

THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Cup family and friends,

While many of us appreciate the insights we are able to receive from gifted communicators and spiritual leaders through sermons, TED talks, and concerts, we particularly treasure those opportunities to learn and grow relationally with these people in one-on-one situations. Several years ago, Kristina and I were asked to give a marriage retreat during the Summer for a group of pastors and their spouses. In exchange, we were housed by Wollford and Jen Thompson. Wollford has been called the 'Billy Graham of the Caribbean' for his outstanding pastoral and evangelistic work in that part of the world for decades. While we came to appreciate Wollford's obvious speaking gifts and all-around-'good guy' nature (as well as Jen's quieter kindnesses and hospitality), it was the dinner conversations and times of prayer that really shaped my appreciation of this tremendous couple.

In the next two months, we're going to hear from the heart in a one-on-one manner from the Apostle Paul, as he shares his passions, his concerns and his heart in the second letter to his young protégé, Timothy. 2 Timothy is likely the last letter Paul ever wrote (certainly the last in the Scriptures), and contains some of the most important guidance we could ever receive on living our Christian lives with joy and hope in challenging circumstances.

While I've touched on the 'Pastoral Letters' from time to time (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon), I've not taken the opportunity to have us walk together through some of the richest personal counsel the Bible has to offer on understanding the culture in which we live, the ups and downs we can expect as Christ-followers, and the means of grasping and then passing on the faith in the living God that we've been given through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Kevin Miller, a pastor in Wheaton, Illinois, compares and contrasts the mega-church of today with the smaller neighborhood congregation. He says the former is like a Home Depot, and the latter like Mr. Hooper's hardware. Hooper's was small, weather beaten, and cluttered: but Clarence from behind the counter would say as soon as you walked in the door, 'How may I help you today?', find the appropriate parts, and draw up a diagram of a good way to do your project. At the Home Depot, 'the ceilings are 30 feet high, there's 40 times the inventory, and it all looks great under the argon lights. . . and there's a guy in an orange apron a block away. If you run him down, he's likely to say, 'Sorry - I usually work in paints. I've just covering in electrical because someone called in sick.' So you're pretty much on your own.'

He finishes by saying: A similar thing has happened in the American church. We have programs that are amazing, with Disney-level quality and technological sophistication. But something's missing: Clarence. We all need a Clarence, someone who knows more than we do and who will guide us to grow in Christ.

Throughout the Bible this is the primary way faith has been passed on. Moses trains Joshua in how to lead; Eli trains Samuel in how to pray; Jesus teaches the apostles; Timothy's grandmother Lois trains up her daughter Eunice, who trains up her son Timothy; Paul calls Titus his 'son' in the faith. When it comes to helping people grow into spiritual maturity, the Bible gives us the 'Clarence principle': the older teach the younger, and those more mature in the faith guide those who are newer in the faith.

Cup is well positioned to learn what Paul has to teach us in 2 Timothy. I encourage you to come out for worship in January and February to learn 'one-on-one' from Paul!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott



The Warm Tree

Please find it in your heart to help keep a needy family warm this winter. Please take an envelope from the TREE, make the check out to the Salvation Army (for their utility assistance program) and return it to the Office.

We are such a generous congregation and the Deacons want to thank you for thinking of others this winter.



SPAGHETTI DINNER— YOUTH FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT EPC YOUTH RETREAT

THIS YEAR, 13 YOUTH WILL BE SPENDING 3 DAYS AT BEULAH BEACH, OH (near Vermillion)



Dear Cup family,

Once again, Kristina and I want to thank you for your overwhelming generosity for the Christmas gift we received from you. During these last few months of my mother's illness and her funeral this December, we incurred a number of extra expenses. Your gift has more than provided to meet that challenge. Several of you also contributed to the Heifer Project 'gift ark' in my mother's name to provide economic opportunity through animal husbandry in a needy village, my mother's favorite charitable work.

It is a joy to be your Pastor and your friend!

Blessings,

Scott and Kristina Graham



SHINE RETURNS
WEDNESDAY JAN. 31st
AT 3:30pm
(FAMILY DINNER at 6pm)
ONLINE REGISTRATION
NOW AVAILABLE

PASTOR SCOTT'S WINTER 2018 SERMON SERIES IS TAKEN FROM 2 TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 2 Quiz

- Fill in the blank, "Thou therefore, my son, be _____ in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
- Is Paul referring here to physical or spiritual strength?
- What type of men was Timothy to commit what Paul had taught him?
- What is mentioned by Paul in verse 3 that Timothy was encouraged to "endure?"
- What term is used in verse 3 describing a good Christian?
A. Brother B. Soldier C. Police Officer
- Fill in the blanks, 5 points each. " No man that warreth _____ himself with the _____ of this life; that he may _____ him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
- According to verse 5, how is the person striving for mysteries supposed to strive?
A. Lawfully B. Legally C. Honestly
- What OT person is mentioned in this chapter?
- There are 4 things listed that Paul states a believer is to follow. The first is righteousness, name as many of the others as you can. 5 points each.
- What do foolish and unlearned questions "gender" or result in?

ANSWERS

- Strong
- Spiritual
- Faithful
- Hardness
- Soldier
- Entanglement, Affairs, Please
- A-Lawfully
- David
- Peace, Charity, Faith
- Stripes

CUP Library News

“Complete Guide to Faith-Based Family Finances” is one of the great books that can be found on the shelves of the CUP library. Ron Blue and Jeremy White have joined forces to write this comprehensive guide. Ron Blue has been a financial planner and consultant for more than 30 years. He is the head of Kingdom Advisors, an organization that trains Christian financial professionals. He has appeared on radio and television and has authored more than 12 books on personal finance. Jeremy White has been a CPA since 1988, with experience in public accounting and industry. He has co-authored or assisted with four other best-selling financial books. Together they have come up with the next best thing to having access to your own financial advisor. Whether you’re a whiz at finances or a novice or somewhere in between, this book can help. It is filled with commonsense, practical tools to help you make wise financial decisions. Each chapter shows examples of people struggling with the same money issues your family faces and solutions that will work. This book is a “Focus on the Family” resource published by Tyndale House. It’s a great reference book available to you anytime. Come into the church library and check us out!

Paula Keefer, Cup Church Librarian



JANUARY/FEBRUARY Calendar

<u>January 9</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>January 13</u>	8:30am Leadership Retreat
<u>January 14</u>	10:30am Officer Installation during Worship 12:00pm Youth Retreat Spaghetti Fundraiser
<u>January 16</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>January 28</u>	12:00pm Congregational Meeting following Worship
<u>January 30</u>	6:30pm Shine Leaders Meeting 7:30pm Shine Parents Meeting
<u>January 31</u>	3:30pm SHINE RETURNS 6:00pm Family Dinner
<u>February 2-4</u>	EPC Youth Retreat
<u>February 6</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>February 14</u>	7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship (NO Shine Dinner)
<u>February 16</u>	Winter Jam Presbytery of the Alleghenies at Bellfield
<u>February 20</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>February 25</u>	10:30am Shine Sunday
<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study (resumes in Feb.)
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	3:30pm "SHINE" After School program followed by Family Dinner @6pm (resumes 1/31/18)
<u>Every Thursday</u>	9:00am Women's Small Group 7:00pm Choir Practice
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
<u>Every Sunday</u>	7:00pm Crosscurrent

My Dear CUP Family,

I wanted to thank you for your generosity to me and my family with the gift I received on Christmas Eve. Your support and love this year has been overwhelming. I love you all dearly and again thank you for my gift. May the blessings of this year be many for us all!

*Your sister in Christ,
Joel Cunniff*

NEW: STARTING TUESDAY
JANUARY 9TH!

'COFFEE & CROCHETING AT CUP'

Learn to Crochet, Time for Devotions & Fellowship (for beginners or experienced)

**SCHEDULE: 1st & 3rd FRIDAYS—9–10:30am
2nd & 4th TUESDAYS—7:30-8:30pm
If you have any questions—see Joel**

Happy New Beginnings CUP Family and Friends,

What a ride 2017 was! Wow!! I am not sure I can explain as to how awesome the year was, but it was indeed. I can't wait to see what 2018 has in store for us!

Our Youth have been busy making memories and growing deeper in their faith. We just rang in the New Year with a Youth Lock In! I am still tired! But what fun was had!!!! Our group is again preparing our hearts and minds for the upcoming youth retreat in February. We have 13 youth registered for the retreat. If you hadn't seen we will be hosting a Spaghetti luncheon after church on January 14th to help us cover the cost of the retreat. We will have DINE-IN and TAKE OUT. I know the Steelers play! Please join us after church and help support our youth.

Our Fall Shine session ended with a flash of light!! Did you see it? It was amazing!! Registration has already begun for our Spring session and we can't wait to get started on January 31th. If you are looking for ways to help we would love to see where we could plug you in! See me for details!

I will be out of the office January 21-26th as I will be attending the RYM Conference in Nashville TN. Prayers for safe travels and the spirit to be present would be appreciated.

I am looking forward to an amazing 2018 I ask you to please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! It's a privilege and an honor to work with them all!

Happy NEW YEAR!

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

