



From the Pastor's Desk...

JUNE/JULY 2016

Dear Cup family and friends,

Our culture in America is changing. Rapidly. You don't need me to tell you that. Every time we pick up a newspaper or turn on the news we're reminded of this.

Our role as Christians who believe in the authority of the Bible seems to be changing rapidly in Washington as well. Not only are values and virtues we hold dear often ignored, they are frequently attacked, or seen as quaintly outdated. Biblical teaching on respect for life, boundaries on sexual practice, and religious freedom are up for grabs among our public leaders and politicians. Frankly, my leading candidate for President of the United States in the upcoming election is 'none of the above.'

What are we to do as followers of Jesus Christ? Giving up or giving in is not an option, if we read Scripture. And turning to the Bible, worship and prayer is always the best place to begin. Here we find that God's people have faced situations far more dire than us, and the Lord is far from frustrated. In fact, I believe God has placed us in this country, in this time, and in this place to be 'salt and light' in a decaying and dark world (Matthew 5:13-16, Esther 4:12-16, 1 Peter 2:13-17, 3:13-17).

This Summer we will be taking time to consider the tools and the provision God gives us in a world that finds people of faith strange. Our adult Sunday School offerings will be looking at Russell Moore's '[Onward: Engaging the culture without losing the Gospel](#)'. Our Thirsty Thursday series will echo this theme, with speakers and films looking at how much good 'misfit' Christians can provide in the wider world.

Finally, our preaching series will be six weeks with the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel was called to speak the Lord's word to his people who had literally been carried off into Babylon, where everything comforting and familiar had been stripped away. God sent a series of powerful images to remind the people of a few basic realities.

First, **God is still God**. The amazing vision of the wheel in heaven (chapter 1) is a reminder that the God of Israel can 'float' anywhere – and indeed no act or failure of man will change that. He is sovereign everywhere, even in hostile territory.

Next, **sin is still sin**. Holiness still matters, even in a culture where it seems like anything goes. Sin was actually what got God's people into trouble in the first place, and acting as if God doesn't exist wouldn't get them out of it (chapter 18).

Third, (and last, for now), **renewal awaits the one who waits**. Perhaps the greatest temptation in cultural difficulty is despair. Yet nothing is too hard for God (chapter 37:11-14).

I'm looking forward to learning with you as we take a close look at this complicated but crucial book. I find it significant that the traditionally African-American side of the church has spent far more time with the Old Testament books of exile (Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel) than us Presbyterians. We need some practice in living in places where we're not in charge. But here's the exciting part. When we learn to live looking to God instead of to the President, we may just find that we've lost the White House, but we've found our souls.

Keep the faith,

Pastor Scott

THIRSTY THURSDAYS: 6:00PM POTLUCK / 6:30PM SPEAKER & MOVIES

THEME—CHRISTIANS IN MODERN AMERICAN CULTURE

JUNE 30—MOVIE NIGHT – ‘AMAZING GRACE’ (Rated PG for thematic material involving slavery, and some mild language – 118 min.) 2006 @ **THE CHURCH**

JULY 7—DAVID TRAUTMAN – ASSOCIATE RECTOR, CHURCH OF THE ACCENSION, OAKLAND—Theme: Culture of God & Culture of America
HOSTING: Paula Keefer, 134 Okon Dr.

JULY 14—PASTOR SCOTT GRAHAM—Theme: What is Our Mission Now?
BRADY’S RUN PARK – PAVILLION #15

JULY 20—(WEDNESDAY) ”FAITH NIGHT WITH THE PIRATES”

*The Faith Night presentation will take place following the Pirates-Brewers game. The event features a Q&A and several speeches, where you'll hear Manager **Clint Hurdle**, All-Star Center Fielder **Andrew McCutchen**, All-Star Closer **Mark Melancon**, All-Star Second Baseman **Josh Harrison**, Short Stop **Jordy Mercer**, Infielder **David Freese**, Pitcher **Jared Hughes**, Catcher **Chris Stewart**, Outfielder **Matt Joyce**, Infielder/Outfielder **Sean Rodriguez** and more Pirates Players and Coaches discuss how faith has impacted their lives, both on and off the field. The Faith Night presentation will last approximately 45 minutes.*

JULY 28—TOM STEIN – ASSOCIATE PASTOR, CHAPEL PCA, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP—Theme: Convictional Kindness
HOSTING: LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER

AUGUST 4—RICH HERBSTER - PASTOR, MT. PLEASANT EPC, RACCOON TWP.—Theme: Romans 13 / Revelation 13 - Christians in Politics
HOSTING: LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER

AUGUST 11, 18, 25—MOVIE NIGHT @ THE CHURCH

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

JUNE 5—YOUTH SUNDAY / CONFIRMATION
(RECEPTION FOLLOWING WORSHIP)

JUNE 12—GRADUATION SUNDAY
(FOLLOWED BY STRAWBERRY SOCIAL)

JUNE 19—PASTOR GARY KOERTH PREACHING
(TABERNACLE EPC)

JUNE 26—MATT ULRICH PREACHING

JULY 10—PAT PREMICK SPEAKING DURING WORSHIP

JULY 17—DAVE PAWLOS, RULING ELDER, PREACHING

JULY 24—WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE DEDICATION OF WRIGHT FIELD AT VETERAN’S PARK, (37TH ST. EXT.) CHIPPEWA 200TH ANNIVERSARY

JULY 31—GREG & CHRISTINE SPEAKING DURING WORSHIP



JUNE 12TH - STRAWBERRY SOCIAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(Proceeds to benefit Light Bulb Fund)

Judy Bixler is also collecting jelly jars if you have any to donate



Sandcastle Trip—July 2nd!

Matt is organizing the trip for ALL AGES. The cost is \$20. and a minimum of 10 people are needed. Sign Up anytime.

Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study** (will resume in September)
Wednesday Youth Small Groups 7:30pm (will resume in Sept.)
 Youth Girls at the Manse & Youth Boys in the Youth Room
 Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (June 8 & July 13)
Wednesday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am (Sept.)
 3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**
 (June 16 @ Yolanda's & July 21 @ Eat 'n Park)
Thirsty Thursdays 6:00pm
Friday Night Small Groups 6:00pm (@ The Hughes')
Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am @ Eat 'n Park (Sept.)

PASTOR
 SCOTT WILL
 BE OUT OF
 THE OFFICE
 JUNE 13TH
 THROUGH
 JUNE 27TH

Matt will be out of the
 office June 13—17 (school),
 July 20-23 (Alive Festival)
 & July 25-31

The Newsletter is also
 available online at our
 website: cupepc.org



IN NEED OF PRAYER?

*Members of the prayer team are available
 in the library immediately following
 worship each Sunday.*

*Please join us in the library and let us
 pray with you. If you know of family
 members or others in the community
 who are in need of prayer, please
 encourage them to join us on Sundays.*

**Prayer request cards are now available
 in the blue pew pads.**

*If you have a written prayer request,
 please fill out the card and drop it in
 the offering plate or church office and
 we will pray for you.*



JUNE/JULY Calendar

JUNE 6 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK
JUNE 7 6:00pm DEACONS
 7:00pm WORSHIP
 7:30pm TRUSTEES
JUNE 8 1:00pm Game Day
JUNE 12 Strawberry Social following Worship
JUNE 16 12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch
 @ Yolanda's
JUNE 23-26 GENERAL ASSEMBLY in Detroit
JUNE 28 7:00pm SESSION
JUNE 30 6:00pm Thirsty Thursday Begins
 with Movie Night @ The Church
JULY 13 1:00pm Game Day
JULY 21 12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch
 @ Eat 'n Park, Chippewa
Mondays 1:00pm Bible Study (RESUMES IN SEPT.)
 6:00pm College & Young Adult Study
 @ Cline's (RESUMES IN FALL)
Wednesdays 9:00am Women's Small Group
 (RESUMES IN FALL)
 3:30pm "SHINE" After School program
 followed by Family Dinner @6pm (RESUMES IN FALL)
 7:30pm Youth Small Group (RESUMES IN FALL)
Thursdays 6:00pm THIRSTY THURSDAYS
 THROUGH AUGUST 25TH
 7:00pm Choir Practice (RESUMES IN FALL)
Fridays 6:00pm Small Group Study @ Hughes'
Saturdays 7:30am Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park
 (RESUMES IN FALL)
Sundays 5:30pm Crosscurrent (6/5 ONLY)

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Dear Cup Church Family,
 We are at the end of the 2015-16 school year already! I am proud of our Shine children for their excellent presentation of "Not Your Average Joe" and I want to extend a big 'thank you' to our leaders!

The youth have been doing some cool stuff too; like white water rafting, going to Suncrest Camp, and gearing up for Youth Sunday (June 5).

I am looking forward to Summer when we'll have youth trips, Wild Wednesdays, & VBS! Stay tuned for details!

In Christ,
 Matt Ulrich
 Director of Children & Youth Ministries

<- Yep, they are graduating!



Confirmation Class rafting trip ^



Vacation Bible School!
June 6-10 | 9am-Noon

Register Online at:
www.cupepc.org/cup-church/vbs
 (Pre-Registration is encouraged.)

