

The eNewsletter

July 11, 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...

Everyday Introductions

“The good news for the members of the graduating class who plan to enter the ordained ministry is that you don’t have to invent your own Gospel. All of the church hopes you will be imaginative and resourceful. It doesn’t expect you to be original. Actually, it rather discourages originality with respect to core convictions.” These words were delivered by church historian, David Steinmetz, to the 1997 graduating class of Duke Divinity School. These are helpful words. The “core convictions” of the church of Christ actually belong, in every respect, to Christ Himself.

Over the course of 30 years, we have established a year-round Sunday School ministry for all ages at Covenant Presbyterian Church. While once common in American Protestant churches, this ministry is becoming increasingly uncommon. Many have dropped Sunday School entirely, have transformed it into a ministry of fellowship-only or outreach-only, or have decided to offer classes sporadically or on days other than Sunday. This is an important ministry to us, and we encourage you to stay after the worship service and make Sunday school a regular part of your life at Covenant. Visit the foyer or the website (cpcchatt.org/connect/sunday-morning) to learn more about the classes offered.

Our Essentials Sunday School Class is a year-round class deliberately focused on the core convictions of Christianity and the core conviction of Reformed churches like Covenant Presbyterian. This class rotates through an annual schedule of topics in three categories: Christian beliefs, the history of the church, and elements of the Bible. Essentials is chiefly meant to care for three kinds of people.

First, this class is designed for friends and visitors who, while willing to visit Covenant for worship, are not sure if they are willing to stay for Sunday School. This class is an opportunity for them to meet the pastor in a setting that, by its very nature, is meant to introduce core convictions of the church.

Second, this class is designed for those who are contemplating making Covenant their church home. For some, Essentials will serve as a “precautionary,” just-to-be-sure step before they commit to becoming a member. At

Covenant, a “membership” class is not a requirement for church membership. We ask those considering membership to reach out to our Congregational Care Pastor, Eric Mullinax (visit.cpcchatt.org/about/how-to-join for more information). Of course, every year, the Essentials Class covers topics important to those considering membership (like the membership vows). Essentials, however, is not itself a requirement for membership.

Thirdly, this class is designed to serve the regular attendees of Covenant. Because Essentials rotates on a year-long schedule timed in conjunction with all of our other classes, everyone knows that core topics are taught each year. With this in mind, we are in the process of placing all of these topics on the church calendar. Essentials is designed in such a way that, even if you have been at Covenant for a long time, you can *drop in* to the Essentials Class to catch one or two topics, and then *drop out* to return to your regular Sunday School class. For instance, it is very common for a young married couple to be very *uninterested* in the topic of infant baptism early in their marriage, and very *interested* in infant baptism later in their marriage! Similarly, it is common for someone to love their Reformed church, but still grapple with questions about predestination, Presbyterian church government, the charismatic gifts, or denominationalism. You can count on these topics being covered every year.

Generally speaking, Essentials is not a person’s regular Sunday School class. This class repeats every year, and is meant to serve the purpose of introducing core doctrine, fundamental church history, and Bible basics. Essentials also serves to introduce people to the pastor, along with short introductions to various elders, Ministry Team leaders, and Sunday School teachers. Our hope is that you make one of our other Sunday School classes your “home” class. We love the ministry of Sunday School, and strongly encourage you to stay after worship. For some, Essentials will help make this a reality.

~Pastor Jones

Looking Ahead...

July 12

SHINE Camp
Men’s Proverbs Bible Study

July 13

Service Project Opportunity
Hiking Kinship Group

July 14

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Bailey Baby Shower

July 15

Generate
No HS Evening Bible Study
and Soccer

July 16

Generate
Ladies’ Morning Bible Study
Session Meeting

July 17

Generate
GriefShare
Ladies’ Evening Bible Study
Prayer Group

July 18

Generate
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Swim Day at the May’s Pool

July 19

Generate
Men’s Proverbs Bible Study
Ladies’ Pool Party

July 21

Morning Worship
Sunday School

July 22

HS Evening Bible Study

July 23

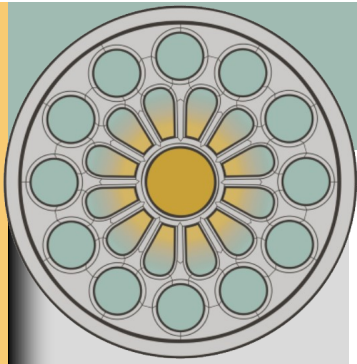
Ladies’ Morning Bible Study

July 24

Ladies’ Summer Prayer Group
GriefShare
Ladies’ Evening Bible Study
Prayer Group

July 25

Swim Day



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 14

Front Desk
Becky Pearce

Worship

Infants
Sandi Schreiner &
Heather Morrison

Crawlers
Emily Calloway &
Lori Rogers

Toddlers
Will & Melissa Horton

Sunday School

Infants
Rachel Kemp

Crawlers
Dory George & Julie Gracy

Toddlers
Shirley Allin

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Colleen (Murphy) Bailey is this Sunday, July 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Colleen is having a boy, and is registered at Amazon and Target.

HIKING KINSHIP GROUP

Ladies, come explore the outdoors with us! This Saturday, July 13, at 12:00 p.m., we'll hike the Chattanooga Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is an amazing urban trail system that has become the recreational spine of the Scenic City. For more information, contact Breezy Atkinson at breezyatkinson@yahoo.com.

LADIES' POOL PARTY

Ladies, you are all invited to a pool party and BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic) supper at Anne Wagner's house on Friday, July 19, at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Diane Lazor at dlazor7@gmail.com. You can also let her know via email if you're interested in carpooling. She is meeting at the Ooltewah Publix at 2:30 p.m.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

CPC is planning an ambitious service project at a home in Ringgold (only 4 miles from the church) this Saturday, July 13. The work is at the home of a single, senior citizen on disability. Anticipated work is from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Work will include re-shingling the roof (possible deck, soffit, and eaves repair) and the rebuilding of a dilapidated front porch entry area. We have a sizeable crew committed, but could use 4-6 more able bodies. Incremental volunteer work of 2 or 3 hours is gladly accepted, especially in light of anticipated heat. Please contact Eric Mullinax at emullinax@cpcchatt.org for more information.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. Changes may be emailed to the Church Office at cpcoffice@cpcchatt.org.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LUNCH

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Thursday, July 18, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call or email the Church Office.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the church, new members may meet with the Session on Sunday, July 21. Please call or email the Church Office for an appointment.

SWIM DAY

Swim Day at the May's pool is Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The invitation is open to anyone at CPC each week until August 8. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and cleanup.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Nursery has a need for quarterly volunteers. Any member, twelve years of age or older, wishing to help may contact Crystal Middleton at cmiddleton@cpcchatt.org for more information.

BUDGET REPORT

Through June 30:

Budget:	\$905,000
Actual:	\$775,461
Shortfall:	\$129,539