



The eNewsletter

April 11, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of our Congregational Care Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- April 12**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
High School Game Night
- April 13**
TVP Spring Meeting
Cooking Kinship Group
- April 14**
Palm Sunday
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- April 15**
Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Prophets
- April 16**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- April 17**
No Wednesday Night
Activities
Session Meeting
- April 18**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Maundy Thursday
- April 19**
Good Friday - Church Office
Closed
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- April 21**
Easter Sunday
Morning Worship
- April 24**
Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
- April 26**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Taters and Tubesteaks
- April 28**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- May 1**
Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
Session Meeting
- May 3**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study

Faith and Hope

My original pick to win the *March Madness* national basketball tournament has managed to advance to the final game. As I write, it's 12 hours until tip-off for the Monday, April 8, evening championship contest. "Think your team is going to win it all?" asked a fellow round-ball enthusiast at church on Sunday. I replied, "I sure hope so." My answer was not a certain forecast. It was simply an expression of my desire, describing a mere wish for the future, but definitely not my foreknowledge of the outcome.

If you combine a desire with the absence of any assurance it will come about, you may have the equation for the common meaning of the word hope. Because of this customary usage, we often stumble when we meet the word hope in Scripture.

Scripture places hope among the great triad of virtues that defines the Christian life – faith, hope and love. In biblical parlance, hope elevates as high above wish projection as a Zion Williamson slam dunk. It races quickly ahead of desire like some of those meteoric fast-breaks. Hope is Gatorade inundated with assurance and championship-capped with certainty. This kind of hope is looking into the future...where the victory already is! (Okay, I confess, I've been watching too many games.)

Faith and hope can be distinguished, but that doesn't mean they are disconnected. There's a certain reciprocal relationship between them. The author of Hebrews 11.1 tells us faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Here, the word faith is defined in a manner that collides with the frivolous way it is used today. Notice that Hebrews speaks of faith in terms of assurance and

conviction. Faith without assurance can be superstition, and faith without conviction (evidence) can be naivety. Scriptural faith is not some blind, irrational leap into the dark. Rather, it both has assurance and gives assurance. This kind of faith is firm. It is based on the surety of the reliability of God. In faith, we trust God not only for what He already has done for us, but for what He inviolably promises to do in the future.

Believing in God is one thing, but believing God can be entirely different. When our faith moves beyond a head nod to the existence of God (god) to heartily trusting His Word, then we experience faith.

Faith in things past carries over to trust in things yet to come. Because God has proven Himself in the past, His declarations for the future give substance and real conviction to our hope. The sports commentators and experts are regularly wrong in their predictions about the outcomes of games. Dicky V, Sir Charles, or Jimmy the Greek never had a perfect record with their "sure bets".

However, God doesn't guess about future events. Neither does He offer expert prognostications. His promises carry the very properties of who He is. In this sense, we experience hope as faith looking forward. A hope that anchors our souls (Hebrews 6.18, 19). A hope that is particularly blessed and realized in Christ's appearing (1 Timothy 2.13). A hope that unequivocally comes from the God of hope (Romans 15.13).

This is our hope, and it cannot disappoint (Romans 5.5)...regardless of who wins tonight. (Go Wahoos!)

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule April 14

Front Desk

Emily Calloway

Worship

Infants

Sandi Schreiner

Crawlers

Edie Martof

Toddlers

Jeremiah & Madeline Hill

Sunday School

Infants

Anna Yonkofski

Crawlers

Lori Rogers

Toddlers

Cami Calloway

HIGH SCHOOL GAME NIGHT

High School Game Night is this Friday, April 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Girls bring a sweet snack, and guys bring a salty snack.

COOKING KINSHIP GROUP

Ladies, if you haven't signed up for the Cooking Kinship Group and would like to join, we would love to have you! We'll meet on Saturday, April 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the home of Becky Pearce. RSVP to Becky at rpearce16@gmail.com or 423.381.2202.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will observe Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. *Maundy* originates from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning a command or mandate, referring to Christ's command given the night before His crucifixion that His disciples should love one another (John 13.34). That night, as they celebrated Passover, the disciples were told by Jesus that the bread of Passover would now represent His body and the cup His blood. We will celebrate our Lord's Supper and participate in a tenebrae service denoting the growing *darkness* that would encompass the next two days before His glorious resurrection.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed on April 19, in observance of Good Friday. Please note, no eNewsletter will be sent Thursday, April 18.

EASTER LILIES

If you ordered a lily to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, while honoring or remembering a loved one or friend, you may pick up your lily following the Easter Service. If you have any questions, contact Carol Beatty at 423.899.5377.

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Due to Holy Week, there is no Wednesday Night Supper or Activities on April 17. Please be sure to join us when we resume on Wednesday, April 24. The meal that evening will be Grilled Chicken w/Sesame Noodles.

TATERS AND TUBESTEAKS

Join us for a night out with the family on Friday, April 26. The dogs and brats dinner begins at 5:45p.m. in Coolidge Park. Stay for the Lookouts vs. Biloxi Shuckers game at AT&T Park at 7:15 p.m. The cost remains \$5 per person, with a family max of \$15. Due to the increase of ticket prices, we need a more accurate headcount than previous years. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the Church Office.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the church, new members may meet with the session on Sunday, April 28. Please call or email the church office for an appointment.

LADIES' TEA

Ladies, you are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for girls (age 10 and under), with a family maximum of \$20. Nursery and Childcare (children up to age 8) are available by registration only. Please register by May 5 at the Women's Ministry Table in the Lobby.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

In order to keep our Membership Directory as current as possible, please be sure to notify the Church Office if you have any changes to your address, phone number, or email address.