



From the Pastor's Desk...

MAY 2019

Dear Cup church family and friends,

I had a new experience as a pastor and a father this weekend. As most of you know, Kristina and I were in Seattle for our daughter Jessica's wedding. What you may NOT know is that I was asked to be the sole officiating pastor for the service. Three years ago, I assisted with our son Ian's wedding, but this one was all on me. And, I must admit, it feels different when it's your (only) daughter standing before you on the wedding day. People talk about the experience of "having your life passing before your eyes." Well, in this case, I had Jessica's life passing before mine – I was 'seeing' her at all different ages as she came up the steps for the vows, and it did take me a couple of moments to pull myself together – and it was important for me to do that, because my role in that moment didn't allow me to tear up and reminisce. I had one more much important role to play first.

The main text for the wedding was John 2:1-11, where Jesus performs his first miracle (in John's gospel). The reception is about to run out of wine, and far too soon. Mary asks Jesus to do something about it, which brings back a pretty stern response from her Son – 'Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come.' (John 2:4). The only time Jesus uses the term 'hour' in John is when he is referring to his death. In other words, the conversation goes something like this: "Son, they're out of wine." "Hey! I'm not ready to die!"

One of the main points in John is that Jesus is the fulfillment and the transformer of all Jewish rituals, festivals, and feasts. His first sign is to transform the water for ritual purification – water is used to attempt to wash away sin to be 'clean' in God's presence – and changes it into glorious wine fit for the greatest of celebrations. "You have saved the best for last." (John 2:10)

Jesus essentially exchanges drinks with us, because the hour eventually does come for his death, and he gets a sponge with wine vinegar to drink in the midst of his crucifixion. 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30)

Here's the point. We often spend our lives diligently trying to prove our worth. If we work hard enough, look beautiful enough, or do 'something' enough to justify our existence, God will have to accept us – like the endless attempts at purification through the ritual cleansing. But we will never be good enough. It takes a price of a perfect sacrifice to provide the transformation for the wedding feast. In Christ, we're not simply invited to this; we're one of the participants! (Revelation 21:1-4, 22:17). The best wine God has to offer in this life is when we put our hope and trust in Christ's work on our behalf. It's so easy for gifted people to become distracted with all the other invitations and opportunities that life throws at us – but that's like taking Coors Lite over the finest vintage claret. Don't cheat yourself – or those around you! God's gifts and God's people are where true joy is found. Hallelujah!

Cordially,

Pastor Scott





**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.

MAY Calendar

<u>May 4</u>	9:00am SHINE Dress Rehearsal and Awards Luncheon
<u>May 5</u>	7:00pm SHINE Spring Musical
<u>May 7</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>May 8</u>	1:00pm Game Day 2:15pm OUTREACH
<u>May 8</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>May 15</u>	7:00pm Bonfire for SHINE Leaders
<u>May 18</u>	7:00pm 30 Hour Famine Begins
<u>May 21</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>May 24</u>	9am—3pm SPRING Big Sale
<u>May 21</u>	9am—1pm SPRING Big Sale
<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study (ends 5/20)
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Last "SHINE" 5/1 (returns in Fall)
<u>Every Thursday</u>	9:00am Women's Small Group (ends 5/23) 7:00pm Choir Practice
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast (ends 5/18)
<u>Every Sunday</u>	3:15pm Confirmation Class (5/8, 5/15) 5:00pm Confirmation Class (5/19) 6:30pm Crosscurrent (5/26)

*Those who see Jesus as
the Bread of Life will
never be hungry.*



**EDUNATIONS 2019 CHARITABLE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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

Contact info: Covenant Church 724-981-3535

CUP LIBRARY NEWS

Two new books that will be on our library shelves soon are "What Good is God?" by Philip Yancey and "I Was Just Wondering" also by Yancey. This author is one of my very favorites. He is a journalist by profession and has been the editor at large for Christianity Today. He is a best-selling author of more than twenty books known for their honest, thoughtful explorations of the Christian faith particularly in the area of personal struggles.

The book titled "What Good is God?" takes the reader through ten personal stories of faith. From the underground church in China to sex trafficking in the U.S. Yancey discovers hope and redemption and reveals how faith really can make a difference. In "I Was Just Wondering" Yancey offers a collection of his reflections on many topics Christians may face today. In his own words, it is "a book of many questions and a few answers". Other critics have said reading this book is like having a deep conversation with a friend.

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, Librarian

TRIP TO ISRAEL / APRIL



Garden Tomb
where Jesus
may have
been laid



Jewish men praying at Wailing Wall

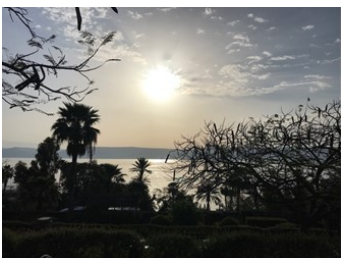


Prayers for
Cup Church
(long paper
on left side)
in Western
Wall

Paula praying
in the Garden
of Gethsemane



Eastern Orthodox from Poland preparing
for baptism in Jordan where Jesus was
thought to have done baptisms



Sunrise over
Sea of Galilee

FIRST FAMILY GAME NIGHT APRIL 13th



Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study**

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

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

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**
(May 16 @ Original Roadhouse in East Palestine, OH)—
please see Laura Crawford with your reservation)

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

SPRING BIG SALE



FRIDAY MAY 24th 9:00am—3:00pm

SATURDAY MAY 25th 9:00am—1:00pm

Drop off will be after the SHINE Musical—May 6th
**PLEASE REMEMBER NO ELECTRONICS OR
OVERSIZED FURNITURE**



Spring has sprung,

This past month has been very busy with our Youth. We “EGGED” our neighbors by creating goodie bags and inviting them to church. We had our 3rd Annual GROW Overnighter. We had no new 6th graders move up but we had a wonderful time bonding as a group! Our crew has many exciting opportunities coming up! Included, we have 10 students preparing to serve at the Pittsburgh Project in July. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare their hearts and we pray for funding for each youth to attend. We will have some upcoming carwashes, yard sale and even the current spirit-ware sale that will go to help fund the mission trip. So thank you in advance for helping out! Our youth will be partaking in a 30 Hour Famine on May 18-19th. Please keep them in prayer as they share in this experience together.

Confirmation class is still going strong. It has been a wonderful sight watching them learn and grow! Please join us Sunday, June 9th for Youth Sunday and Confirmation.

I can not believe our SHINE Musical is here! This semester went quick! Please join us for “A Not So Terrible Parable” on May 5th at 7pm. You do NOT want to miss this amazing story told!

Vacation Bible School date has changed—please join us July 22-26th for VBS FUN!!! Interested in helping please see Ms. Joel ASAP!

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

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.” -Ephesians 2:4-5