's hard to believe I've finished four full years of ministry here because those years went by so quickly. In those years I have grown, I have learned, and I have changed so much. I have so much to thank God for!

First and foremost, I want to thank God for saving me with His redeeming grace and love. I really did not know the mental battle I was about to face stepping into a full-time leadership role in ministry. And if anyone had warned me, I wouldn't have believed them. I was so full of joy and excitement to serve the Lord. Unfortunately, we have an enemy who is sneaky and who loves to kill, steal and destroy that joy. Even more unfortunate is that I allowed him to speak lies into my mind, confuse my thoughts, and steal my joy; but God! But God, and His love, grace, mercy, and power saved me from the enemy. He restored His truth in my mind, He straightened out those thoughts, and He filled me with His joy once again. For that I praise Him. I praise Him for allowing me to go through it and for reminding me of His saving power.

Second, I am thankful for my church family. I delight in the love that this body has for one another. Within this church I have people I call grandma, brother, uncle, aunt, sister, cousin, and every other family member name there is! Are these people my blood relatives? Nah, but that doesn't matter! These people sure do love me as if I were. I have a family at this church, and for that I thank God.

Third, I am thankful for the tears. I am grateful for every last one. There are way too many for me to count; but God knows the exact number. I am a very emotional person and I feel deeply, which means I cry - A LOT! Every emotion I experience materializes in tears, and yet I am thankful God has blessed me with extreme compassion and empathy for others. At times it hurts to have such feelings, but with every tear I cried, either full of hurt or joy, I felt closer to the Creator. I realize the times I hurt, because someone didn't know Jesus' love or because they didn't understand how valuable and beautifully created they are, hurt God even more. I can't imagine how God must feel when we reject Him or ignore our self worth. I also realize the tears I shed, rejoicing when someone chose to accept Jesus, pale in comparison to God's excitement when someone accepts Him. He loves far greater than I ever could. I am so thankful for His love.

These past four years have shaped me and have challenged me in ways that are going to help transition me into what God has in store for me next. I can't wait to see what is to come as He continues to reveal Himself to me and to others.

Thank you for being a part of my journey.

a message from
OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

The end of a calendar year always brings about reflection and preparation. We have much to reflect on from 2021 individually, as a church, and as a nation. Some good and some not so good, but all the time God is worthy to be praised. When things in our world seem to be constantly changing, we can take comfort in knowing our God is unchanging.

While there were challenges in 2021, we were able to come together as a body of believers to accomplish some great things in the name of the Lord. We shared meals and built relationships; we gave our time, talents and resources to spread the Gospel; and we rallied together to face challenges by seeking God's Kingdom first. In 2021 there was a revised vision statement created for the church (Discipling in the heart of the city for freedom in Christ). Sunday evening teaching (S.E.T) also began, enabling teachers from our congregation to share God's Word and their gift of teaching (if you haven't taken the opportunity to be fed by the amazing group of teachers we are blessed to have among us, you should invest the time to join us). We cannot conclude a reflection without acknowledging the contributions of our staff. Each staff member (including the staff who have moved on in 2021) poured their heart and soul into CPCC. We are indescribably grateful for their dedication and hard work.

Looking forward to 2022, we see opportunities to be more effective in showing the love of God to all who enter our building, as well as ways we can continue to reach out into our community and across geographical boundaries. We continue to work towards the vision of an Acts 2 church where we worship together, learn together, and do life together as one body. A sub-committee of elders is working to determine the staffing needs for the church in order to have the greatest impact on children from diapers to diplomas, our young adults, families, and... more seasoned members of our congregation. The sub-committee will finish reviewing/revising job descriptions for the pastoral staff soon so we can make appropriate hiring decisions in the coming months. Please continue to pray for God's guidance over the process.

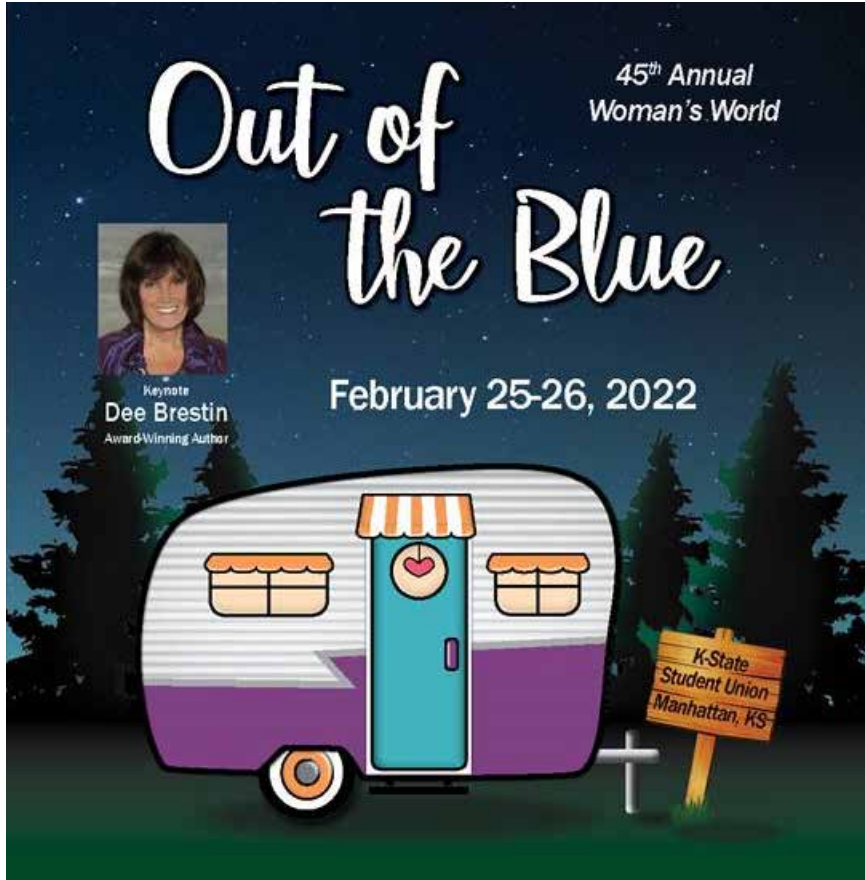
We are excited to see what our Lord has in store for Central Park Christian Church in 2022 and beyond!


LEADERSHIP
MEETING
January 29th ~ 9:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Hall

Children's Christmas 2021



WOMEN'S MINISTRY



45TH ANNUAL WOMAN'S WORLD

February 25-26, 2022

Out of the Blue

"Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." –Luke 24:31

"Out of the Blue" will be a reminder that God speaks to us and reveals himself to us through everyday interactions, if we are paying attention. It will be a fun and inspirational break from the winter months for all ages. Woman's World has been a ministry of Manhattan Christian College since 1978.

Complete conference information is available on the MCC webpage at <http://mccs.edu/about-mcc/events/womans-world/> or the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/mccwomansworld/.

Monthly Bible Verse

¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. ¹⁸ There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. ~ Proverbs 23:17-18



Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesdays

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

The Book of Acts

Led by Barb Gray.

Group meets in
the CPCC Parlor.



Prayer Shawl Meetings

Tuesday, January 7th at

11:00 am at the church and

Thursday, January 16th at
6:30 pm at the home of Judi Cox

Contact Judi at 272-9803
for more information.



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is

Saturday, January 8th

9:30 to 11 a.m. at the church.

IMPORTANT INFO

Young Adult Sunday School

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Pastor Derek in his office during the Sunday school hour. Topics vary and discussions are fun!

**For more information,
contact Derek.**

Birthday Blessings

Our card ministry team wants to recognize you on your birthday! If you are willing to share the date of your special day, please email Stacy in the church office at stacy@centralparkcc.org. This information will be shared with Alison Crow and her team. Thank you!

Sunday Nights! 6:30 to 7:30 PM
CPCC Sanctuary

Sunday **E**vening **T**eaching

An evening of focused teaching on the Word.

25 *Day of 25*
Hours OF PRAYER **COMING IN 2022!**
WATCH FOR DETAILS!

Seeking Volunteer Cleaners

Volunteer cleaners are needed to fill the following spots for 2022:

- 1-Bathrooms & Entryway*
- 1-Classrooms & Nursery*
- 1-Pews & Sills*
- 1-Front/back steps & elevator*

Please pray about your willingness to serve and then contact Cheryl Wathen via email at twoasone91298@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 235-1290(H) or 215-9758(C). Thank you!

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Thursday, January 27th.
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Thursday, January 20th.

NEWS AND NOTES

JANUARY CROSS GUARD

Sunday School
9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

January 2nd
Rick Fischli

January 9th
Rick Fischli

January 16th
Lynden Landholm

January 23rd
Charles McWilliams

January 30th
Steve Horton

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

January 2nd
Gary Burks
Randy Smith

January 9th
Tim Cunningham
Dan Force

January 16th
Dan Johnson
Tyler Crow

January 23rd
Tristan Webb
Ray DeMoss

January 30th
Jason Vinsonhaler
John Cantrell

JANUARY DEACONESS

Helen Horton
Sue Spilker



The year 2021 felt so busy that it just flew by... we have all continued to deal with COVID in some way in 2021, and it is still with us as we enter 2022! Doorstep continued to be blessed with donations and extra grant funds to help more people with rent and utility assistance. With our small staff of 4, which was only 3 for 6 months, we continued to rely heavily on our volunteers! At times we barely kept up with intakes and services; we certainly couldn't function without our loyal, dedicated volunteers! They stocked the food room shelves and filled the orders, took in donations of clothing and household items, sorted them, ran the dryers, helped the clients and restocked the clothing room! We, again, have felt very blessed and supported by all of our donors, and the community as a whole, as we tried to help those in our community in need the best we could when they called upon our doorstep.

We will start 2022 by continuing with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room.

At this writing we were currently distributing gifts, food and gift cards to our adopted households for Christmas. We adopted 260 households again this year from the Christmas Bureau with over 800 individuals. Once again our member congregations and community members stepped up and donated the items we needed, and money for the gift cards and food. We appreciate everyone who helped in whatever way they could to make Christmas nicer for those who were struggling during the holidays.

There will be no Operation Soup Line again this year. The Board decided not to have the event again until COVID is no longer a factor. We are continuing to focus on our 55th Anniversary year, and our Anniversary Fund to replace our HVAC system.

We will still proceed with SouperBowl Sunday, February 13th with the collection of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during another difficult year as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2022 Proposed Budget and Leadership Nominees voted on at our congregational meeting, December 12th have been approved. Thank you to everyone for their input and votes.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



A Prayer for the New Year & for Fellow Christians

Gracious Father,

Thank you for our faithful persecuted Christian family members. As I enter a new year, I pray for believers all over this world and for those mentioned below.

Grant Huddah passion for the ministry You have ordained for her. As she walks boldly, bring fruit from her obedience

Give Ramtin favor in finding ministry opportunities in his new home, reminding him that You began a good work in Iran and will bring it to completion.

Strengthen and encourage Amina. Use the audio Bibles to reveal Your truth to the Borana people, including her family.

Continue to empower Duang in his gospel outreach. May those who place their trust in You through his ministry grow as biblical disciples.

Comfort Pastor Li as he experiences separation from his family. Provide for his family, and give him a holy contentment and bold witness in prison.

Supply courage and faithfulness to the untold number of persecuted Christians - including Saidah, Walid, Liliana and Eldos - especially when they face opposition.

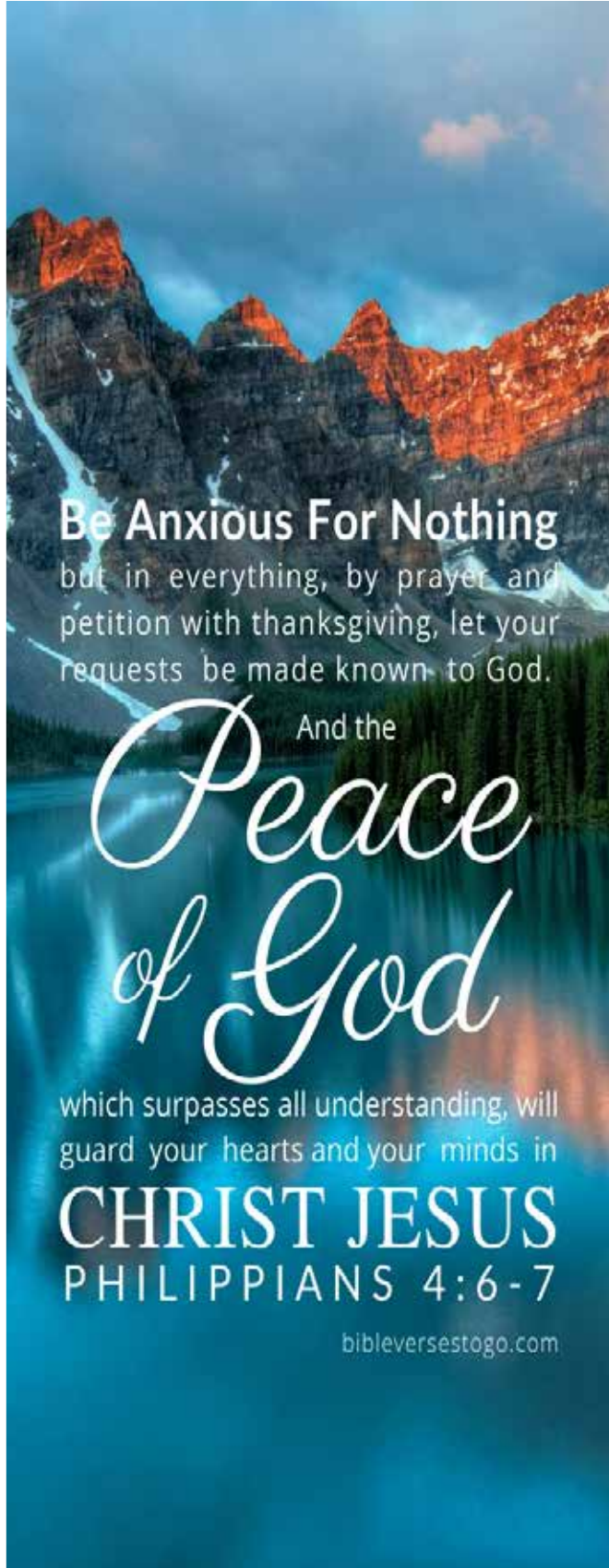
Thank You, Lord, for their obedience. May I imitate their faithful witness as I follow Christ.

Amen

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine

Please note, there are several Voice of the Martyrs Magazines at the information desk in the church lobby. Please help yourself to an issue or two.

Prayer & Praise



*Our Thoughts &
Prayers are with...*

Robert & Agnes Cox

Currently living with their daughter, Juanita.

Darlene McCarter

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident

Jim & Shirley Wolf

Atria Hearthstone Resident

Sandy Darnall

Ruble Ranch Assisted Living Resident

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting

Join others at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings for 30 minutes, to spend time praising the Lord, praying for His leading and blessing, and asking Him to move powerfully in our classes and worship time.

The prayer meetings are held in Derek's office and are also available via Zoom.

zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535

Monday Prayer Meeting & Elders Meeting

All are invited to gather together on Monday evenings, at 6:00 at the church, to pray for our church, our city, our state and the nation.

The prayer meetings are also available via Zoom.
zoom.us/j/2029856144 - passcode cpcc1535

*An Elder meeting will take place on the 2nd & 4th Monday immediately following the prayer meeting.

(*See calendar on page 13 for dates)



Monthly Events at CPCC...



JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
						1 <i>New Year's Day</i> No Men's Bible Study						
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group No S.E.T.	2	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	3	11:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the church 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	4	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	5	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church	6	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i> 9:30 AM Deaconess' Meeting	7	8
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	9	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	10	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	11	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	12	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at Judi Cox's	13	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>	14	15
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	16	<i>M L King Day</i> 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	17	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	18	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	19	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church	20	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>	21	22
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	23	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	24	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	25	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	26	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church	27	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>	28	29
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	30	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	31									

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Derek Slack
Senior Pastor
derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens
Student Ministry Pastor
jeff@centralparkcc.org

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Elders:

Eric Cook, Geoff Gray,
Victor Hercules, Hank Hylton,
Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler,
Bill White

JOIN US DURING THE WEEK

Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service & K-motion - Sundays at 10:45 a.m.
SIAFU - Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Prayer Time - Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Kid's T.N.T. - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.