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## From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2017

Dear Cup family and friends,

Late winter is typically the time of year for our entertainment award ceremonies: the Golden Globe, Grammy, and Oscar awards are only three of many extravaganzas which not only reward artists for excellence, they also draw attention to movies, books, television shows and music that leaders in their respective fields consider to be worthwhile.

As followers of Jesus Christ, are the criteria any different for what we put into our imaginations, minds and hearts? The stakes are high for us. 'Above all else, guard your heart, for from it flow the wellsprings of life.' (Prov. 4:23) What we view and listen to will come back out of us in the form of values, opinions, and judgments that affect how we treat others and view ourselves and the world. In 2015, the average American watched over four and half hours of TV every day. While the portions change from age group to age group, on average, we're consuming over eight hours of media daily. How we choose and evaluate what we take in will have a foundational impact on our discipleship.

The Apostle Paul gives us some guidance as he is wrapping up his letter to the Philippian church. These dear believers had endured a great deal of persecution for their faith, and may have been tempted to step out of Greek/Roman culture altogether. Yet Paul doesn't counsel this. After reminding the church that 'the Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything' (Phil. 4:5-6), he goes on to say this:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.' (4:8)

Let's use these words to ask a few questions about what we watch, listen to, and think about. True – Is it accurate? Does it measure well with God's standard of right and wrong? Would it be compatible with the gospel message? Does it lie about God, or tell the truth about his ways? Noble – Does it have an inner majesty or completeness about it? This word was used of the number 7, and to describe the character of a good leader. Right – The meaning here has more to do with righteousness. So – Does it help make for right relationships with God and others?

Pure – Does it lead toward holiness and away from evil? Lovely – Is it considered worthy by the world at large? Does it have a 'lovable' nature? Admirable – Is it considered effectively done? Excellent/Praiseworthy – Does it have the approval of those who can accurately judge? Is it something that would gain praise in heaven as well as on earth?

It's clear from the list that there is a great deal in our culture that won't measure up to this list; in fact, there is much that needs to be actively avoided (most horror films and television shows; pornography, among other things – not to mention things shoddily done). Nevertheless, Paul is clearly not ruling out all non-Christian art. The last four words in his list were more Roman than Jewish. We need to find ways to converse with others in our culture who may not share our faith, but also have a desire to communicate creatively and beautifully about who we are and the world we live in. For we will find that where there are true and praiseworthy things to think about, God is very close at hand.

### Deep Healing Prayer Opportunities

Since Gary and Kathleen Hixson first visited with us, several people have seen or experienced first-hand the dramatic power and love of God that comes in what has been called 'Deep Healing' prayer. Pastor Scott will again provide training to interested members, and the opportunity to receive this prayer will be on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month. Members of the CUP prayer team will be participating in these sessions, but all content from these sessions will be confidential. Typically, we will have women pray for women and men pray for men. Please see Pastor Scott if you would like to participate and allow two hours for a session.

Sunday, February 26th from 6-8pm  
Sunday March 12th from 6-8pm

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During the last weekend in February, I'll be teaching on this topic at our EPC Youth Retreat at Beulah Beach, where more than 300 will be in attendance! Please pray not only for myself, but for our teenagers that we will choose wisely in the things that we watch and listen to.

Blessings,  
Pastor Scott



**SHINE—WEDNESDAYS at 3:30pm**  
**Family Dinner following at 6:00pm**

**SHINE SUNDAYS—MARCH 19TH**  
**APRIL 9TH (PALM SUNDAY)**



**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**MARCH 1st 7:00pm**

**(NO SHINE DINNER**  
**THAT EVENING)**



**PRAY!**

**Pastor Scott will be out of the office**  
**March 20th—March 31st**  
**while he ministers in Sierra Leone**



The Deacons are making  
a request for the  
following items needed  
for the Food Pantry:

**CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY,**  
**CANNED SOUP, APPLESAUCE, CANNED**  
**TUNA, TUNA HELPER, RICE MIXES,**  
**NOODLE MIXES, PASTA, SPAGHETTI**  
**SAUCE, CANNED FRUIT AND VEGGIES,**  
**PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, RAMEN**  
**NOODLES AND MICROWAVE POPCORN**  
The Deacons thank you!



**COMING IN MARCH!**  
**'SPIRIT SALE'**

The Youth are planning a fundraiser for their  
upcoming Mission Trip to the Pittsburgh Project  
July 3rd—July 7th

They will be selling Tee Shirts, Hoodies and  
Fleece Zip-Ups featuring the CUP Logo.

Watch for the Details coming soon!

### Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study** (the Book of James)

6:00pm **Monday Night Small Group** @ the Manse

Tuesday 3:00pm **Youth Small Groups** (Girls @ the Manse, Guys in Youth Room-2nd & 4th weeks)

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (March 8)

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

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch** (March 16 at Bert's Wooden Indian)

Friday **Small Group** 6:30pm @ the Hughes'

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

## CUP LIBRARY NEWS

It has been quite a while since the last Library News article, so I thought I would resume with one to familiarize new members with what our church library has to offer and hopefully at the same time re-acquaint those who have been here longer.

Our library is in the room at the back of the sanctuary (the room with the swinging door). As you enter, the card file is on the table on the left side of the room. We use the Dewey Decimal system to organize our materials as most libraries do, but you won't find a computer here, we have to do it the old fashioned way. The card file includes author, title and subject cards in alphabetical order for each non-fiction book. We have five shelves of non-fiction books in the left corner of the room next to the card file. In addition, we have a video section, children's section, youth section and adult fiction section which are labeled accordingly. All of our materials deal with Christianity, the Bible or Bible based principals. The subjects can range from angels, to evangelism, to parenting, to Zephaniah, to name a few.

The library is open anytime the church is open and the room is not in use for a meeting. The procedure for checking out a book after you have found the one you want is as follows: simply remove the card from the back pocket and sign your name and the date. Place the card in the small basket next to the card file. Materials may be kept one month. When you return a book, place it in the large basket on the table. The procedure for videos is the same, except they are not listed in the card file.

We are currently in the process of removing videotapes from our shelves so that we can have more room for dvds only. If you are interested in having the tapes we no longer want to keep, contact Paula Keefer or look for a box on the library table.

**PLEASE CHECK OUT WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER IN THE CUP CHURCH LIBRARY!!!**

### MARCH Calendar

<u>March 1</u>	7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship
<u>March 7</u>	6:00pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>March 8</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>March 12</u>	6:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions
<u>March 14</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>March 16</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch (at Bert's Wooden Indian)
<u>March 18</u>	3:00pm Graham/McCowin Wedding
<u>March 19</u>	10:30am Shine Sunday
<u>March 20—March 31</u>	Pastor Scott Mission Trip to Sierra Leone

<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Monday Night Small Group @The Manse
<u>Every Tuesday</u>	3:00pm Youth Small Groups (Girls @ Manse, Guys in Youth Room on 2nd & 4th weeks)
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	3:30pm "SHINE" After School program followed by Family Dinner @6pm
<u>Every Thursday</u>	9:00am Women's Small Group 7:00pm Choir Practice/8:00pm Praise Team
<u>Every Friday</u>	6:30pm Small Group @ the Hughes'
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
<u>Every Sunday</u>	7:00pm Crosscurrent



*Alexis Graham and  
Collin McCowin, along  
with their parents,  
joyfully invite the Cup  
church family to join them in  
celebrating their holy matrimony  
on March 18th at 3:00pm  
in the sanctuary*

March 8th—Lenten Luncheon  
Chippewa United Methodist Church

Featured Speaker—Pastor Scott

12:00pm—12:50pm  
(Ham BBQ Sandwiches—\$4.)

*Salvation is infinitely costly,  
but absolutely free.*

*'God bought you with a high price.'  
1 Corinthians 6:20*





Hello CUP Family and Friends!

Where is the time flying to?

Our Crosscurrent Youth have been busy over the past two months of this new year. We started the new year off with games and fellowship!! Then went right into fundraising for our upcoming Winter Retreat. We watched the Steelers lose and then watched as the Super Bowl didn't exactly play out as many of us planned. We attended Winter Jam and were blessed with the Holy Spirit that evening. We have been busy digging into the word and working on sharing it with those around us. We are looking forward to a year filled with God's love and service.

Spring Shine has begun. We are up to a total of 35 kiddos this semester and what a blessing each little heart is. Our volunteers are some of the best and we are so blessed to have them working with these kiddos. A Big "Thank You" for your time! We kicked off our Shine semester with our first Shine Sunday where we had the littles tell us the story of the "Unforgiving Servant". They did a fantastic job being the first for many of them on stage like this. The K-5th graders gave us some beautiful songs from the heart. They even added in some kazoo sounds! Our oldest group helped lead us all in worship with their talents as the Praise Team. May God continue to bless our program. Our next Shine Sunday is March 19th.

Please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things ahead for all of us!

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cuniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director



"But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

