

THE CORNERSTONE

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

April 2022 Volume 18 Issue 4

www.centralparkcc.org

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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 worked 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.

Sign up via the form in the Sunday bulletins or by calling the church office at 785-234-5963. We ask that you sign up in advance so we may plan accordingly. Thank you!

a message from
OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Resurrection Implications

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Some people may wonder how can an event that took place over 2000 years ago have an impact on my life today? Some ask if Jesus rose from the dead, does it have any impact on my life when I wake up in the morning or when I go to bed at night? Or when I go to school? Or when I go to work?

I would say that the average American is probably familiar with the person known as Jesus Christ. The majority of us are at least familiar with some of the basic stories of what He did while He was on earth. But during His time on earth, He made an incredible claim. He claimed to be the Son of God.

Now, had Jesus died and never defeated death, then He becomes nothing more than a man who did some good things, even miraculous-looking things, but still dies as a man. He is no different than anyone else, other than He might have had a great amount of influence.

But if Jesus did come back from the dead, then everything He says about Himself, that He is the son of God; the Messiah; that when you see Him, you're seeing God; that He is the Way, the Truth, the Life, and nobody comes to God except through Him; then the implication of the Resurrection is that all of that is true and that anyone else claiming to be God, or a god-like being, is false.

Now remember His followers have not forgotten that He said He would rise in three days after His death. So, you find yourself waiting, Friday, Saturday, and then Sunday. At some point on Sunday morning Jesus gets up, comes out of the tomb, and appears to you and hundreds of others. You would be amazed, overwhelmed, and shocked beyond all measure because you know the implication of what has just taken place.

continued on page 3

Resurrection Implications...continued from page 2

In that moment, and in that time, Jesus exposed every false religion that remained. His claim of being the Son of God became very real, and the claims of all the others are seen for what they are. Don't you see the implication of His death and then resurrection? All other claims to deity still end, with those individuals dead.

This passage shows us that there are five direct implications from the resurrection that affect us as believers, and that we should spend a great amount of time celebrating. My prayer and desire for you is to buck up against our culture and allow the scripture to take root in you. I believe the direct implications of the resurrection should be rooted deep within you, and in that you will be most satisfied. Paul told us if Christ had not been raised from the grave then we would be in complete shambles as believers. But because Christ has been raised, we have much to celebrate. Look at these five implications with me.

We are forgiven of sins. Our faith is not useless. What we have heard preached about Jesus is true. We are to be envied and not pitied. Those who have passed before us are alive! These are incredible true implications of the Resurrection. I pray this season of Easter serves as a reminder of these things for you.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ serves notice that my sin is so dreadful, that you and I are so deeply flawed, that nothing short of God's only Son could pay for and break the power of sin in our lives and in the lives of those we love. No matter how hard we try to be better people, no matter how shiny we polish the exterior of our lives, Christianity says it will never be enough. If Jesus Christ rose from the dead, then we were in such bad shape that God had to send his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

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.

March Madness

March Madness is my favorite time of the year. One might even say it's my favorite season. All of the emotion, passion, sweat, blood, and tears make the tournament such a big deal. Every team is out there fighting for their life. It's win and move on, lose and go home. Everyone is fighting for one prize, the National Championship.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 it says, "Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

There are a lot of things you need in order to have a winning team. Some of those include hard-working players, a good coach, humility, teamwork, and strict training. Basketball is about all those things but, as I tell the girls I coach, we must know the basics of basketball. It's all about the basics and fundamentals: dribbling, passing, defense, and shooting. It's the same thing in our relationship with Christ. We must remember the basics.

The Basics of Shooting:

Focus on Your Goal:

In basketball, your goal is to get the ball in the hoop. You look at the hoop when you shoot. You focus. You aim for the box right above the net.

In the Christian life, our goal is to become like Christ: to love God and others like He did. Hebrews 12:2 explains this well. It says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Do you think we often focus on becoming like Jesus? One of my favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 4:25 that says, "Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you."

No one is making baskets if they're not looking at the net. You can't win like that. None of us are going to become like Jesus if we're not focused on Him. Focus on your goal, which is Jesus.

Square Up:

In basketball, if you want to get the ball in the hoop, you've got to get your body facing the goal: your feet, hips, and shoulders. You get things right, balanced, and steady.

In life, "squaring up" means to make things right. You can't follow Christ and do whatever you want to do. You've got to have a clean heart and a clean mind and

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

Summer Camps

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Re:New
June 20th-24th
6th - 8th Grade
\$225

PRETEEN

Re:New
June 27th-30th
5th - 6th Grade
\$200

HIGH SCHOOL

Cost will be around \$450

Contact Jeff at
785-845-4131
with questions.

March Madness...continued from page 4

get to work with your hands. A section of Hebrews 12:1 says, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Just like running down the court with suitcases would be a bad idea for a basketball player, it's a bad idea for us to let sin get in our way. What gets in your way? What sin in your life hurts the heart of God? What sin do you need to get rid of?

We all must get rid of sin, every moment of every day. We'll never be perfect, but we aim for it. 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV) says, "Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal. Be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." Aim for perfect.

Follow through:

In basketball, coaches always say to follow your shot. That means that after you shoot, you try to get the ball back again for a rebound just in case you don't get it the first time.

In the Christian life, you're going to need to follow God every day. It's a commitment, a challenge, and the greatest reward. But it's not going to be easy. You'll make mistakes, but you never stop trying. Never. You keep shooting anyway, just like a basketball player on the court. We might see a basketball player make 7 shots out of 10 in a game, but that's because they've missed 25,000 times before then. If you miss, you shoot again. If you sin, you sincerely ask for forgiveness, and you learn to do what is right.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 says, "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."

We want our daily (everyday) life to win the respect of outsiders – people who don't know Christ. We want them to be able to say, "What's different about her? What makes him stand out? There's something special about him."

In our daily walk, we must focus on Jesus. We square up, we get things right with God, we get rid of sin, and we follow through. We keep following God no matter what. And we try and try again.

a message from
OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Dayme Green

Near my God.... Part 2

A couple months ago I wrote about my goal to figure out how to truly get nearer or closer to God. I wrote about how while this seems like it should be an easy concept to grasp, it really isn't, and it's one that has been explored in countless songs, sermons, and other media. Why, if God is ever-present in our lives, does it seem so hard sometimes to feel "near" to Him? I was onto something early in my little case study, as I pointed out that in James 4, God puts it on us to initiate the act of drawing near. But let's put a pin in that for a second...

My most recent newsletter entry was about prayer; it focused on constant and sometimes subconscious prayer and petition (or lack thereof) out of an abundance of faith. I want to look at that concept of constant prayer. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* I think this is a pretty significant step in this quest to draw near to our Father.

In my devotion time this morning (which, as a side note, I have been trying to make more conversation-like by sitting down and having a heart-to-heart with a parent lately) I asked God why some of the little failings in my life just won't go away. We all have those areas of our life where sin is like rash that we just can't get rid of. Whether it's our temper, gossip, our language, whatever it is, those bothersome little corners of our soul that always seem to come back no matter how hard we pray for them to go away. I also read a devotion about II Corinthians 12:8 and Paul's admission of vulnerability and how he had to come to the realization that God's *grace is sufficient*. It's in those struggles with our troublesome sins that we need to stop fighting and let God's grace be sufficient for us. And how do we do that? We pray... constantly.

If God's name is ever on our lips, if we are talking to Him all the time, it gets harder and harder to find the time to even be tempted by sins. This was a huge revelation to me. My question was "why is being near to Him an issue when He's always with me?" The answer comes down to awareness. He can be right there with His arm around me all the time but, if I don't pay attention to him, I may not benefit from His presence. However, if we are always aware of Him, always in conversation with Him, always looking to Him, His grace will do its job.

a message from
OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

The elders have been busy (mostly behind the scenes) as we see the first quarter of 2022 come to a close. A committee has been working on the staffing needs of the church with some revisions to the job description for our youth & children's ministry, which was approved by the elders after the meeting on February 28th. A new job description is being written based on a review of ministry needs in the body and we hope to have it completed soon. The position will look different than what we've had in the past, but we believe it is critical to discipling in the heart of the city for freedom in Christ. Please be in prayer for wisdom in drafting the job description and for our staff, both current and future.

Speaking of staffing, it is with great joy that we can announce the hiring of Abigail White, who will be serving as a youth & children's ministry intern through the end of May. This role will provide additional experience to Abigail before she leaves to enter the overseas mission field, by working in the mission field right here at home. It will also help carry the load of our current pastoral staff (Jeff & Derek). Given the next item being discussed, it should be pointed out that we have the funds in the budget for this since we currently have two fewer staff members than budgeted for 2022.

We have been monitoring the financial health of the church and see that giving is down compared to last year. The body stepped up in a big way when the financials were looking bleak, and we commend you all for that effort. Do not be complacent, however, in your giving. Offerings have been down so far in January and February. While we want the church to be financially healthy, your offering is about so much more than money. In Proverbs 3:9, Solomon tells the reader to "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce." The word "honor" used here is also translated in other verses to mean "glorify". Giving is an act of worship. Please continue to give faithfully, not out of obligation but in worship of our God and all He has provided.

As you may have noticed in the bulletin over the last several weeks, we are asking for your contact information. The church is migrating our contacts to the new software package that was installed last year as part of an overall technology upgrade that better integrates all of the tech used in the church (website, email communication, text message blasts, etc.). In doing so, it was discovered that some information was outdated, entered incorrectly, or entered under the wrong name. The most efficient way to correct this is by entering all information anew. Even if you have provided your contact information previously, we are asking you provide it again. Once this is complete, you will see better, more timely communication from CPCC.

The elders are excited to see what God has in store for Central Park Christian Church. His name will be glorified and we are honored to be a small part of His story. Please continue to pray for our congregation, our neighborhood, and all who have not yet heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.


**LEADERSHIP
MEETING**
APRIL 30th ~ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



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.*



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is

Saturday, April 30th

following the 9:30 a.m. Leadership Meeting

Prayer Shawl Meetings

*Tuesday, April 5th at 11:00 a.m. at the church
and Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m.
at the home of Judi Cox.*



*Contact Judi at 272-9803
for more information.*

Monthly Bible Verse

"You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it." ~ Isaiah 45:8

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 & Anniversary Blessings

Our card ministry team would like to celebrate your birthday and your wedding anniversary with you! If you are willing to share these special dates, 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
Taking a break until April 24th.

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

An evening of focused teaching on the Word.

EASTER SUNDAY PLANS

We encourage you and your family to join us for a special Easter Sunday celebration. We will have a 8:00 a.m. service consisting of music and a reading of the Easter story in our sanctuary, followed by a breakfast in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to the breakfast whether they attend the early service or not. Breakfast will be served until 10:00 a.m. **Our regular service will begin at 10:15 a.m.** This is earlier than usual but will give us more time to celebrate at home with our families. **Please join us for the breakfast and for one or both of the services!**

8:00 a.m. - Sunrise Singspiration and Easter Story
8:45 a.m. - Easter Breakfast and Fellowship
(Breakfast casseroles, donuts, and juice)
*** 10:15 a.m. - Easter Service ***

*** There will be no Sunday school. Please note the special service start time of 10:15 a.m. ***


HE IS RISEN
~ Matthew 28:6 ~

With Sympathy Please pray for Shirley Wolf and her family, as her husband, Jim, passed away on Wednesday, March 30th. May our Lord comfort them and give them peace.

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

NEWS AND NOTES

APRIL CROSS GUARD

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

April 3rd
Lynden Landholm

April 10th
Brian Stovall

April 17th
Andrew Swickard

April 24th
Mike Swickard

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

April 3rd
Lee Holmes
Randy Spilker

April 10th
Chuck Shockey
Mike Thomas

April 17th
Randy Smith
Rodney Barrand

April 24th
Todd Huston
Jason Vinsonhaler

APRIL
DEACONESS
Vicki Lesser
Barb Gray



Thank you again to everyone who donated towards Doorstep's SouperBowl Sunday collection of soup and crackers. A total of 5,342 pounds of food was donated from our member congregations!!!!

Match Challenge Met, But Our Goal...Not Yet!

We feel very blessed that in roughly two weeks, with several larger donations, our Match Challenge of \$20,000 for raising \$40,000 was met! What an honor that businesses, individuals, and organizations stepped up so quickly to help us meet that Challenge!

While it is exciting that the Match Challenge has been met...we have not met our goal yet! We still need donors to help get us to the finish line, by May 31st! We still need another \$25,000 to meet the projected cost to have our 60+ year old HVAC system updated.

Please consider donating to our HVAC upgrade project. As we have said before, any funds we raise over what is needed for the purchase and installation of the new HVAC system, will be used towards additional rent and utility assistance for our neighbors in need. Rest assured, your donation will be used for the benefit of Doorstep and the people we serve.

Once the new system is installed, we can expect to see a 10% increase in efficiency on the electric, and a 20% increase in efficiency on the gas. With prices going up, this is a great savings, and we will have updated equipment which will be under warranty!

From the staff, Executive Board (who have been very involved in this process), board members and coordinators, I would like to convey how grateful we are for the continued support of our donors, and the Topeka community in general. The work we do can be challenging, but the neighbors who come to our doorstep seeking help are also leading challenging lives. Our ability to help them in a time of crisis with food, rent, prescriptions, clothing or household items, utilities, gas vouchers, dental vouchers and bus tickets comes from the support of our community. Even if we are only able to provide them information on community services and programs which may help them be more self-sufficient, it is that time spent listening to them, letting them know someone cares about what they are going through, and wants to help that can make the difference.

Please send your donations to: Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66604. You can also visit our website: www.DoorstepTopeka.org, and donate through PayPal. Make sure to note the HVAC fund on any donation you send for this project.

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS



LILIANA: *from Colombia*



Liliana's parents had moved to an area along the Colombia-Venezuela border, where they planned to serve as church planters. The region is considered one of the most treacherous in Colombia, as government soldiers there have struggled to suppress the guerilla insurgency by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The

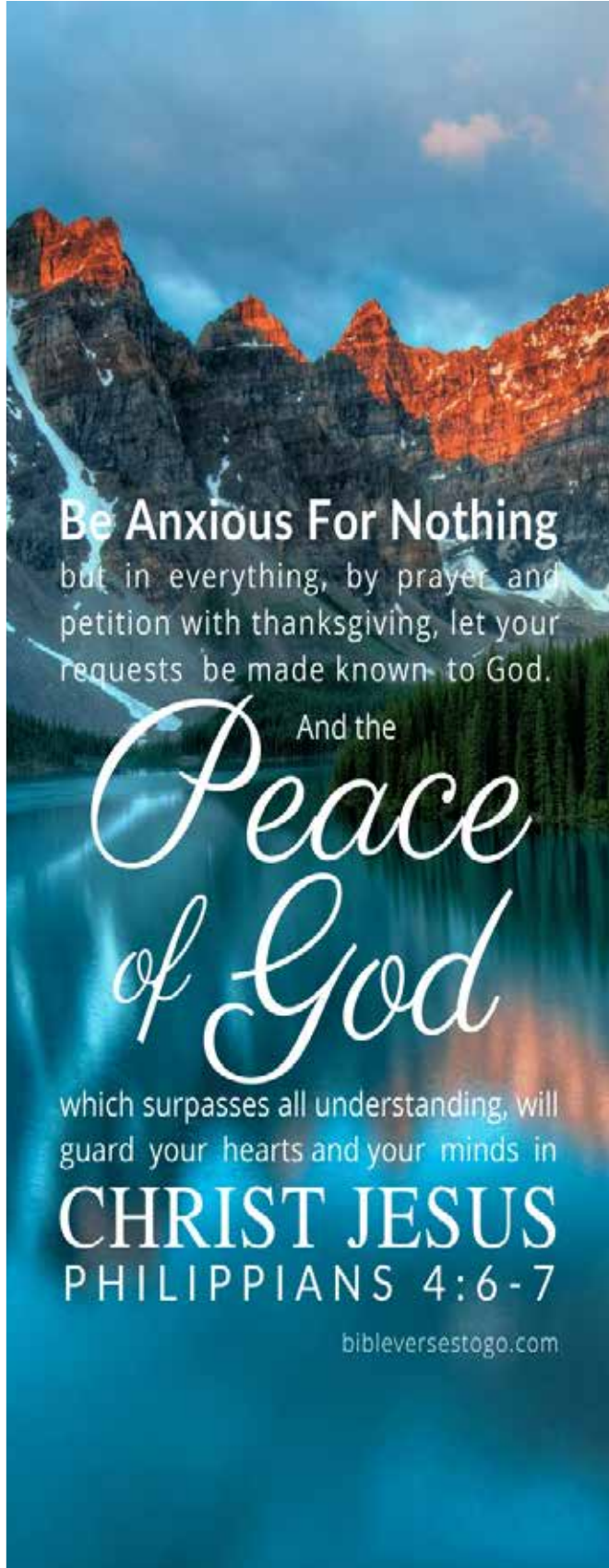
FARC also opposed the ministry work of Liliana's parents.

One day, when Liliana was 13, her father left the house as usual and never returned. Liliana's family suspected that FARC guerrillas were responsible for his disappearance and years later their suspicions were confirmed; FARC members urged Liliana's 17-year-old brother to join their movement, threatening to do to him what they did to his father.

Liliana's family fled the area in fear, and VOM helped them move into a safe house where they received spiritual support. During that time, Liliana was inspired by a Christian worker who ministered to Palestinians, and VOM subsequently arranged for her to study at a discipleship training school in Chile for six months. Today, Liliana is studying to earn a degree and still wants to be a missionary. Front-line workers meet with her family regularly.

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine

Prayer & Praise



*Our Thoughts &
Prayers are with...*

Agnes Cox

Currently living with her daughter, Juanita.

Darlene McCarter

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident

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...

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
3 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group	4 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	5 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the church 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	7 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	8	9 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
10 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship Service No SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group 5:30 PM Anniversary Dinner	11 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	12 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	13 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	14 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	15 Good Friday	16 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
17 8:00 AM Sunrise Singspiration & Easter Story 8:45 AM Easter Breakfast and Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Service No SIAFU No H.S. Youth Group Easter Sunday	18 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	19 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	20 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	21 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	22	23 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
24 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.	25 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	26 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	27 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	29	30 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church. 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting

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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Monday - Friday
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Trustees:

Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

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.