

THE CORNERSTONE

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

April 2024 Volume 20 Issue 4

www.centralparkcc.org

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The LORD will open the heavens,
the storehouse of His bounty,
to send rain on your land in season and
to bless all the work of your

hands.

- Deuteronomy 28:12

This Month...

Office Closed - Monday, April 1st - ALL DAY

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1st in celebration of Easter.

Women's April Fellowship ~ Sunday, April 7th ~ 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.



Greetings from the elders

Does life sometimes leave you feeling down? Do you go to bed at night sometimes feeling like you failed, like you let someone down, like you are tired of trying to get it right? There is hope if you do, remember, there is no condemnation in Christ.

At times, even as believers, we may feel like a failure. We may feel discouraged, disappointed, embarrassed by our behavior, defeated, or even just ready to throw in the towel and quit trying to do the right things. But don't give up on yourself. God never gives up on us. In the book of Joel, chapter 2 starting at verse 12, the Word tells us this:

“Even now declares the Lord, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart, and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows, He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing...”

I love those Words, “even now”, there is so much power in that simple phrase, “even now”. You or I could be at our worst possible moment in time or in our lives, no matter what's going on or what failure we find ourselves in, God says, “even now”. According to Strong's dictionary, those two Words are: “aw-khad” translated, “even” and “emeth” translated “now”. Aw-khad means to collect one's thoughts or go one way or the other and emeth means firmness, stability, sureness, and truth. Aw-khad Emeth (even now) we can turn away from what we have done or failed to do and turn to God. Every day, we can chose to do the right thing, even now.

Lamentations 3:21-23 says basically the same thing:

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

I just love God's Word, His truth, His encouragement. One of my mentors explained it to me this way, before we came to Christ, we were a slave to sin. We basically, had to do it, we had no choice. But in Christ, once we believe and are saved, we are now a new creation and we are no longer slaves to sin. Now we have the choice to chose what is right. The cool thing is, that's now always a choice. Even if I fail, I can again, chose the right thing to do. Romans 6:6-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Him Who gives me strength.

My prayer for each of us is that God will empower us to live a life that is worthy of the calling. That He will encourage us when we make mistakes. That He will lift one another up in prayer, in unity, and in love. That we will not accept defeat, failure, weakness, discouragement or despair. We are more than that.

Philippians 4:4-9 says it best when we may be feeling discouragement:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Blessings from above,

Bill

OUR RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM



Are you ready?

When Disaster strikes, it pays to be prepared. Having a Disaster Kit prepared will save you time and could save your life. A disaster kit should be in your *designated shelter* and it would also be helpful to have a *smaller version in a small backpack or other containers that are easily carried if you need to evacuate your home*. Disaster kits should be reviewed annually to be kept up-to-date with your family's needs. Items in your kit should include, but are not limited to:

Staple Items

- 3 day supply of Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- 3 day supply of nonperishable, ready to eat food items and manual can opener
 - High Energy Foods, e.g. Peanut Butter
 - Juices, dried Milk
 - Sugar, Salt, Pepper
- First Aid Kit (see list for individual items)
- Flashlight and extra batteries, or ones that generate their own energy by shaking them
- Battery operated or Hand Crank Radio
 - NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio
- Clothing— Think about the climate; warm and/or cool season clothes
- Shoes
- Sanitation and Hygiene items (such as hand sanitizer, moist towelettes and toilet paper)
- Matches in waterproof container
- Whistle
- Blankets
- Other tools (e.g. hammer, pliers)
- Cash and coins
- Photocopies of important documents, personal ID's and credit cards
- Baby needs
- Special Needs
 - Prescription medications, eye glasses,
 - Contact lens solution, etc.
- Games to pass the time (e.g. cards)



First Aid Kit

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- 2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors & Tweezers
- 2-inch and 3-inch sterile roll bandages
- Waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Petroleum Jelly or other lubricant
- Latex Gloves
- Anti-bacterial Ointment
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Cold pack

a message from

OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

Coming together, celebrating history

Our Story...1896-2024

Central Park Christian Church began as a Bible School organized in 1896. Interest grew until, in July of 1904, a building was erected at 16th and Clay Streets. With 60 members, the church held its first service on August 27, 1904. In May 1905, the cornerstone of the little, white church was laid. In 1920-21, plans were drawn for the new and present building, with the ground breaking service on July 27, 1921. The cornerstone was laid on July 31, and the building was dedicated on May 28, 1922.

The church was well attended in the early years, with documentation that indicates an attendance at times over 300. But over the years, attendance decreased, and really took a downturn after the tornado of 1966, which devastated the neighborhood surrounding the church.

In December of 2004, the church experienced renovation of facilities and membership as the church was reestablished as a sister church of Northland Christian Church. Since that time, the church has established itself as a point of light in the Central Park neighborhood as well as committing itself to help establish churches in urban Topeka and around the world through intentional missions work. Today, we are still committed to serving the Central Park neighborhood.

~ Reprinted from www.centralparkcc.org/our story

On Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2024, our families came together to celebrate 19 years of service since the reestablishment of the church in 2004. A celebration is planned for December when we officially celebrate 20 years! I hope you'll enjoy these pictures from our recent anniversary dinner, along with some historical ones from our past.



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.

My debt is paid

“Your light has brightened All the darkness in me, My eyes are open to see Your love. Oh God, Your love for me. I once was running From your love and mercy, Then I found the place I belong, With You I know I’m not alone, I know I was a sinner, In need of a new start. The waters of my river ran dry on my own. I know the road is long. When all is lost You light my way. My debt is paid in Jesus’ name These hands have labored for the sin within me. Your hands were nailed to a tree. Your blood has set this captive free, Yeah I know I was a sinner In need of a new start. The waters of my river ran dry on my own, I know the road is long. When all is lost You light my way My debt is paid in Jesus’ name, Your light has brightened all the darkness in us, our eyes are opened to see Your love, oh God, has set us free Yeah, We know we all were sinners, In need of a new start The waters of our river ran dry on our own. We know the road is long. When all is lost, You light our way, We know we all were sinners in need of a new start, the waters of our river Ran dry on our own. We know the road is long, When all is lost You light our way. Our debt is paid in Jesus’ name”

“River” - Jordan Howerton Band

This song has been a long-time favorite of mine. I love singing the words “My debt is paid in Jesus name”. The labor of my hands is sin and death. And my eyes are always set on evil, but God has taken this sinner and created a saint. Not by my own hand, not by my works, but all because of what Jesus did. His light has brightened all the darkness in me. I was a captive to my sin but Jesus set me free.

At CPCC right now we are without a senior pastor. We are in a difficult place. The road moving forward will not be easy, it will not be a short road. We know the road is long, but when all hope is lost and the darkness seems to be closing in, Jesus will light our way. He will guide us, He will refill our well and we will see restoration. I look forward eagerly to see what God has planned for the church. One thing I know for sure is that God has a plan, and His plan is even greater than anything we could possibly dream. I highly suggest that you make time to listen to “River” by Jordan Howerton band. It is a refreshing reminder of Jesus’ faithfulness and forgiveness.

One Truth,

Elijah White

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

Make Your Requests Known

I recently read (well, listened to) Matthew McConaughey's book, *Greenlights*. No matter what your opinions of Mr. "Alright, Alright, Alright" are, if you take the time to dive into this fairly easy read, you just might find yourself fascinated. Fair warning, there are some over-the-top stories, some ideas that I can't quite get on board with, and a little profanity, but if you can get past those things, it's a pretty good book written by a remarkable, entertaining, and highly intelligent man.

McConaughey is a believer, he was raised Methodist and now describes himself as a Non-denominational Christian. He has a funny way of looking at the world and human nature sometimes, but he frequently references God and his relationship with Him. In one section of the book, he talks about prayer and brings up the concept of "white collar prayers." He talks about the difference between prayers for necessity and prayers for want and follows it with what he calls a prescription.

“ *Prescription: White-collar prayers*
Blue-collar prayers are things that people need
like food, shelter, medical assistance
White-collar prayers are things people want
like material things, privileged prayers
We need to quit asking God
to answer these kinds of prayers ”

Now on the face of it, I don't disagree with the sentiment here. We should be careful not to pray with vanity in our hearts and we should absolutely never pray for anything outside of God's plan or will or against His direction but just because something isn't a matter of life and death or a dire need, I don't think that means we shouldn't pray for it.

The way Matthew (the actor, not the apostle) talks about it makes it seem like God is too busy to answer prayers for things we don't "need," that he doesn't have the time or patience to bless us with things we merely want. First off, to limit our Creator to any type of a time schedule or say that there is any way he would ever be "too busy" for anything is just flat wrong. Secondly, Matthew (the apostle, not the actor) shares what Jesus told us:

“ *Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find,*
knock and it will be opened to you. ~ Matthew 7:7 ”

MEN'S MINISTRY

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.

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER continued

Make Your Requests Known...continued from page 6

The word also tells us:

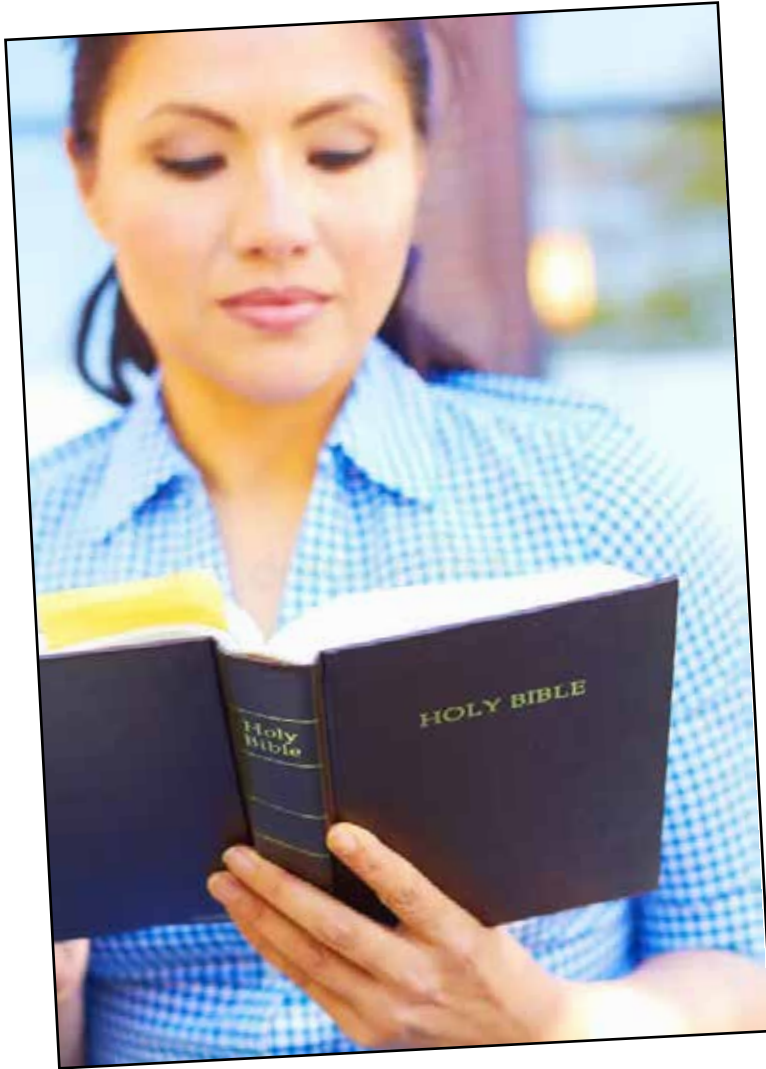
*"If you ask Me anything in My name,
I will do it." ~ John 14:14*

AND

*"Do not be anxious for anything but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make
your requests known to God" ~ Philippians 4:6*

We are encouraged to ask for things we want. Of course, the Bible puts some qualifiers on it; "In My name" pretty much rules out asking for vain or sinful things, and "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving" ensures that we are thankful for what we already have and willing to accept God's will. He tells us to ask for things. He loves us and encourages us to make requests of Him. And He always answers, sometimes not in the way we want and most of the time not right at the moment we want it, but according to His will, His timing, and His plan he will always answer.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



APRIL FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

*A night of fun & fellowship
with other Christian women!*

Our next monthly Fellowship Night is
Sunday, April 7th, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*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?*

Upcoming Fellowship Nights
May 5th ~ June 2nd ~ July 7th

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays

6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

The Gospel of John

Led by Barb Gray.

*Group meets in
the Parlor on the 2nd floor.*



Deaconess' Meeting

*The next Deaconess' meeting is
Saturday, April 27th
from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church.*

Prayer Shawl Meetings

Tuesday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at the
home of Judi Cox and Thursday, April 18th
at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Judi Cox.



Contact Judi at
272-9803
for more information.

Monthly Bible Verse

*The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season
and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.*

~ Deuteronomy 28:12



FRUIT FUN



FRIEND-SHIPPING



Our March Fellowship Night was so much FUN!!!

On March 4th, ladies enjoyed a "quick" game of fellowship while "Speed Friend-Shipping"! Don't know what that is???...think speed-dating with the chance to get to know other sisters-in-Christ a little better!

We also enjoyed fruit-themed snacks and a devotion from Melissa Vinsonhaler on how our spiritual lives can mirror apples trees. We need to be near enough to one another to fellowship, sometimes we need pruned, and just like apple trees, our walk can resemble the seasons we are in. At some point we should enter a

season where we boom which should be followed by producing fruit.



NEWS & NOTES

APRIL CROSS GUARD

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

April 7th
Lynden Landholm

April 14th
Lynden Landholm

April 21st
Andrew Swickard

April 28th
Mike Swickard

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

April 7th
Tristan Webb
Bill White

April 14th
Tim Cunningham
Ray DeMoss

April 21st
Tyler Crow
Rodney Barrand

April 28th
Chuck Shockey
Brian Stovall

APRIL
DEACONESS
Melissa Vinsonhaler
Megan Green

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.

Baptism In the Church Family

Congratulations to Brandon Arnold
who was baptized on Sunday, March 24th.

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." - Galatians 3:27

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print on Friday, April 26th.
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Saturday, April 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!

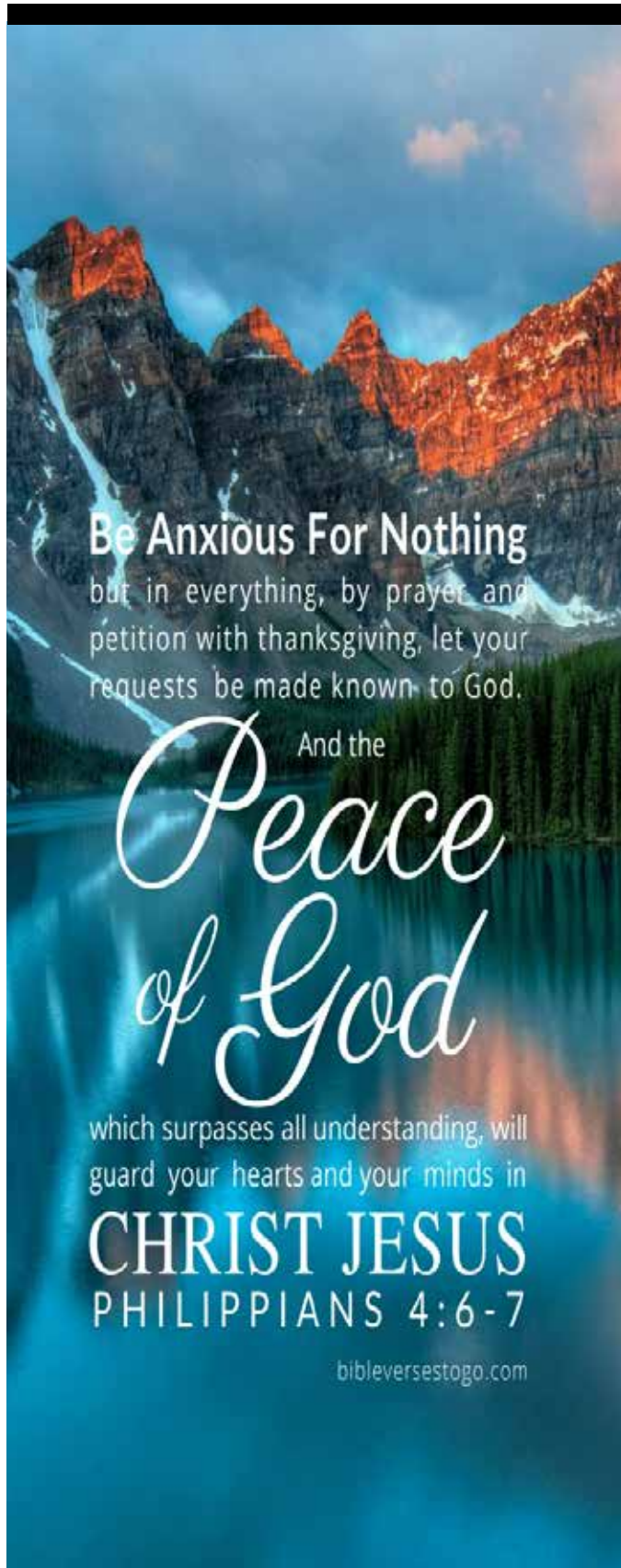
Meal Ministry Team

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 every Monday, except for the last Monday of the month, following the prayer meetings.**

The meetings are open to members, so please join us!



Monthly Events at CPCC...

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	2 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	3 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	4 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	5	6 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
7 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	8 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	9 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	10 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	11 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church	12	13 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
14 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	15 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	16 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	17 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	18 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	19	20 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i>
21 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	22 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	23 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	24 5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	25	26	27 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church.</i> 9:30 AM <i>Deaconess Meeting</i>
28 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	29 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	30 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.				

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Jeff Martens
Connections Pastor
jeff@centralparkcc.org



Elijah White
Student Ministry Pastor
elijah@centralparkcc.org

Office Hours

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

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Jayme Green
Worship Leader
jayme@centralparkcc.org

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