

THE CORNERSTONE

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

March 2024 Volume 20 Issue 3

www.centralparkcc.org

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This Month...

Women's March Fellowship ~ Sunday, March 3rd ~ 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.

Church Anniversary Celebration ~ Palm Sunday, March 24th ~ 5:30 PM

Our Anniversary Dinner will take place on Sunday, March 24th at 5:30 p.m. The main dish will be provided, those attending will bring a side dish or dessert to share. Watch for a sign-up form in the Sunday bulletins. We ask that you sign up in advance so we may plan accordingly. Thank you!

Good Friday Service - *The Sacrifice* ~ Friday, March 29th ~ 5:30 - 7:00 PM

All are invited to join Pastor Elijah on Friday, March 29th to recognize Good Friday and to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us when he went to the cross for our sins!

Easter Celebration ~ Sunday, March 31st

Begin thinking now about who you could invite to our Easter Celebration!

7:15 AM - 8 AM - Sunrise Service

8:15 AM - 10:15 AM - Breakfast

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM - Sunday School (One class in the Sanctuary)

10:45 AM - Worship Service

Preschool and Nursery will be available during Sunday School

& 10:45 AM Service

Greetings from the elders

Please mark your calendars if you need to as March 31st is Easter this year. We have embarked on a journey to help us prepare as an Advent to Easter; to help us focus our minds and hearts to what we are about to celebrate this Easter season. CPCC is also planning on having a sunrise service this year in addition to our regular service at 10:45 am. Sunrise is scheduled to occur sometime around 7:06 am this year and we'll be gathering in the empty lot just catty-corner to our church building for the sunrise service. You can come to one or the other services that morning; we would love to see you at both. Please bring a friend, neighbor, or relative with you as well.

As we walk through our Easter Advent this year, I want you to consider, ponder, and pray that God Himself would speak to your heart and show you where you fit into the Easter story. Each week we are going to continue to review some of the events that occurred during the last week leading up to the crucifixion of Christ. We will be re-introduced to many characters as we move along. Easter is all about the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But please, make no mistake, there could not be an empty tomb on Sunday morning if there had not been a sacrifice on Friday followed by the burial of Jesus Himself that same day. Jesus was in the tomb, there had to be a sacrifice made. Hebrews tells us that for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross. That "joy" set before Him was the salvation of everyone who would believe in Him and accept His salvation. (Hebrews 12:2)

As for the characters we will be looking at, well, they include people like Herod who was pleased to see Him at first. People like Pilot, who simply tried to wash his hands of the whole matter like he had no part in it at all. Remember the two thieves who were crucified with Him, one on the left and one on the right? According to Scripture, they were both mocking Him. (Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32) But something had to happen to change the heart of one of them because he turned and rebuked the other. Jesus then told him that very day, he would be with Jesus in paradise. (Luke 23:40) Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for Jesus. The people spit on Jesus. The soldiers beat Him. The disciples deserted Him. His mother and others mourned Him. Judas betrayed Him. The list goes on and on.

Barabbas was one of the people that are mentioned in Scripture as well. He had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city and for murder. (Luke 23:19) Barabbas was deserving of punishment and death but instead, he was simply released in place of Jesus. Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God, was made to suffer while Barabbas was simply given a pardon and released. That's where I fit into the story. I am Barabbas, released from the punishment I deserve while Christ was made to suffer on my behalf. It is by grace that I have been saved, through faith and that not even of my own, but it too, is a free gift from God. It's the gospel, they call it the good news. I can see parts of myself in all of the characters involved in the Easter story. The bottom line is this, Jesus did not deserve to be crucified, but because of the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.

Thank You, Jesus, for not giving me what I deserve but for giving me grace and a pardon instead. For all eternity, I will praise Your Name Most High.

~Elder Bill White

a message from

OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

Ask, Seek, Knock - Find Joy

Below is a short devotion I received this week and I thought it fit perfectly for us as a church. It's time for us to come together and go to the Lord!!

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7 NIV)

God never closes His storehouse until you close your mouth and stop asking.

God wants to help you, but if you don't ever ask, that's a problem.

The last time your church needed volunteers for a new ministry or more resources to serve people in your community, did you ask God?

Before you decided on the best way to solve your latest ministry problem, did you ask God for wisdom?

When you needed help in a relationship, did you pray about it first?

Jesus says, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7 NIV)

When you need God's help, remember to ASK: ask, seek, knock. God spells it out in this verse three ways so that you will get the message.

Maybe you never see miracles in your ministry because you never ask for them. If you want to see God work in your ministry more, start asking and start believing!!

God wants you to ask for things in prayer because He's a loving Father.

Like any father who loves to give his kids good things, God loves to bestow gifts on His children. He's just waiting for you to ask.

“You have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy” (John 16:24 NCV)

God wants you to ask so He can give.

He wants to give so you can receive.

He wants you to receive so you'll be full of joy.

He wants you to be full of joy because it's a great advertisement for Jesus Christ.

Joyful Christians show the world that following Jesus and doing what He commands brings joy, not dread.

Stop worrying about your future. Start praying about it! When you do, you'll have a lot less worry and a lot more joy.

~Source pastor.com

a message from

OUR STUDENT MINISTRY PASTOR



Elijah White

Elementary School Youth Group

“Kingdom Kids”

Pre-K to 5th grade

Wednesday evenings from
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at the church.

Dinner is served at 5:30.

Middle School Youth Group

“Youth Elevated”

6th-8th grades

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

Sunday afternoons
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
at the church.
Lunch is served.

The March of Time...

I simply cannot wrap my head around how quickly time has passed in 2024. It's already March, are you kidding me? It feels like yesterday that I raised my glass and welcomed in the new year. As I reflect on 2023, I can honestly say I've learned, I've failed, I've succeeded; all while striving to follow God's calling in my life.

The march of time is quickly moving forward, and I often feel myself falling behind as time moves forward. The faster time moves, the slower I get, the more tired I am. I can feel my legs failing as I stumble forward. Clearly, I was not built for this march. The march of time had no beginning, and will have no end, but somehow I find myself in the middle of it all. It feels like I'm stuck in the middle of this march, slowly losing ground, slowly falling behind. My legs grow more and more tired with each step I take. I fall, I trip, I stumble, I slip, I will fall behind, I will fail. Every time I fall, the more my skin rips, the more I bleed. I'm tired, I'm done. This march is over for me, I will not reach the end... As I lay on the ground bleeding, more and more people march past me. I can feel my body, my mind, my strength failing. I sit in the mud and blood feeling sorry for what could have been. Just when I've convinced myself no one cares about my march, a Man stops and sits beside me.

He cared not about the mud or the blood on the ground. He simply sat beside me. I noticed something different about this Man. He was like no man I'd ever met before. He sat beside me as I told Him about my suffering on this march. I told Him everything - every time I fell, every time I dropped to my knees, every time I bled more, every time someone marched past me. When I had finished, He saw the tears in my eyes... He reached in His bag and pulled out a cloth.

With the cloth He wiped my tears away, bandaged my wounds, and washed the mud away from my eyes. When He had finished, He asked me one question. He said, “Do you want to finish this race, or do you want to remain in the mud and blood that surrounds you?” I answered Him, “Of course I want to finish this march but how can I? I have no strength of my own.” The Man answered, “You are correct. You have no strength, but I do. Will you march with Me? Will you follow Me? The road will not be any easier. But if you follow Me, when you fall I will lift you, when you bleed I will mend you, and when you cannot march I will carry you.” Right then

Continued on page 5

The March of Time...continued from page 4

and there I dedicated myself to following the Man. I followed him and He did just as He told me. When I fell down, He lifted me up. When I bled, He mended me. When I could no longer march, he carried me. As I followed Him, I found myself growing stronger. The more I marched, the quicker I got, and I found myself loving the march rather than loathing the march. Following Him changed everything.

One day as I marched with Him, we saw a man sitting in a pit full of mud and blood. We stopped, and after I listened to that man tell me a familiar story, I told him my story. I told him how I found strength and healing in the arms of Jesus, and I asked him if he would follow Jesus with me. I told the man that Jesus healed me, encouraged me, and carried me. And Jesus asked the man one question... "Will you follow Me?" And we both followed Jesus as we continued on in the march of time, growing closer everyday to the finish line.

~The March of Time - Elijah White

We all have times where we sit in our pits feeling sorry for ourselves. Jesus being a loving, healing, caring, father will sit with us. Not to confirm our feelings of sorrow, but to lift us up and to lead us further in the march. When we hurt, He will heal. When we fall, He will lift us up. When we cannot march, He will carry us. Follow Jesus and everything will change.

One Truth - Elijah White

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Good Friday Service- "The Sacrifice" will be held in the sanctuary 6:00pm-7:30pm, Friday, March 29th.

CIY - July 15th-19th in Warrensburg, Missouri. \$450. I am in search of one more male sponsor to go with us. If you are interested, please reach out to me.

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

A Worship Update

I won't share an article this month, I just want to take a minute to update everyone on the state of the worship ministry at CPCC. We are very obviously going through a big period of change here at church and worship is no exception. I am going to do my best to keep things fairly seamless for most in the congregation but for those directly involved in worship, or those that are interested in being involved, I'm going to ask for your help in making this transition as smooth as possible.

Pastor Derek took care of a lot of things that were very worship-focused. While I was thankful not to have to worry about keeping track of these things, most of them were things that I should have been at least involved with, if not solely responsible for as the worship leader.

I'd like to start out with apologizing to those that are used to watching at home for the technical difficulties we have experienced with the live stream over the past few weeks. Around the same time as Derek's departure, our webcam and some of the software we use for the livestream process went down. I'm not sure if this was related to some administrative changes that were made on the worship computer or if it was purely coincidental but either way, it caused some problems with our livestream that weren't immediately evident or easy to diagnose. I am in the process of getting all these fixed and hopefully by the time anyone reads this, they will be worked through and we'll be up and running. I will take this opportunity however, to bring up the fact that while I know there are people in our church that truly need the livestream and the ability to worship from home, there are others who do not necessarily need this luxury but choose to stay home. If the Lord has spoken to you during these connectivity issues, please listen, we miss seeing you and would love to worship together in person again.

The next major change is that I will be taking over scheduling of the soundboard and slides during worship. The rotation that was set up before, is only partially being followed at this point anyway so we're going to start over.

I'm going to start by setting up a new roster. If you are involved in worship in any way at CPCC; if you play in the band, if you're a vocalist, if you run slides or sound, please send me an email at jayme@centralparkcc.org and let me know what role you play and whether or not you wish to continue with that responsibility. Even if it should be obvious to me that you are

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of John

Wednesdays 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Led by Barb Gray in the Parlor on the 2nd floor.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

Ladies, how does a night of fun & fellowship with other Christian women sound to you? We'll eat, laugh, and socialize. Come as you are and bring a snack to share. These are informal and so much fun - won't you join us?

March 3rd ~ April 7th ~ May 5th

Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is

Saturday, March 2nd

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

Prayer Shawl Meetings

Tuesday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Judi Cox and Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Judi Cox.



Contact Judi at 272-9803 for more information.

Monthly Bible Verse

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ~ James 1:5 (NIV)

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER continued

A Worship Update...continued from page 6

involved and want to stay involved, please send me an email anyway, in fact I'll probably email myself and tell myself that I still want to keep leading worship. Furthermore, if you are not currently involved in the worship ministry but are interested or feel called to be, please send me an email and let me know what you're interested in doing. This is a great opportunity to bring up the fact that I'm always looking for musicians to help share in our worship time. I currently have one guitarist, one drummer, two bass players, and four vocalists. Please reach out if you or anyone you know are interested in joining the worship team.

My plan is to compile a master list of all involved and set up rotations wherever they are needed. The church staff is also looking at some new options as far as online groups or apps that will assist in this process. I ask that you continue to be patient as I am kind of drinking from the firehose with some of the new things I'm learning and new responsibilities I'm taking on so this may not happen right away. The first step is getting started though and that's what we're doing here.

Please pray for our church and for our worship. See you on Sunday!

BIBLE *studies*

THURSDAYS - 10:00 a.m. at CPCC - Led by Ray DeMoss

THURSDAYS - 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at CPCC

SATURDAYS - 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at CPCC

**To get involved or to help plan activities, please text or call
Bill White at (785) 207-8622.**

WORKING MEN OF CHRIST



WORKING MEN OF CHRIST

House of Joshua - Discipleship Home in Topeka

Working Men of Christ (WMOC) offers housing and mentoring to those coming out of incarceration to help them become productive, healthy members of the body of Christ and their families. They believe that a healing approach to all those affected by crime and incarceration can contribute to healthy, prosperous communities. Their ministry is grounded in the conviction that all are made in God's image, and there is no one who escapes His Love. Jesus, who was also put on trial, convicted, and executed, continues to offer hope and healing for all who seek Him. Through the awakening offered by a Christ-focused life, those who were broken are made whole again and are mobilized to serve their neighbors, breaking the cycle of crime.

WOMC begins the work with each student while they are still incarcerated and nearing release. Upon release, they come to live at one of the discipleship houses where they participate in daily Bible study. The cost to stay in a house is \$125/week.

The House of Joshua opened in Topeka, just a couple of months after the House of Jeremiah, which was established in February 2014 in Wichita. The House of Joshua is also a discipleship home dedicated to the transformation of men's lives that have been previously incarcerated. WMOC has partnered with the Kansas Department of Corrections and Mentoring 4 Success, which allows them to develop a relationship with the men coming to the house before they release from prison. This important step creates a safe landing pad for those being released from prison and transferring right into a home. The Director for the House of Joshua is Fred. The contact number for the House of Joshua is (785) 409-4275.

This house can always use the following items:

Bedding	Toilet Paper	Mentors
Cleaning supplies	Office Supplies	Brother LC75 Printer Ink

NEWS & NOTES

MARCH CROSS GUARD

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

March 3rd
Rick Fischli

March 10th
Andrew Swickard

March 17th
Michael Kates

March 24th
Brad Broadbent

March 31st
Mike Thomas

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

March 3rd
Tim Cunningham
Ray DeMoss

March 10th
Tyler Crow
Rodney Barrand

March 17th
Chuck Shockey
Brian Stovall

March 24th
Randy Spilker
Jason Vinsonhaler

March 31st
Lynden Landholm
Jim Vega

MARCH
DEACONESS
Linda Tochtrop
Sherry Webb

Young Adult **Sunday School**

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Pastor Jeff in his office during the Sunday school hour. The topics vary and the discussions are fun! For more information, contact Jeff.

Rent-A-Youth

A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Need your car washed? Your house cleaned? Or some organization done? Rent a youth from CPCC to do any odd job and you'll help send them to camps/retreats in 2024. All jobs need to be arranged through Elijah and all earned money given to Elijah to be applied to the student's account. For more details, contact Elijah at 785-861-5868.

Celebration of Life

A celebration of life will be held at Central Park Christian Church for Daniel Wathen, on March 10th at 4:00 p.m. Daniel passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Midland Hospice House in Topeka. Please keep his wife, Cheryl, and their family in your prayers.

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

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!

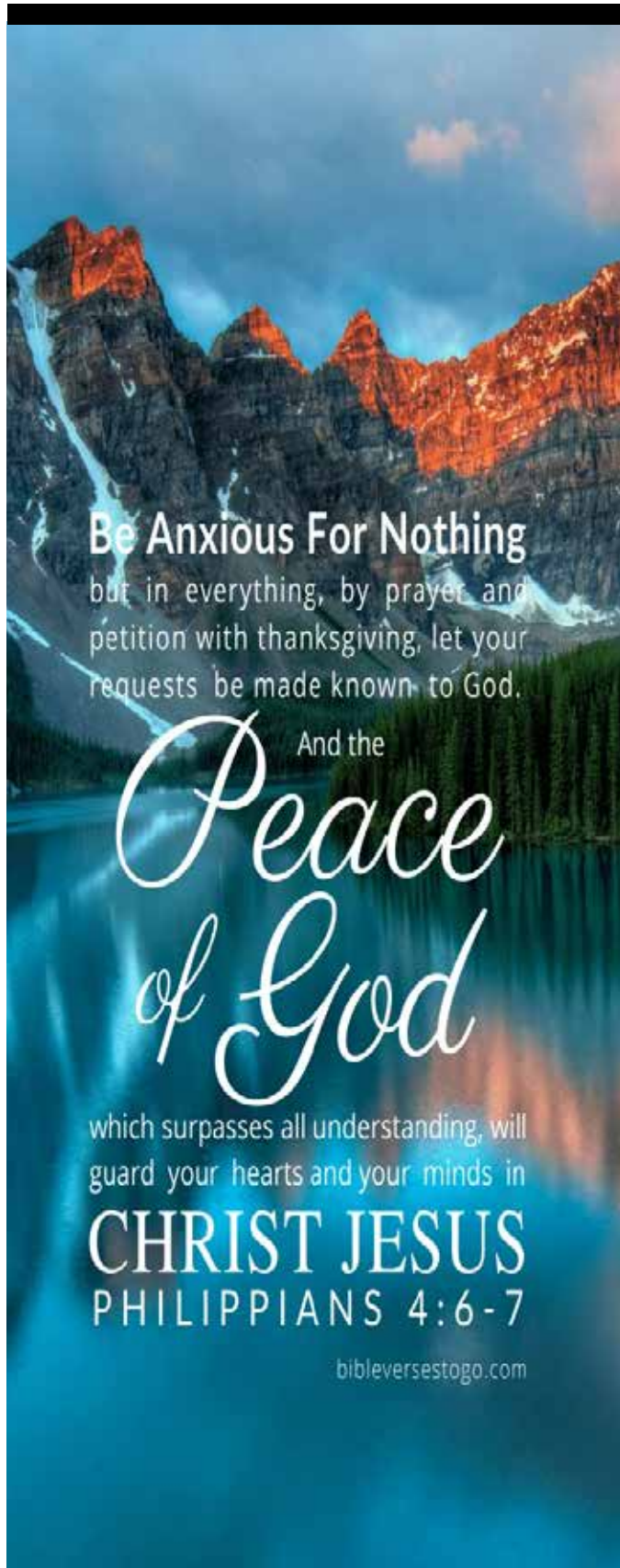
Meal Ministry Team

Do you like to cook? Would you like to bless others in the church body with a home-cooked meal? We are looking for people to join the meal ministry team. Meals are provided to those who have been hospitalized, seriously ill or have experienced the birth of a new baby. Volunteers are called upon during the year to provide a simple meal for these families. Please contact Jeff @ 785-845-4131 for more details.

Sound & Slide Volunteers Needed

We are searching for volunteers willing to run either the sound or slides on Sunday mornings during the worship service. If this is something you'd like to help with, please contact our Worship Leader, Jayme Green at jayme@centralparkcc.org

Prayer & Praise



*Our Thoughts &
Prayers are with...*

Agnes Cox

Brookdale Memory Care Resident

Darlene McCarter

McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident

Shirley Wolf

Atria Hearthstone 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 the 3rd classroom off of the Fellowship Hall 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 5:30 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 and fourth Monday of every month. The meetings are open to members, so please join us!
(*See calendar on page 13 for dates)



Monthly Events at GPCG...

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i> 9:30 AM Deaconess Meeting
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship	3 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	4 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	6 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	7 8	9 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 Town Hall Meeting 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings	10 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Business Meeting	11 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	12 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	13 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	14 15	16 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings	17 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	18 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	19 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	20 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox	21 22	23 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 5:30 PM Anniversary Dinner	24 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Business Meeting	25 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	26 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	27 28	29 Good Friday 5:30-7:00 PM The Sacrifice Good Friday Service	30 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
7:15 AM - 8 AM Sunrise Service 8:15 AM - 10:15 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School (<i>One class in Sanctuary</i>) 10:45 AM Worship Service Easter Sunday	31					

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Jeff Martens
Connections Pastor
jeff@centralparkcc.org



Elijah White
Student Ministry Pastor
elijah@centralparkcc.org

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Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Jayme Green
Worship Leader
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JOIN US DURING THE WEEK

Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m. - 3rd classroom off the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 a.m. - We encourage everyone to join a class!

Worship Service & K-motion - Sundays at 10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary

Second Helpings - Sundays at 12:30 p.m. - Lunch, fellowship & study - Parlor

High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Prayer Time - Mondays at 5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall & Via Zoom

A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Middle School Youth Group - "Youth Elevated" - Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Grade School Activities - "Kingdom Kids" - Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee: Terry Barnes **Elders:** Eric Cook, Geoff Gray, Victor Hercules,
Lynden Landholm, Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler & Bill White