

THE CORNERSTONE

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

December 2024 Volume 20 Issue 12

www.centralparkcc.org

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Anniversary Dinner

Celebrating 20 years!

All past and present members of CPCC are invited to join us at our 20th Anniversary Dinner. The celebration will be held at 5 PM, Sunday, December 8th at Robinson Middle School. Main dish provided, please bring a dessert or side to share. Questions? Contact Sherry Webb. We look forward to celebrating what the Lord has done!

Christmas Eve Service

Bring your family to an evening filled with worship and fellowship as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour!

6:00 P.M. ~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH ~ ALL ARE WELCOME
Communion will served.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and on Thursday, December 26th in observance of Christmas. In addition, the office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1st in observance of the New Year. May the blessings of the holidays fill your heart & home with happiness!



a message from
OUR LEAD PASTOR



Rick & Michelle Fleming

Living Out & Clinging To

Philippians 3:13b-14: But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Michelle and I are extremely humbled to experience the upward call of God in our lives. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you, to encourage you, and to equip you to do Kingdom work by helping you to apply His Word in your life.

My plan is to teach the Bible systematically during our worship services, using an expository method to teach through an entire book at a time. I will also do my best to teach in a way that is understandable to people who are new to the Bible, without boring those of you who have been immersed in the Word for many years. This is a tricky balance, and much grace is requested!

I have started in the Gospel of John, where the author's purpose is to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and to explain how we can have eternal life through Him (John 20:31). This is a book containing many foundational truths about our faith, and I encourage you to join us and bring along any friends who may not yet know Jesus. If you have missed any of the messages in this series, they are now easy to find by scrolling down to the "Sermons" link on centralparkcc.org.

For Michelle and me, Philippians 3:13-14 speaks very loudly in our lives during this time of transition. In the world's economy, what lies behind us should be treasured – a successful career, status, and a comfortable standard of living – but in God's economy, the "upward call" involves pulling up a seat at the table with the less fortunate. That is where true treasure is to be found:

Continued on page 3

Living Out...continued from page 2

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' ~ Matthew 25: 31-40

We thank God for letting us be a part of a fellowship that takes these words so seriously – living them out in generous and practical ways – while clinging to a commitment to teach the Word faithfully. This is a rare combination in our day, and we think it is a distinction that will make Central Park Christian Church an attractive place for many people who long for this type of balance in their church home. As we turn the page to a new chapter in the life of our church, we look forward to seeing how the Lord will use this body of believers to advance His kingdom.



OUR ELDER CHAIR

Leadership

I absolutely love the holiday season. A most treasured moment that I look forward to each year with great anticipation is watching *It's a Wonderful Life*, with our family in the original black and white version. They have a version in full living color but it's just not the same. The movie is about George Bailey, who spends his entire life trapped in a rundown town while he continually tries to get out. Every single time, he is about to head out of town something happens and he ends up making a personal sacrifice to better someone else's life. His whole life goes by - war happens, people get married, people die, folks grow old, children are born, challenges just keep coming and going and George just keeps longing to get away.

Then something happens, and due to no fault of his own, George's whole life comes crashing down around him. What seems, at the moment, as unthinkable changes everything when George is reminded of just how wonderful his life has truly been. He is surrounded by love and you are able to see, all at once, the people that have benefited from George always being there for them. As a Christian, I find encouragement in George as I am reminded of how we are to lay up our treasures in heaven and to live a life of sacrifice for others. It's something I can aspire to achieve and want to pursue for the rest of my natural life as long as we have today.

As Christians, we celebrate Christmas because we know that Christ gave up everything to come to earth and be God with us, Emanuel, to be born in a manger. Philippians 2 tells us "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interest of others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death-even death on a cross!"

Yes, after giving up everything and coming to earth, He went on to give up His very life as well. My prayer is that during this season and throughout the year, that the Lord God Almighty will empower us to live a life of sacrifice following Christ's example all for the glory of God. You see, we can make every day, a day filled with the Christmas spirit. Matthew 11:29 says; "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Leadership...continued from page 2

What a promise! In John 5:24 Jesus says to us, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears My Word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed over from death to life."

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1 and 1:14 together. Merry Christmas and blessings for all,

Bill

LEAD LIKE **JESUS**



**TOWN HALL MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

The 2025 proposed budget and leadership nominees will be voted on at this meeting. Church members 16 years old and older may vote. Please plan to stay after church for this meeting. **WE WILL NOT HAVE LUNCH FOLLOWING THE MEETING. PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THAT EVENING. SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS!**

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.

Moving forward in blessing

As we roll into December, I am reminded my time at CPCC is coming to an end. Although December is packed with distractions to keep my mind off of it, I can't help but feel like time is slipping away too quickly. The good memories I have of our church are too many to count. Not only my time as the Children and Student Ministry Pastor, but as a member of the congregation and as a young child in the preschool room. For the last twenty years, Central Park Christian Church has been my home in so many ways.

At the end of December, my family and I begin an exciting new chapter. Even though we will be attending a new church in a new town, CPCC will always be my home, and this church family will always be my family. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve our congregation as the Childrens & Student Ministry Pastor. I am thankful for all the leadership, patience, grace, and love our board of elders have shown me, as well as anyone who has served in the student ministry. You will not find a better group of elders and volunteers than the team we have at CPCC.

My time in this position is stacked with mistakes and throughout it all our leadership has remained gracious and kind. My time here has also been stacked with victories in Jesus. It is a wonderful gift to have been a part of what God has done in our church and in our neighborhood. I know God has a lot in store for this neighborhood and this church. I am earnestly praying that God will continue to raise up leaders and put them in the right positions.

Always remember who is in control. It's not you or me, but the Lord, who holds all things together. The Lord provides and guides, if you are willing to listen, I have seen that from our church as we have sought the Lord's direction. I don't have anything to say other than keep it up! Keep seeking, keep knocking, and the doors will continue to open.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.” ~ Numbers 6:24-26

Continued on page 9

a message from

OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

An Act of Praise

Sometimes the best inspiration for these newsletter articles comes from things I say (or things I hear) while in prayer. They generally come during those really great moments in prayer when you stop being aware of the world around you or anything other than just being there, right then, with the Father. This short article will be one of those. The inspiration for this month's article came at a moment when I was sitting outside on one of those beautiful, unseasonably warm, fall mornings we had this year. I got to that point where I forgot I was even praying and the things that were coming out of my mouth were coming purely from my heart.

During that perfect time in that prayer I said, "Lord, let me praise you by being who I am supposed to be." When I said that, I was jarred back to reality as the gravity of what I had just said to God hit me. God released me from that meditative prayer and told me to process what I had just said to Him. He wanted me to make sure I really understood it.

He made me stop and think, and then He put it on my heart to examine how I could live out what I just asked of Him. There was the practical side of it. God gave me a job to do in His kingdom. He has blessed me with the talents I use in front of our congregation every Sunday. I know I'm doing that part right because I never feel quite as whole as I do standing there singing those praises. But there was a deeper meaning to the prayer I had just prayed. I had just asked God to let me bring glory to Him simply by being obedient. I had asked Him to guide my steps so closely in alignment with His plan that witnessing those steps caused people to praise Him. Even more than that, I had asked the Father to simply let my life be as much an act of worship as the songs I sing.

The word tells us God designs us perfectly for his purpose. Romans 8:28 tells us that God makes everything in our lives work in harmony to accomplish His purpose for us; Jeremiah 29:11 promises that He has a perfect plan for us; and Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are his "workmanship" created in and for His good works. Since that day, this sentence has been a regular part of my prayers. I encourage you to ask the same of the Lord and see what He tells you.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

DECEMBER

DEC 1ST - 5PM TO 7 PM

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join us as we decorate and prepare the church for the Advent Season! We will listen to Christmas Carols, have hot drinks, and enjoy a merry time! Please bring a snack to share.

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:15PM TO 7:30PM

New study beginning in January.

*Exodus: The Journey to
the Promised Land*

*Led by Barb Gray. Group meets
in the 2nd floor Parlor.*



Deaconess' Meeting

The next Deaconess' meeting is
Saturday, January 4th
from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church.

Prayer Shawl Meetings

Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. and
Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m.
Meetings are held at Judi Cox's.

Contact Judi at 785-272-9803
for more information.



Monthly Bible Verse

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ~ Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

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 contact Bill White at (785) 207-8622.

Moving forward...continued from page 4

December can be a busy month, so keep your eyes on the church calendar, bulletins, and emails so you don't miss out! Let's finish this year well.

May the Lord pour out His blessings on your hearts, your homes, and your lives.

Thank you whole-heartedly for everything, church family. I love you all and I will miss you all.

One Truth - Elijah White

OPPORTUNITIES

Neighborhood blessing box

Did you know we have a “Blessing Box” here in the CPCC neighborhood? Located at Mary Flin’s house (also our community Chaplain House), it is the cross-shaped “box” at the edge of the porch/sidewalk at 911 SW 16th.

On your way to or from church, donations of sandwiches, snacks, pantry items... pretty much anything...can be placed in the box. Clothes, blankets, coats, etc. can be put in the black crates on either side of the cross.

Items needing to be refrigerated can be “porch-dropped” and donors can text Mary at 785-431-6000 to let her know.

We have at least two neighbors who regularly help others with access to food, and if Mary gets too much, she passes it on to another. Everything gets used. The box will almost always look empty because folks are welcome to take anytime, and it has proven to be a blessing a number of times. Please contact Mary with questions.

Food & Clothing Pantry

Grateful, thankful & blessed!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the reopening of our food and clothing pantry a success. Saturday, November 23rd, we blessed many neighbors due to your generosity! The pantry will be open each month on the third Saturday. Please continue to bring your donations of clean adult/children’s clothes and non-perishable food items. Monetary donations to purchase food items and new underwear and socks are also welcomed. Please drop your donations in the collection boxes in the foyer. Contact Michelle Fleming at flemingmom@verizon.net or Barb Gray at graceacres1999@live.com with questions.

Card ministry

Join the CPCC card ministry team and send hand-written notes to the church family. The team is also in need of cards. They will accept any kind, including blank ones. Christian themed cards are great but not required. Cards can be given to Allison Crow or left with Stacy in the office. Those interested in writing cards can contact Allison at allison.crow@hotmail.com.

BE A
blessing
TO
someone
TODAY
PROVERBS 11:25

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS



Bless Them with Bibles

Christians in the world's most difficult and dangerous places to follow Christ are asking for God's Word despite the risks of owning a copy. This Christmas, you can help fulfill their request!

Christians in remote parts of northern Kenya cannot easily buy or access Bibles, which are often too expensive and are available for purchase only in distant cities like Nairobi. Some churches in this part of Kenya have only one Bible to share among their congregation. A local pastor said he knew of one young man who refused to do his schoolwork when it was his family's turn with the church's Bible; he wanted to spend his time on Bible study.

Without knowledge of God's Word, many Christians in the region are vulnerable to the influence of Islam. VOM recently worked with a local group of pastors and lay-ministers to distribute more than 14,000 Bibles, including illustrated and audio Bibles, in this remote region of Kenya.

"We thank God for today, because we have Bibles," said one Christian who received a Bible. "It is the food of our life. The same way that our body cannot live without food, we cannot live without the Scripture."

This Christmas, you can bring the light of Christ to the world's spiritually darkest places and help ensure every Christian in a hostile area or restricted nation has his or her own Bible.

For more details or to make your contribution, please visit: www.persecution.com/christmas or scan the QR code.



NEWS & NOTES

DECEMBER CROSS GUARD

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

December 1st
Lynden Landholm

December 8th
Ray DeMoss

December 15th
Rick Fischli

December 22nd
Mike Swickard

December 29th
Andrew Swickard

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. - Noon

December 1st
Tom Blair
Bill White

December 8th
Rodney Barrand
Mike Thomas

December 15th
Tim Cunningham
Tyler Crow

December 22nd
Brian Stovall
Jim Vega

December 29th
Dan Force
Michael Kates

**DECEMBER
DEACONESS**
Barb Gray
Kim White

Another Incredible Sunday

Ever wonder how much God loves you?

On Sunday, November 24th, we were blessed by Pastor Rick's sermon on how much God loves us.

John 3:16 says it all, *"For God so love the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Here's another way to think of it. Replace the word "world" in the verse above and use your name and repeat the verse. It really makes you think about how much God really loves you!

Two beautiful ladies, Shannon and Rachel, joined Pastor Rick after his sermon to give their testimonies. Though both have suffered some trials, they give all glory to God! They also praised the members of Central Park Christian Church for the love extended to them and then placed their membership with CPCC.

Then we celebrated with two graduates from the Working Men of Christ/Joshua House re-entry program. Both men shared how God has loved them and how the members of Central Park Christian Church have accepted them. With this support, they have grown in ways they never knew possible.

We continue to enjoy our Sunday's with our CPCC family and marvel at God's multiple blessings. If you haven't been to a service in awhile, please join us!!!



Shannon shared her testimony.



Rachel joined CPCC.



Congratulations to Dan and Jason on their recent graduations the Working Men of Christ/Joshua House re-entry program

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

Be in the Know!

Do we have your correct info?

We are updating our records - do we have your correct address, phone number and email? Please call or email Stacy in the church office at stacy@centralparkcc.org or 785-234-5963 to ensure this info is up-to-date!



Young Adult Class!!!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30

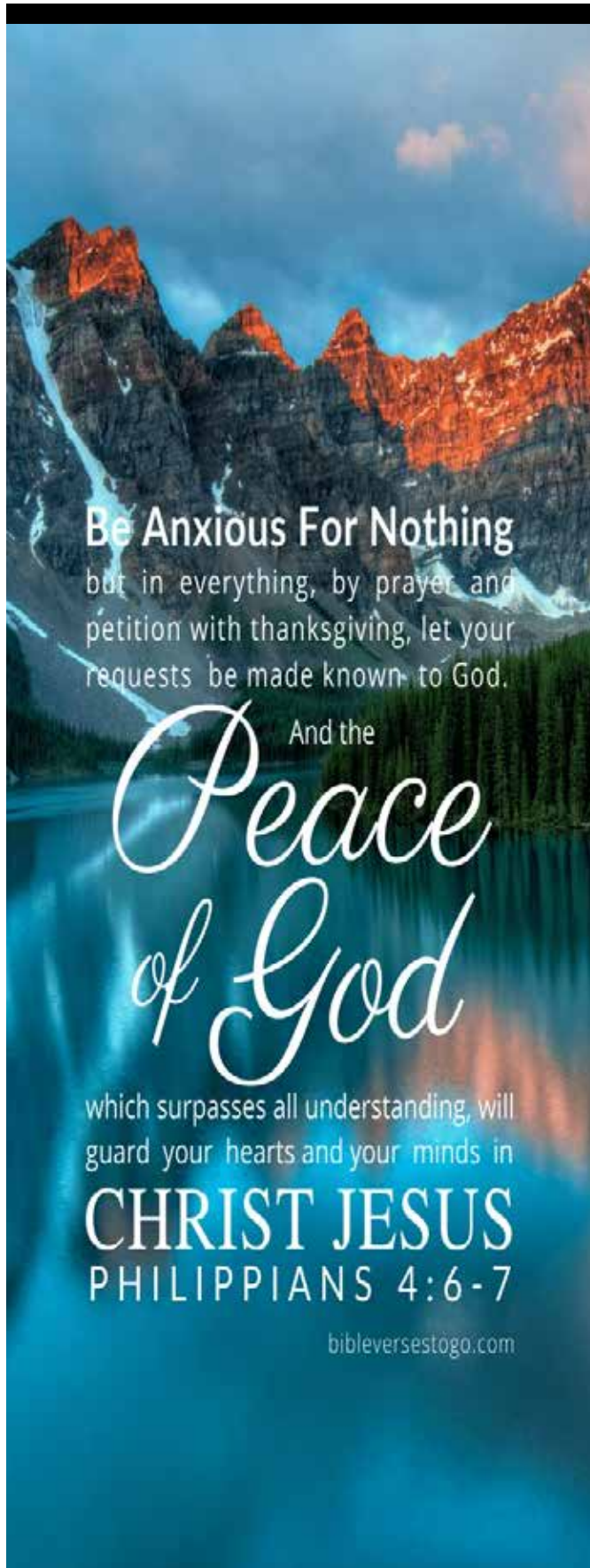
Young adults ages 18-30 are invited to join Andy Stovall during the Sunday School hour. Group meets in the upstairs balcony classroom on the North side of the church. They are discussing the challenges of young Christian adults in the modern world and how to face those challenges.

Invite your friends!!!

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 Kim White @ 785-338-1378 for more details.

Prayer



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/5147485908 - 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/5147485908 - passcode cpcc1535

*Elder business meetings are held on the first and third Monday of the month following the prayer meetings.

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



Monthly Events at GPCG...

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 5PM - 7PM Women's Fellowship Hanging of the Greens	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl at the home of Judi Cox 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church		8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Town Hall Mtg. 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings 5:00 PM Anniversary Dinner	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church		8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
8:30 AM Prayer 9:15 AM SS 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Town Hall Mtg. 12:30 PM H.S. Youth Group 12:30 PM 2nd Helpings	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.	5:30 PM Elementary & M.S. Youth Group (Dinner Served) 6:15 PM Women's Bible Study at the church	10:00 AM Men's Bible Study at the church 6:15 PM Men's Bible Study at the church		8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church. 10AM - 2PM Food & Clothing Giveaway <i>Held 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	6:00 PM Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	NO A.R.R.O.W. 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	Christmas OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Group meets at the church.
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 Prayer Meeting at the church & via Zoom	6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W.				

CPCG Pastoral Staff, Support Team & Leadership



Rick Fleming
Lead Pastor
rick@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 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall & Via Zoom
Recovery Program - 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:** Geoff Gray, Lynden Landholm,
Randy Spilker, Jason Vinsonhaler & Bill White