



From the Pastor's Desk... JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Cup church family and friends,

Yesterday I watched in horror with many of you as the US Capitol was stormed, and protesters overran the seat of our national government. Fortunately I had received word from our son Ian that he was not working in the building, and that he and his wife Sarah were safe at home. The subsequent scenes I have seen, both of courage and reckless cowardice, are things I never thought I would see in my lifetime at the heart of our government. But I shouldn't be surprised. Rome was unexpectedly sacked by barbarians in 410 AD, and had been the intellectual and cultural center of western civilization for a thousand years at that point. Out of that experience Augustine wrote the classic City of God, based on Hebrews 13:14, 'For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.'

Perhaps the most important book I read last year in my studies was Alan Jacob's The Year of Our Lord 1943: Christian Humanism in an Age of Crisis. Jacobs recounts the desperate intellectual battle many of the greatest Christian minds of the age were engaged in to find true footing against the Nazis, due to the danger they saw in educational leaders like John Dewey who promoted simple pragmatism. Robert Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, put it this way:

Pragmatism leaves us with 'a colossal confusion of means and ends. If wealth and power become the ends of life because the realm of value is the realm of opinion, men become merely means. Justice is the interest of the stronger. Thus we come much closer to Hitler than we may care to admit. If everything is a matter of opinion, and if everybody is entitled to his own opinion, force becomes the only way of settling differences of opinion. And of course if success is the test of rightness, right is on the side of the heavier battalions. . . in law school I learned that law was not concerned with reason or justice. Law was what the courts would do. There is little to choose between the doctrine I learned in an American law school and that which Hitler proclaims.'

Hutchins summarizes his point: *'Americans have more to fear from their professors than from Hitler, because their professors make us all more likely, over the long run, to become Hitler. Only a clearly articulated and rationally defended account of true justice can resist totalitarianism. In the great struggle that may lie ahead, truth, justice, and freedom will conquer only if we know what they are and pay them the homage they deserve.'*

Friends, this is where Scripture and the church come in. We will have little to offer our neighbors or our nation unless we develop our understanding of truth, justice, love, and freedom from how God defines and uses these values. Our world increasingly believes that 'might makes right' and there is no higher value than my personal preferences. May we be a people that believe and live out the Ten Commandments as well as loving our neighbors – and even our enemies.

Jacob's thesis at the end of the book is that while Allied bombs and resolve won the war, the ideas that ultimately prevailed in how the war was conducted (and afterward) were significantly different from Christian humanism. I share all this with you simply to remind us that what we offer through worship services, Sunday school, small groups, and the rest is critically important to us individually, as well as our world. May God grant us the grace and courage to pursue the call he has for us as a church, despite the challenges, as we enter the year 2021 A.D.

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

Dear Cup family,

Once again, Kristina and I are amazed and grateful for the generous gift you gave to us at Christmas. In this most difficult of years, your generosity is a reminder of God's faithfulness in all circumstances. Thank you and God bless you!

Pastor Scott and Kristina

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you all for your kind and very generous monetary Christmas gift. I am overwhelmed at your kindness and love. I am most honored and blessed to have such an amazing family to walk beside on this earthly journey. Many thanks again and Happy New Year.

Love, Joel Cuniff and Family

Pastor Scott will be out of the office January 25th through February 7th.

VALENTINE BOXES

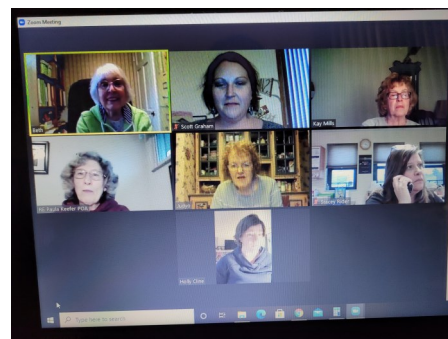
We are asking for donations of individually wrapped candies and snacks to send to our college students. A box will be available in the entryway to place items. Thank you!

The Deacons are coordinating a "MEAL TRAIN" ministry to coordinate delivery of meals to ill, in need or grieving families. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, please give your contact information to Christie O'Roark or Jenn Cox in the Church Office. If you know of a family that needs a "Meal Train" please contact the church office or Christie O'Roark.



An Afternoon Tea was held on December 30th. Although this was not our normal Ladies Christmas Tea it truly was a wonderful time to gather on "ZOOM" with some ladies in the church. We shared a cup of tea and many had yummy Christmas cookies to eat as well. We chatted about memories and each shared a special moment or tradition we have carried with us through our lives. We missed many of our friends but we do look forward to next year gathering in person to share a Cup of Christmas Tea.

-Thank you to Judy Bixler for not letting our Tea be missed this year and for reading to us a meaningful story.



JAN/FEB Calendar

<u>January 5</u>	5:45p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee
<u>January 12</u>	7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>January 16</u>	8:30a Officer Leadership Training
<u>January 17</u>	12:00p Election of Officers
<u>January 19</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>January 24</u>	12:00p Congregational Mtg/Install Officers
<u>February 2</u>	5:45p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee
<u>February 9</u>	7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>February 16</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>February 17</u>	7:00p Ash Wednesday Service

 * In the event of winter weather, please check *
 * WPXI for any closing information. *

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay
down one's life for one's friends.*

John 15:13

Weekly Meetings...

Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library) (Resumes
 in 2021 TBA)

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm
Mini's Youth Group ZOOM
 (Resumes 1/12)

Wednesday Evening 6:30pm
Young Adult Small Group

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

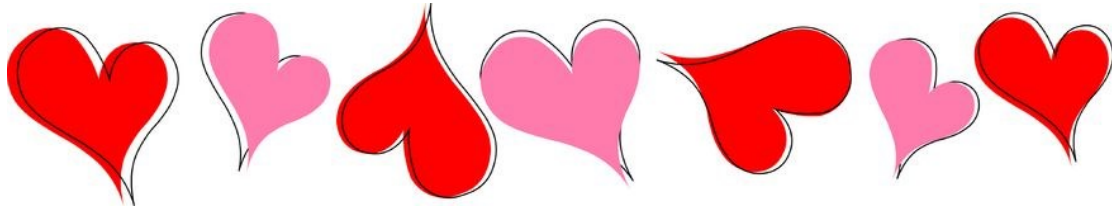
Thursday Morning 9:00am (ZOOM)
Women's Small Group

Thursday Afternoon 3:00pm
Crosscurrent 'Connect' ZOOM
 (Resumes 1/14)

Thursday Evening 7:00pm
Bell Choir Practice
 (Resumes 1/14)

Saturday Morning 7:30am
Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park
 (Resumes 1/23)

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group ZOOM
 (Resumes 1/10)

**Cup Library News**

Jan. 8, 2021

A book that is soon to be on our Cup Library shelves is "Now That's a Good Question!" by R. C. Sproul. Dr. Sproul was the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries and at the time this book was written was senior pastor at St. Andrew's in Sanford, Florida. He was also the man behind the "Renewing Your Mind" radio Bible ministry.

Although this isn't a book that you might sit down and read cover-to-cover as you might others, you could think of it as a great resource to go to when curious or troubled by questions concerning faith (and when Pastor Scott isn't available). Sproul answers more than three hundred frequently asked questions about life and faith, from "Why does God love us so much?", and "What is a Christian's responsibility to government?", to "Does science disprove Christianity? And he doesn't just give short, trite answers, he addresses each question thoughtfully and carefully in easy-to-understand language. Sproul, who is one of our country's most respected theologians offers intelligent answers to these and many other questions using wit, practicality and a seasoned, serious approach to God's Word.

This and many other great books and videos are available anytime the church is open. Come check them out!

Happy New Year!!

We made it guys 2021 is going to be a rewarding one no matter what is placed before us! This is our time to learn and grow and allow God to use us for His Glory!!!!

Crosscurrent had a fun “virtual” December with online Parties! We had a Bob Ross Paint Party where the kids did an amazing job with such creativity. Pictures are below!! We also celebrated our Christmas Party virtually with games, snacks, a little competition and FUN! We will be kicking off our Sunday Youth Nights on January 10th stay tuned for more details!!

Winter Retreat details coming soon!!!

Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of the Blackhawk High School musical ***“Annie”***. Mark your calendars for April 23-25th. You will not be disappointed and you will see MANY familiar faces!!

Crosscurrent Connect Group on Thursdays via zoom at 3-330pm is still happening! 30 minute check in and mini devotion! Join us!!

Mini’s Youth Group will still be meeting Tuesday nights 6-7 via zoom. Exodus to Ruth!! If you need more info on Mini’s please contact Ms. Joel.

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

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

