

# THE CORNERSTONE

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

May 2024 Volume 20 Issue 5

[www.centralparkcc.org](http://www.centralparkcc.org)

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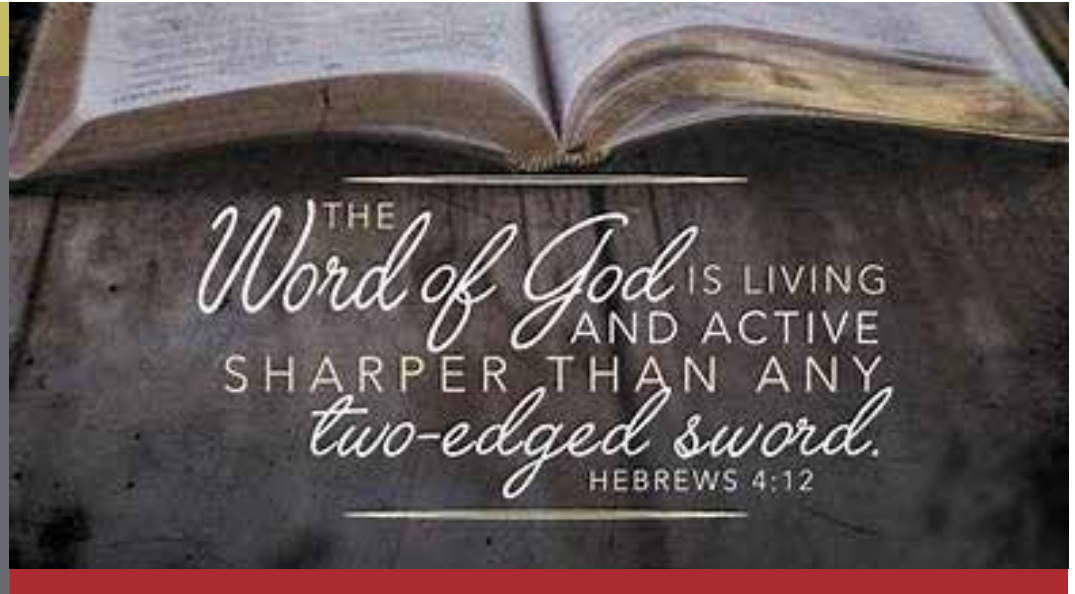
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## For your info...

**Please remember to call the church to inform us of any hospitalizations, illnesses and prayer requests.** We want to cover our church family in prayer during difficult times, and we want to know when these needs exist. Please keep us informed!

**Ladies, would you be interested in a prayer partner?** A prayer partner is someone who joins you in your spiritual endeavors, providing emotional support, shared growth, and a sense of accountability. If so, please contact Melissa Vinsonhaler at [j\\_vinsonhaler@yahoo.com](mailto:j_vinsonhaler@yahoo.com).

## What's happening in May

### Women's Fellowship ~ Sunday, May 5th ~ 6 PM - 8 PM

Ladies, we have a fun craft planned! Just a hint...April showers, bring May flowers!!! See page 9 for more details.

### Mother's Day Breakfast ~ Sunday, May 12th ~ 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Start Mother's Day off by treating Mom to a hot, delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church! Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and EVERYONE is invited to enjoy the feast. Thank you, God, for our moms!

### Graduation Sunday ~ Sunday, May 19th - 10:45 AM Worship Service

If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, or trade school this May, we would like to recognize you during our worship service on the 19th. Please contact Elijah at 785-861-5868 by May 11th to let us know! Congratulations on a major life milestone!

a message from  
**OUR ELDERS**

## **Greetings from the elders**

It is the heart of the elders to solemnly devote ourselves to prayer, (Colossians 4:2), to pray continually, (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18), and to pray expectantly, (John 15:7, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 145:18, and Matthew 21:22).

We also want to encourage everyone to remain in prayer for the leadership of Central Park Christian Church. We covet your prayers. There are so many stories packed throughout Scriptures where God's people fasted and prayed, where they lay prostrate before the Lord God Almighty, and cried out for mercy and help. If it were not for the cries of God's people in Egypt, would He have heard them crying out and sent Moses to set them free? Probably not. It's our responsibility to cry out in times of need.

As we continue to work through this transition of not having a senior pastor to shepherd the flock here at Central Park, we want to use the time that's before us to seek God's favor. That's why we are asking everyone to join us in prayer. Sometimes we may not even know what to pray for and that's okay too. We still need to take time every day to come before the Lord our God in prayer. In Romans 8:26, we are told that the Spirit Himself groans within us when we do not know what to pray. That's a pretty incredible promise. We ask with anticipation that God Himself will hear our cries. That He will bless us and the generations to come with great leadership, bringing glory to His name, and spreading the gospel in truth and good deeds.

Remember that Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops (James 5:17-18). It is our belief that when we cry out earnestly, God will hear His people, and will move mightily, and provide the shepherd, He has chosen to lead this flock. We believe when we ask, He will hear. When He hears, He will answer.

Hebrews 10:19-25 says, "Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He Who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more, as you see the day approaching."

This week we are opening up the church to come together in corporate prayer. (See page 3 for more details.) We will continue to pray together as elders and leaders of Central Park Christian Church as we encourage you to join us when you can. Jesus said, "My Father's house will be a house of prayer." (Matthew 21:13) Let's join in prayer.

Blessings from above,

Bill White

a message from

# OUR CONNECTIONS PASTOR



Jeff Martens

## He Knows!

When we don't know what to say,  
He knows...

Did you know there's a prayer called the  
"I don't know" prayer? It's very spiritual.

You just go off somewhere quiet and  
hidden and you walk right up to the heart  
of God and you say,

"I don't know."

"I don't know where to go from here."

"I don't know what is happening or  
why this is happening."

"I don't know how to process this."

"I don't know what to do with these  
emotions."

"I don't know how to handle this  
situation."

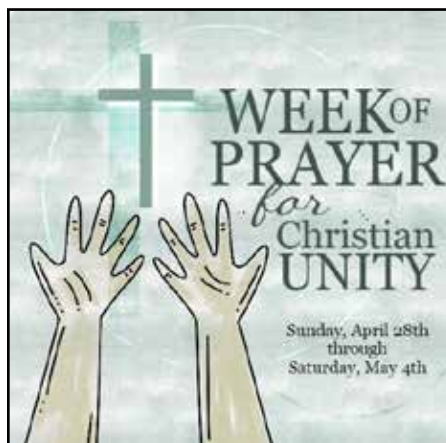
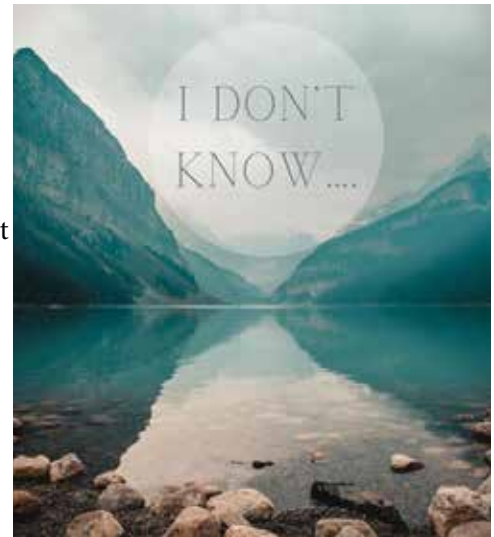
It covers a lot of I don't knows.

And then with whatever dusty little sand grain of faith you have left, you say,  
"But You know."

And you leave it there.

God most certainly hears that prayer.

~ Kayla Lewis Pullen, Facebook



Jeremiah 29:12

*Then you will call on me and come and  
pray to me, and I will listen to you.*

## Speaking of Prayer...

*At the time this issue is printed, we will be a few days into our "Week of Prayer."*

*If you haven't had time to join the family at church, please make an effort to do so. The past few evenings have been powerful! We will be there every evening beginning at 7 PM through Saturday, May 4th.*

*If you are unable to join us in person, we ask that you please set aside a portion of your day to pray with us.*

*Check out the prayer prompts on the church website: [www.centralparkcc.org](http://www.centralparkcc.org)*

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.

## Revealed

Psalms 19:1-2 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handy work. Day unto day utters speech. And night unto night reveals knowledge."*

Psalm 19:1-2 may possibly be some of my favorite verses in all of scripture. I love the picture it paints in my mind. The sun, moon, oceans, stars, mountains, deserts, rivers, trees, flowers, and even weeds glorify God. All creation cries out and declares how great God is. I think it's safe to believe the glory of God is revealed through His creation.

Enter my recent word from the Lord. God has been constantly whispering in my ear the phrase "The glory of God is revealed through the hearts of His followers". The first time I heard that I thought it was a silly idea. How can that be my responsibility? My heart cannot reveal God's glory? My heart loves God, I love God, but I cannot be responsible for that can I? In that moment the Holy Spirit brought this verse to mind.

Proverbs 4:20-23 *"My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it springs forth the issues of life."*

If as a follower of Jesus I am guarding my heart, and paying close attention to the words and teachings of my Father should not my words, and actions reveal His glory? If the fathers glory is in my heart as it is when I look at creation, read His word, and worship him, then the natural - or rather supernatural - symptom would be the overflowing of that glory into everything else I do. If a pile of rock can declare God's glory, then my heart and my life should only multiply the declaration that God is glorious.

So here's my question for you. Are your heart and your life declaring the glory of God. If not, why? And I would ask as I have done myself, for you to seek the answer to that question. And I pray that together as a church we can all declare the glory of God. and through our lives His love and glory would be revealed to those around us.

One Truth - Elijah White.

Continued on page 5

*a message from*

# OUR STUDENT MINISTRY PASTOR

## **Revealed...continued from page 4**

### **SUMMER DATES**

**May 25th** - Car wash Fundraiser and prayer drive through.

**June 8th -15th** - Fast fundraiser.

**June 30th** - July 2nd middle school camp.

**July 15th** - 19th C.I.Y.

**July 27th** - V.B.S. Kickoff Carnival.

**July 28th** - August 1st V.B.S.

More details to come!

I appreciate prayers for myself, our volunteers and our students this summer.

# OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

## Not Enough Room for Two

I sat down to have a little prayer time the other day and as soon as I closed my eyes, God put this simple short prayer on my lips,

*“Lord, fill me with you so there’s no more room left for me.”*

I didn’t mean to pray that, I hadn’t been thinking that thought, I just went into my prayer time, opened my mouth and that came out. Then I stopped, I was done, that’s all God needed to hear me say at that particular moment.

Since that day, I have included that one sentence almost every time I’ve prayed. I say it in my morning prayer, in my short prayers throughout the day, in my prayers as I fall asleep, I even said it during corporate prayer at the elders meeting this week. It has become my mantra, my motto, and my goal.

Although I wasn’t thinking of this song when God gave me that one-line prayer, it reminded me afterwards of a great worship song from several years ago.

“Empty Me” by Chris Sligh. It’s hard to even call it a one-hit-wonder song since it was really only around for about six months about a year after the artist was on American Idol. It’s a song that was written after Chris’s stint on the show and dealing with the spotlight it brought him and a confession of him letting that replace God. The hook in the chorus is “Lord, empty me so I can be filled with You.”

It’s a great song that says pretty much the same thing that I prayed but with one little difference, the song asks the Lord to “empty me” to make room for Him. Apparently the Father thought that my situation was a little more urgent than that because my the prayer He gave me completely eliminated the “emptying” step and invited God to fill me up so much that it forced out anything that was there in the first place...including myself.

This prayer has led me on a search through the word that landed me on Paul’s prayer for spiritual strength for the Ephesians.

*“<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

I think this little prayer will be on my heart for a while...

## 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.

## *Men's* Event



### DARING FAITH | PROMISE KEEPERS

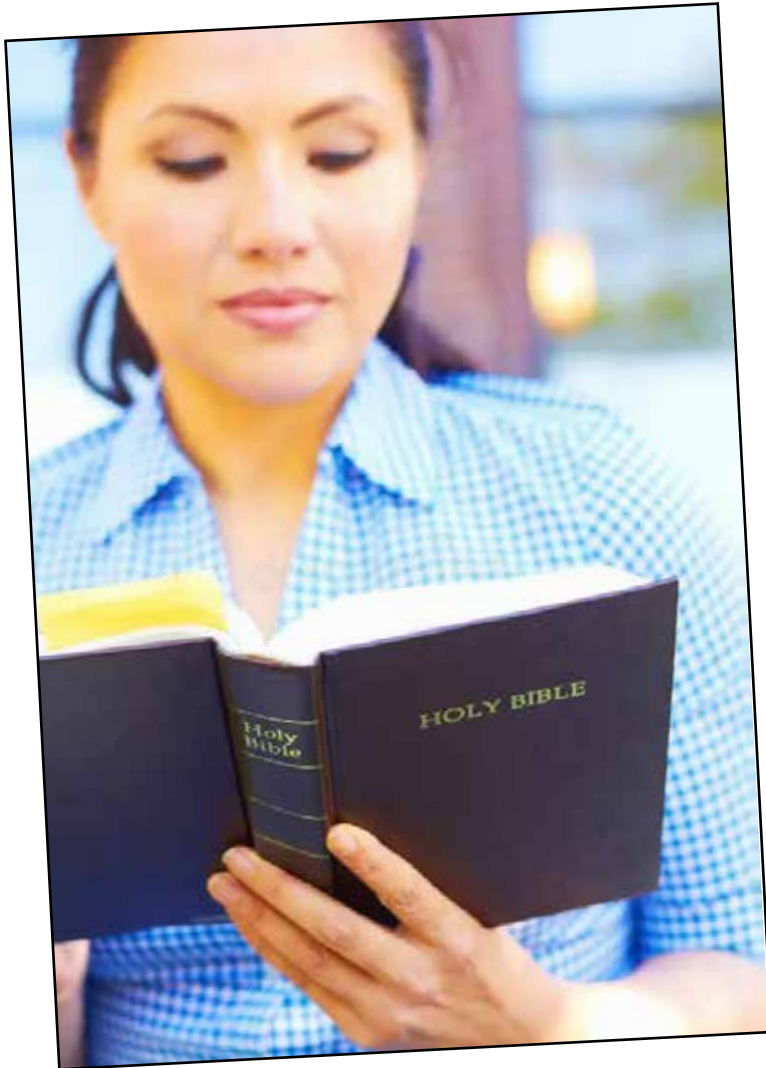
Would you be interested in joining other men from CPCC for this 2-day event & challenge?

August 9th and 10th Tulsa, OK  
(Leaving Friday returning late Saturday)

Tickets - \$99 with discounts for groups of 5+  
Additional expenses would include lodging and food for two days.

Call Bill White at 785-207-8622 for more info!

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



## MAY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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

Our next monthly Fellowship Night is  
Sunday, May 5th, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*See details on page 9!*

Upcoming Fellowship Nights  
**June 2nd ~ July 7th ~ August 4th**

## 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, July 6th**  
from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church.*

## Prayer Shawl Meetings

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



Contact Judi at  
272-9803  
for more information.

## Monthly Bible Verse

*As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. ~ Proverbs 27:19 NIV*





**WOMEN'S**  
*Fellowship*

**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
Special craft, devotion, & fellowship!  
6 PM to 8 PM ~ CPCC Fellowship Hall

**MAY 05**

- Please bring a Mexican theme snack to share.
- We will be making pressed flower frames.  
*(Suggested donation \$5)*
- Let us know if you're interested so we have enough supplies.  
*Call or text Melissa Vinsonhaler @ 785.556.1387*
- Drawing for & getting to know prayer partners.  
Unable to attend, but would like a prayer partner? Let us know and we will draw one for you!

# NEWS & NOTES

## MAY CROSS GUARD

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

**May 5th**  
*Rick Fischli*

**May 12th**  
*Eddy Fields*

**May 19th**  
*Brian Stovall*

**May 26th**  
*Rick Fischli*

**Sunday Worship**  
**10:30 a.m. - Noon**

**May 5th**  
*Michael Kates*  
*Dan Force*

**May 12th**  
*Mike Thomas*  
*Ray DeMoss*

**May 19th**  
*Randy Spilker*  
*Tristan Webb*

**May 26th**  
*Bill White*  
*Tim Cunningham*

**MAY**  
**DEACONESS**  
*Stacy Spilker*  
*Taylor White*

## **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.

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## 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.

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print on Monday, May 27th.  
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Monday, May 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](mailto:stacy@centralparkcc.org). This information will be shared with Alison Crow and her team. Thank you!

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## **Meal Ministry Team**

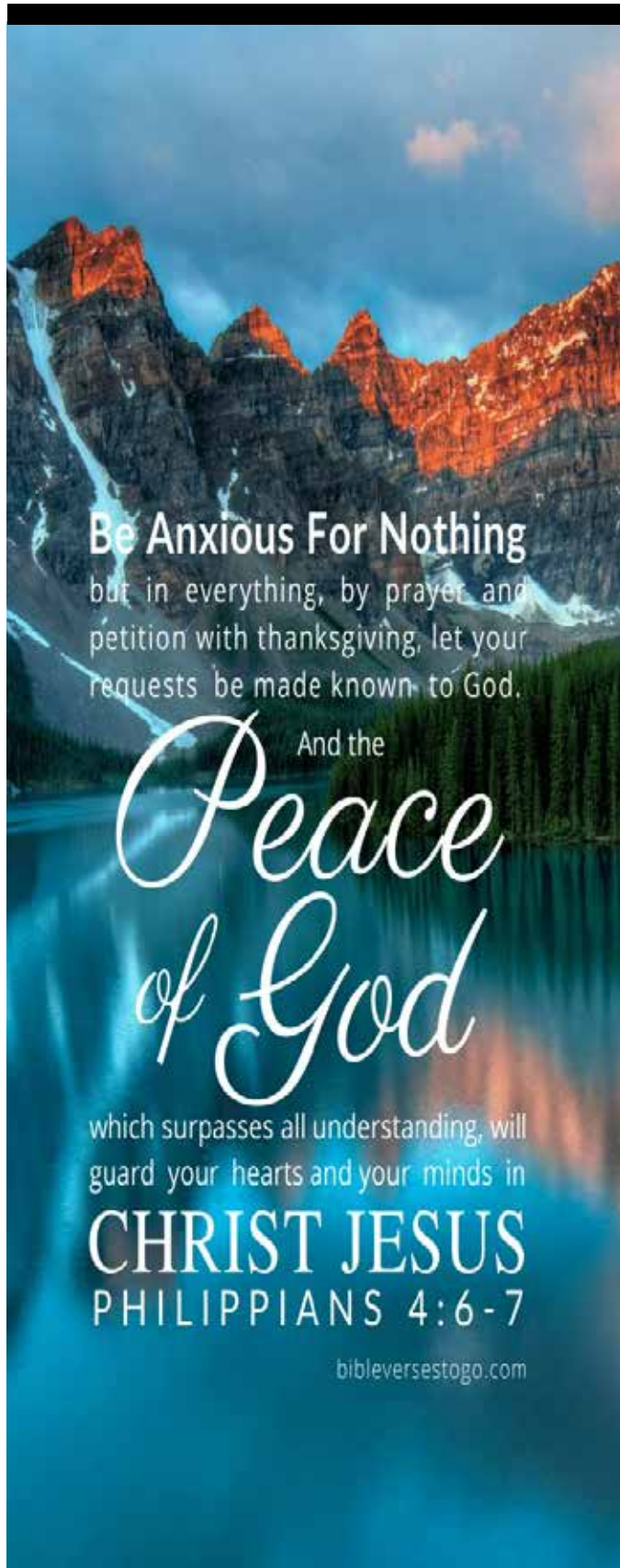
Do you like to cook? Would you like to bless others in the church body with a home-cooked meal? We are looking for people to join the meal ministry team. Meals are provided to those who have been hospitalized, seriously ill or have experienced the birth of a new baby. Volunteers are called upon during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

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## **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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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...

## MAY

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

# 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.

1535 SW Clay St.  
Topeka, KS 66604

Phone: (785) 234-5963

Fax: (785) 234-0538

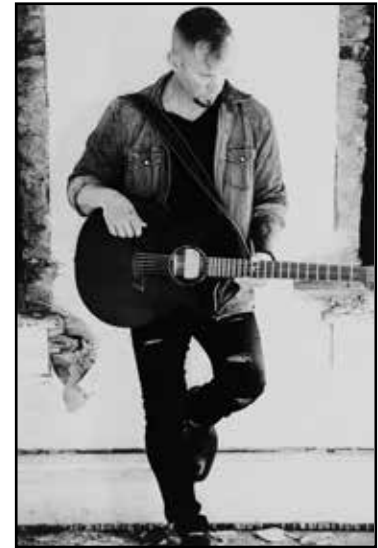
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Linda Tochtrop  
Media Specialist  
lbohlender@centralparkcc.org



Stacy Spilker  
Accountant/Office Administrator  
stacy@centralparkcc.org



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