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## From the Pastor's Desk...

APRIL 2019

Dear Cup church family and friends,

On Saturday, April 13, we'll be launching a new initiative: a Family Friendly potluck and game night! We're asking folks of all ages to bring a food dish for dinner at 5 PM, followed by board and card games from 6-8 PM. We'll be holding this in Fellowship Hall, and hope you all can come! Not only come: come and bring a friend!

Currently at Cup, we're working on building relationships with our neighbors. We're also working on ways to share our faith in Christ with them – but the process of doing that often takes longer than we may realize.

Sam Chan, in his book *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* shares the following:

Imagine I told you this story: Last night, while my wife and I were watching TV, a UFO landed in our back yard. A green alien got out of the UFO and asked us to join him. So my wife and I got into his UFO, and he took us to his home planet, Jupiter. There he showed us around his home city. We had dinner with his family. Afterward, we got into the UFO and returned to earth. But when we got back, because of the space-time continuum, we went through a time portal, and only one second of earth time had passed.

Do you believe me?

Let's say I tell you another story:

Two thousand years ago, God sent us his Son, Jesus. This man Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent human at the same time. He was born from a virgin! While he was on earth, he healed sick people and raised dead people back to life. Then he died on a cross. If you believe this, he will take away all your sins and forgive you. But he didn't stay dead. He rose again to life and is now in heaven. If you trust him, God's Spirit lives in you right now. When you die, your soul will leave your dead body to be with Jesus in heaven. One day, he will return and set up a kingdom on earth. When he does, your dead body will rise from the grave and be reunited with your soul.

Do you believe me?

Chan points out that we all live with plausibility structures – accepted beliefs, convictions and understandings. You and I likely have 'red lights' go off with the first story, marking it as implausible. Increasingly in our culture, our friends and neighbors see the second story – about the Christian faith – as implausible as well. Much of the reason for that, Chan states, is that our non-Christian acquaintances don't have people in their lives who are believers in who Jesus is. The first step for many of them is simply meeting other Christians, and seeing that they (like you), are not 'wacko', and there could be some plausibility to the claims followers of Jesus makes. They're getting a chance to see that there are others besides yourself who are Christians, and are actually enjoying life doing it!

It may seem like a lot to expect from a potluck and game night, of course. But it's actually a great place to begin. And if things go well, perhaps an invitation to Palm Sunday services the next day would be well received! There are many ways to 'fish for people.' (Mark 1:17) Let's use this one, and have a great time while we're at it!

Blessings and happy fishing,

Pastor Scott

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CUP Family Ministries Group  
Invites you to a  
Family Friendly Potluck and  
Game Night  
Saturday, April 13th  
Potluck 5-6pm  
Games 6-8pm

## APRIL Calendar

<u>April 2</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>April 10</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>April 13</u>	5:00pm Family Game Night Begins with potluck / 6pm Games
<u>April 16</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>April 18</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ Harry's 4:00pm Grow Overnight Begins 7:00pm Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday)
<u>April 19</u>	Good Friday / Office Closed at Noon
<u>April 21</u>	10:30am EASTER MORNING WORSHIP
<u>April 22</u>	9:00am SHINE Rehearsal
<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study
<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
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
<u>Every Sunday</u>	5:00pm Confirmation Class ( <u>SPECIAL</u> <u>TIME 4/7 6pm</u> , NO Class 4/21, 4/28) 6:30pm Crosscurrent (NOT 4/21)



**GROW OVERNIGHT—YOUTH EVENT (welcoming graduating 6th graders)**  
**THURSDAY APRIL 18th from 4pm —FRIDAY APRIL 19th at 10am**

## CUP LIBRARY NEWS

A book that has been on our library shelves for awhile now and that I would like to draw your attention to is "God on Mute" by Pete Grieg. Subtitled "Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer", the author deals with the desperate needs of those who face God's silence in the midst of their personal sufferings.

Grieg doesn't use quick or easy answers but provides the hope that is needed by so many with tender (not brutal) honesty. He also presents his answers with theological depth, reaching into biblical texts in addition to his own experiences and the experiences of his friends. It becomes obvious that the author is a man who talks to and listens to God. Grieg is listed by Relevant magazine as one of the top 50 revolutionary leaders of his generation, co-founding the 24-7 Prayer community in 1999.

An innovative approach to mission and Christian spirituality, the 24-7 Prayer movement has touched more than a third of the nations on earth.

Another book that may be of interest to some is a small study guide entitled, "Do Science and the Bible Conflict?" Written by Judson Poling, a pastor working with small group ministries at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, it is part of a "Tough Questions" series that deals frankly with objections commonly raised about Christianity.

These and many other books and videos are available for anyone to check out anytime the church is open and the library isn't in use for a meeting. We have fiction and non-fiction, children's books and books for teens. Just come and take a look, if you find something of interest, pull out the borrower's card in the back pocket, sign it and leave in the small basket on the side table.

Paula Keefer, Church Librarian

### IN NEED OF PRAYER?

**Members of the prayer team are available in the library 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.*

**Cup Church also has a Prayer Chain set up for anyone in need throughout the week or anyone having a prayer request. Either call Cindy during Office hours (Tuesday—Friday 9:00am—2:00pm) at 724-843-1594 or notify Pastor Scott or Joel to start the chain.**

*Also, we are available if you would like to set up a more convenient time to pray together with the prayer team or one of our elders.*

*Please remember that all prayer requests will remain confidential unless we are given permission to publically share!*



**SUNDAY APRIL 14—PALM SUNDAY 10:30am**

**THURSDAY APRIL 18—TENEBRAE 7:00pm**

**SUNDAY APRIL 21—EASTER 10:30am**



### Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study**

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (April 10)

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

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**  
(April 18 @ Harry's (Rt. 51)—please see Laura Crawford with your reservation)

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

### EDUNATIONS 2019 CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**AVALON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
JUNE 24, 2019**

**Contact info: Covenant Church 724-981-3535**

## SPRING BIG SALE



**FRIDAY MAY 24th 9:00am—3:00pm**

**SATURDAY MAY 25th 9:00am—1:00pm**

**This Spring, as you 'redd up' and clean out, remember to set aside those treasures you no longer want for our sale.**

**Drop off will be after the SHINE Musical—May 6th**



### SHINE SPRING MUSICAL

**SUNDAY MAY 5TH  
AT 7PM**

It was a dark and stormy night... a man lay injured by the side of the road. Two travelers passed him by. Mysteriously, he is delivered to the doorstep of the quaint Mountain Vista Inn, where the startled guests, the butler and the maid, and the famous detective must use their wits to sleuth out every clue to get to the bottom of the mystifying whodunit.

Mystery, candlelight, organ music, and strange pizza toppings all await as we join host Alistair McAlister in this Master's Peace Theatre re-creation of the parable that Jesus told about the Good Samaritan.



Happy Easter!

This past month has been filled with much fun as we gathered together as a Youth Group. A group of us attended the High School Musical where many of our very own Youth were on stage and behind the scenes as well! It was a fabulous show to watch and it was wonderful seeing so many CUP family members come out to cheer on the youth! We also had fun on Sunday nights as we celebrated time together! We are looking forward to our GROW Overnighter planned for April 18-19th. We welcome any graduating 6th graders as they join Youth Group! See me for details!

Confirmation class is still going strong. It has been a wonderful sight watching them learn and grow!

Our last Shine Sunday was a success and we look forward to the next upcoming! Our Shine Musical has been announced and parts assigned. Please mark your calendars for May 5th at 7pm as you experience "A Not So Terrible Parable".

This past month I spent a week in Paradise, PA for a RYM Conference. It was a wonderful time spent with other Youth Leaders as we were taught by many outstanding teachers. I look forward to sharing many great things learned with the youth at CUP Church.

As always I ask you to 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

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

~John 11:25

