

THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

April 2025

"The Presence of God"

Hebrews 4:14–16 says:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Since January we have been examining the letter to the Hebrews in our Sunday worship. At the same time, I took six weeks in our Adult Sunday School and introduced "The Practice of the Presence of God" by a 17th Century monk who wrote of experiencing God in the ordinaries of life. Last week (March 16) we began another series in our class on Christianity in America, a history class in which we look at the various movements and personalities of American Christianity from The Puritans up through the present. In each of these there is a common thread, that is, the experience of God's people encountering God and as our Westminster Shorter Catechism puts it, "Glorify[ing] God and enjoy[ing] Him forever".

This month we will experience Holy Week and Easter together for the first time as pastor and congregation and we will enjoy old traditions and some new things. If we only see our experience close up we might miss the presence of God in the midst of activities. The beauty of life in the church is that we aren't merely participating in something by ourselves but as we shall see farther on in Hebrews, we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses". [Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)] We participate in the long history of the Church from the beginning. The encounters of humanity with God begin with Adam and continue through all the great and small names of the Old and New Testaments, through the early Church, the conflicts of the Roman Empire and Christendom, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and the spread of Christianity throughout the world following the Age of Exploration.

That history has its high points and low points just as we experience in our own encounters with God. But all of it includes the singular fact that God chooses in His love and Grace to be near to His people. In Holy Week and Easter, we see the culmination of this when Jesus as our High Priest completed the singular sacrifice that made our nearness to the presence of God possible. God's love made it necessary that if we are to draw near to Him that He satisfy His just wrath at our sin in some way that his justice is demonstrated, while still allowing His beloved people to be received in grace. This is the message of the Cross of Good Friday, confirmed by the empty tomb of Easter.

Because of this we can, by faith, come near to Him and experience his presence.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

SHINE MUSICAL

May 3rd 6:00pm

May 4th 2:30pm

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: join the intrepid spies of JI3 (Jerusalem Intelligence Service 3) to discover if the mysterious encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus was just a simple conversation, or evidence of a supernatural plan to change the world!



Family Ministry Corner

Our next Family Ministry Game Night with a POTLUCK Baked Potato Bar is scheduled for April 10th 6-8pm. We hope you will join us!! Please see sign up in entry way!

Wanna be part of the planning committee?
See Joel we'd LOVE to have you on our committee!!!!



Early this year BIG CREEK MISSIONS and Eastern Kentucky were hit with devastating flooding. Last month the CUP Church Missions Committee took up a collection to assist in the cleanup effort, and on March 13th Wade and Kent Rider delivered your generous donations to the very grateful Mission! If you would still like to help Big Creek is in need of gift cards to Dollar General, Home Depot, and Walmart. These can be given to Wade and we will mail them to the Mission. Thank you for answering the call and a great Big Thank You to Wade and Kent for making the delivery!!



TIGER PAUSE Summer Camp Kitchen Crew

Tiger Pause Summer Camp is open to children K-8th grade at their Beaver Falls Location. Our church is signed up to help in the kitchen the week June 16-20. We supply 3 people each day to help prepare food and clean up after lunch. Hours are 10:00-1:00. Please consider one or more days during the week. Sign up sheet will be available in May. Save the date! See Pat Shawgo for info.



ALL K-6th Graders welcome to join us at 9:15am in the SHINE Classroom.

Join Mrs. Lori as she dives into the Bible on Sunday mornings! Don't miss out on the FUN of learning about Jesus!

CUP Church Elders Served Dinner at our ASH Wednesday SHINE night!



Thank you to the Elders and their amazing helpers for prepping, serving dinner, cleaning up and loving all our SHINE families while the SHINE Kitchen Crew had the night

off. It was great to see the Elders serving the SHINE families and showing the Love of Christ to them as well as encouraging them to join us for our 7pm ASH Wednesday service to begin our Lenten journey.

APRIL/MAY Calendar

<u>April 1</u>	5:30p Worship Committee 6:30p DEACONS 8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>April 3</u>	7:00p Choir Rehearsal
<u>April 9</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>April 10</u>	6:00p FAM MIN Game Night 7:00p Choir Practice
<u>April 15</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>April 17</u>	7:00p Maundy Thursday Service 8:00p Choir Practice
<u>April 27</u>	2:00p BHS Musical 'Shrek'
<u>April 28</u>	4:00p SHINE Rehearsal
<u>May 3</u>	9:00a SHINE Rehearsal 6:00p SHINE Musical
<u>May 4</u>	2:30p SHINE Musical
<u>May 6</u>	5:30p Worship Committee 6:30p DEACONS 8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>May 14</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>May 16-17</u>	7:00p Crosscurrent GROW Lock-in
<u>May 17</u>	9:00a Presbytery @ Bridge City
<u>May 18</u>	10:30a YOUTH SUNDAY
<u>May 20</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>May 21</u>	7:00p Baccalaureate @BHS
<u>May 23</u>	7:00a TRUSTEES Yard Sale
<u>May 27</u>	7:00p Senior Parade @BHS

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



April 13th 10:30am Palm Sunday Service
April 17th 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service
April 20th 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service
April 20th 10:30am Easter Sunday Service



Youth Hosted Easter Pancake Breakfast

Join us on Easter Morning after the Sunrise Service and before our Sunday worship.

Sunday, April 20th 8-10 am

All donations will go towards the Youth Summer Activity Fund

What's all this fundraising going towards?

Crosscurrent Youth are so grateful for the blessings you as a congregation give us throughout the year. We appreciate when you support our fundraisers whatever they might be. Recently we had 3 fundraisers to help us get to winter retreat 2025! We needed \$3798.15 after all the expenses were paid to get us to Winter Retreat! With your help we raised \$4286.00. Praise the LORD for the generous donations!!! We thank you!!!!



Upcoming we will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday between the 2 services. Our funds will go towards Summer Youth Activities. This helps defer the cost for the families to allow their kiddos to join us on our excursions and extra fun Summer "stuff". We have lots planned this summer from bonfires to service to nights out of fun!

We will also be hosting concession stands once a month at the Trustees Yard Sales! Those funds will be towards our 2026 Mission Trip! We always are grateful for your support! If you have questions please feel free to ask! May God Bless you abundantly!

April Showers bring May flowers...

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”

Ephesians 2:8

God is so good, he never lets us down. His time table is different than ours but his love for us is always on time.

Crosscurrent Youth Group has been busy walking through Ephesians and the Book of Mark together! Its been an adventure and we are excited to continue to learn and grow in the gospel together! We have had some fun nights of games and have learned that Pastor Mark is a master hider! We are looking forward to what is ahead for us as individuals as we move throughout this Lenten season. We also will be hosting an Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast that will help us raise some funds for this summers activities. Please mark your calendars now and join us for food, fellowship and the celebration of Easter!

Don't forget you have one more chance to see some of our youth on stage mark your calendars to see Lillian Cunniff and Victoria Higley in Blackhawk High School “Shrek” on April 24-27th.

SHINE Our Spring Musical is “The Born Again Identity” join us May 3rd at 6pm or May 4th at 2:30pm

Kids Night Out Is currently walking through Lent together with lessons and fun!! If you are interested in helping see Ms. Joel. Do you 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

