



The eNewsletter

March 7, 2013

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

Looking Ahead...

- March 8**
D2S Youth Conference
- March 9**
D2S Youth Conference
Time to "Spring Forward" -
Change Your Clocks Ahead
- March 10**
Mission Committee Meeting
Instrumental Ensemble
Evening Bible Study
Kids, Inc.
- March 13**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- March 14**
Ladies' Bible Study
- March 15**
Chicks 'N Chocolate
- March 17**
Membership Sunday
Deacon Meeting
Instrumental Ensemble
Evening Bible Study
Youth Group
Kids, Inc.
- March 19**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- March 20**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- March 21**
Ladies' Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- March 24**
Palm Sunday
Shepherding Groups Meet
- March 27**
No Wednesday Evening
Activities
- March 28**
No Ladies' Bible Study
Maundy Thursday Service
- March 29**
Good Friday
-Church Office Closed
- March 30**
Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast
- March 31**
Easter Service
No Sunday School
No Evening Activities

OK. I admit it. I'm very biased toward this subject matter. I'm technically challenged with respect to new and advancing electronics. My phone (like its owner) is not smart. I don't text, facebook, instant-message or tweet. I don't belong to a chat group. I'm barely (and admittedly, reluctantly) a member of the virtual community-the very community that was promised at the dawn of the Internet Age to link all humankind in brotherhood, sisterhood and enlightenment.

But has this community delivered? Social scientists are telling us that beneath the promises of our successfully linked world, with our ever-growing friends list and more ways to connect than we have time for, an undertow of despair is noticeably emerging. Ironically, we are living in a disconnected, lonely world, where the need for true community and meaningful connectedness has never been more piercingly heard and severely felt. It is the longing most often voiced by teenagers around the world; it is the reason most often cited for discontent in everything from jobs to suburbs to relationships: **real connection**. "What does 'friend' even mean now," asked one columnist recently. Did you know that when the diaries of the famed atheist, Madeline Murray O'Hare were auctioned off several years ago, they were found to have been punctuated with words like... "will somebody somewhere please love me?"

Our longing for meaningful connection is real, not virtually real. It is a longing that runs deeper than any one area of our lives. It spills over into our intellects, our feelings, and our socializing. We are looking for connections of heart, soul, and mind.

The same One who said the greatest commandment on earth is to love God

with all of our strength, soul, and being, once held a child in front of Him and said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." (Matthew 18.3-5, NIV)

Showing a child as a sign of the community of God's kingdom, Jesus seems to be saying something deliberate about the *kind* of community He is drawing together. Little children love readily with all of themselves. Their connections are real. Their unity is genuine, perhaps because their minds have not yet been deterred by suspicion, disappointment or pride. So their hearts grasp something about communing we often do not grasp as jaded adults. There's a lot to learn by watching children. Built in by the God of nature, children seem to have the DNA idea of loyalty even to an object. The child who has gone to bed without his teddy bear does not only feel that he is sad without it, he also senses in some way that the toy is sad *without him*.

Jesus says that those who will be like children, that is, aware that the love we seek also seeks us, will *find* the kingdom of God. In other words, the very community we long for is governed by the One who longs for us to be in it. If God is like the shepherd willing to leave the flock to go out searching for the one who has strayed, there is nowhere we can flee from His presence. There is never a time we won't belong to Him. Indeed, there is no greater love, no greater connection, no greater communing.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

March 10

Worship

Infants

Emily Calloway
& Sherry Baiertl

Creepers

Lisa Hobbs
& Carla Stevenson

Toddlers

Debbie & Becca Duble

Floater

Tammy Bacon

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Kelly, Madeleine
& Abigail Jennings

Toddlers

Luther & Shirley Allin

P.M.

Combined

Ann Walker & Jonah Gaines

March Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

THE EDGE CONFERENCE

This year *The Edge Conference* will be held at Covenant College on June 17 to 21 and cost \$275. For those Middle School youth interested in attending, registrations with a deposit of \$50 must be turned in to Chris Gregory by the April 28 deadline. Many of the High School students still point to this conference as a pivotal moment in their walk with Christ. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give Chris a call.

BREAKAWAY CONFERENCE

This year the Breakaway Conference will be held in Hilton Head, SC, from June 10 to 14 and cost \$300. For those High School students interested in attending, registrations with a deposit of \$50 must be turned in to Chris Gregory by the April 28 deadline. If you have any questions, contact Chris Gregory.

MTW NEEDS

Mission to the World (MTW) has several immediate personnel needs listed below:

There is a need for two girls and one guy for the Scotland Intern Team and two girls and one guy for the Czech Republic Intern Team. Neither of these teams can go unless they fill these positions. For more information visit http://www.mtw.org/Pages/INT_Europe.aspx.

There is a need for doctors or nurse practitioners for a medical mission trip to North Africa and a medical mission trip to Haiti. Due to family reasons, the doctors originally scheduled had to cancel, and if MTW does not fill these positions, they will have to cancel both of these trips. For more information visit: http://www.mtw.org/Pages/MED_Main.aspx.

CHICKS 'N CHOCOLATE

This month, CPC women are meeting at Diane Lazor's home for a movie night on Friday, March 15. Join us at 7:00 p.m. with a snack to share and the movie, *Cranford*, will start at 7:30p.m. Please RSVP to Leanna Cathey or Diane Lazor if you plan to attend.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set your clocks forward by one hour before going to bed this Saturday night.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. The third Thursday of each month we provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you can contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes or fruit this week, please call or email the church office.

STEPS4STEPS 5K WALK

The Steps4Steps 5K Walk is Saturday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tennessee Riverpark. The proceeds will benefit the Team Andrew Smith Project of building a home for Andrew and Tori Smith. Registration is \$25 per person. Registrations and donations can be made at the event or online at www.steps4steps.com. Make checks payable to Steps2Hope - Team Andrew.

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter while honoring or remembering a friend or loved one, you may order an Easter lily. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center and need to be turned in to Carol by March 17. You may pick up your lily following the Easter service.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The Session will meet with anyone desiring membership on Sunday, March 17. Call or email the church office to schedule a time.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is served until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free. The maximum family donation is \$15.

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of March: D. Elwood, T. Schreiner, M. Fingerle, B. Higgins, M. Wilson. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know when you can help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people, please consider volunteering at the Welcome Center between Worship Service and Sunday School. A smiling face and a little bit of knowledge about our church is all that is needed! Please call or email the church office if you are interested.

MISSIONARY SPEAKER

On Wednesday evening, March 13, we have the honor of hearing from John and Kathy Lesondak. They will share about their ministry in Slovakia. Please join us in Schum Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students as you pray. Here are a few of the many we have:

Will Musto
Kendall Ray
Luke Rogers
Adam Roop

UTC
University of Alabama
University of Tennessee
Dalton State

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

March 13	Breakfast
March 20	Meatball Subs & French Fries
March 27	No Meal-Maundy Thursday
April 3	Chicken Parmesan

ANNOUNCEMENTS?

Email Carol or Susan before Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. with all information you would like in the eNewsletter. The email address is: cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.