CENTRAL PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

May 2022 Volume 18 Issue 5

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Life is busy for the CPCC family!

Sponsor Sunday & Cookie Sale ~ **Sunday, May 1st** - Please consider sponsoring a youth for the summer through prayer & financial assistance for summer camp. Stop by the bake sale in the foyer on Sunday, May 1st to select a youth and to grab some goodies to eat!

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 5th - Come and join your Legislators on the South steps of the Capital building as they pray for every area of our culture. We will seek the Lord and pray through our theme verse, "Exalt the Lord who has established us." - Colossians 2:6-7

Mother's Day Breakfast - Sunday, May 8th - Start Mother's Day off by treating Mom to a hot, delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church! The men will be serving breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and EVERYONE is invited to enjoy the feast. Thank you, God, for our Moms!

Graduation Sunday ~ Sunday, May 8th - If you are graduating from High School, College, Graduate School, or Trade School this May, we would like to recognize you during our worship service on the 8th. Please contact the church at 785-234-5963 or Pastor Jeff at 785-845-4131 <u>by May 4th</u> to let us know! If you are post-high school, also let us know what degree/certification you will be receiving. Congratulations on a major life milestone!

Pancake Feed & Pie-A-Pastor ~ Saturday, June 11th ~ 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendars now for this extremely fun event! Join us for pancakes, eggs, coffee & juice (free-will donation) and a chance to pie a pastor for \$5.

www.centralparkcc.org

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

The Joy of the Lord

This month I am going to do something a little different. We spend a lot of time in this world and in our days inundated with heavy, heavy stuff. This world is good at making us sad, but that seems so contrary to what God wants for us.

This month I want to approach my article differently. We spend a lot of time being serious. Life is filled with serious. But I don't think that this is what life is all about. Scripture tells us in *Galatians* 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All of those can, in their own right, be tough to achieve at times, but one of those I strive for and try to engage daily. However, it is so hard to engage in this fruit of the spirit when life is kicking me, and those around me, in the face. It's tough to pursue it when people forget that it is there for the taking.

I don't want to leave you thinking that I believe life is full of nothing but fun and that we should never have bad days. I know many things in this life hurt. I know there is junk we go through. I do believe we can grieve, but I also do want to engage you today on the fruit that we can lack greatly in... Joy.

Scripture has a lot to say about the subject. In fact, it even tells us to identify with joy in times of trial and tribulation.

Romans 12:12 ESV Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

James 1:2 ESV Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds.

Romans 15:13 ESV May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Philippians 4:4 ESV Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.

I have had some crazy experiences over the years in ministry that have made me laugh. For that matter, some of these experiences have made others laugh also. I have learned that I have to laugh at those things, or my joy will be lacking. I even believe you can find some of those things in scripture.

I center this thought around a story that we find in Acts 20. A youth named Eutychus

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR continued

The Joy of the Lord...continued from page 2

was sitting in an open window, listening to Paul preach. But Paul preached for so long that Eutychus fell asleep and fell out of the window! Thankfully, Paul stopped preaching, picked him up, and the boy was OK. (Acts 20:8-10).

In that moment it must have been scary, but I sincerely believe it was something that Paul had to look back on and laugh. Can't you imagine some of the people sitting around after everything was okay and razzing Paul about his preaching? "Hey Paul, great message today. It sure was an eye-opening message!"

I want to share this reminder that we are allotted joy in our lives, and sometimes it can be found in the strangest places. If you are in search for joy, just know that the Lord is giving His blessing to you to find it!

Proverbs 17:22 *ESV A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 ESV Rejoice always...

Psalm 118:24 ESV This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Thessalonians 2:20 ESV For you are our glory and joy.

Today I want to leave you with this charge. Colossians 1:11-14...¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Nehemiah 8:10...¹⁰Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Swimming in the deep end,

- Derek

STUDENT MINISTRY



deff 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.

Why I Love Summer Camps

Many of us have meaningful, lifelong memories from going to camp as a youth. Summer camps helped form many of us into the dedicated, passionate Christians we are today. The lasting impact of spending a week devoted to one another and to Christ can't be found anywhere else. (Acts 2:42). There are many reasons why I get excited about summer and the time I get to spend with the youth.

One factor is what is commonly **ABSENT** at Camp: TVs, computers, video games, etc. There are literally some camps that can only get phone service in certain areas. It really is some of my greatest times, unplugged from the world. These distractions serve to busy the mind and keep youth from focusing on the deeper questions of life such as, "Why am I here?", "What will happen to me when I die?", "Does my life have meaning?". While occupied with fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind (Ephesians 2:3), young people have little time to ponder such questions. When these mind-occupying distractions are taken away, campers have the time to ponder the Word in a much deeper way than a once-a-week, 60-minute church experience allows. Once distractions are removed, campers find themselves surrounded by God's creation in an environment that turns their minds to Him and the eternal, and away from the world. It's a time to JUST GET AWAY!! Away from normal routines, away from distractions and away from the chaos of life. Youth tend to hear things in a new way, where time slows down, and allow God to speak to us.

Youth get a glimpse of what Godly love is all about. Many youth come from broken homes or grow up with less-than-ideal role models because one or both parents are unsaved, or weak and immature in their faith. As Paul encouraged others to follow his example as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1), hopefully the youth will see the same in us leaders. Hopefully they see us as **Godly mentors** modeling the love of Christ, showing unconditional love, and modeling how a godly man or woman should behave.

Youth get to be **exposed to the Word of God**. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Bible is living and powerful. This repeated use of the Word of God over a week's time is very valuable in letting the Word dwell richly in the lives of the youth and volunteers (Colossians 3:16). Most youth come

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 Camp

Re:New King Solomon June 20th-24th 6th-8th grade | \$225

Preteen Camp

Re:New King Solomon June 27th-30th 5th-6th grade | \$200

High School Retreat

CIY - Dallas, TX July 11th-16th 9th-12th grade | \$450

Vacation Bible School August 1st-5th Preschool-5th grade | Free!

> **Contact Jeff at** 785-845-4131 with auestions.

Why I Love Summer Camps...continued from page 4

back on a "spiritual high" because they have tasted the greatness of God and His word. Spending hours hearing His word, worshiping through songs, and being encouraged throughout the days will change one's heart. It's time to develop their own faith. I truly believe it's our little glimpse into what Heaven will be like.

The youth also get to develop healthy, life-long Christian relationships. The youth are surrounded by some of the most caring, loving Christian people for an entire week. They make bonds, start trusting each other, and start to open up about who they really are, what struggles they are going through. There is a TRUST that starts occurring that you just can't get anywhere but at camp. They become lifelong friends and mentors that care, pray, and encourage one another.

The bottom line is, CAMP CHANGE LIVES!! Strongholds will be broken, hearts will be filled, and christ will be shared.



It's been such a blessing to be among family again! Central Park Christian Church has been and will forever be home. You have supported me in countless ways over the last few months. Participating in children's ministry was a gift you gave me. You supported me in bringing me on staff as an intern. You supported me with your prayers.

I want to thank you for walking with me. You have equipped me for the future. You made sure I knew that I was loved here. I know that as I leave, I won't be leaving here alone. I praise God for bringing us together.

~ Abigail White

a message from OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

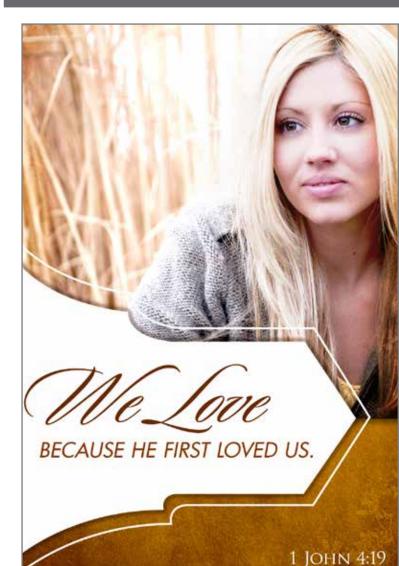
May is upon us. We see new life sprouting throughout the neighborhood and our city. God gives us reminders of His restoration and renewal every spring. The earth truly shouts His praises.

The elders have been busy working on a new pastoral position description. This position will be tasked with connecting our congregation to God and one another through intentional discipleship and fellowship. This is not replacing the outreach pastor position but is a completely new position with a brand-new job description. We are calling the position the Connections Pastor and will interview a candidate for the position in the very near future, if not by the time you read this. Please be in prayer for wisdom and obedience to God's lead in all we do.

As summer approaches, there are opportunities to connect with others as we are all out and about more. The youth and children will be out of school and attending camps. There are numerous opportunities to "go and make disciples" in and around Central Park Christian Church. Maybe it is having coffee with someone, praying with and for someone, or sponsoring a kid for camp. Whatever way you choose, do so with prayer and joy.

JESUS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



-<u>}</u>

Ladies' Bible Studies

<u>Wednesdays</u> <u>6:45 to 8:00 p.m.</u>

The Book of Acts Led by Barb Gray.

Group meets in the CPCC Parlor.



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is Saturday, July 9th

following the 9:30 a.m. Leadership Meeting



Monthly Bible Verse

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord. ~ Psalm 40:3

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!

6:30 to 7:30 PM Gurday Wigh eaching vening

An evening of focused teaching on the Word.

MAY IS CENTRAL PARK'S MONTH AT DOORSTEP



Our Doorstep contact is

Kim White CPCC Coordinator (785) 338-1378

How You Can Help...

VOLUNTEER:

Volunteers are not needed due to COVID; however, see other ways to help below.

DONATE:

Donations are always needed for the food pantry. We are one of six congregations responsible for stocking the food pantry during the month of May.

ASSIST FINANCIALLY:

Make a monetary donation to Doorstep. Please note your membership with Central Park Christian Church for credit.

RENT-A-YOUTH THIS SPRING

Need your flower beds prepped? 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!

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

NEWS AND NOTES

<u>MAY</u> <u>CROSS GUARD</u>

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

> May 1st Brad Broadbent

> > May 8th Rick Fischli

May 15th Ray DeMoss

May 22nd Rick Fischli

May 29th Steve Horton

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. - Noon

May 1st Gary Birks Tim Cunningham

> **May 8th** Dan Johnson Tyler Crow

May 15th Charles McWilliams Dan Force

> **May 22nd** John Cantrell Ron Booth

May 29th Tristan Webb Lynden Landholm

> <u>MAY</u> <u>DEACONESS</u> Angie Huston Romona Ward

lay at Donatep

We are fully in to spring now, and the flowers, trees and grass will be adding color to our outside world again; hopefully, bringing some sunshine and enjoyment to a still unsteady world.

I'm sure we all thought more than two years into this pandemic that we would be "normal" again...if we didn't think it, we surely hoped! And, yet, here we are. As much as we would like to return to pre-COVID ways of providing services at Doorstep, we aren't there yet. But, we continue providing food, clothing, household items, rent, utilities, prescriptions, pet food, hygiene kits, diapers, dental and gas vouchers, and local bus tickets by appointment or via phone intake.

It would be wonderful to have an **Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** again, perhaps sometime this year we will feel comfortable having these events and celebrating our dedicated volunteers and Doorstep!

We will have **Christmas in July** focusing on specific donations, and our **3rd Summer Cash Bash** with matching funds has already been secured!

Speaking of matching funds...our wonderful supporters and donors met the **HVAC Match Challenge** in less than 3 weeks' time! And, while that didn't get us all the way to the goal line...we have received additional funds, and pledges, that will get us to the \$180,000 budget for the new HVAC system!! YAY! We have signed the contract to lock in prices, the equipment has been ordered, and we expect to start the project in mid-September. We cannot thank all of those who donated to this special project enough for your support of this need. We have been blown away by the generosity of so many who believe in the mission of Doorstep!

Also, Mark your calendars and save the date for **Doorstep's 5th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run, Sunday, October 2nd at 2pm** at Lake Shawnee. Plan to join us in getting some exercise around the lake, and raise funds for Doorstep this October.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

















On Palm Sunday, April 10th, CPCC family members gathered together in the fellowship hall to celebrate 18 years of service to the central park community. A great time was had by all.

Special thanks to Sherry Webb for coordinating the dinner and to Iason and Melissa Vinsonhaler, Linda Bohlender, Sue and Stacy Spilker, Cyndie Rexer, Suzette Shields and Jenni Lewis who assisted with decorating, set up, *clean up and other* duties to make this event a success!



on a mission

PAKISTAN:

Preparing for Opposition

In Pakistan, Christians are relegated to the lowest status in society. They have the worst jobs, have little opportunity for education and are at continual risk of harassment by Muslim coworkers. Unfortunately, the children in Christian families are affected no less than their parents.

"My father is a laborer," said Kanwal, a seventh grade girl in a Pakistani village. "He works in the fields or sometimes as a helper to the mason, and on some days he has no work. My mother works as a servant in rich people's homes. My parents are poor, and they cannot buy me books to read. I always get used books from other kids."

Front-line workers recently gave Kanwal a children's Bible in the Urdu language. "I love reading the children's Bible every day before sleeping," she said. "I also read stories from the Bible to my parents, and they are very happy. I pray that all kids in my country get this Bible so they can learn about Jesus."

Kanwal will grow up knowing that she is loved and valued by her Creator even though the society around her tells her she is worth nothing. Her Bible will also prepare her for the persecution she is likely to face as a follower of Christ.

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine

EAGLE'S NEST NEWS

"Meet "Sammy"



Sammy was found at the end November tossed aside in a plastic bag on the side of the river, left for dead. A passerby found him and called the authorities. He was barely 3 lbs and was immediately placed in the NICU at the National hospital. They weren't sure he would make it. Felis was given permission to go visit him. The picture to the left was the first visit and she was amazed at how his heart started beating faster and he even smiled at her.

He couldn't regulate his own body temperature, had pneumonia and a very contagious bacterial infection. After 5 weeks in the hospital, he finally reached 4 lbs, was thriving and was able to leave the hospital.

Today he is healthy and one of the happiest babies we have ever had. He recently was given adoptability by the judge, which means he won't be with us very much longer and he will be matched with an adoptive family soon.

We are so happy for this outcome.

~ The Eagle's Nest



John 14:18-20 MSG

I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

And this is why Eagle's Mest exists!

We couldn't continue to serve the Guatemalan children, employees and community without you all!

(The Eagles Nest was established in 1984. They are one of several Missionary organizations CPCC supports.)

Prayer & Praise



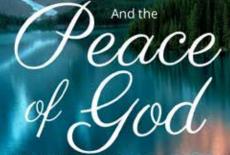
Congratulations to Taylor Slack who was baptized on Sunday, April 17th.

Welcome to the Kingdom of God, Taylor!

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." ~ Galatians 3:27 (NIV)



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



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

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

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

<u>Monday Prayer Meeting</u> <u>& Elders Meeting</u>

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...

MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 6:30 PM 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) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	5 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	6	7 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mother's Day Breakfast Mother's Day 9:15 AM SS 10:15 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Worship 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	9 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	ft 6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	13	14 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6:00 PM Middle & Elementary Students Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	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	20	21 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 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) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	26 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	27	28 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at</i> <i>the church.</i>
8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM SIAFU 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:30 PM S.E.T.	30 Memorial Day Church office closed.	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.				

CPCC Pastoral Staff, Sapport Team & Leadership



Derek Slack Seníor Pastor derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens Student Ministry Pastor jeff@centralparkcc.org



Linda Bohlender Media Specialist Ibohlender@centralparkcc.org



Stacy Spilker Accountant/Office Administrator stacy@centralparkcc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1535 SW Clay St. Topeka, KS 66604 Phone: (785) 234-5963 Fax: (785) 234-0538 www.centralparkcc.org



Jayme Green Worship Leader jayme@centralparkcc.org

Trustees:

Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

Elders:

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



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.