

# THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*'Join us for a drink of Living Water'*



## From the Pastor's Desk... MID NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

Dear Cup family and friends,

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'*

- Matthew 2:13-15

Have you ever stopped to think about just how vulnerable Jesus was during his life on earth, particularly in His early days? Infant mortality was particularly high in Jesus' day, and that would especially be the case as a refugee, as Mary and Joseph fled for their lives as soon as the Magi left. Those gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were put to practical use right away! Jesus had a price on his head from day one, and while we can say, 'Well, we *know* He's going to survive – it's all part of God's plan', it's worth noting that some very real acts of obedience and trust on Mary and Joseph's part were woven into how God the Father chose to work. We also know, of course, that the evil Herod would unleash a genocide in his effort to kill the King of kings (Math. 2:16-18)

I bring this sobering part of the Christmas story to our attention because in many ways, the vulnerability of God's people, especially those sharing the good news of great joy about the Messiah is still true to this day.

We received news this month from our missionary Pat in China that the crackdown from the government against Christians is now extending to foreign missionaries getting taken away to be interrogated for hours or days, laptops and passports confiscated, and, increasingly, expulsion from the country. It is likely she will need to move elsewhere in SE Asia to continue her work. The Callisons in Northern Iraq were on the edges of the front line with ISIS, and continue to minister to the Kurds, a group considered terrorists by the Turkish government, and looked upon with suspicion by the rest of Iraq. One of our missionary families in the Middle East is in such a sensitive place, they have requested that we not even post their picture in our church, much less on the internet. And while we rejoice that our work with the Susu tribe in Fintonia is continuing under the new pastoral leadership of Pastor Abraham and his family, part of their outreach is to the nearby Fulani tribe, who have been radicalized elsewhere on the African continent and have attacked and kidnapped Christians across Nigeria. And, of course, we remember EPC Pastor Andrew Brunson, and his recent liberation from two years of Turkish captivity.

All of these people (and far more!) are putting their physical safety and comfort on the line to share the news of a holy, glorious Triune God, who launched the great rescue operation of the universe at Christmas. "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1:14, The Message) Let's remember them in our prayers this Christmas – and remember to take a moment to share the good news of great joy with our OWN neighbors, who also need the hope that only Jesus can bring.


Tidings of comfort and joy,

Pastor Scott





Sunday  
December 23rd  
at 10:30am  
*'Peace Has Come'*



CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING FOR  
OUR SHUT-INS  
WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 19th  
at 7:00pm



Hanging of the Greens  
Friday Nov. 23rd at 10am  
Looking for Elves to help  
with the Decorating!



CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24th  
at 7pm

*We would love to  
have you join us!*

LESSONS  
& CAROLS

PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
DECEMBER 9TH  
AT 8AM -  
FUNDRAISER TO  
BENEFIT THE  
YOUTH EPC  
RETREAT IN 2019



*The Church Office will be closed  
December 24th—26th and  
December 31st—January 1st  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!*



**CUP LIBRARY NEWS**

A book that we have had on the shelves of our church library for many years and has been recently updated with a new copy is a handy little volume called "What the Bible is All About".

Written by Henrietta Mears it is subtitled "An easy to understand survey of the Bible". In this book the author points out how each part of the Bible fits into the total scope of the book. Dr. Mears gives background information, discusses the principal characters and highlights the main themes. While people around the world are searching for a reliable source of authority, the Word of God is the only real authority we have and this little book can help the reader to read, study, and understand it.

Another group of books that the library has that may be of interest to you or members of your family is "The Chronicles of Narnia", by C.S.Lewis. This series of seven books include the well known "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" as well as some that are lesser known but also excellent stories. This book series can be found in our children's section and would be a great choice for a family reading time.

As always, the library is open anytime the church is open and as long as the room is not being used for a meeting you can browse until your heart is content. There are many other publications to choose from. Just pull out the card in back, write down your name and leave it in the small basket on the side table - no date is necessary. Parents (or grandparents) we also have a nice selection of children's videos. Come see!!

### Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study**

7:00pm Nov. 19 **Grief Share** 'Surviving the Holidays'

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (November 14)  
(December 12) **Christmas Party** NOON at Grand Valley  
Inn—please see Laura Crawford about reservation

Thursday Morning **Woman's Small Group** 9:00am

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch** (November 15  
@ 19th Hole / not meeting in December)

Saturday Morning **Men's Group** 7:30am @ Eat 'n Park

### NOVEMBER Calendar

<u>November 6</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>November 13</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>November 14</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>November 15</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ 19th Hole
<u>November 16-17</u>	ALL CHURCH RETREAT
<u>November 19</u>	7:00pm Grief Share 'Surviving the Holidays'
<u>November 20</u>	9:00am SHINE Rehearsal
<u>November 22-23</u>	OFFICE CLOSED
<u>November 23</u>	10:00am Hanging of the Greens

### DECEMBER Calendar

<u>December 3</u>	6:30pm Ladies' Festive Gathering
<u>December 4</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>December 7</u>	5:00pm SHINE Kitchen Crew cooking for Crossroads Shelter
<u>December 9</u>	9:00am Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Youth Retreat
<u>December 12</u>	12:00pm Game Day Christmas Party @ Grand Valley Inn
<u>December 15</u>	9:00am SHINE Dress Rehearsal
<u>December 16</u>	7:00pm SHINE Musical 'Camel Lot'
<u>December 18</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>December 19</u>	3:30pm SHINE Christmas Party 7:00pm Christmas Caroling
<u>December 23</u>	10:30am Christmas Cantata
<u>December 24</u>	6:30pm Crosscurrent Christmas Party 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
<u>December 24-26</u>	OFFICE CLOSED

Every Monday 1:00pm Adult Bible Study  
Every Wednesday 3:30pm "SHINE" After School program  
followed by Family Dinner @6pm  
(NO SHINE 11/21)

Every Thursday 9:00am Women's Small Group  
7:00pm Choir Practice  
Every Saturday 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Eat-n-Park  
Every Sunday 5:00pm Confirmation Class

(NO Class 11/25, 12/2, 12/16, 12/30)  
6:30pm Crosscurrent (NO Group 11/25, 12/16)



### LADIES FESTIVE GATHERING

MONDAY — DECEMBER 3rd

At 6pm

CUP CHURCH (in Fellowship Hall)

We invite you to an Evening of Food,  
Fun and Fellowship

We are hoping you will participate in our  
'Fashion Show' with a Prize for  
'Ugliest Sweater' and 'Most Festive Sweater'.  
Make it a Mother/Daughter Event—Dress Alike!  
(Daughters 10 & Up are Welcomed to Attend)  
Please use the sign-up sheet at the Church or  
call 724-843-1594

*WITHOUT JESUS, SALVATION AND  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH ARE BOTH GIFTS  
BEYOND OUR REACH.*

### SHINE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



'CAMEL LOT'

SUNDAY DECEMBER 16th  
at 7pm

*Beth has been practicing hard for the church  
Christmas pageant. But her mom may be too  
busy at work selling cars to make it to the  
program. Exhausted from practice, with lines  
from Luke 2 swirling in her mind, she drifts off  
to sleep and is transported in her imagination to  
Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Here she witnesses  
the familiar story first hand.*

**A Donation of \$590. was given to the SHINE  
program from the Boscov's Friends Helping  
Friends Fundraiser. Joel is looking into  
purchasing additional sound equipment.  
Thank you to everyone who participated.**



Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you all!

I am still in awe that it has been two years since I came on staff at CUP Church. These past 2 years have been amazing and quick! The Youth at CUP Church are continuing to grow in their faith as they share this journey together. Our Confirmation Class is moving right along in their studies. Youth Group has been active as well! We have lots upcoming as we say good bye to 2018 and welcome in 2019! First I wanted to give a shout out to all those who tried out and made it into the HS Musical! Congrats!! Emma Rider, Adam Kahle, Theresa Cunniff & Emily O'Roark! Way to go! Can't wait to see you all on stage! Also wanted to give a Shout out to The Blackhawk Cougar Marching Band who Won PIMBA Champs for Class A! Our kids are busy and are making an impact! Exciting news and you will want to mark your calendars for this as well! December 9th 8am-10am the youth will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to help ease the cost of their upcoming Winter Retreat! Please helps us reach our goal! And enjoy breakfast and fellowship too!



SHINE Musical has been announced and rehearsing has begun! Please mark your calendars for December 16th at 7pm to enjoy "Camel Lot".

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things happening!

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cunniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director



"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."