

THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Cup family and friends,

40 years ago, Richard Foster opened up his revolutionary book *Celebration of Discipline* with this paragraph:

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

Our need is even greater today than it was when Foster wrote these lines. Traditionally, the church has sought to develop deep people through the practice of *spiritual direction*: face-to-face relationships that use conversation, prayer, and scripture to deepen intimacy with God and understand His ways in our lives in order to bring about greater cooperation with the movement of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

I have come to the conclusion that many of us long for this type of connection with God, but we typically lack the relationships and the understanding to do this. My doctoral program project this year is devoted to this. I've sent out a survey to the other pastors in the EPC in our presbytery asking about their practices in their devotional lives, and their interest in learning more about spiritual direction as it has been used and taught in Reformed and Presbyterian circles. What I'm finding is that many of my fellow pastors have a desire to develop more significant relationships where they can develop their spiritual lives, yet they aren't able to find people or places that can help them do this.

On each Saturday morning in February, from 9:00-11:00, I'll be offering a workshop of sorts on some of the ways Christians in the past have developed their relationships with God through prayer and spiritual direction. This is aimed at fellow pastors in the presbytery of the Alleghenies, but it is open to all – especially you!

This past Sunday night, I led our Crosscurrent youth into the sanctuary, where I had set up some prayer stations where they could do business with God in areas such as forgiveness, repentance, intercession for the world and for friends and family – and simply time to be quiet before God. We have offered these experiences from time to time in the past, but once again I was moved by the power of these 45 minutes in the lives of our young people. Our hearts and souls are designed to commune with God, and nothing else we try to use to take the Lord's place will do.

John Calvin's personal motto was, *'My heart I offer you, Lord, promptly and sincerely.'*

The opening question and answer in the Westminster shorter catechism is:

"What is the primary purpose of man? Our primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." Our faith has traditionally recognized the joy and the satisfaction that comes from pursuing God in a love relationship, and spiritual direction can play a significant role in that relationship. Join me on these Saturday mornings to find out more!

Cordially,
Pastor Scott

JANUARY Calendar

January 8 5:45pm DEACONS
7:00pm WORSHIP
7:30pm TRUSTEES

January 13 12:00pm Spaghetti Fundraiser
benefits Youth EPIC Retreat

January 15 7:00pm SESSION

January 19 9:00am Officers Training

January 26 8:00am TRUSTEES Work Day

January 27 12:00pm Congregational Meeting

FEBRUARY Calendar

February 1 5:00pm Youth Winter Retreat

February 5 5:45pm DEACONS
7:00pm WORSHIP
7:30pm TRUSTEES

February 15 WINTER JAM

February 19 7:00pm SESSION

February 24 10:30am SHINE SUNDAY

Every Monday 1:00pm Adult Bible Study (resumes Feb.)

Every Wednesday 3:30pm "SHINE" After School program
followed by Family Dinner @6pm (Resumes Jan. 30th)

Every Thursday 9:00am Women's Small Group
7:00pm Choir Practice

Every Saturday 7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
9:00am Spiritual Direction 101

Every Sunday 5:00pm Confirmation Class (NO Class 2/3)
6:30pm Crosscurrent (NO Group 2/3)

What a blessing CUP Church family is to me and my crew. I am very overwhelmed by the out pouring of love you all have given me and my family in 2018. It was quite a ride. Thank you for prayers, words of love and an amazing end of year gift. I can not thank you enough for being a blessing of love to The Cunniffs. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Can't wait to see where 2019 takes us!
Your Sister in Christ, Joel



**SUNDAY—JANUARY 13TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER TO
BENEFIT THE YOUTH EPC RETREAT
IN FEBRUARY**

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT AVAILABLE!



**SHINE RETURNS—WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30th at 3:30pm
(Family Dinner following at 6pm)**

CUP LIBRARY NEWS

I am sure many of you have listened to the song "I Can Only Imagine" by the Christian band Mercy Me and have been inspired. But did you know there is a movie with the same title? We now have the DVD in our church library and it is an emotionally powerful true story of how the song came to be written. Bart Millard, lead vocalist for MercyMe and writer of the song, is played by actor Michael Finley. Dennis Quaid plays his father and Trace Adkins also stars in the movie. Running from a troubled home life Bart found escape in his music. This uplifting, music filled movie beautifully illustrates God's love and the power of forgiveness. It is rated PG and would be great for a family movie night with your teens. Come check it out!

We also have two new hardback children's picture books for the younger kids that would be great for parents to read with their children. The first is "You Are Special" by America's best-selling inspirational author, Max Lucado and it is beautifully illustrated by Sergio Martinez. It is the story of Punchinello, a small wooden Wemmick carved by a woodworker named Eli. Eli helps Punchinello see how special he is despite what he has been told by others. It's an important message for children: that God cherishes each of them, just the way they are.

The other new children's book is "Paul Writes a Letter" by Chris Raschka. In it Raschka distills St. Paul's letters into appealing language kids can readily understand and celebrates how this biblical figure changed the world through the written word.

In case you didn't know we also have a complete set of "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis. And all of these books can be found on the juvenile shelves. If you need help finding anything, just ask, I'm always glad to help!

Paula Keefer, Cup Church Librarian

A LOOK BACK AT CUP IN DECEMBER

LADIES FESTIVE GATHERING



SHINE MUSICAL— 'CAMEL LOT'

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



Important Dates in January:

- January 13: Election of Officers (following worship)**
- January 19: Officers Training 8:30am—2:00pm**
- January 20: Installation of Officers (following worship)**
- January 27: Congregational Meeting (following worship)**

Dear Cup family,

On behalf of Kristina and myself, once again we give you a humble and hearty 'thank you' for your generous Christmas gift to us. With Jessica's wedding (in Seattle, no-less!) approaching in April, your gift will help us celebrate her special day - and allow us to help other family members make it as well. God bless you - and may God bless us all as we seek His face in 2019!

*Fondly,
Pastor Scott*



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Happy NEW YEAR!
Your sister in Christ,
Joel Cunniff
CUP Children and Youth