



From the Pastor's Desk...

NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Cup family and friends,

Sam Chan is one of my current favorite writers, particularly in the area of evangelism. He recently put an article on 'The Gospel Coalition' website that I think is absolutely terrific, and I can't come up with a better way to reword it, so I simply want to give you a healthy chunk of the article here, and tell you why I think it's so important in closing:

The Western storyline goes something like this: "On the day we were born we were as pure, real, and true as we can be. But then we got messed up by authority figures—parents, teachers, and especially religion. So our mission in life is to be true to ourselves. Don't listen to what anyone else tells you. Be brave. Be real. Be authentic. Only you can know who you really are. In the end, you've got to do whatever it takes to be happy."

It's a storyline of rugged individualism, freedom, and control.

But COVID-19 exposed this storyline's deficiencies, didn't it? We can't exist as individuals; we need social responsibility. We're not free; we've been in a lockdown. And we have no control; instead we have uncertainty.

Our plans for 2020 got ripped up, and we can't plan anything yet for 2021. We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, let alone next year. Nothing is certain anymore. We only have contingency.

But this unsettling contingency—and the pandemic's deconstruction of the Western storyline—is a gospel opportunity. The world is shaken in new ways and searching for answers in new places. A more secure, satisfying storyline is needed, and Christians should be sharing it.

COVID-19 has exposed that we have a choice of two storylines.

Storyline #1 says there is no God. We are only atoms and molecules, just one of many species of life on this planet. The universe does not care about you. Viruses come and go. Species come and go. This pandemic is just one of many events in the ebb and flow of this universe. It has no meaning. It serves no purpose.

Storyline #2 says there is a God. He loves you, made you, and saves you. He sent his Son to be one of us. Jesus died for us and now lives for us. We can also live for him and be part of his mission to bring love, mercy, and justice. Even if we can't see why God would allow a pandemic to happen, we can trust he has a good purpose behind it.

The second storyline allows us to live with uncertainty, trusting there is someone else behind the wheel who knows where the bus is going. The first storyline, meanwhile, is like being in a bus with no driver—and with no way to take control of the wheel.

Jesus doesn't ask us to pretend we're coping. There's no pressure to keep it all together. In fact, it's the opposite. He wants us to recognize we are fundamentally not OK apart from him. We can't save ourselves or prove ourselves—and that's a freeing thing.

Global calamities like pandemics expose our weakness and the fragility of our dominant narratives. This year we've hoarded toilet paper and became more addicted to vices. Our comfortable paradigms have been shattered and the ugliness of human nature exposed.

We don't like who we became in 2020. But in Jesus we can find true power, true freedom, and true peace. The pandemic has revealed multiple emotional entry-points to the better story of Jesus.

Continued on page 2...

....continued from Page 1

We've all endured a year unlike any other, but our family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors who don't know the Lord's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ have faced the shaking of everything they have put their hopes on, and there may not be much left that is standing (see Hebrews 12:25-29). This Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I encourage all of us to prayerfully consider how we can offer words and deeds of hope pointing more directly to the hope we have, not in ourselves, but in the gift of Jesus Christ. This may be an opportunity for you to share the good news of great joy in a way that you've never had before. So take the initiative to invite someone to worship, either here in the sanctuary or online. Be bold in asking how you can pray for someone you don't normally say that to. Share how your faith has helped you ESPECIALLY when you found things falling apart around you. Many people you know are ready to talk – and ready to listen.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott



We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our BELL CHOIR. Ability to read music is a plus!

Contact Pastor Scott or Holly Cline for more info.

Practices will be Thursdays at 7pm.

First practice will be 11/4.

The Church Office will be CLOSED
November 26th & 27th.

Jenn will be out of the office
November 19th-27th.



The CUP Family Ministries Group held their first ever TRUNK OR TREAT on Tuesday, Oct. 27th. The evening was a little rainy and dreary, but it did not dampen our spirits. We were able to bless 56 kids who came with many family members! A fun time was had by all and we hope to grow this event bigger and better next year! We would like to thank everyone who came out to join in the fun with us by decorating a car. We would like to thank individuals and businesses who donated candy. And finally, thank you to the South Beaver Fire Department who brought out several fire trucks for the night to light up the parking lot and keep us safe!



NOVEMBER Calendar

<u>November 1</u>	6:00pm Crosscurrent Movie Night
<u>November 3</u>	5:45pm DEACONS
	7:00pm WORSHIP Committee
<u>November 9</u>	7:00pm TRUSTEES
<u>November 10</u>	7:00pm 'Be the Bridge' Group Zoom
<u>November 17</u>	1:00pm Prayer Meeting at Dorothy Tihanovich's
	7:00PM SESSION
<u>November 22</u>	6:00pm Crosscurrent Friendsgiving
<u>November 24</u>	7:00pm Thanksgiving Service
<u>November 26-27</u>	OFFICE CLOSED
<u>November 27</u>	9:00am Hanging of the Greens

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday,
November 24th
7:00pm



Weekly Meetings...

Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library)

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm
Mini's Youth Group
(NO Mini's 11/10 or 11/24)

Wednesday Evening 6:30pm
Young Adult Small Group

Thursday Morning 8:30am
Prayer with the Pastor - FB LIVE

Thursday Morning 9:00am (ZOOM)
Women's Small Group

Thursday Afternoon 3:00pm
Crosscurrent 'Connect' (Zoom)

Thursday Evening 7:00pm
Bell Choir Practice

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

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group
(NO Crosscurrent 11/29)



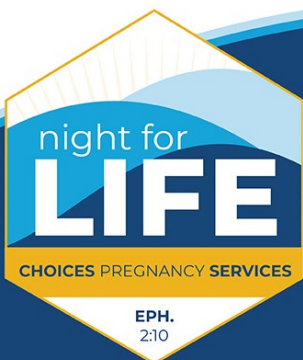
**Poinsettia orders are due
by November 11th. See
bulletin for order forms
or contact Nancy Hinzman
at (724) 843-8168.**

**Crosscurrent Youth will be
selling Christmas Cookie
Trays as a fundraiser for
an upcoming mission trip!
Look for order form in the
bulletin starting Nov 8th
or contact Joel for info!**



**Friday, November 27th at
9:00am**

**We would love to have
your help in decorating
the Church!**



"Be The One"

Thursday, November 12, 2020
A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT





A time of harvest...

Well time has not slowed down before we know it 2020 will be over and well I for one might be ok saying “goodbye” to a year that has thrown us for a loop! But until then we will keep on having fun as we continue to learn and grow in God’s word. The Youth have been faithfully attending Sunday evening youth group. Together we have been outside in God’s masterpiece enjoying the last of the “warm” weather. Fall is such a beautiful time of year and so we took advantage and had a mini Harvest Party with a roaring bonfire and fun pumpkin decorating. We also shared in a night of prayer together, which was a blessed event. The youth also arrived at the manse on an early wet Saturday morning to help with some projects there as well. It was great to see them cheerfully serving. A group of youth also came out to our First Annual Trunk or Treat to help bring some cheer to the kids in our area. Again it was a rainy wet cold night. Seems to be a trend. Overall October was a fun month and we have so much more planned ahead! Youth group will now be held inside from 6-8 (masking will be required) on Sunday evenings. We will still have our Connect Group on Thursdays via zoom at 3pm.

Mini’s Youth Group has also been having a great month. We also had a fun outside harvest party and painted pumpkins. Its been a joy to celebrate God’s word with these kids. We kicked off our next series of Exodus to Ruth and we are excited to gather together to continue to grow. Tuesday nights 6-7 in person and via zoom. If you need more info on Mini’s please contact Ms. Joel.

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

Psalms 107:37-38

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish