

THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

March 2025

"For Beauty and for Glory"

In Exodus 28:2–3 God instructs the people of Israel:

"And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood." (ESV)

This year I began again reading through the Bible, starting at Genesis 1:1 on January 1 with the hope and intention of concluding 2025 with Revelation 22:21. So far, if I read this morning I'll still be on schedule, but there have been a few days where I fell off and had to catch back up.

It has been interesting to read through Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers while preaching a series from Hebrews. Re-reading the law or Torah as it is called in Hebrew has been insightful as we talk of Christ as our great High Priest. Likewise in learning the life and ministry of CUP church and examining everything we do with fresh eyes both as pastor and as the father of what is truly a new family of six that has become a part of this congregation, new questions arise daily. "Why do we do this thing this way?" "What is this room for?" "Who is responsible for this activity?" and many more.

Most of the time there are satisfactory answers and more often than not something in our history has shaped our reasoning. Sometimes it is simply that someone stepped up to do a thing when no one else did. Sometimes someone stepped away, passed away, or took on something new and no one was found to fill the role. Sometimes we have just always done something because that's the way we've always done it.

Looking at our ministries right now, we can learn a lot from the robes of Aaron. God instructed them to make robes, though the robes themselves did not affect how Aaron did the job; at least not directly. But the robes set apart Aaron and marked him and his duties as Holy. They were a physical reminder of a spiritual reality. The work is Holy so it is fitting that it be done in Holy garments. We don't necessarily need holy garments but we do need to remind ourselves that our work is Holy, so that our tasks don't become merely routine and repetitive; done simply for the keeping up of tradition.

But more than just making special, even holy, garments, the garments themselves are said to have been made by "skillful" ones, even, people "whom I (the LORD) have filled with a spirit of skill" and are made "For glory and for beauty". That is, they are not merely assembled but crafted with excellence. Not only is our work Holy, but because it is Holy, we also do it in a spirit of excellence. If we are beginners we begin with a heart to grow and continually become better. If we are "masters", "filled with a spirit of skill" even then we never rest on our basic skill and give our minimum. Let us always strive to do all for glory and for beauty. In other, more familiar words, "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever".

In Christ,

Pastor Mark



Family Ministry Corner

We had our first Family Min Night of 2025!
 What a fun night of fellowship and laughter! We shared in a potluck Nacho Bar, played some fun and intense games and shared many laughs and joy! If you didn't get to attend you surely missed out! Our next Family Ministry Game Night with a Baked Potato Bar is schedule for April 10th 6-8pm. We hope you will join us!!
 Wanna be part of the planning committee? See Joel we'd LOVE to have you on our committee!!!!



On January 30, Pastor Mark, Jud Herter, Gary Crawford and Terry Brandt travelled to Seneca Hills Camp for a small-scale, one day mission trip to hang drywall for the Camp's new office space. Certainly everyone did a great job and a lot got done. Lindon Fowler, the Camp's director thanked us for moving the project forward. But the most remarkable thing about this experience was how quickly we turned this mission around and deployed. The announcement was made on a Sunday and we were on the ground building at 7 AM on the following Thursday. This is one of the mission capabilities that Pastor Mark hopes to build in our congregation. While larger scale mission trips are also useful, small scale work trips like these that turn around quickly from request, to plan, to action could become a unique way in which our church serves the surrounding community and the larger Body of Christ. Pastor Mark used this trip to test the idea and put it to use in a practical way. Our members who participated, responded quickly, showed up, and completed a good amount of work, pausing only to enjoy the lunch that the camp provided. Additional volunteers who were not available for the weekday trip will likely participate in future weekend opportunities. Our pastor's experience as a journeyman carpenter provides not only the ability to do the work but more importantly for this church's mission, the ability to teach willing but inexperienced volunteers skills in construction to use on such missions. We also have, as shown on this trip, several skilled members in the church who will bring their skills to bear on such missions. If you are interested in being a part of future opportunities see pastor Mark.

OUTREACH

We are looking for those with a passion for outreach to serve on the Outreach committee. If you are interested in joining us as we begin to look ahead we invite you to see Andy Sutton for more information.



Sunday February 16th Pastor Mark was installed as Pastor of CUP Church. The Fellowship Committee was happy to host a reception following the Installation Service for church family and friends. Welcome Pastor Mark!



CONNECT GROUPS!

Interested in partaking or leading a small connect group or bible study? Please see Brian O'Roark or anyone on the Education Committee.

MARCH/APRIL Calendar

<u>March 4</u>	5:30p Worship Committee 6:30p DEACONS 8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>March 5</u>	7:00p Ash Wednesday Service
<u>March 12</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>March 13</u>	7:00p BCCS Musical 'Me & My Girl'
<u>March 18</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>March 28</u>	7:00p BF Musical 'Tuck Everlasting'
<u>April 1</u>	5:30p Worship Committee 6:30p DEACONS 8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>April 9</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>April 10</u>	6:00p FAM MIN Game Night
<u>April 15</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>April 17</u>	7:00p Maundy Thursday Service
<u>April 27</u>	2:00p BHS Musical 'Shrek'
<u>April 28</u>	4:00p SHINE Rehearsal

Weekly Meetings...

Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library)

Tuesday Morning 10:30am
Staff Meeting

Wednesday Evening 4:00pm
**SHINE Afterschool Program
Family Dinner at 6p**

Friday Evening 5:30pm
**Kid's Night Out
(1st and 3rd Fridays)**

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

Sunday Evening 5:00pm
Praise Team Practice

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group

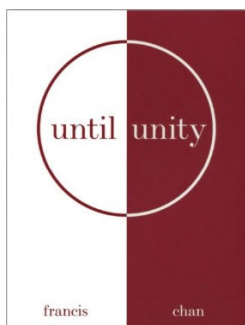
Spring Forward



JOEL WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE
THE FOLLOWING DATES:
March 17-20

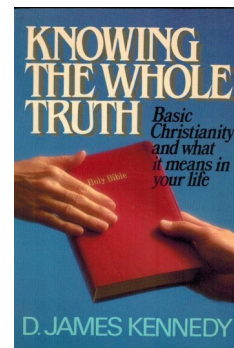
Cup Library News

Paula Keefer Herter, Librarian



I am happy to tell you that our church library now has another book selection by Francis Chan ready to check out. The book is titled "Until Unity" and it shows us how God grieves the divisions in his church and we should not remain indifferent. The unity that the Christian Church needs is only possible when we, the church, attain a level of humility that is in its turn is only possible with the help of the Spirit. As the world grows more divided, His church should increase in love until we attain the unity that brings revival. Francis Chan has been a pastor for over thirty years. He is also the best selling author of several other books including, "Crazy Love" which can be found in our library.

Another book (which is new to us) is "Knowing the Whole Truth" by Dr. D. James Kennedy. In this book the author examines the statements that make-up the Apostle's Creed. The creed which is very familiar to most of us, represents the faith of the early church and the essential truths upon which our beliefs are founded. With clear, Bible-centered teaching the author will show you how to live out your faith daily.



These and many other books and video selections for all ages are available to anyone interested in checking them out. Our library is open to you anytime the church doors are open (unless a meeting is scheduled for the room). If you are interested just remove the card from the back pocket, sign your name and place it in the small basket next to the card files on the table against the left wall. Enjoy!

Come into the presence of the Lord,

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” John 15:4

Adventure awaits as we enter into Lent and we allow ourselves extra time to be in God presence.

Crosscurrent Youth Group has been in full swing this year. January we attended our EPiC 2025 Winter Youth Retreat! Thank you to all who helped us get there with your generous support to our Biscotti and Soup Sale as well as our Spaghetti Luncheon. We raised enough funds to cover the cost of Winter Retreat with some to spare and be used next year! We had an amazing time spent at Camp Ligonier as we listened to God speak! We have been busy with learning and growing as well as celebrating and sharing our lives with each other! We are excited of what is ahead for us as a church and especially as a youth group!

Please mark your calendars to see some of our awesome youth on stage this musical season! We kick off with Ashlyn Sutton in BCCS “*Me and My Girl*” March 13-15th, Sam Haas in Beaver Falls Musical “*Tuck Everlasting*” March 28-30th and Lillian Cunniff and Victoria Higley in Blackhawk High School “*Shrek*” on April 24-27th. Don’t miss out on seeing these talented kiddos on stage!

SHINE We have 23 kiddos registered for this semester and we are off and running with so much energy and excitement its so fun to see the church alive on Wednesday nights!

Kids Night Out Has been a blast!!! We are continuing to GROW as we continue to share meals, worship together, learn about Jesus, partake in a few science experiments, make crafts, and play games! We are having so much fun!!! If you are interested in helping see Ms. Joel. Have kids you know who are looking for a fun way to learn more about Jesus tell them about us!!!! 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 5:30-7pm. PreK-6th graders welcome!

As always I ask you to please keep all the children and youth in our community and beyond in prayer.

Your sister in Christ,
Joel Cunniff
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

