



## From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH / APRIL 2018

Dear Cup Family and Friends,

I doubt it takes much for me to persuade you that anxiety and mistrust are on the rise in our nation, and have been for some time. (If you DO need persuading, take a look at 'End-Times Anxiety' by R.R. Reno in this month's First Things Journal here. <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2018/03/end-times-anxiety>)


It's easy to get discouraged or cynical about the fix we're in. What can any individual, or any church like Cup, do?

Hmm. . . there's actually a great answer to this, provided by a true genius. He shares something that would change the world, and certainly our own community, if it was actually done. Want to know who, and what was said?

*A lawyer asked Jesus, 'Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And **you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**'* (Math. 22:37, 39)

Wow! What would it look like if we began to take steps to love our neighbors? Or even *like* our neighbors? Probably the way for us to begin would be to *get to know our neighbors' names*.

Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon in their book *The Art of Neighboring* provide a painful but helpful 'puzzle' to help uncover where we stand with those who live closest to us. Below you'll find a diagram that we also looked at in our worship service on March 4:

a. b. c.	a. b. c.	a. b. c.
a. b. c.		a. b. c.
a. b. c.	a. b. c.	a. b. c.

Here's what I'd like you to do. Simply pick your eight nearest neighbors, however they are situated, and try the following exercise.

Next to letter 'a', write the names of the people represented in the box. First and last names are great, but even a first name is a good start.

For letter 'b', write some relevant information about them, something you couldn't get just from standing in your driveway, something you might know if you've spoken to the person once or twice, such as 'grew up in Ohio, likes to play golf, goes to the Outer Banks on vacation.'

For letter 'c', write down some in-depth information you would know after connecting with them. Perhaps it would be something to do with career plans, or how they feel about their kids or grandkids, or what motivates them in life. What do they love? What are they afraid of? Do they go to church somewhere? What do they believe about God?

Pathak and Runyon have this to say about doing this exercise several times in many different venues. In their words, they get strikingly consistent results:

- About 10 percent of people can fill out the names of all eight of their neighbors.
- About 3 percent can fill out line b for every home.
- Less than 1 percent can fill out line c for every home.

Honestly, I would struggle with lines b and c in my own neighborhood, and Kristina and I have lived there over a dozen years. Yet relationships with our neighbors were of huge importance to Jesus, so I want it to become more important in my own life and in the life of our congregation as well.

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So – how can we actually get to know our neighbors? This is probably a multi-month column, but let me give you a couple of simple ideas to get started.

\*If you walk around your neighborhood, go ahead and stick out your hand and introduce yourself to that couple or individual you've simply waved at for the past few years. They will likely be happy that you've 'broken the ice' with the first step.

\* If you're good at baking pies or cakes, say a short prayer, pick a house, and knock on the door with your offering at a time when you think they might be home, and simply offer it 'to be neighborly.' I haven't met anyone who doesn't like homemade pie.

\* If you've got kids or a front porch, spend some time in your front yard instead of your back yard. If you do this, the neighborhood pets and kids will likely drop by – and then the adults as well.

Being a good neighbor like this won't really work for the long haul if our only agenda is evangelism. Of course we'd love our neighbors to come to know about the most important Person and Lord of our lives – but let's begin by being a compassionate and open neighbor, without other strings attached. (I'll address this idea more in my next column.) I'm convinced that if we grow more in obeying Jesus' great commandment regarding those who live next to us, we'll find that He will use and bless Cup's church family as well.

Happy neighboring!  
Pastor Scott



## MARCH/APRIL Calendar

<b><u>March 6</u></b>	<b>5:45pm DEACONS</b> <b>7:00pm WORSHIP</b> <b>7:30pm TRUSTEES</b>
<b><u>March 8</u></b>	<b>7:00pm Church Vitality</b>
<b><u>March 10</u></b>	<b>10:00am Jane Brieck Memorial Service &amp; Luncheon Celebration</b>
<b><u>March 14</u></b>	<b>1:00pm Game Day</b>
<b><u>March 15</u></b>	<b>12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch</b> <b>@ Oak Arbor Grille (formerly Tinitique)</b>
<b><u>March 18</u></b>	<b>10:30am SHINE Sunday</b>
<b><u>March 20</u></b>	<b>7:00pm SESSION</b>
<b><u>March 26</u></b>	<b>7:00pm Seder Meal</b>
<b><u>March 29</u></b>	<b>7:00pm Tenebrae</b>
<b><u>March 30</u></b>	<b>12:00pm Community Good Friday Service @ CUMC</b>
<b><u>April 3</u></b>	<b>5:45pm DEACONS</b> <b>7:00pm WORSHIP</b> <b>7:30pm TRUSTEES</b>
<b><u>April 8</u></b>	<b>10:30am SHINE Sunday</b>
<b><u>April 11</u></b>	<b>1:00pm Game Day</b>
<b><u>April 12</u></b>	<b>7:00pm Church Vitality</b>
<b><u>April 17</u></b>	<b>7:00pm SESSION</b>
<b><u>April 19</u></b>	<b>12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ Harry's</b>
<b><u>April 20-21</u></b>	<b>Youth 'Grow' Overnight Event</b>
<b><u>Every Monday</u></b>	<b>1:00pm Adult Bible Study</b> <b>7:00pm Monday Night Small Group @ The Hughes'</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>3:30pm "SHINE" After School program</b> <b>followed by Family Dinner @6pm (Not 3/28)</b>
<b><u>Every Thursday</u></b>	<b>9:00am Women's Small Group</b> <b>9:45am Mom's Group</b> <b>7:00pm Choir Practice</b>
<b><u>Every Saturday</u></b>	<b>7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Eat-n-Park</b>
<b><u>Every Sunday</u></b>	<b>7:00pm Crosscurrent (Not Easter Sunday)</b> <b>7:00pm Sunday Night Small Group in the Bartholomew Room</b>

Pastor Scott will be in Sierra Leone from April 3-10. He will be going over with Pastor Tom Holmes from the Slickville EPC church. Slickville recently donated \$10,000 to build a church structure in the village of Mapainda, another location of an Educations school.

Pastor Scott will be providing some teaching to the local EPC pastors during their annual post-Easter retreat. The retreat is being held in Fintonia. Pastor Scott will also be visiting to provide some encouragement to the Fintonia church as they encounter a change in pastoral leadership. Pastors Dominic and Ruth will be taking a one year sabbatical in Freetown, and Scott's presence will be helpful as the new leadership is established. Please keep Dominic and Ruth, the new leaders, and Pastors Scott and Tom in your prayers during their ministry trip.



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25TH**  
**PALM SUNDAY —10:30am**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 26TH**  
**SEDER MEAL—7pm**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29TH**  
**TENEBRAE—7pm**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 30TH**  
**COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY**  
**WORSHIP—NOON AT CUMC**

**SUNDAY MARCH 1ST**  
**EASTER WORSHIP—10:30am**



This year one of our Holy Week activities will include a Seder Meal on Monday March 26th. This reenactment will focus on Jesus' transformation of this Jewish meal into the Lord's Supper. The dinner is symbolic and should not be considered a full meal. Children age 5 & older are welcome to join their parents. (LADIES – If you do not have a headscarf, some will be available)

If you are interested in attending, please call the Church (724-843-1594) so we are able to have place settings for everyone. Thank you.

## CUP Library News

A new book that is about to be placed on the shelves of our little library is "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" by Dr. Paul Brand and co-authored by Philip Yancey.

Dr. Brand is the son of missionaries from Great Britain who served in India. He became a medical doctor specializing in orthopedic surgery and was a world-renowned hand surgeon and leprosy specialist.

Brand then spent much of his medical career in Vellore, India serving the leprosy community there. While there his research convinced him that the awful manifestations of this feared disease were caused by the problem of painlessness; leprosy deadened the sensory nerve cells causing sufferers to unknowingly destroy themselves bit-by-bit because they couldn't feel pain. This wise and brilliant man displayed his humble Christian faith by serving some of the lowest people on our planet: members of the Untouchable caste in India afflicted with leprosy.

Yancey, one of my favorite authors, has served as editor-at-large for Christianity Today magazine. He has written nine Gold Medallion Award-winning books including "The Jesus I Never Knew" and "What's So Amazing About Grace?" both of which were also awarded Book of the Year.

Together in this book, they take the reader on a fascinating journey through the inner space of the body, uncovering through the world of cells and body systems the structure that God has created and the similarities the human body bears to the Body of Christ, the community of believers that make up the church.

Come, check out what our church library has to offer.

Paula Keefer, Cup Church Librarian



### *We've Lost a Friend*

Jane F. (Weber) Brieck, 78, of South Beaver Twp., flew with the angels on her journey to the Lord, embraced in the love of her husband John and family on February 22, 2018. A memorial celebration of life will be held March 10, 2018, at 10 a.m. at CUP Church. Donations can be made in her name, to CUP Children and Youth Ministries.

*God's love for us is undeserved yet unchanging.*



**'GROW' OVERNIGHT EVENT**  
**APRIL 20-21**

## Weekly Meetings...

**Sunday Night Small Group** 7:00pm (Uncovering the Life of Jesus)

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study** (Growing Older and Wiser)

**Monday Night Small Group** 6:30pm @ The Hughes' (Goliath Must Fall)

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (March 14th & April 11th)

**Thursday Morning Woman's Small Group** 9:00am (Open Your Bible)

Thursday 9:45am **Mom's Group** (led by Joel)

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**

(March 15th at Oak Arbor Grille (formerly Tinitique) & April 19th at Harry's)

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





Happy Spring!!

Our Crosscurrent youth have been busy this past few months. Actually the beginning of February we spent the weekend in Beulah Beach for our EPiC Winter Youth Retreat. This year we filled the camp with over 300 in attendance. The speakers where awesome and the spirit was moving. Thank you to all who helped us get there by supporting our Spaghetti and Blanket Fundraisers. Our youth also attended 2018 Winter Jam. It was a long fun night of worship!! Youth please mark your calendars for upcoming dates. No Youth Group April 3rd and we have our GROW move up night April 20-21st, anyone entering 7th grade next year is welcome to join us as we welcome you into Crosscurrent Youth Group. See me for details.

So excited to have added a few new faces to our Shine family this season. Our first Shine Sunday featured the K-2nd graders as they shared the "Creation Story" through sign language. What a treasure it was to have them share how awesome God is in all his creation. The K-5th graders again serenaded us with God loving music and the 6-8th graders lifted us up in worship! What a blessing it is to work with all these kiddos. They are a true blessing to all the volunteers and to me. We hope you will join us at our next Shine Sunday on March 18th.

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things happening!

Your sister in Christ,  
*Joel Cunniff*  
CUP Children and Youth Director

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.  
~ Psalm 34:17, NLT

