

THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2021

Dear Cup family and friends,

During the winter months, I'm particularly fond of what is often called 'comfort food.' Comfort food is the kind of fare that warms me up and sticks to my ribs; beef stew or chicken pot pie would be two good examples for me.

Two of our 'life groups' are sharing in some spiritual comfort food: Dane Ortlund's *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. Ortlund uses a hearty combination of scripture passages on Jesus combined with quotes from 17th century Puritan writers, mixed with his updated and striking contemporary prose.

In his opening chapter, he points out that in only one location in all of Scripture does Jesus describe his own heart. This occurs in Matthew 11:28-30.

Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Ortlund goes on to say, also using a quote from a Puritan pastor named Thomas Goodwin –

This is not how we intuitively think of Jesus Christ. . . we project onto Jesus our skewed instincts about how the world works. Human nature dictates that the wealthier a person, the more they tend to look down on the poor. The more beautiful a person, the more they are put off by the ugly. . . Sure, Jesus comes close to us, we agree – but he holds his nose. This risen Christ, after all, is the one whom 'God has highly exalted,' at whose name every knee will one day bow in submission (Phil 2:9-11). . . Goodwin is saying that this high and holy Christ does not cringe at reaching out and touching dirty sinners and numbed sufferers. Such embrace is precisely what he loves to do. He cannot bear to hold back. We naturally think of Jesus touching us the way a little boy reaches out to touch a slug for the first time – face screwed up, cautiously extending an arm, giving a yelp of disgust upon contact, and instantly withdrawing. We picture Christ approaching us with a 'severe and sour disposition' as Goodwin says.

This is why we need a Bible. Our natural inclination can only give us a God like us. But the God revealed in the Scripture . . . startles us as one whose infinitude of perfections is matched by his infinitude of gentleness.

Friends, this is why we need a Bible indeed. We need Jesus, and he is more than willing to come to us in truth, in hope, and in love. Increasingly, our friends, neighbors and family members are unaware of who Jesus Christ is – who He TRULY is. Let's join together in this journey towards his crucifixion and then resurrection celebration to be reminded of his heart and character – or perhaps, learn of it for the first time!

Blessings,
Pastor Scott



*****FINTONIA CHURCH UPDATE*****

Pastor James and his wife Agnes are doing very well at the church in Fintonia. These photos are from worship two Sundays ago where 21 people from the village were baptized, including a Susu tribe family of 6. You may recognize their baptismal certificates - they're a gift from Cup church!

EASTER FLOWERS are on sale now! See the bulletin for an order form. Last day to order is **March 14th!**



But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
-James 3:17

Hayley Iben [daughter of CUP Church members, Del & Betty Iben] found a way to make movie characters' hair look more naturally curly and wavy. Animated movie characters, that is. For that achievement, Iben, a 1997 Blackhawk High graduate, earned an Academy Award last weekend. The South Beaver Township native, director of engineering for the famed Pixar film studio, officially received her prestigious Oscar award when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held a virtual ceremony on Feb.13, bestowing Scientific And Technical Achievement Awards for 17 filmmaking innovations. Iben and three Pixar colleagues, Mark Meyer, John Anderson and Andrew Witkin, created the Taz Hair Simulation System that brought a new level of realism to digital characters in popular animated films like 2012's "Brave" and 2015's "Inside Out."

*Excerpt from timesonline.com



Congratulations Hayley!!

MARCH Calendar

<u>March 2</u>	5:45p Deacons 7:00p Worship Committee 7:45p TRUSTEES
<u>March 16</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>March 20</u>	8:30a Trustees Work Day
<u>March 28</u>	10:30a Palm Sunday Worship

Holy Week and Easter Services

Come Worship With Us!

March 28th 10:30am Palm Sunday Service
 April 1st 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service
 April 4th 10:30am Easter Sunday Service

Weekly Meetings...

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

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm
Mini's Youth Group ZOOM

Wednesday Evening 8:00pm
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



**Don't forget to "spring"
 your clocks ahead one
 hour before bed on
 March 13th!**

Cup Library News

Paula Keefer-Herter, Librarian

A book that has recently been added to the shelves in the Cup church library is "The Bible and the Ballot" by Tremper Longman III. Subtitled "Using Scripture in Political Decisions" the book uses scriptural references throughout the Bible to tackle ten different topics facing our country. Ranging from poverty and criminal justice to immigration and environmental stewardship the topics are considered controversial. And though the Bible may not speak directly to these modern issues we can gain insight to guiding principles with careful study. The book is written for Christian Americans who want to hear God's voice on the matters that scripture addresses

The author, Longman, is a distinguished scholar and professor emeritus at Westmont College. He has authored or helped to author more than 35 books. He has also helped to translate the New Living Translation of the Bible and is a Hebrew scholar.

Please check out this and many of the other books and videos our library has to offer. You can come anytime the church is open and no meetings are scheduled in the room. Titles, authors and/or subject headings can be found in the card catalog on the table against the left wall. When you find an item you wish to take home, just sign the card at the back and leave it in the basket on the table.

SPRING!!!

Crosscurrent has had a great kick off into 2021! We have had movie night, fun night, mardi gra party, bowling and our “2021” Winter Retreat! Although our retreat looked different it was a great time to unplug and spend time together in God’s word! We had amazing speakers, Pastor Scott, Elder Bud Trimmer and Elder Cindy Vannoy spoke truth into these kiddos! It was a great day of worship, devotion, food and fun!

We are meeting in person and having a great time TOGETHER!! We will be meeting Sundays from 6-730p (Masked) as we travel through lent together!

Crosscurrent Youth Continue to pray for our sister Sami as she is still going through some health issues. We ask you to also pray for Sami, Elise and her parents!

Mini’s Youth Group will still be meeting Tuesday nights 6-7p via zoom. Exodus to Ruth!! We are currently in Numbers! This is a great group of kiddos on fire for God and walking through the bible is so rewarding! If you need more info on Mini’s please contact Ms. Joel. (current 4-6th grade)

VBS is scheduled for June 14-18th if you are interested in helping in ANY capacity please see Ms. Joel! We need as many helpers as we can!!

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

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

