

THE CORNERSTONE

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

January 2023 Volume 19 Issue 1

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2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Let us devote ourselves to the Lord Jesus and seek
His precious blessings for a life that is always blessed!*

Looking Ahead...

New Years Office Hours

The office will be closed on Monday, January 3rd in observance of the New Year. May the blessings of the new year fill your heart & home with happiness!

All Church 21-Day Prayer Challenge ~ Starting Sunday, January 8th

Join Jeff & others, for a 21 Day Prayer Challenge starting Sunday, January 8th. See page 4 for details.

C.I.Y. Move has been scheduled ~ July 9th - 15th

Parents & High School Youth take note! Talk to Elijah or see page 7 for more info.

46th Annual Woman's World Conference - February 24th - 25th

Woman's World is a non-denominational event that helps women understand their significance in God's eyes. Let's get a group of CPCC women together & go! See page 8.

Women's January Jubilee ~ Sunday, January 8th ~ 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ladies, let's continue the fellowship started at the Christmas tea! Join us on January 8th, to play some games, EAT, and get to know one another better. Bring a snack to share & your favorite game. Come as you are and invite a friend!

a message from
OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Into the Marvelous Light

John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Now I don't know how many of you caught that, but listen...Jesus (The Word that John is speaking of here) was with God in the beginning. This same God that has no beginning and no end.

Mind blown, right? He was with the Father in Heaven and He takes on flesh. He leaves Heaven, comes to dwell among people, and shows us how to live in the presence of God.

He begins with 12 apostles to establish the Kingdom of God (KOG) and that's crazy! How do you build a Kingdom with 12? But here we are, right?

He has never been about religion but has always been about our heart. He says in all His encounters, don't follow spiritual business, but **"Follow Me."**

Jesus has invited us into this journey, and we don't want to lose site of that. We are invited to continue to build this KOG, not CPCC, but THE KOG. Mind blown, right?!

Early in His ministry, Jesus is rejected by the religious leaders, and the people in Jerusalem. He moves on for a while to bring light into darkness, and he heads to an unlikely place.

What He does is calls us out of the darkness and into His marvelous light. So many try to resist it, but it is there for the taking. The deepest part of all of us longs to encounter Jesus. The deepest part of us longs for the presence of God. Now let me ask you, are you hungry for the presence of God in your life today?

If so, will you walk it out in your life? This is my plea with all of us here at CPCC, and all who ever steps foot into this building to worship God. Don't fall prey to false narratives... there are a bunch of them.

Don't let the enemy pervert your brokenness for his reward. Let Jesus take your brokenness and do something amazing with it and through it. Paul said in **Colossians 1:21-23**:
²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²has

continued on page 3

Into the Marvelous Light...continued from page 2

now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

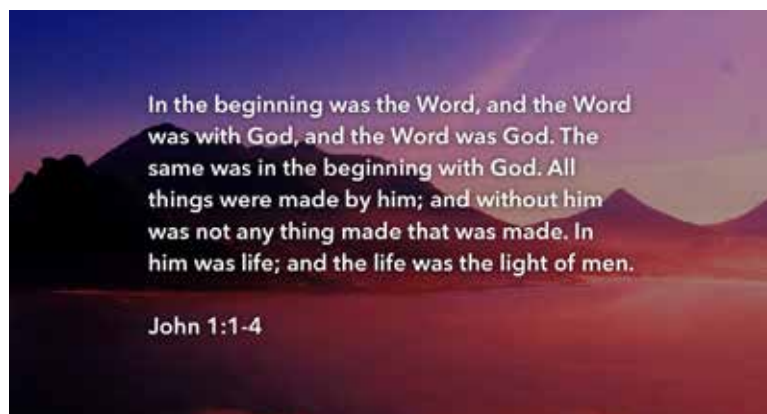
God has really tried to simplify it for us. Walk a walk that is “**stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed**”

Paul never says it better be perfect. It won't be perfect - it won't **EVER** be perfect. But he says to continue in that walk that saved you. Never shift from the gospel truth that saved you.

Why would you walk any other way than the walk that saves you? Make this year count my friends. Make this the year where you walk it out as you were called.

Swimming in the deep end,

Derek



a message from

OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

This is the way to walk in it!

Isaiah 30:21

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or turn to the left.

God’s grace and mercy towards us never changes. God wants us to lean on Him and listen for His voice directing us in all that we do. God wants us to become all that He created us to be. Ephesians 2:10 says we are God’s masterpiece. He has a plan to get us there but we have to be obedient and follow His leading. In order to do that, we must be in communication with Him.

The truth is that there is no greater opportunity in this world than to be in a real relationship with God! Great relationships start with communication, and prayer is how we communicate with God.

So, let’s grow in prayer together!

Join me, for 21 days starting Sunday January 8th, with an **All Church 21-Day Prayer Challenge!!**

Download the YouVersion Bible App (Free), search plans for 21-Day Prayer, and start the plan on the 8th. You’ll find daily devotions, companion Bible readings, a daily challenge, and a prayer prompt for the day.

There is no better way to connect with God, and as a church body, than going to Him in prayer.

So, I strongly encourage all of you to join us in the **21-Day Prayer Challenge!!**

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Unexpected Christmas Blessing

First off, I apologize for my absences during the month of December but, I assure you it was some much needed time away. Early in the month Megan and I were able to travel to Panama where we had the chance to stay on a coffee plantation next to Volcan Baru (an inactive volcano and the highest point in Panama) in the gorgeous, mountainous Chiriqui territory.

Over Christmas weekend though, we were able to experience a huge blessing that we didn't even see coming. We traveled to San Diego, CA to stay with Megan's best friend, Briann and her husband Gary. Briann is a trained social worker and, through her professional life, came into contact with Shining Light Children's Home in Mexico. Shining Light is an orphanage sponsored by Osceola Christian Fellowship, a large Anabaptist church in Texas. The home is located just a few hundred yards from the border fence outside of Tecate.

The night after we arrived we wrapped tons of dolls, necklaces, flying orb contraptions, soccer balls, and the like. Then, on Christmas Eve, we loaded up these gifts and a few dozen gingerbread decoration kits and crossed the border to Tecate. We were able to meet the kids, the staff, and the missionaries that serve there as "parents." We watched the little faces of the kids light up as they heard their names called and shyly made their way up to receive their presents. We were blessed with a Mexican praise song (in perfect four part harmony by the way) as a thank you and then had fellowship and praise time. They brought me a guitar and I had the chance to lead a few songs and play along with the home director's son as he led a few as well. It was hard to hold back the tears (Jeff, you would have been toast) as I sang to, and along with, those tiny faces that were so thankful to have a Christmas celebration but, even more thankful to be safe and clean and loved.

I missed you all but I assure you, God provided nourishment for my soul and a chance to share his blessings in a place and setting that were completely unexpected. It was amazing and something I'll never forget.

STUDENT MINISTRY



Elijah White

Elementary School Youth Group

Pre-K to 5th grade activities are held on Thursdays 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.

Persevere

I am so excited to start a new year! Whatever the Lord has in store for me and for us, I am looking forward to it. As believers we see things through a different perspective as non-believers, even our sufferings and trials. For instance we look at poverty as an opportunity to serve or at least we should as Christians, and we shouldn't be caught off guard by bad things that happen to us. We shouldn't be surprised or confused when we get sick or injured. We shouldn't be shocked when our politicians in Washington don't do what we want or ask of them. We shouldn't be afraid in times of financial stress. In John there is a familiar verse to us all. **John 16:33: *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*** In this world you will have trouble.

Step one, don't be surprised when things happen to you or your loved ones. God has a plan, a plan not to harm you but plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Step two, persevere. Don't give up on God, he hasn't given up on you. When I was in high school my football coach would make us run every Monday. We would run twenty forty-yard sprints and some other drills. I always hated the twenty forty-yard sprints. I was slow, fat, and always out of gas by the fifth or sixth sprint. By my senior year I was still fat, and yes slow, but I could handle those sprints much easier than when I had begun. One year my coach came out before we started our practice and read this. **Romans 5:3-5: *³And not only that, we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.***

My point? When was the last time you glorified the Lord in the midst of your trials? Y'all, God does not disappoint! This year I would encourage you all to persevere in the midst of your tribulations. Don't give up, don't quit, don't surrender, don't give in to the weight of the world. Take heart!

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STUDENT MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Persevere...continued from page 6

He has overcome this world. Persevere this year!

Now some announcements.

C.I.Y. Move has been scheduled!

Date - July 9th - 15th

Cost - \$500

Destination - Cleveland, Tennessee

If you would like to help cover the cost for a kid, or have some odd jobs for the kids to do to raise money, please reach out to me.



Rent-A-Youth this Winter

A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Need your snow shoveled? How about Christmas lights or decorations taken down? What about a house cleaned after the holidays?

Rent a youth from CPCC to do any odd job and you'll help send them to summer camp in 2022. All jobs need to be arranged through Elijah and all earned money given to Elijah to be applied to the student's account. Contact Elijah at 785-861-5868 for more details!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY



46th Annual Woman's World Conference | February 24-25, 2023 | Unshakeable—Standing on His Promises
“Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.” –1 John 4:4

Woman's World is a non-denominational event that helps women understand their significance in God's eyes. The program includes practical seminars, a dynamic keynote speaker, buffet meals, times of worship, and many other surprises. This year's theme will help women of all ages understand that it doesn't matter what happens politically, morally, socially, or economically in the world if we have Christ in us. God will never leave us and we can be confident that Jesus is the rock to build our lives on. 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. ***The CPCC Women's Ministry team would like to get a group together to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details on lodging, cost, etc!***

Prayer Shawl Meetings
Tuesday, January 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Judi Cox and Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Judi Cox.

Contact Judi at 272-9803 for more information.



Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesdays

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

Hidden Christmas
by Timothy Keller

Led by Barb Gray.

Group meets in the 2nd classroom off of the fellowship hall.

****New study on Genesis starting in the new year.****

Details to come.



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is

Saturday, January 14th

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

Monthly Bible Verse

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ~ Ezekiel 11:19 NIV



Eagles Nest International:

2022 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH AND RETURN TO NORMALCY!

Here's just a few things that took place in our Eagle's Nest Family.

- Guatemala lifted their COVID restrictions! There is still a lot of fear of the virus here but with the lifted restrictions, we have had over 30 groups (both local and international) come to visit and serve.
- Over 30 court hearings for our kids.
- Two adoptions
- Eleven field trips with our kids
- Replacing of several appliances and mattresses around the property. (Thanks to last year's end-of-year giving.)
- Three interns/young missionaries joined our team and have been such a blessing!

We are so thankful to our staff (paid and volunteer) for taking ownership in God's ministry!

We have been blessed and also very grateful to the Lord and how He has continued to provide for everyone, from our kids, our employees, our families and our supporters!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We couldn't have made it through this year without the strength that the Lord gives us or without His People! Thank you for everything!

Please know that you all are in our prayers!



NEWS AND NOTES

JANUARY CROSS GUARD

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

January 1st
Lynden Landholm

January 8th
Andrew Swickard

January 15th
Rick Fischli

January 22nd
Rick Fischli

January 29th
Brad Broadbent

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

January 1st
Tim Cunningham
Steve Horton

January 8th
Ray DeMoss
Tyler Crow

January 15th
Tristan Webb
Jason Vinsonhaler

January 22nd
Dan Force
Charles McWilliams

January 29th
Daniel White
Keeneene Archulettra Leupold

JANUARY DEACONESS

Helen Horton
Cheryl Wathen



Happy New Year! I think 2022 went by even faster than 2021 did, if that is possible. We had another busy year providing basic needs services to our neighbors in need with the help of our member congregations, and the community! There was still COVID funding available allowing us to provide additional rent assistance. We assisted with over \$185k in rent and nearly \$86k in utility assistance in 2022. Overall, we provided over \$325,000 in assistance with all of the basic needs services we offer.

We also exceeded our fundraising goal for the new HVAC system by spring, and the new system was installed this past fall!

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

SouperBowl Sunday is February 12th and we will be asking our member congregations to collect of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

I cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during another difficult year as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible. Our volunteers are such a valuable resource, and we could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our community as a whole when Doorstep is in need continues to be amazing!

We will start 2023 continuing with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room. Hopefully, we can return to in-person intakes some time during the year.

We will be Closed Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday

Regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4th

Lisa Cain, Executive Director

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2023 proposed budget and leadership nominees will be voted on at our congregational meeting, January 8th following worship. Church members 16 years old and older may vote. Please plan to stay after church for this meeting.



AIDA SKRIPNIKOVA: *from the former Soviet Union*

Aida Skripnikova was imprisoned for a total of four years in the Soviet Union (USSR) when she was in her 20's. Her crimes were receiving Bibles that were smuggled into the country and distributing information about Christians imprisoned for their faith by Communist authorities.

Earlier this year, Aida, now 82 and living in St. Petersburg, Russia, was visiting relatives in Ukraine when the war broke out. The city where she was staying was bombed and shelled for several consecutive days, causing the deaths of 54 people when a residential building was hit. In addition, the school in her relatives' neighborhood and the largest supermarket in the city were destroyed. On one night of Aida's visit, air-raid sirens sounded five times, forcing her and her relatives to take shelter in the apartment building's basement - the only safe place to hide from Russian bombs and artillery shells.

For three weeks, utilities such as electricity, gas and water were disrupted. Aida said that throughout her stay, she remembered Psalm 91, specifically verse 1, which says, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." VOM and other members of the body of Christ secured Aida's safe return to her home in St. Petersburg. Continue to pray for her as she serves as a faithful witness to Christ in Russia.

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine

Pics & More

S.E.T.

Our Sunday Evening Teaching (S.E.T.) is on hold until future notice.

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

Our card ministry team would like to celebrate your birthday and 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!

Young Adult Sunday School

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

For more information, contact Jeff.

THE *Light* OF THE *World*



Thank you to the ladies who joined us for the Women's Tea on Friday, December 16th. The evening was highlighted by prayer, reflection, laughter, and love! Enjoy some pictures of the tea below.



See more pictures on page 13.

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

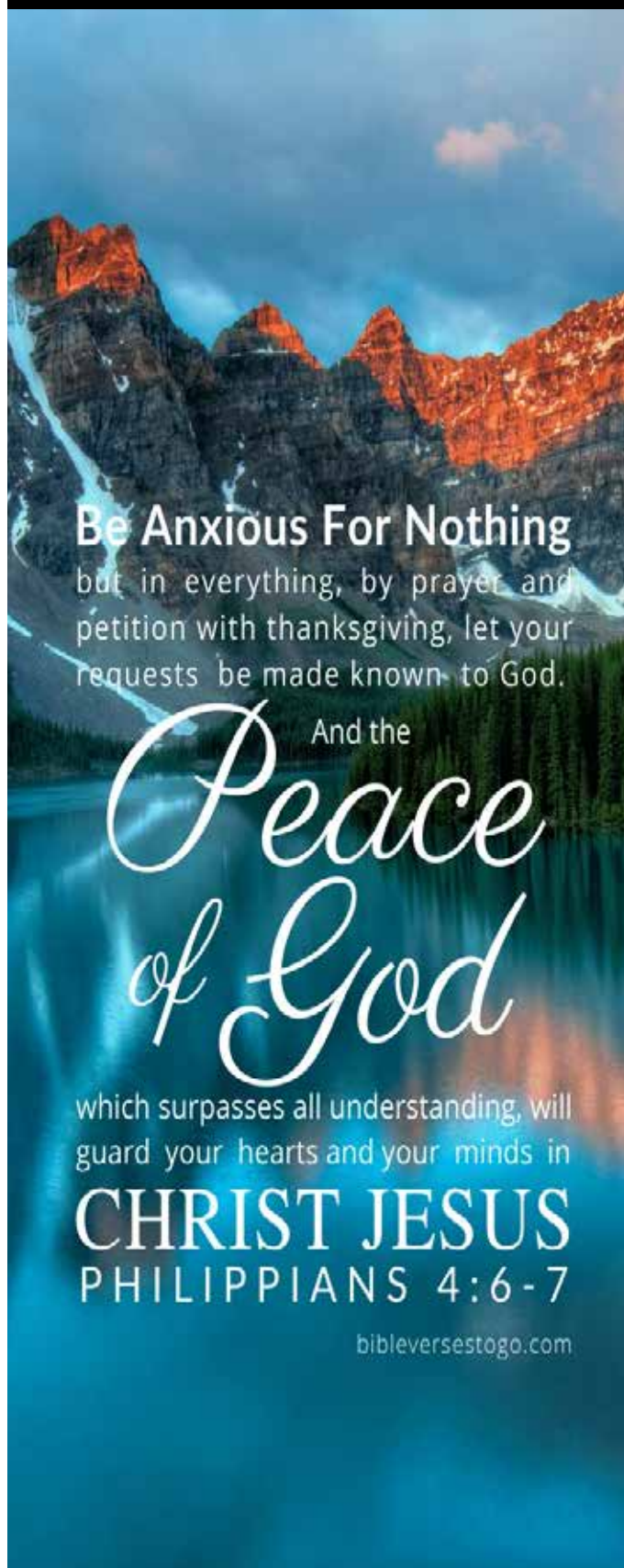
THE *Light* OF THE *World*




Ladies
December 16th
2022
Tea



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'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...

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
New Year's Day 1 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service No 2nd Helpings No H.S. Youth Group	2 New Year's Day Holiday Church Office Closed	3 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W. 10:00 AM Prayer Shaw at the home of Judi Cox	4 6:00 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	5 1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	6	7 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
8 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 6:00 PM Women's January Jubilee	9 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	10 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	11 6:00 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	12 1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	13	14 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i> 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting
15 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	16 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom M L King Day	17 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	18 6:00 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	19 1:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shaw at the home of Judi Cox	20	21 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
22 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	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 M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	26 1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:00 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	27	28 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
29 8:30 AM Group Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group	30 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	31 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.				

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Derek Slack
Senior Pastor
derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens
Connections Pastor
jeff@centralparkcc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Linda Bohlender
Media Specialist
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**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.
Second Helpings (formerly SIAFU) - Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
S.E.T. - Sundays 6:30 - 7:30 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 Activities - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees: Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

Elders: Eric Cook, Geoff Gray, Victor Hercules, Lynden Landholm, Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler, Bill White