THECORNERSTONE

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

February 2023 Volume 19 Issue 2

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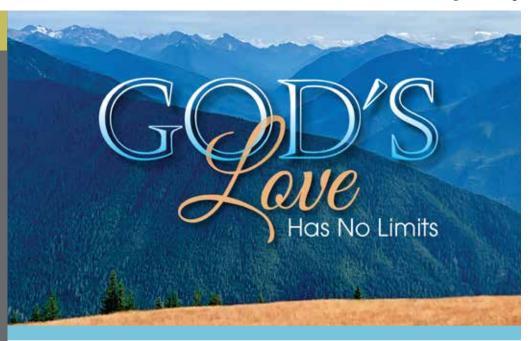
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Looking Ahead...

Women's February Fellowship ~ February 5th ~ 6 PM - 8 PM

Hey ladies! Join us for a night of fellowship. We'll eat, laugh, and socialize. Come as you are and bring a snack to share. This is an informal night simply geared to relax with other ladies from the church. Feel free to bring a game to play or a project you're working on (knitting, crocheting, etc.)...who knows, you may get the chance to teach someone something new!

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.

Church Anniversary Celebration ~ Sunday, April 2nd ~ 5:30 PM

Our Anniversary Dinner will take place on Sunday, April 2nd at 5:30 p.m. The main dish will be provided, those attending will bring a side dish or dessert to share. More details to follow.

Easter Celebration ~ Sunday, April 9th

Our Easter Celebration will consist of a Sunrise Breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. followed by one adult and one children's Sunday School class at 9:15 a.m. Our celebration service will begin at 10:45. Nursery will be available during Sunday School and Worship Service. Begin thinking now about who you could invite.

a message from

OUR SENTOR PASTOR



Derek Slack

Sons of Light

A Catechism is a writing of a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.

The Westminster Catechism was written in 1647 in order for there to be greater unity between the churches of England and Scotland. Here's one question, for example: "What is the chief end of man?" If I could put that in more common language, "Why are we here? Why do we exist? What is this all about?"

Here's the answer the Westminster Shorter Catechism gives: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." The purpose of your life, the purpose of my life, is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

How amazing is that for a purpose?

Q: "What's your ultimate purpose?"

A: "To enjoy God."

Q: "Well, how do you do that?"

A: "By glorifying him."

Q: "How do you do that?"

A: "By rightly living and ordering my life around His commands that are all meant to lead me into the fullest life possible."

This is how you represent being a light to the world. By gleaning or learning from THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. When we follow the true source of light, we can become Sons of Light. Confused yet? Here is what I mean.

In John 12:35-36, we find John calling people to the light. "So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

OUR SENIOR PASTOR continued

Sons of Light...continued from page 2

The good news is that we do not have to remain in darkness. We can follow the light of Christ and become sons of Light. You and I do not have to remain in darkness, but we can become sons of Light.

This is the good news. The Light has come into the world. We no longer have to live in the darkness. We can turn from the darkness of our sins and put our trust in the One who spoke all creation into being. God can turn the darkness of our lives into the light of His day.

Coming to faith in Jesus is not a blind leap into the darkness; it is a joyous leap into the light of Christ Himself. If you are not a Christ-follower, if you have never turned from your sins and trusted in Christ, I call you today to turn from your darkness and your sins. Trust in the Light.

This is same Jesus that said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

He is the same one that gave His life on the cross as payment for your sins and for my sins. We are under judgment and condemnation, but God has made a way for you to be restored to the Father. Turn from darkness and trust in Christ. Believe in the Light and become a son of light today.

Here is the thing, I know most of you know this and are already sons and daughters of light; but, how are you living it out? This is a question I believe we should ask ourselves constantly.

Continue to strive to be the light, my family.

Swimming in the deep end,

Derek

a message from

OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

God is Light

Are you scared of the dark? I mean truly scared of the dark!! If I trapped you in a room with no windows and shut off the light, would you have a panic attack? Would you be truly scared? There is something about darkness that messes with us.

Once while at the church, I had to carry something into our storage room. If you've been in there at all, you know how full it is. It's scary walking into it with the lights on, let alone in the dark (Thanks, Elijah, for organizing it). As I walked into the room I couldn't reach the light and the door shut behind me. I took a few baby steps, as I couldn't see anything in front of me and, even though I knew the room was clean, I still walked with fear. It felt like the light switch was miles away. Then, all of sudden, I realized I had my phone. All I had to do was turn on my phone and the little bit of light showed me what was in front of me and where I needed to go. No more fear of tripping and hurting myself.

This is what it's like to be a believer in Christ. When you have the light you can see. But when you are immersing yourself in the darkness, you are blind and don't know what direction to go in or what to do. Being in darkness is a lot like being blind. You are blind to the truth that is God and His plans for your life.

You see, the Bible clearly states that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are light, and all things that are not of God are darkness.

1 John 5 says, "this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you; God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all."

Once we are walking in fellowship with the Lord, His light will shine in our darkness. There are times we don't even know we are living in darkness. However, the more we are in communication and fellowship with God, the more His light reveals that darkness. It's like a car shining its lights down a dark alley and revealing what all the little critters are up to. We need to be connected to God through prayer, that His light will shine through us and in us.

Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way let your light shine before others so they may see your good deed and glorify your Father in Heaven."

Once we allow God to work in our lives and reveal the darkness, His light will begin to shine through us. Not only is God light, but we are to be that light to the world.

I challenge all of us to connect with God. Have regular communication with Him and allow Him to reveal our darkness so we can be His light. Through a relationship where you fellowship with Jesus daily, you will find spiritual truth and live in the light. Not having that time of fellowship will leave you in the darkness.

WALK WITH THE LORD, LET HIS LIGHT SHINE IN YOU AND THROUGH YOU!

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Yearning for a Return

I love how sometimes God just orchestrates things to hit just right, at just the right time. I'm sure it happens to everyone now and again. I just love those God moments when they happen to me. It's almost like hearing His audible voice at precisely the exact moment that I need to hear it.

This past weekend, while I was picking the songs for service, I kept coming back to the slow worship ballad Yearn. We hadn't done it at church for quite a while and I doubted myself, almost taking it out of the service script for fear the congregation wouldn't be familiar enough with it anymore. Ultimately, I listened to the still small voice that told me to put it there in the first place and left it in.

For those unfamiliar with Yearn, it's a beautiful song of longing for the Father's presence and influence, originally done by Shane and Shane. The verses speak of striving to live in the world and not being of it and feeling separated from the Lord. And, the Chorus, "Lord, I want to yearn for You, I want to burn with passion over You" is a desperate plea for that separation to end.

We did the song during rehearsal that morning and I was taken aback, as I always am, by the sheer beauty of the words and melody. Then as service started and Derek began his sermon, God told me why He really wanted me to play that song, if for no other reason than it was exactly what I needed to hear and sing following that sermon. Our pastor preached of returning to the Lord as our first love, he preached about closing the gap formed by our dependence on this mortal world and our sin. He talked of using the gift of our Heavenly Father's love to get back to the lives we're truly supposed to be living, in pursuit of Him.

I think lately I have gotten complacent. I know I have to live in this world, but I think sometimes I get so wrapped up in doing that that I am getting dangerously close to being of it. God is a part of my life, a huge part of it, so much so that I think sometimes I take it for granted, treating Him like a family member or a regular activity that is so much a part of my everyday existence that I fail to appreciate the importance of it or the way I really feel about it. I get too busy or too stressed or too distracted, and I lose my fire and my focus and my passion for my Savior and Creator. From time to time I find myself praying "just bring me back, Lord." Lately, I've been praying that prayer.

Sunday's service hit right where I needed it to. Wisdom from the pulpit (well, from the edge of the stage anyway) and a gorgeous musical plea for God to just *bring me back* to make me *yearn for Him* was exactly what I needed to recognize and appreciate my need to return to my first true love, the love that made me, and still makes me, who I am.

If you are struggling like I do from time to time, or if you ever find yourself feeling far away or wrapped up in the world, I encourage you to listen to the recording of Derek's sermon from January 22nd and to listen to (and sing whole-heartedly along with) Yearn by Shane and Shane. Then pray to your father to just *bring you back*.

STUDENT MINISTRY



Elijah White

Elementary School Youth Group

Pre-K to 5th grade activities are held on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 5:30.

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 5:30.

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.

Airing out the odor

Hey, y'all. I'm excited to be working as Central Park Christian Church's new full-time Student Ministry Pastor. I look forward to everything the Lord has in store. There are exciting things on the horizon!

I remember the night I got the call to come on staff as an intern. I was beyond excited to get to work. I didn't get any sleep that night.

The next day I went into the church and Stacy said I could use a former staff member's office. I went up to the office and was excited to make my own space. However, when I opened the door, the odor was overwhelming! I slammed the door closed and ran to another vacant office. It was there that my office would be established. I never found out what was causing the smell and, to this day, it's still a mystery. After a few months of airing out this office it was no longer dangerous. I pulled everything out and never could find the source. It seemed the longer it sat the worse it got. Eventually, over time, the smell went away. This office is now being utilized as a Sunday school room.

If you're wondering why I chose to write about a former staff member's smelly office for my newsletter this month you will understand in a moment.

For a long time I've struggled with being open about my struggles and feelings. I found anger was always my outlet for whatever I was facing. The longer it would sit, the worse it would get. The odor of my frustration was getting worse and worse and harder to hide from those around me. It wasn't until I got to high school that I learned to air out my frustrations, sadness, and all other feelings in a healthy way.

In my new position here at the church I've found two new best friends, Pastor Jeff and Pastor Derek. They have always been incredibly loving even in their teasing and joking. They have always been incredibly encouraging whenever I needed to air out an issue.

Now when it comes to God, believe it or not, He wants to be best friends even in your nastiest, smelliest moments. He answers whenever you call

STUDENT MINISTRY

Odor...continued from page 6

on His name. He wants to be your God in the good, and in the bad. In all your troubles, He is your God.

He will never leave you or forsake you. He wants to be with you in your adversity and in your victory.

Psalm 34:6 says, "This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him. And saved him out of all his troubles."

Now my point is, whatever you're facing, the longer it goes unresolved the worse it will get and the smellier it will get. Invite God into your struggles, and your sadness. And when you get through them, rejoice with Him.

Airing out the odor,

- Elijah White

C.I.Y - July 9th - 15th

Price - \$500

If you would like to help a kid get to camp please reach out.

Rent-A-Youth this Winter A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS Need your snow shoveled? Still have those Christmas lights or decorations up? Need help taking them down? What about a house cleaned after the holidays in preparation for Spring? Rent a youth from CPCC to do any odd job and you'll help send them to summer camp in 2023. 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. Sherry Webb has blocked some rooms at the Manhattan Comfort Inn. For more details contact Sherry at 785-969-1754.

Women's February Fellowship



February 5th ~ 6 PM - 8 PM

Join us for a night of fellowship. We'll eat, laugh, and socialize. Come as you are and bring a snack to share. This is an informal night simply geared to relax with other ladies from the church.

Prayer Shawl Meetings

Tuesday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Judi Cox and Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Judi Cox.



Contact Judí at 272-9803 for more information.

Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is Saturday, March 11th

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

Ladies Bible Study

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

Genesis

Led by Barb Gray.

Group meets in the 2nd classroom

off of the fellowship hall.

Monthly Bible Verse

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. ~ Ephesians 4:16-32 NIV

a message from OUR ELDERS

Greetings from the elders!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual congregational meeting on January 8th. Even bigger thanks to those who left comments for the elders and asked questions in the meeting. The elders hear you and appreciate your being engaged in your church home. We do not have ample space here to address each comment and we do not want to leave someone out. As none of the submitted comments had names associated, please let an elder know if you would like to discuss your comments in greater detail. Engagement and communication are critical to the health of the church body if we are to grow God's Kingdom.

That said, a question came up within the committee: How many readers know Central Park Christian Church's vision statement (without looking it up)? Vision is a key piece to an engaged body. Those who do not have any vision impairments in their physical body do not know the struggle of not being able to see clearly and how it affects all aspects of our physical lives. Much the same way, vision in the church affects (positively or negatively) our ability to go about God's work. Over the coming months we will be talking in more detail about vision.

The congregation is welcome and encouraged to attend elder meetings. These meetings are open unless confidential matters must be discussed, in which case the meeting will go into executive session. Business meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. On the fourth Monday the elders meet for Bible study with minimal business discussions. Future topics of discussion will include the use of the lot at 1600 SW Clay, replacement of the church van (which was a total loss after being struck in the church parking lot last fall), vision for CPCC, and other topics as needed.

In other news, the elder officers have been established for 2023 as follows: Chair: Jason Vinsonhaler; Vice Chair: Derek Slack; Secretary: Randy Spilker; and Treasurer: Lynden Landholm. The bylaws require officers to be elected each year and officers may only serve in a position for three consecutive years. As such, Jason, Derek, and Randy cannot hold the same offices in 2024 since they will have each been in their respective offices for three consecutive years. It is an honor to be called to serve God at Central Park Christian Church.



IN THE KNOW

FEBRUARY CROSS GUARD

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

February 5th Rick Fischli

February 12th
Rick Fischli

February 19th *Brian Stovall*

February 26th *Andrew Swickard*

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. - Noon

February 5thChuck Shockey
Eric Cook

February 12th *Mike Thomas Rodney Barrand*

February 19th *Todd Huston Mike Swickard*

February 26th *Randy Smith Jim Vega*

FEBRUARY DEACONESS

Linda Bohlender Sherry Webb

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!

Support Your Favorite Team



All are invited to wear their favorite team gear to church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th. While you're picking out your favorite jersey or T-shirt, don't forget to pick up some soup and crackers for Doorstep! (Details on page 11.)

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2023 Proposed Budget and Leadership Nominees voted on at our congregational meeting, January 8th, have been approved.

Thank you to everyone for their input and votes.

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

NEWS & NOTES



MEXICO:

A Family's Faithful Witness

Claudia, her husband and their four children are some of the only Christians in their village in southern Mexico. Claudia's husband, who came to faith in Christ by hearing Christian song lyrics, was rejected by his family when he was young because of a facial deformity; he lived in isolation and loneliness for many years. In his solitude, he learned to play the guitar, and when he nearly lost his life in an accident, he took comfort in Christian song lyrics. Soon after coming to know the Lord, he led his family to faith in Christ.

When other villagers learned of the family's Christian faith, they rejected them, warning them to return to the traditional religious practices of their village. When they refused, the villagers cut off their access to clean water and kicked their children out of school. They have also denied the family any opportunity to earn an income and support themselves.

Despite the hostility of most villagers toward them, Claudia and her family try to show their neighbors the love of Christ. They formed a Christian musical group, and the continue to share their faith with their community through music.

~ Reprinted from Voice of the Martyrs Magazine



Another year has begun, and we have hit the ground running! Each year brings new challenges, new experiences, and often many new blessings for Doorstep! We are looking at having the Doorstep Annual Banquet & Quilt Drawing this year after a 3-year COVID hiatus; perhaps a food sale, and the 6th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run will be Sunday, October 1st!

As always we know we could not do all of our services and activities without the help of our member congregations, volunteers, and the community! We have been here over 56 years, and we still operate on "neighbors helping neighbors"!

SouperBowl Sunday is February 12th and we are asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers again this year to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales, and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, and crackers. A successful SouperBowl Sunday can stock our pantry with these items into the spring months! Our goal for 2023 is 5,000 pounds = 2.5 ton!

We have decided going forward we will no longer give out clothing and shoes in our Christmas Adoption Project. We will continue to use the distribution model we started due to COVID, and provide gift cards in lieu of clothing. The only exceptions are: NEW pajamas for kids, and NEW hoodies for men, women, and teens... As winter clearance sales are going on, look for warm pajamas from newborn to sizes 18 for kids (boys & girls), and hoodies (sweatshirts) in all sizes, colors, sports teams etc. (sizes small – 5x)

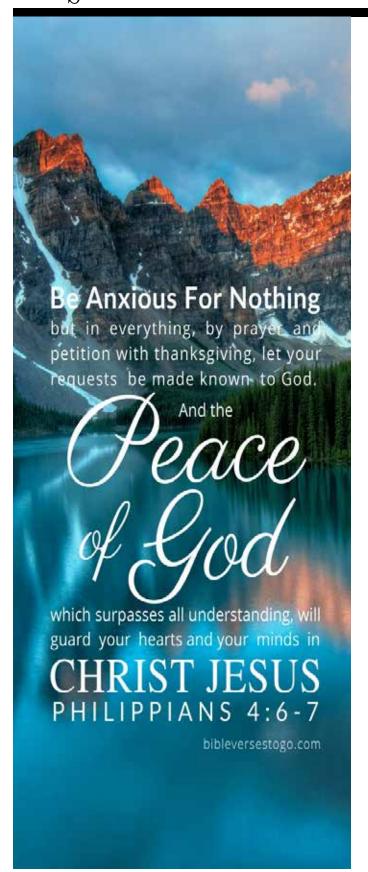
Finally, Thank You to everyone who donated money, blankets, games, puzzles, gifts, school supplies, hygiene items, and their time for Doorstep's Christmas Adoption Project this past December! We assisted a total of 260 households with 822 individuals!



SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12th, 2023

We are collecting soup and crackers for Doorstep's "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" to restock their shelves for the winter. Please place your donations in the basket in the foyer marked "Doorstep" anytime between now and February 12th.

Prayer & Praise





Agnes CoxCurrently 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 Meetings & Elders Meetings

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 *Elder business meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. On the fourth Monday the elders meet for Bible study with minimal business discussions. The business meetings are open to members, so please join us! (*See calendar on page 13 for dates)



Monthly Events at CPCC...

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	3	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
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 February Fellowship	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W. 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox	5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	10	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
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 Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Business Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5:30 PM M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study	1:00 PM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox	17	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
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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 Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Bible Study	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.				

CPCC Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Derek Slack Senior Pastor derek@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens Connections Pastor jeff@centralparkcc.org



Office Hours

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Jayme Green Worship Leader jayme@centralparkcc.org



Elijah White Student Ministry Pastor elijah@centralparkcc.org



stacy@centralparkcc.org



I inda Bohlender Media Specialist lbohlender@centralparkcc.org



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** (formally 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 5:30 p.m. **Grade School Activities** - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Trustees: Terry Barnes & Stan Seidel

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