CENTRAL PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THECORNERSTONE

September 2022 Volume 18 Issue 9

www.centralparkcc.org

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We'll be grilling and we'll have all the fixin's!

Sunday, September 18th

HAPPEN

Outdoor Worship 10:45 AM held in the park.

Details can be found on page 12.

WILD at HEART



Men's Retreat - Ransomed Heart Basic Boot Camp

Men's retreat October 27th - 30th ~ Mission Lake Christian Camp Check-in 5:30 p.m. on the 27th. Join us for video sessions led by John Eldridge and his team. Financial aid and ride share available.

Wild at Heart Boot Camp isn't just another men's retreat. That's the last thing anybody needs. The reason most messages for men ultimately fail is simple: they ignore what is deep and true to a man's heart and try to shape him up through various forms of pressure.

Not this. This weekend is an honest, no-BS trek into the deep passions and desires of a man's heart, the healing of the wounds he's taken in this battle, the realm of fatherhood and sex and God and calling—life as it was meant to be lived.

Through the sessions, times of quiet reflection, movies, adventures and downtime, you will discover something profound about the heart of God and the heart He gave you as a man. Those who come say it is one of the greatest weekends of their entire life.

Call or e-mail Elijah White with questions, 785-861-5868 or elijah@centralparkcc.org

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Who He says I am

With this world constantly going out of its way to define us, I find myself consistently going back to His Word to be reminded of who He says I am. Do you ever get tired of the labels others tag on you? Even crazier, those labels are always changing, but God's label does not. Be blessed by this reminder today my friends.

- I am a child of God.
- I am a branch of the true vine, and a conduit of Christ's life.
- I am a friend of Jesus.
- I have been justified and redeemed.
- I have been set free from the law of sin and death.
- As a child of God, I am a fellow heir with Christ.
- I have been accepted by Christ.
- I have been called to be a saint.
- In Christ Jesus, I have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.
- My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in me.
- I am joined to the Lord and am one spirit with Him.
- God leads me in the triumph and knowledge of Christ.
- The hardening of my mind has been removed in Christ.
- I am a new creature in Christ.
- I have become the righteousness of God in Christ.
- I have been made one with all who are in Christ Jesus.
- I am no longer a slave, but a child and an heir.
- I have been set free in Christ.
- I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- I am chosen, holy, and blameless before God.
- I am redeemed and forgiven by the grace of God.
- I have been made by God to obtain an inheritance.
- I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.
- Because of God's mercy and love, I have been made alive with Christ.
- I am seated in the heavenly places with Christ.
- I am God's workmanship created to produce good works.

a message from OUR SENIOR PASTOR continued



- I have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ.
- I am a member of Christ's body and a partaker of His promise.
- I have bold and confident access to God through faith in Christ.
- My new self is righteous and holy.
- I was formerly darkness, but now I am light in the Lord.
- I am a citizen of heaven.
- The peace of God guards my heart and mind.
- God supplies all my needs.
- I have been made complete.
- I have been raised up with Christ.
- My life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Christ is my life, and I will be revealed with Him in glory.
- I have been chosen of God, and I am holy and beloved.
- God loves me and has chosen me.

Swimming in the deep end, Derek



a message from OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

The First 2 Steps

A story I recently read reminded me about what God challenged me and our youth at CIY recently. Over and over again, throughout the week, He reminded us to have courage, take the first 2 steps, and let God take care of the rest!!

The story went like this:

My five-year-old daughter and I were just about ready to leave Target today when it started to rain.

We stopped our cart behind the automatic glass doors and looked out at the wind and the wet parking lot.

In front of us other finished shoppers were waiting, either for a designated family member to pick them up at the sidewalk, or for the weather to lessen.

"Do we wait or just get wet?" I asked my little one.

"Let's just get wet," she said.

We waited five minutes - because our car wasn't parked close - but the rain only got worse. So, we decided to make a run for it. On our way out, I asked my daughter if she was sure.

"It's going to be cold," I said.

"Let's go," she exclaimed.

We hurried across the lot, buckets of water dumping on us. I got her into the car, unloaded our bags and hopped in the front seat. I turned the heater on, thinking my daughter would complain she was cold.

"Mom," she said.

"Are you okay?" I asked, turning around to see her smiling big.

a message from OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



"We did this," she said. "You did this. We got wet. Now, we can go home."

How often do we let life's storms keep us from getting where God has called us to go? We think, if we just wait, whatever obstacle we are facing might go away. We freeze on the other side of the door.

We make the comfortable choice.

But our avoidance is more impactful than just being stuck in a store on a Saturday afternoon. When we avoid walking through life's challenges, we miss out on all God has for us. When we hesitate to step out on faith, we wind up perpetually standing still.

Sometimes in life, we have to get wet. Sometimes we must have five seconds of courage, take the first two steps, and let God do the rest. We must stop letting "life" get in our way. We must Trust God, even when we don't see Him working, and we must always remember HE IS THERE!!



STUDENT MINISTRY



Elijah White

Elementary School Activities

Pre-K to 5th grade activities are held on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 6:00.

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

High School Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the church. Lunch is served.

A Summer of Learning

This summer was amazing. I got the opportunity to serve under Pastor Jeff and I had the opportunity to learn through failure and success. Pastor Jeff's heart for the Lord is inspirational, and I learned so much just by watching how he interacts with the kids and their families. He taught me how to roll with the punches and to keep moving. One of the very first nights I was leading the Wednesday evening kids' activities, I was stressing over the schedule and Jeff came over and told me he never followed the schedule. I turned around and threw my schedule in the trash, and haven't made one since.

I learned how to pray going through Dallas, TX as I struggled to drive the fifteen-passenger van and keep up with Jeff in the traffic. I learned how and when to be silly and how and when to be serious, and when to "drop the hammer" and when to move on.

I learned that I need help, and that it's okay to ask for help. (I am not the kind of person who likes asking for help.)

I got the opportunity to see the youth group grow in their faith throughout the summer, and I look forward to working with them through the school year. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out this summer. You were instrumental in so many ways!

I would like to thank the church staff as a whole. You guys are awesome! Derek, thank you for putting up with me and all of my antics this year. Stacy, thank you for always being patient with me as I struggled to understand the printer, and for always being willing to help when I needed it. Linda, thank you for your help with promoting my agenda through the media, even when I put in a request at the last minute. Jayme, I appreciate your ability to create an atmosphere of worship. I love watching the youth worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you for putting up with my sense of humor. I know it's always funny, so that comes easy to you! And Jeff, you have inspired, encouraged, loved, and taught me so much this summer. The opportunity has been incredible in so many ways. I'm excited to keep working with you all this school year!

Now a couple of announcements!

Oasis is coming up for high school. More details to follow.

The men's ministry will be hosting a men's retreat this October. It will be held October 27th-30th. (See more details on the front page.) Financial aid is available as well as transportation.

a message from OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Pedal Hard

This month's newsletter entry is kind of part two of last month's. If you recall, last month I wrote about watching two people try to take the "easy" route across a busy street. This "easy" route caused them to wait and put themselves in a potentially hazardous situation, when they could have put in a little extra effort and walked less than a block to a crosswalk. We looked at how sometimes we try to do things in life our way, the "easy" way, instead of listening to God's voice and Word and doing it the right way, His way. This month is a similar concept, based again on an observation of people in my world.

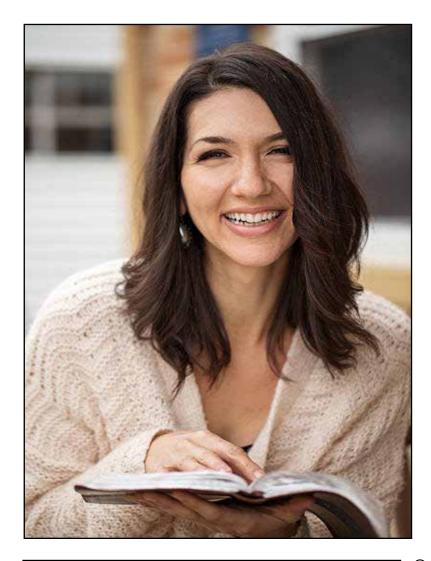
I have ridden bicycles for the majority of my life, from childhood to college and getting into mountain biking, all the way through adulthood where, for several years of my career in law enforcement, I rode a mountain bike as part of TPD's Bike Unit. I even ran the unit as the supervisor up until the end, when the department reallocated the manpower and did away with the job I loved. I love riding, road riding, off-road, for leisure, for transportation, and (more significantly to this article) for exercise. Over the last few years, I have seen the rise in popularity of something that drives me crazy; electric and motor-powered bicycles. I apologize to anyone who rides an "e-bike," I don't mean any offense and I understand that there are some people who really need the extra help, but as a cycling purist, I hate them. The other day, I noticed a very able-bodied individual riding an electric bicycle on a flat surface, going about 30 miles an hour, and I struggled to make sense of the whole thing.

Cycling is great exercise, it incorporates multiple muscle groups, it's great cardio, having aspects of both aerobic and anaerobic exercise. It's an all-around healthy thing to do, but it isn't always easy. Just as with any exercise, cycling is a "no pain, no gain" situation. The more effort you put into it, the more value you'll get from your work; the more you suffer, the greater the reward. Putting an engine or electric motor on a bicycle cuts into the effort it takes, cuts into the suffering, and ultimately cuts into the rewards and benefits of cycling. I mean, you might as well just ride a moped, it's basically as good a workout.

How often do we approach suffering or trials in our lives like we want to put a motor on them? We don't like to suffer, obviously, so we avoid it at all costs sometimes, just like avoiding having to ride up a steep hill by turning on our e-bike. The Bible tells us "3...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Romans 5:3-4) There are dozens of mentions of suffering and the value of it in the Word, always promising that our sufferings here on earth or in this life will earn us great rewards in Heaven.

Once again, I'm sure someone out there who just loves their e-bike will get offended by this and that's not my aim here. This is just a reminder to view the troubles in our lives as exercise, something that will ultimately make us better, stronger, more resilient. So when you come to that steep hill, fight the urge to turn on that motor, put your head down, and put your weight into the pedals.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY





<u>Wednesdays</u> 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, September 10th**

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



Monthly Bible Verse

³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ~1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

a message from OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

What is the purpose of the local church? Is it to reach the lost? Is it to impact the community around the church building? Is it for believers to come to a place of rest and feeding on the word of God, while worshiping together as a body?

The answer is, YES! Yes, to all of it. These, however, do not always happen at the same time. These things go in cycles based on the health of the body of believers that make up the local church. The only way a church can fulfill the great commission (to make disciples) is if the body is healthy. In many ways the church body is like our human bodies (spoiler: God did that on purpose). If the human body is not healthy, it cannot perform the work we want it to perform. As we age, we learn that we cannot do all the things we used to do. It starts early in life, too. A high school student learns that they are not as flexible as their pre-school self. Once the body crosses the many milestones we cross in this life, we find that knees and backs hurt more often, or that we do not recover from exercise, activity, or work the way we used to. If we've abused our bodies via bad nutrition, lack of exercise, or any number of other poor choices, the decline is accelerated. In the same way, the church body must be healthy to perform the work God has set for it. We must have a steady diet of the Word, worship, and walking with God through a vibrant prayer life. When these areas are functioning, the local church can reach the lost and can serve as a beacon and refuge for the local community, AND give believers a place of rest and feeding on spiritual meat (instead of spiritual milk).

When our physical, human bodies are unhealthy, we change our diet, we exercise, and we go to the physician to help put our bodies back on the right track. As a church body, we have full access to the Great Physician. Right now, the body of Central Park Christian Church is in a season of building the believers up. Ensuring that we are fed the Word, drinking the living water of Christ, and building up our discipleship will enable us, in time, to reach back out to the community to leave a God-sized mark on Central Park, Topeka, and the world. This can only be done with a healthy church body. Doing so before we are healthy will lead to burnout and failure. No church is strictly an "outreach church" and we are no different here. For now, our outreach is limited to ensure a healthy body of believers. Outreach should always overflow from a spiritually full cup, which requires intentional work…work that is underway and will continue indefinitely until Christ overflows from our lives and into our community.

Several events are planned for the rest of the year to build fellowship. Some of them we have done in years past and some are relatively new. For these (and any future event) to be successful, we need volunteers. Many past programs/events have been shelved for a lack of workers. This is a symptom of an unhealthy body that has become burned out. The only way to reverse this is through healing and rest. Be sure to keep an eye on the church calendar, bulletin, and newsletter for important dates and events.

We do our best to communicate all that is in process at Central Park Christian Church. We know communication has been a concern in the past and we are continuing to improve communication between the elders, staff, and congregation. The elders are also implementing specific ministries for each elder to oversee and aid. This will foster better communication between elders, ministry leaders, and volunteers. We want to know how we can support our current ministries better, as well as what encouragement, empowerment, or education is needed to achieve mission success in each ministry.

The elders love to hear from you. If you have feedback or suggestions, we encourage you to speak up. Email us, call us, or, better yet, come to a meeting and speak to us (we aren't that scary). As mentioned in our most recent congregational meeting, feedback should have a name attached in case we need more input. It is fantastic when members take an active role in Central Park Christian Church, and we look forward to how God will use and grow our congregation going forward.

NEWS AND NOTES

SEPTEMBER CROSS GUARD

Sunday School <u>9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</u>

> **September 4th** *Lynden Landholm*

September 11th Steve Horton

September 18th Ray DeMoss

September 25th Rick Fischli

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. - Noon

September 4th Gary Burks Tim Cunningham

September 11th Dan Johnson Tyler Crow

September 18th Charles McWilliams Dan Force

September 25th John Cantrell Ron Booth



Kim White Ruthy Sherrer



We are planning our 5th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run set for Sunday, October 2nd, 2pm, at Lake Shawnee. Get your family and friends together and join us for some exercise at the lake, and snacks while raising funds for Doorstep at the same time!

We have everything available online on our website under the Events Tab: www. DoorstepTopeka.org. You can download the flyer and registration form to mail in, drop off at our office, or register online. To guarantee an event t-shirt you need to register by September 13th. However, we will continue to take late and event day registrations. One child age 10 & under can walk for free (t-shirt extra) with one paid adult. Registration is \$30 per person or get sponsors to cover your fee and donate to Doorstep (sponsor form is also on our website).

We are planning an in-person event this year, with our pal Chris Fisher from WIBW-TV

Location: Lake Shawnee Shelter Houses 1 & 2, West Edge Road Date: Check-In & Late Registration: 1:00PM to 1:45PM (Shelter #2) Time: One Mile Walk & 5K Fun Run to begin at 2:00PM Snacks & drinks will be provided at Celebrity Starter for the Walk/Run is: the finish of the Walk/5K Fun Run in Shelter House #1 Chris Fisher ~ WIBW-TV We are planning to have an "in-person Enjoy ~ Cookies, granola bars, vent this year! Plan to join us at the Lake fresh fruit, juice, and water One Mile Walk/5K Fun Run Registration is Due by September 13, 2022 to Guarantee an event t-shirt! Late & Event Day Registrations Accepted. (T-shirt not guaranteed) The registration cost is \$30 for individuals or pledges (\$30 minimum). One registered child age 10 & under can walk for FREE with a paid adult. (T-shirt extra) T-shirt included with \$30 registration fee or on total pledges of \$100+. Registrations received after September 13th cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt. Go to www.DoorstepTopeka.org (under the Events Tab) to register online or for registration/sponsor forms Stormont Vail Thank you to our sponsors: **ELLI®TT** Health Central Church United CoreFit Methodist Bark & T Gas Service

Walkers and runners are invited to participate in our 5th Annual

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Walk/5K Fun Run

A Fundraiser for Doorstep, Inc.

as our Celebrity Starter! Let's hope we have the same beautiful weather this year as we've had the past two years!!

We were not able to have Operation Soup Line, the Annual Banquet, the Quilt Drawing or food sales again this year with COVID still being a factor. So, this Walk/5K Run is our only fundraiser in 2022! Please consider joining us for the event or sponsor someone else to help bring in the needed funding from this event!

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!

VOLUNTEER

We are currently seeking volunteers to work with our children and youth. We need willing hearts to volunteer with our young ones from nursery to high school. Volunteers that support our children and youth are vital to their growth in their relationship with Christ. Pray about it today. If you feel like God is calling you to serve in this area, please contact Jeff or Elijah.



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

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

Have you been short on hope lately? Times have been hard recently and it can be easy to feel down. We want to help you find a hope that is not dependent on circumstances, but lasts no matter what. Through powerful messages, engaging worship and friendly people you will feel welcomed at CPCC. Whether you are familiar with church or this whole thing is new, please join us for an outdoor Worship service on National Back-to-Church Sunday and stay for lunch.

We'll be grilling and we'll have all the fixin's!

Sunday, September 18th

HAPPENS

Outdoor Worship 10:45 AM held in the park.

Please bring a lawn chair. Event will be held Rain or Shine. (In the case of rain, event will be moved inside) No Sunday School - Nursery will be available for children up to age 2 during the worship service. Please pick up your child/children before lunch.

CENTRAL PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH 1535 SW CLAY | 785.234.5963



MISSIONS



CUBA: The Church as a Beacon

Cuban officials recently targeted a prominent pastor because of his commitment to teaching biblical principles in opposition to government policies. The pastor's bold statements and his church's proximity to government offices led Cuban authorities to raid the pastor's home in hope of pressuring him into submission.

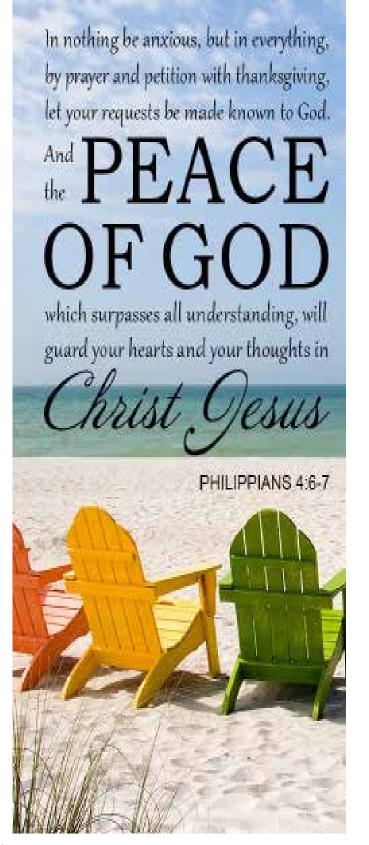
Though Cuba's Communist government continues to threaten and intimidate believers like this pastor, Christians are working fearlessly to advance God's kingdom despite the risk. Bold witnesses continue to distribute gospel tracts and to share the gospel in parks and on the streets, even though public evangelism is illegal in Cuba.

Front-line workers say hundreds of young Christians are gathering and worshiping openly, sometimes singing and preaching the gospel right in front of Cuban soldiers. "They are proclaiming that Cuba is for Christ," the front-line worker said.

"The church is growing" another front-line worker added, "and it holds a beacon of light in the darkness. There is a great revival here, and the church is strong."

NICARAGUA

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

<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's meeting will take place on the 2nd & 4th Monday immediately following the prayer meeting. (*See calendar on page 15 for dates)



Monthly Events at CPCC...

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	2	3 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.	5 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom Labor Day	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W. 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the church	7 6:00 PM Elementary School Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	9	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church. 9:30 AM Deaconess' Meeting
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 Elder Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6:00 PM Elementary School Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	16	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
8:30 AM Group Prayer No Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service In the park with lunch afterwards!!! No SIAFU No H.S. Youth Group No S.E.T.	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	20 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	6:00 PM Elementary School Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	23	24 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.	26 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	27 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	28 6:00 PM Elementary School Evening Activities (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM 29 Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	30	

CPCC Pastoral Staff, Sapport Team & Leadership



Derek Slack Seníor Pastor derek@centralparkcc.org



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Stacy Spilker Accountant/Office Administrator stacy@centralparkcc.org



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, Lynden Landholm, Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler, Bill White