



From the Pastor's Desk...

AUGUST 2020

Dear Cup family and friends,

Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'

James 4:13-15

Did James go through a pandemic with his congregation? A passage like this certainly makes me wonder. One of the most challenging aspects of these months for me has been the *uncertainty of planning for the future*. How long do we need to 'stay safe?' When will the situation change for the better, and what will that mean once we get there?

James, in his typically direct manner, points out that we are in control of far less than we think we are. As Americans, we typically like plans, control, and efficient schedules. When nasty little things like viruses pop up and throw a wrench in our plans, we're tempted to lose our patience and lash out in anger – usually at the person closest to us! We believe we can't help worrying or having a short fuse. Pastor Tim Keller calls this 'assumed omniscience.' Assumed omniscience means we really believe we can control it all – or at least far more than is truthfully the case. Even the wisest or strongest among us is unable to do this. James encourages us to lay down the terrible burden of assumed omniscience and put control back in the Lord's hands, where it belongs. This doesn't mean that we don't make an effort to do things and even make plans, but it *does* mean we're called to hold them loosely. This is an exercise in humility, and a healthy one at that.

Like many of you, I pray the day is coming soon where we are able to join together more freely, children will be back in classrooms and 'Shine' ministry, and many of the other things that make Fall such a wonderful time of year, and we're making plans toward that end if events allow it. But until that day, let's ask the Lord for patience with ourselves, our neighbors, and even with Him – because, fortunately, He is God and we are not! This year of 2020 may be giving us an opportunity to look at our own lives reconsider those things, people, and commitments that really matter. Since James has pointed out that we're like the morning mist, let's take the long view and trust these difficulties will soon pass away, but the gifts and glory of God will last forever.

May the Lord bless and keep each one of us today, tomorrow – and forever!

Cordially,

Pastor Scott



We're back! Please join us for our rescheduled 2020 EduNations Charitable Golf Tournament at Avalon Golf and Country Club (1030 Forker Blvd., Hermitage, PA 16148) on September 21, 2020. Thanks to all of those who attended the 2019 EduNations Charitable Golf Tournament, we were able to Raise the Roof of EduNations' first Senior Secondary School in Rokassa, Sierra Leone! Now, we need to Send Them to School! Will you help us reach our \$50,000 goal so we can send our students to high school in January 2021?

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and our desire to keep all of our supporters and volunteers safe and healthy, the golf tournament will look a little different this year. The event will include a 4-person scramble with skill prizes and a delicious lunch. We will not be hosting a banquet dinner at the club this year.

Following our day of golf, we will be kicking off a week-long online silent auction! Join in the fun to win items such as a getaway, signed sports memorabilia, gift baskets and more. If you are interested in donating an item to our silent auction, [click here](#) to fill out our donation form. All auction items are due to Debbie Stauffer by September 8, 2020. If you have any questions, please email golf@edunations.org or call 412-522-4756.

**SCOTT WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE
ON STUDY LEAVE:
AUGUST 19TH
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2ND**



Please pray for the SHINE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM as Joel and her team meet to plan for the fall session. Also, if you are willing to volunteer to help with the SHINE program please contact Joel.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

AUGUST Calendar

<u>August 4</u>	5:45pm DEACONS
	7:00pm WORSHIP Committee
<u>August 10</u>	7:00pm TRUSTEES
<u>August 18</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>August 19</u>	1:00PM MINI'S POOL PARTY
<u>Every Thursday</u>	2:00pm Crosscurrent Small Group Bible Study on ZOOM
<u>Every Sunday</u>	7:00pm Crosscurrent Summer Bonfires

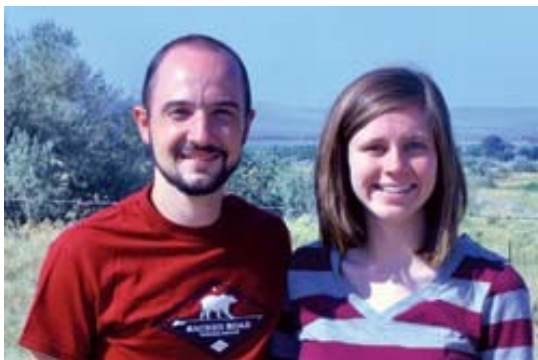
BIG SALE



The BIG SALE for September 2020 has been CANCELLED!

Please save your unwanted treasures for our Spring Sale!

Adult Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 13th at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall. Join Pastor Scott Graham and Ruling Elder Brian O'Roark for the continuation of the series, 'The Donkey, the Elephant, and the Lamb'. The series will continue for nine weeks and wrap up on November 8th.



On July 30th, missionaries EVAN & HOLLY SHAW visited CUP CHURCH to bring us an up date on their work with Sacred Road Ministries. Sacred Road was incorporated in February of 2005 with a burden to love on their "first neighbors" (the people of the Yakama Nation) by redeeming broken lives, restoring hope to the oppressed, and rebuilding the community. Evan & Holly moved to the Yakama Reservation full time in October of 2019, they lead and coordinate short term teams for the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon. For more information on the various ministries of Sacred Road visit www.sacredroadministries.com.



Our Summer is almost over...

We are still meeting! Although at times its different we are still gathering to continue to learn and grow in our faith and love of Christ. Crosscurrent please note we will be meeting on Sundays through August at the Manse for a bonfire and bible study on Proverbs. Time has changed to 7-8pm. Also youth group age we have our Thursday Zoom Small Group at 2pm. All welcome to join anytime!! We are talking about how to be disciples!

Mini's Youth Group, keep an eye our for an upcoming activity!

Shine TBA

Praying daily for the CUP Church Family, our community and the world!

Blessings to you all!

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

