

THE CORNERSTONE

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

February 2022 Volume 18 Issue 2

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Anniversary Dinner

Time To
CELEBRATE
18 years!

Last November, we made the decision to move our annual Anniversary Dinner, to Palm Sunday due to COVID. That Sunday seemed to work very well, so this year we will continue this new tradition.

As we begin preparations for the dinner, here are some details you need to know.

When: Sunday, April 10th (Palm Sunday)

Where: CPCC Fellowship Hall

What time: 5:30 p.m.

What to bring: The main dish will be provided, please bring a dessert or side to share.

Watch for a sign up form in the Sunday bulletins beginning in March. We ask that you sign up in advance so we may plan accordingly. Thank you!

a message from
OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

I Am Weak, But...

Achilles was a vicious warrior with a complicated history. In Homer's Iliad, we see him rise to the top as the preeminent player at the end of the Trojan War. His full backstory is melodramatic but, suffice it to say, there was no one was quite like him. Achilles was simultaneously filled with rage and meticulous in skill as he led the Greeks in battle. But most of us probably only know him because of his heel. Achilles doesn't die in Homer's story but Greek legend says that he later suffered a mortal wound to the back of his foot. The "Achilles' heel," as it's called today, has become one of the most popular idioms in Western culture. It refers to a person's point of weakness leading to their downfall. But that idea comes from Greek mythology, not Christian reality. God's wisdom gives us another picture. Believers in Jesus don't have an Achilles' heel, we are an Achilles' heel.

Here's what I mean: Greek mythology shows us an invincible warrior with one weakness that when exploited leads to defeat; Christian reality shows us a savior, that suffering and death appeared to be His weakness, but when exploited lead to triumph. That's our story. That's the trail that Jesus blazes ²¹*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21).*

A hero died for villains. Victory came through loss. Life was born out of death. Conquest was accomplished by suffering. The darkest night in history gave way to the brightest morning. In God's economy, our weakness is one of our greatest assets.

Before we get into an area of looking at how our weaknesses can help us, we need to have a proper understanding of what weakness is. Let's take a moment to define weakness.

First let begin with what weakness is not. The biblical concept of weakness does not mean the things we're not good at. We're tempted to think this way. It would be easier if weakness were contained to the things we stink at doing. But it's much more pervasive than that. We can't simply tiptoe around it.

Weakness is everywhere in the New Testament. Jesus told his disciples that, in contrast to the spirit, the flesh is weak ³⁸*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."* (Mark 14:38).

Luke, in Paul's voice, refers to the weak as those who are economically disadvantaged. ³⁵*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*" (Acts 20:35).

The Corinthian believers were weak in the social sense ²⁶*Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (1 Corinthians 1:26-27).*

continued on page 3

I Am Weak, But...continued from page 2

The Book of Romans tells us that Jesus died for us while we were still weak, that is, while we were ungodly and lacked any possibility of deserving the slightest good ⁸*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

But we are also weak when we pray, when we lack the words or know-how ²⁶*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groan (Romans 8:26).*

Also throw in this pile the physical illnesses that Paul seems to cite in *2 Corinthians 10:10, the thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12:7, and the list of unpleasantness in 2 Corinthians 12:10* *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. One way or another, we have felt the way the Bible speaks about weakness.*

The context, of course, determines the specific meaning of weakness but every use is connected back to the general idea of deficiency. If there were one broad explanation for weakness, it would be “to lack”.

Weakness means we don't have what it takes. It means we are neither sovereign, nor omniscient, nor invincible. We are not in control, we don't know everything, and we can be stopped. Weakness means that we desperately need God. And the plea for my own soul, and for yours, is that we would embrace weakness, not despise it.

When we embrace our weakness, we know that God's work must be done in God's power. And if it's on God, we can dream big. He is strong enough to do whatever he wants ⁶*The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths (Psalm 135:6).*

He is good enough to not spare his own Son but give him up for us all ³²*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Romans 8:32)?*

And with a God that strong and that good, the question we must ask ourselves is what we are asking Him. In the new heavens and new earth, when our faith becomes sight and we behold the glory of Christ, we will not think back to our time now and say, “You know, my dreams for God's glory were way too big.” We won't ever say that. Because this is Christian reality, not Greek mythology.

I want to challenge you today with this. It is a very simple line in a hymn...I am weak, but Thou art strong. Friends, God is calling you in your weakness to come before Him and to allow Him to do a great work in you. There is nothing that is not redeemable. Nothing!

Swimming in the Deep End,

- Derek

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.

He Wants You

Before there was a person on earth, there was already a relationship. This relationship was The Trinity: The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity has dwelled together forever!! Humanity was formed out of that everlasting when God put a man on earth. This man, Adam, had an unique relationship with God, as God was his companion from the very first day. God wants us to have that relationship with Him, too. All we have to do is focus on Him. **When we put God first, He will bless the rest.**

We are a hot mess when we are disconnected from God. There are some things we can do on our own, and these things may look good for a while but, in the end, we need Jesus.

“You must Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your strength, all your soul, and all your might.”
Matthew 22:37-38

God is saying to us, “I need to be first because I know how to supply everything necessary in your life.” He goes on and says, *“love your neighbor as yourself.”* You see your best relationships flow out of loving God first. **LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE!!**

No one is exempt from needing a relationship with God. He knew we would need to depend on a relationship with Him to understand everything from beginning to end and all this world offers. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

continued on page 5

RENT-A-YOUTH THIS WINTER

Need your snow shoveled? What about your house cleaned or a room organized? 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!

Working hard! CPCC youth, Julie and Tarryn, help Cammie Landholm with housekeeping to earn money to attend summer camp.



STUDENT MINISTRY

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.

We Wants You...continued from page 4

We must be working on our relationship with God, so He can be working on us on what He called us to do.

There is hope for the future *and* for the now. We have all made mistakes, hurt others, been hurt or fallen away from God. But I know this - God can heal, God can redeem, God can put us back on the right track, and God can bring good things from bad situations. Don't lose faith. Don't forget that God still loves you, has things for you to do, and has a blessing with your name on it.

*"I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

Take opportunities to talk and interact with the Lord. Adam took the time to walk with God - to do life with God. We too should be cultivating our relationship with the Lord - **EVERY DAY**. Wherever we are in our relationship with God, we can continue to move forward to know Him more clearly, to love Him more deeply, and to obey Him more faithfully.

**"Come close to God and God will come close to you"
James 4:8**

We accomplish this by:

1. Doing Daily Devotions with Him
 - a. Simply crack the Bible open or scroll through your app - just get into His word daily
2. Praying to Him
 - a. Simply talk with God
3. Worshipping Him
 - a. Express your Love to God through everything you do

Different seasons call for different ways of pursuing God, but God has to be the center of your life. There must be a renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2), and it starts with putting Him first. We must embrace Him and be intentional with our relationship with Him, looking for ways to put Him first, and doing the **NEXT RIGHT THING!!**

~ Source: *Relationship Goals*, Michael Todd

a message from
OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Nearer My God

Each year, rather than a New Year’s “resolution,” I try to set a new focus for myself in my spiritual walk with the Lord. I have written about this more than once in the past, usually around this time of year, as I am starting out. Generally, as the previous year starts to draw to a close, I pray for God to send me something, a concept, a verse, a goal, something to be my spiritual focus for the year. Of course, He never fails. I have started past years with focuses like submitting to His will, appreciating true joy over happiness, and working extra hard to truly love everyone—even the unlovable.

This year God gave me James 4:8: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” He wants me to draw nearer to Him, to get closer, and to really understand what that means. At first I thought I had a pretty good idea of what that meant, I mean, how hard can that concept be? But the more I thought about it and prayed on it, the more I realized it’s a much larger concept than I ever thought.

I’m obviously not the first person to ask this spiritual question. Dozens of songs have been written about it; the old hymn *Nearer My God to Thee*, the gospel song *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, and contemporary worship songs like *Closer*, *Draw Me Close to You*, and *Draw Near*, just to name a few. Books have been written, sermons have been preached...sermon series have been preached, movies have been made, and a google search of “how to draw near to God” yields almost three and a half million results. Apparently, like me, countless other believers have tried to wrap their head around this big question (that really should be so simple) and have found themselves starting down a much bigger challenge than they realized.

And so here I go, wish me luck as I dive into the process of drawing near. I’m not horribly worried about it, the key seems to be right there in the first sentence...the first words of James 4:8. It’s a charge, a command, a task. The author is telling us that we need to initiate the act. We need to draw near to Him first and then He will reciprocate. I have a sneaking suspicion though, that as I start to figure all this out, I’m going to find that he’s always been a whole lot closer than I realized.

Stay tuned...

a message from
OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

In all we do, we want to first seek God. It is easy for humans to either run off on our own, or bring our plans to God for His blessing. Central Park Christian Church (and Christians throughout the world) must ensure that our first pursuit be our Lord, whose ways are always higher than our ways and whose thoughts are always higher than our own.

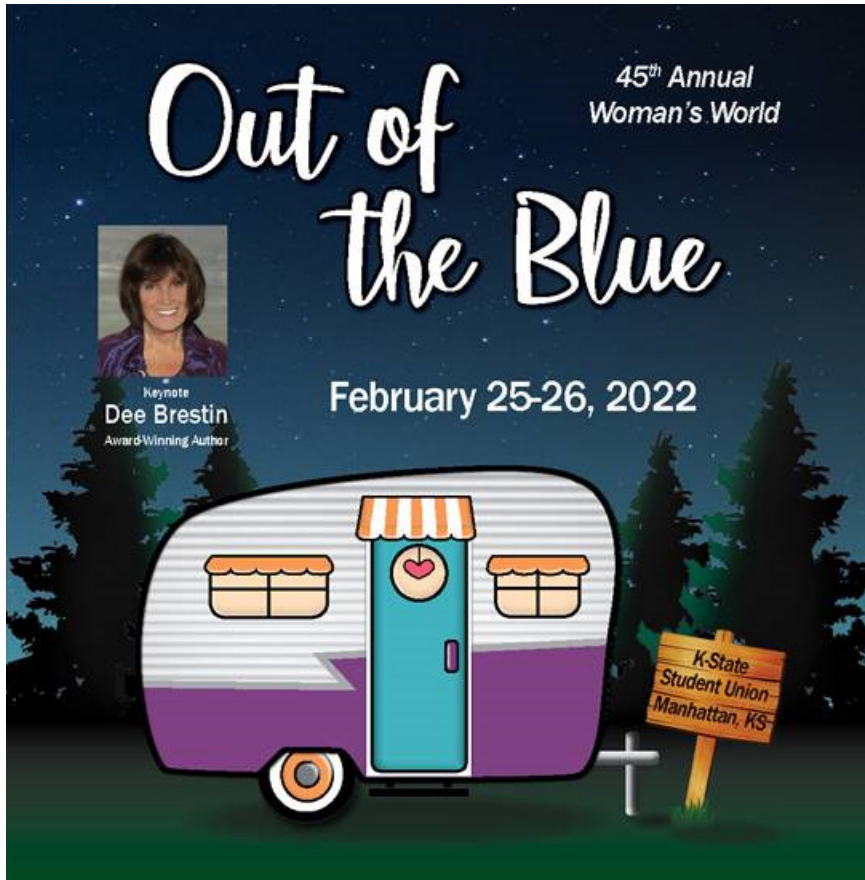
The elders have been working on seeking God and planning for 2022, as the first quarter of any year on the church calendar is critical to implementing the vision of the church. To that end, a sub-committee of the elders has been meeting weekly since mid-January (with a short break due to illness) to review the staffing needs of the church. Currently, we are discussing the concept of a single children/youth pastor ministering to children from diapers to diplomas and how that job description may look. Youth pastors serve a critical role in outreach and engagement for any church, so we want to ensure the job description accurately represents this fact.

In addition to the job description covering the entire span of children and youth ministry, we are working to determine appropriate pastoral staffing going forward to assist our senior pastor and our youth pastor in engaging the congregation and the community in a way that best serves the Kingdom of God. The elders have been in earnest prayer about what God wants for this role to bring glory to His name.

We invite you to join us in prayer for all of our staff and especially our pastors. We meet in person to pray every Monday evening at 6:00pm. There is value in corporate prayer that we must not discount.

LEAD LIKE **JESUS**

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



45TH ANNUAL WOMAN'S WORLD

Out of the Blue ~ "Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." ~ Luke 24:31

Early Registration (by January 31, 2022).....\$95/person
Registration made in February 2022.....\$100/person

"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 mccs.edu/about-mcc/events/womans-world/ or the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/mccwomansworld/.



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, February 1st at
11:00 am at the church and
Thursday, February 17th 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, March 5th

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

Monthly Bible Verse

¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." ~ Colossians 3:14-15

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.



**SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY** FEBRUARY
13th, 2022

We are collecting soup and crackers for Doorstep's "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" to restock their shelves for the winter

Please place your donations in the box in the foyer marked "Doorstep" anytime between now and February 13th.

Day of 25 FEBRUARY
26TH-27TH

24 hour prayer vigil ending with
an hour of Worship on Day 25
10:45 a.m Feb. 26th ~ 10:45 a.m. Feb. 27th
Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Monday, February 28th.
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Sunday, February 20th.

NEWS AND NOTES

FEBRUARY CROSS GUARD

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

February 6th

Rick Fischli

February 13th

Brian Stovall

February 20th

Rick Fischli

February 27th

Andrew Swickard

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

February 6th

Randy Spilker

Lee Holmes

February 13th

Chuck Shockey

Eric Cook

February 20th

Todd Huston

Mike Thomas

February 27th

Rodney Barrand

Mike Swickard

FEBRUARY DEACONESS

Helen Horton

Sue Spilker



As we finish year-end paperwork, thank you's, grant reports, etc. here at Doorstep, life has not stopped, and the phone calls keep coming for assistance!

In many ways 2021 felt like a repeat of 2020, in good ways though too. Our member congregations, and the Topeka community, continued to step up and support Doorstep, and the services we offer. We received more CARES funds to assist with rent assistance. And, for the many other people who still had "life happen" to them like non-COVID times, we did our best to help with all of those in need that we could.

In 2021, Doorstep spent \$342,434 on emergency services; this is over \$91,000 more compared to 2020. It was a challenging year, and our small staff is incredibly grateful to our volunteers who kept coming in week after week to help us provide services, sort donations, and help clothing room clients. We also feel very blessed by the support we have received from the Topeka community during this time!

SouperBowl Sunday is February 13th and we are again asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, and crackers. A successful SouperBowl Sunday can stock our pantry with these items into the Spring months!

In June we had our 55th Anniversary Kick-off to raise funds for a new HVAC system at Doorstep. The current system, original to the building, is over 60 years old. At year end, we had donations of \$50,000! That is 1/3 of the amount needed...we have another \$100,000 to go! We are working on a match donation opportunity in February, and more information will be coming...

Unfortunately, with COVID still an issue, we will not have Operation Soup Line in 2022.

Finally, **Thank You** to everyone who donated money, blankets, games, puzzles and hygiene items for **Doorstep's Christmas Project** this past December! We assisted a total of **259 households with 822 individuals!** Hopefully, next year we can be back to "normal" with the actual Christmas Store.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



HAMZA: Christian Beaten for Leading Muslim to Christ

Hamza, who grew up in a Christian family indebted to a brick-kilo owner, didn't experience persecution until he brought a Muslim to church. The kiln owner had no problem with Hamza attending church, but their relationship changed drastically when Hamza took a Muslim coworker to church and the man came to faith in Christ. Shortly after that the kiln owner met Hamza at the entrance to his church and beat him so badly that his shoulder was broken. Despite the injury and his treatment by the owner, Hamza continued to work toward paying off his debts.

In 2017, Hamza was sold to another brick-kiln owner and continued to work to pay off his debt to the previous owner. But persecution from the previous owner did not stop. In September 2019, two men on a motorcycle stopped Hamza as he was walking home from the market and beat him again. Hamza said they were acting on orders from his former owner.

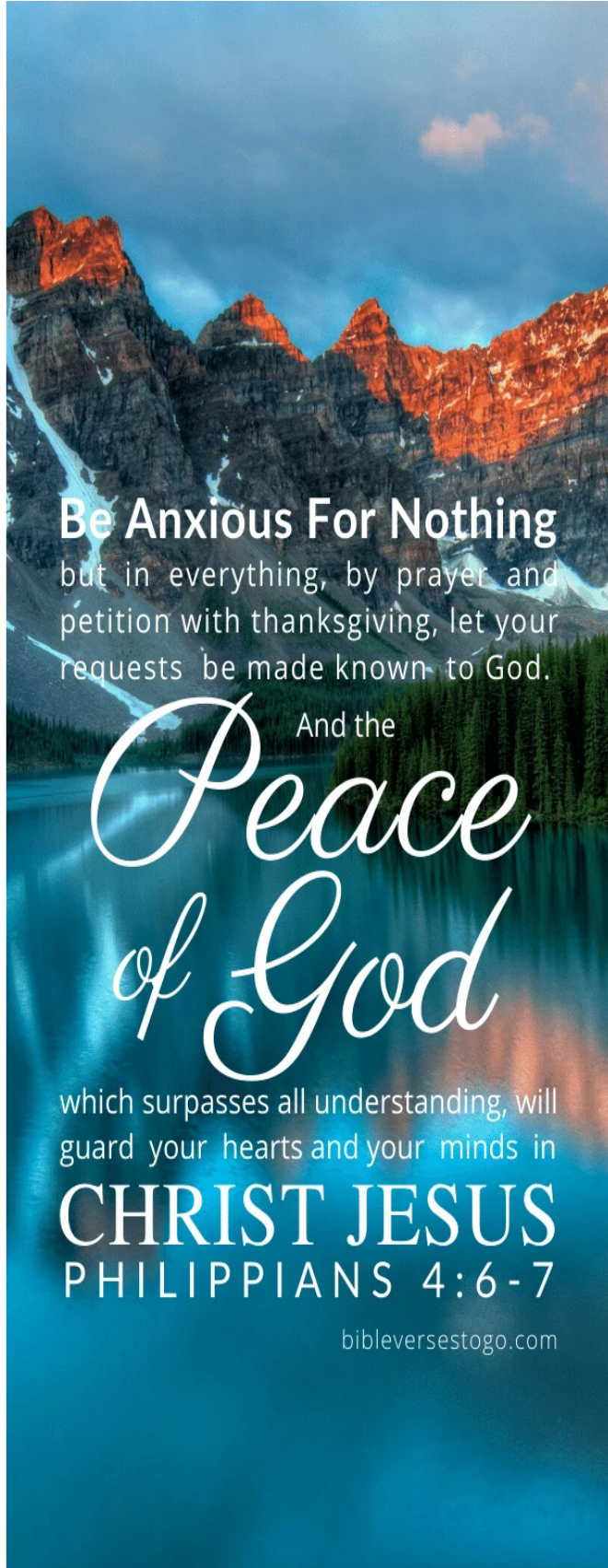
On November 30, 2020, Hamza was able to pay off his debt to the brick-kiln owner with help from VOM. He and his family also received a rickshaw that they can use to start a taxi service. "Hamza was happy and thankful to the team for their help," a VOM worker said.

Hamza said that despite his difficult life, he has never lost hope in Jesus Christ. "He has answered my prayers and now blessed me with a wonderful gift," he said.

Continue to pray for Hamza and his family. Although free from debt, they will face ongoing discrimination in Pakistan, where Christians are a small minority.

~ 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.



Be Anxious For Nothing

but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

And the
*Peace
of God*

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in

CHRIST JESUS
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

bibleversestogo.com



*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...



FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the church 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	2 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	3 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	4	5 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
6 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.	7 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	8 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	9 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	10 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
13 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.	14 Valentine's Day 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	15 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	16 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	17 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at Judi Cox's 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	18	19 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
20 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.	21 Presidents' Day 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	22 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	23 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	24 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	25	26 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
27 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.	28 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting					

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



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Senior Pastor
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Jeff Martens
Student Ministry Pastor
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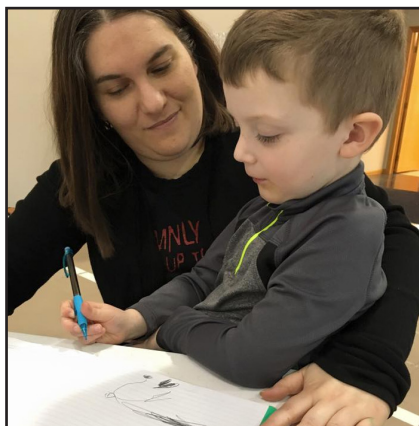
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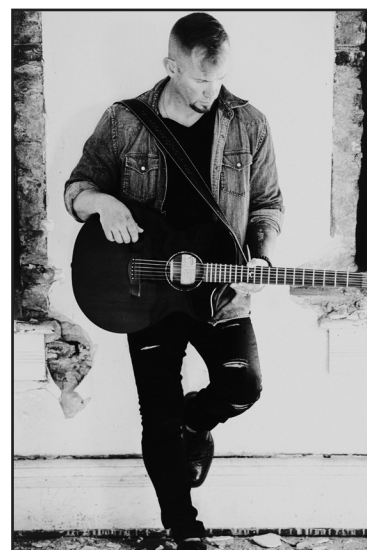
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Elders:

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 6:00 p.m.
A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Grade School Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.