

# The eNewsletter

May 16, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## Looking Ahead...

- May 17  
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- May 18  
Lunch and Lawn Party
- May 19  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School
- May 21  
Mothers' Encouragement  
Group
- May 22  
GriefShare  
Prayer Group
- May 24  
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- May 26  
Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Graduate Recognition and  
Reception
- May 27  
Memorial Day  
Church Office Closed
- May 29  
GriefShare  
Prayer Group
- May 31  
Men's Proverbs Bible Study  
11th and 12th Breakout  
Games
- June 1  
Men's Breakfast
- June 3  
Music Camp
- June 4  
Music Camp
- June 5  
Music Camp  
GriefShare  
Prayer Group
- June 6  
Music Camp

## From the Pen of our Executive Pastor...

*"Blessed be my rich Lord Jesus, who sendeth not away beggars from his house with a toom [empty] dish. He filleth the vessels of such as will come and seek. We might beg ourselves rich (if we were wise), if we could but hold out our withered hands to Christ, and learn to suit and seek, ask and knock."*

Samuel Rutherford, *The Loveliness of Christ: Extracts from the Letters of Samuel Rutherford*, pg. 75-76

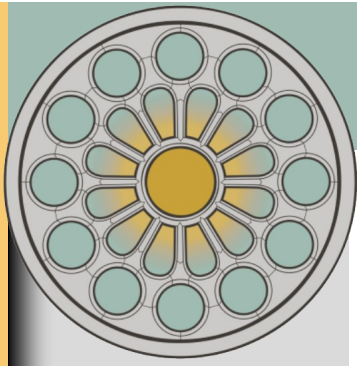
Our lives are messy, aren't they? They can often be filled with weary brokenness. This brokenness is compounded in our relationships. We frequently want to live in simplicity, but the lingering effects of sin in the world produce a complex weariness for us. When we combine this with a shortage of time for personal reflection and the intricate struggles of our hearts, we will find that we may not even have a basic knowledge of ourselves.

About a year ago, I had a really good conversation with a pastor-friend of mine. He was a seasoned, older man whose wife had died of ALS a few years earlier. As we discussed the topic of the weary, broken mess of our lives, he reflected upon his inability to sing since his wife had died. As a thoughtful pastor, he couldn't articulate the implications of his grief on his heart. It was experiential for him. He felt the weight of his loss, but couldn't identify all the ways his heart and life seemed broken. While he knew it wasn't healthy not to sing before the Lord, he found a certain solace in his inherent longing for it.

We often want clear, simple solutions to the complex issues and relationships in our lives. We want a clearly written *Epistle to Bennett* that lays waste to any ambiguity in our lives. Why didn't the Lord provide such a guide for us? Why allow us to live in mess? Why not provide a great halogen to light up the field, rather than a small lamp for our feet and light unto our path? A small lamp forces us to live in relationship with our Redeemer. Our weary brokenness humbles and points us to the source of all our provision.

In a life of persistent suffering, we are given opportunities to be drawn closer to the Great Provider. We learn how God uses the process of our faith to shape the faithfulness of our actions. It is not about our ability to fix the mess but be transformed in it. This is essential for our walk in Him. In His work, we will lose ourselves to find a new life in Him. This seems to me an outworking of Samuel Rutherford's quote at the beginning. Our weary, withered hands are soothed in the love of our King as we continually return again to Him. In this persistent return, I experience something that cannot be learned in any other way. I am loved. I am loved in the mess. I can love in the midst of the mess. Let us learn to not resist the mess, but to see the healing hands of Christ soothe our aching souls and bring other messy lives to His eager door.

~Pastor Bennett



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule May 19

**Front Desk**  
Stacy Collins

### Worship

**Infants**  
Esther McEachern

**Crawlers**  
Beth Griggs

**Toddlers**  
Josh & Diana Perrel

### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Polly Henry

**Crawlers**  
Debby Gardner

**Toddlers**  
Jason Collins

### LUNCH AND LAWN PARTY

CPC Children's Ministry would like to invite parents, along with their children, to a Lunch and Lawn Party this Saturday, May 18, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. We have so many fun activities for you to enjoy with your children, including Dunk a Pastor! Lunch will be provided, and children will receive a new t-shirt! Be sure to invite a friend and bring a chair or blanket! For more information, contact Crystal Middleton at [cmiddleton@cpchattno.org](mailto:cmiddleton@cpchattno.org).

### GRIEFSHARE

CPC will host a 12 week grief support group beginning Wednesday, May 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. GriefShare will help and encourage those who have experienced the death of a loved one. To learn more, visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or contact Eric Mullinax at [emullinax@cpchattno.org](mailto:emullinax@cpchattno.org).

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 26, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know by May 21 if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, and doctorate programs. Please email the Church Office with the name of the graduate, degree earned, name of school, and graduation date. A graduate reception will be held in the Courtyard during the Sunday School hour.

### CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all the youth who participated in the Car Wash Fundraiser. Please turn in any pledge sheets to Jeremiah or Abby, and we will be happy to contact your sponsors. Trip payments for summer camps are due on Sunday, May 26.

### OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Please note, no eNewsletter will be sent on May 30.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Jeremy & Emily Fitzsimmons  
1203 O'Grady Drive  
Chattanooga, TN 37419

### BREAKOUT GAMES

All 11th and 12th graders are invited to Breakout Games on Friday, May 31, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Be sure to bring money for dinner afterward. Contact Abby or Jeremiah for more information.

### MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is June 3-7, with the performance on Sunday, June 9. The camp is \$30 per child, and is open to children entering Kindergarten through those entering Sixth Grade. This year's musical is *Here for the Gold*, centering around 5 parables. Registration forms are in the Welcome Center, or you may register online at [cpchattno.org](http://cpchattno.org). Online registration ends on June 1, but you can also register in person the first day of camp. Volunteer Registration forms are in the Welcome Center, and volunteer registration ends on Sunday, May 26.

### BRAVES BASEBALL

CPC/First Presbyterian charter bus trip to SunTrust Park is Thursday, June 13. The Braves are facing off against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets are limited. Contact the Church Office to reserve a seat.

### SHINE CAMP

July 8-12, CPC is launching SHINE: A Creative Arts Camp for Girls. The camp is open to girls who have completed Third through Eighth Grade. The camp costs \$50, and there are only 30 spots available. Contact the Church Office for more information.