

From the Pastor's Desk...

JUNE/JULY 2018

Dear Cup family and friends,

Most of you know I am enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Hamilton, MA). The three year program is titled 'Pastoral Theology in Practice', and involves two weeks of intensive classes in July on campus, followed by a dissertation, which usually takes another 18 months to 2 years. Last year's emphasis was on preaching. This year the focus is on pastoral counseling. It's probably fitting that the class time this Summer will be held in England: pastoral counseling reminds me the English-style roundabout intersection that most of you have encountered near the Giant Eagle in Rochester. There are many different streams of thought that weave into counseling, sometimes in head-swiveling ways.

Traditionally, Pastors have been known as Spiritual Directors. We are to listen to the parishioner and to the Lord to help lead others to grow in their understanding of God and His will, in appreciating and obeying Him, and accelerate the process of becoming more like Jesus Christ. Protestants typically call this 'sanctification.' Our belief that we can go directly to Christ in prayer, using Scripture to lead us in sanctification has meant that we've been a bit suspicious of spiritual direction, but in recent decades many Presbyterians (and other Protestants) have grown in their appreciation for calling on their pastor for help in this way. I actually received a full-ride scholarship after Seminary to study for a year in this area at Blackfriars, a Dominican (Catholic) college that is a part of Oxford University. It's the Catholic and Orthodox side of the church that is more well-known for their work in spiritual direction, but I have read and used many wonderful Reformed resources to help myself and others in this way.

Psychotherapy brings up very different images, usually involving an office building, a receptionist, health insurance forms, and fees. Yet the goal of most people seeking a counselor or psychiatrist's help is not that different. There is a 'dis-ease' in the mind or heart that may require medication to help a chemical imbalance, or a set of techniques to provide improvement in a hurting relationship or a phobia stemming from a childhood or more recent violent trauma. Fuller Seminary, where I received my M.Div., has a School of Psychology that provides a place to wed the insights of secular counselors with the Scriptures and wider church. Cup church currently hosts the Christian Counseling Associates, who would provide help mainly from this realm.

Pastoral Counseling is the area that most Presbyterians think of when the topic of counsel comes up in the church. It's often associated with grief or pre-marital work, or occasionally family counseling for help with a particularly challenging teen-parent relationship. All three areas aim at spiritual and mental health, and as Christians we understand these terms a bit differently than the outside world.

One author puts it this way: 'Typical psychotherapy is about normal making. Spiritual direction, however, is about abnormal making. . . abnormally loving, peaceful, joyful, abnormally aware of God and his loving presence. In spiritual direction the goal is to accompany directees on a journey toward normal kingdom living – far from the center of the world's normal curve.'

I have appreciated and enjoyed working with some of you this Spring in this fashion as I prepare case studies for my work this July. (I also have been learning about the important work of our local women's shelter as a safe and redemptive presence against domestic abuse.) Please know that I can be available for this work even AFTER my coursework – it is all a part of my effort to become a more effective pastor for Cup church and the wider community of faith! I appreciate your prayers for me in this journey.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott



ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 10TH—FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**ALONG WITH STRAWBERRIES, YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM
CAKES AND ICE CREAM**

HOT DOGS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

**STRAWBERRY JELLY AND THE ANNIVERSARY
COOKBOOK WILL ALSO BE ON SALE**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 25th – 29th
9am – NOON**

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids are rescued by Jesus, who carries them through every storm in life. They'll learn to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel powerless.

If you interested in Volunteering, please see Joel.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT at Camp Frederick Rogers, Ohio NOVEMBER 16th -17th

Dave and Julie Bianchin will be our speakers this year. Dave has pastored Presbyterian congregations in northern Illinois for many years, and is currently a visitation and teaching pastor at Christ Church in Oak Brook, IL, one of the largest congregations in the Chicago area.

Julie is a public school teacher in the Downers Grove area, and one of the most delightful people Kristina and I know! We have been friends with Dave and Julie for close to 30 years, through our many pastor seminar get-togethers at Cedar Campus on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Dave and Julie have three grown children. We're looking forward to a wonderful time with them. Our time at Camp Frederick will run from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon. Dave will preach at the November 18 service at Cup.

Sign up sheets and cost details will be made available soon.



**OUR CHURCH VITALITY COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE AWARE
THAT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
HOSTING A SUMMER BLOCK PARTY,
THEY HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
AVAILABLE FOR USE:**

**TABLES
CHAIRS
LAWN TENTS
LAWN GAMES**

**A SIGN OUT SHEET WILL BE MADE
AVAILABLE FOR YOU**

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES...

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day**
(June 13, July 11)

Third Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**
(June 21 @ El Paso,
July 19 @ Paradise Palm in Center Twp.)

CUP Library News

“Finding God in the Questions” by Dr Timothy Johnson is one of the books in our church library that I would like to draw your attention to. Published in 2004, it was on the New York Times Bestseller list. Dr. Johnson himself was the medical editor for ABC news and reported on health care issues for Good Morning America beginning in 1975. He also completed seminary before attending medical school and is well qualified to speak to issues concerning both physical health and spiritual health. In his book he states, “Doubt doesn’t have to tear down belief, however, it can purify it. When it does, the beliefs on the other side become more certain. This is why I would like to affirm that it is possible to find God even while you are still asking the big questions.”

Another great book on our shelves is **“Mere Christianity”** by C.S. Lewis. First presented as a radio broadcast series in 1942 it is a timeless classic that gives the reader the basics of our Christian faith in an easily readable format. Lewis is also the author of **“The Chronicles of Narnia”** series for children (which can also be found in the library) and was one of the theological giants of the twentieth century.

Other new additions to our shelves can be found in the children’s video section.

We have four new **“Veggie Tales”** DVDs.

Come into the church library and check us out!

JUNE/JULY Calendar

<u>June 4</u>	5:00pm SHINE Kitchen Crew cooking for Crossroads Shelter
<u>June 5</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>June 6</u>	7:00pm Samuel Sesay/Eduations
<u>June 10</u>	12:00pm Annual Strawberry Festival and VBS Volunteers Meeting following Worship
<u>June 13</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>June 14</u>	7:00pm Church Vitality
<u>June 21</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ El Paso
<u>June 25-29</u>	9:00am VBS Week Begins
<u>June 26</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>July 2-4</u>	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
<u>July 11</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>July 19</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ Paradise Palms in Center Twp.

Every Monday 1:00pm Adult Bible Study (resumes in fall)
Every Wednesday 3:30pm “SHINE” After School program followed by Family Dinner @6pm (returns Sept. 19)
Every Thursday 9:00am Women’s Small Group
 7:00pm Choir Practice (both resume in fall)
Every Saturday 7:30am Men’s Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park (resumes in fall)
Every Sunday 7:00pm Youth Summer Bible Study & bonfire at the Manse (7/15, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19)
Crosscurrent returns September 9th at 6:30pm

NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JULY

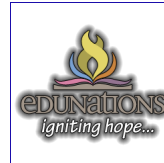


Pastor Scott will be out of the Office:

June 18—22 To attend the EPC General Assembly in Memphis

June 29—July 13 For his D Min. Schooling in England

July 14—21 On Vacation in Scotland



WEDNESDAY
JUNE 6th
at 7pm

Samuel Sesay will be speaking about Eduations and the EPC in Sierra Leone, here at CUP Church in the Sanctuary. All churches of the Presbytery are invited to attend.

God’s love for us offers us the sense of belonging and identity we all crave.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED JULY 2ND—4TH



Summertime!

Where has the time gone?! May was a super busy month in the life of CUP Children and Youth! Crosscurrent youth spent a lot of time preparing for Youth Sunday that took place on May 20th. What a fantastic job they did with a lot of hard work. I am so very honored to be working beside them. They are so full of the spirit. This years focus was on where our Identity is found. Just ask a youth and they should be happy to tell you what label they proudly wear! This past month we also had the opportunity to attend the Feast for Fintonia what an experience it was for the youth to hear and see what is happening in Fintonia. Great blessing! We have a fun filled summer planned for youth. Make sure to check the calendar. There is no Sunday School for Youth over the summer. As always thank you for your continued support of our youth! There are great things ahead for our youth and I am excited to be on the journey with them.

That's a wrap! Our 8th season of Shine ended with a bang!! Prodigal Clown was performed on May 6th and was an amazing performance and an even more amazing story was told of the Father's loves for us! We had 6, 8th graders share the stage one last time with us as they now move on into the High School. I pray they continue to use the gifts that God has blessed them with and to share his love with all his children. I can not thank my volunteers enough, Week after week they put so much time and love into the program. Not just this past year but also the past 8 years. We look forward to continuing this journey on September 19th.

Registration will be up and running over the summer.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:10



Please join us June 25-29th for VBS as we take on the open sea... "Shipwrecked". The adventure awaits and we hope you will join us! We are still looking for adult volunteers who can help assist! Please see me for more information!!! Also looking for a few donations.

Please see list in bulletin!

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

