



The eNewsletter

March 21, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of our Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

March 22

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Middle School Bowling

March 24

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 27

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class

March 29

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

March 31

Morning Worship
Sunday School

April 1

Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Hebrews

April 2

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

April 3

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
Session Meeting

April 5

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Middle School Game Night

April 6

Men's Breakfast

April 7

Lord's Supper
Mission-Focused Sunday
School
Diaconate Meeting
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal

April 8

Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Prophets

April 10

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class

April 12

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
High School Game Night

Time for iSermons?

In my limited experience, many preachers, and many who teach preaching in American seminaries, are under duress. The reason for panic is the cultural transformation taking place before our eyes as Millennials (those born in the early 1980s to mid-90s) advance in the world, almost sidestepping entirely the church, leaving behind them the emerging Gen Z (those born after the mid-90s), who are growing up 100% digital and only negligibly churched. Many preachers are still studying literature on Millennials, and now comes a generation that most cultural commentators agree is radically different. Some preachers, with glazed pupils, stare at the pulpit and wonder what it's for, and how it's relevant.

Of course, as technology plays a more extensive role in virtually every aspect of human life, while the vocabulary and culture of the church becomes Sony Betamax, there's an uneasy wobbliness among preachers. What was fringe culture just a decade ago has become cultural normality! Some preachers pine in confused longing for a former age that was understandable, back when coffee was just coffee, and gender was just gender. Some preachers, with furrowed intensity, happily turn the page of history to meet the new era with a new kind of preaching, new kind of pulpit, new kind of...everything.

However, there are many preachers free from panic. These do not think preaching today needs to be an electric Kool-Aid ride into the post-Tom Wolf digitized New Church. Yes, things are different now, but much has stayed the same. People are people (try not to think of the 1984 single), sin is sin, the need for redemption is the need for redemption, and the gospel is still the gospel.

Actually, preachers are fortunate in that they have always been called by God to enter a strange world to offer a message both welcoming and offensive. Consider that 61 words for preaching in the Bible come from the Greek word, *keryx*, or herald.

Jason Meyer, writing in *Preaching: A Biblical Theology*, says that a herald is a special steward of the King whose sole task is to proclaim the King's words and intentions. Meyer cites a 10th century Greek lexicographer who says "a herald is in time of war what an ambassador is in peace." The herald of the ancient world was not meant for seasons of peace, but seasons of enormous tension. During the period of the Greek city-states, a herald would enter a territory in advance of a waiting army, empowered either to accept surrender on behalf of his king or to declare war if those terms were rejected. The response of the audience would unleash two astoundingly different possibilities. There is an example of this in the war code of Deuteronomy 20 where Moses advises, "when you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it (Deuteronomy 20.10)."

A preacher of God has always been meant to enter into the world of a dangerous audience scratching and seething to place *self* on God's own throne. The preacher heralds to this audience the King's terms for everlasting peace, as well as, the King's threat of judgment and everlasting damnation if the terms are rejected. God's heralds were meant for our times, not because the herald understands everything about Millennial or Gen Z culture, but because the herald steadfastly understands the words and will of the King and speaks with earnest focus. I take delightful comfort that the King who spoke to placid Colossae was the same King who spoke to putrid Corinth, and the same King who speaks to the iPeople of today.

The preacher, then, is not to wonder what the pulpit is for or how it's relevant, but to wonder that God would choose to save and nourish people through His word clearly preached and taught through a herald. The audience of today may know less about the Bible, and they may know less about the church. Explanation, clarity, and sharp focus on the text is necessary, but panic is not.

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 24

Front Desk
Sandy VanderGriend

Worship

Infants
Donna Schreiner

Crawlers
Millie Sanders

Toddlers
Heather Morrison
& Kallie Ar buckle

Sunday School

Infants
Domekia Gaines

Crawlers
Rebekah Gernhard

Toddlers
Dave Gernhard

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOWLING

Calling all Middle Schoolers! Bowling Night is tomorrow, March 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will meet at Spare Time Entertainment for some awesome bowling fun! Cost is only \$10. Please contact Jeremiah Hill or Abby Horton at cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org for more information.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Registration continues for High School Summer Camp (*Generate*), held July 15-19. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 27!** Registration information and forms are available via email and outside Jeremiah's office, and should be returned to Abby Horton or Jeremiah Hill.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students in your prayers. Many of them are in the midst of their semester and will be making summer plans soon.

HELP US RECYCLE

We have placed blue recycle bins throughout the church facility. Please take a moment to help our facility staff and dispose of the appropriate trash in the appropriate bins.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The April Birthday/Anniversary Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Jim Hildebrand
jhildebrand56@gmail.com

WELCOME, WELCOME!

We inadvertently left Keith and Shlomit Thompson (children: Jonathan, Caitlyn, and Elinor) from our CPC New Members list last Sunday. We are most grateful for the Thompson family, and apologize for the mistake.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Make plans to join us on Wednesday evenings for our fellowship meal. Cost is \$4 per adult and \$2.50 per child, with a family max of \$15. This week's entrée is Beef Shepherd's Pie. Parents, remember to supervise your children until the children's wing opens at 6:50 p.m.

For the month of March, the Covenant Presbyterian Youth are responsible for clean-up duty.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

April 3	Honey Mustard Chicken
April 10	Stromboli
April 17	Easter Week - No Meal
April 24	Grilled Chicken w/ Sesame Noodles
May 1	Taco Salad

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for always loving our family well. We have been blessed by your outpouring of love through your visits, calls, cards, and especially prayers, as we grieve the death of my brother.

~Amy Creamer