

# THE CUP



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CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*'Join us for a drink of Living Water'*

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

## APRIL 2021

Dear Cup family and friends,

I've used this greeting in my newsletter pretty much in my entire tenure here at Cup church, but what does it actually mean? Some of you have likely seen the recent Gallup poll that shows for the first time in American polling history, less than 50 percent of Americans say they belong to a church, a synagogue, or a mosque. In 1999, the figure was 70 percent. What's going on?

For some, the ideas of individualism have increasingly crowded out any belief in truth or validity beyond one's own personal beliefs. Robert Bellah coined this new religion 'Sheliaism' in his 1985 sociology classic on America, *Habits of the Heart*. Such a person draws on a smattering of widely scattered ideas to create 'my own little voice.' In our current age of hand-held devices offering us everything from our favorite version of the news to our favorite version of ourselves, this certainly seems to be the favorite religion of the present, if not the future.

For others, following Jesus Christ is not the issue. Jesus is seen as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and they trust him as such. The issue for them is more: What is the church? Scripture leads us to the comparison with family (1 Timothy 5:1, 1 John 2:12-14), a household (Galatians 6:10), and a temple of living stones (Ephesians 2:19-22). Joe Carter, in a helpful web article for the Gospel Coalition, points out that also an embassy (see 2 Cor. 5:14-21).

Carter writes, 'A church is not the kingdom, for the kingdom of God is not of this world (John 18:36). Rather, the church is an outpost of the kingdom, or what we could call an embassy. An embassy is an institution that represents one nation in another nation. . . It declares its home nation's interests, and it protects the citizens of the home nation living in the host nation. A church is a real-life embassy, set in the present, that represents Christ's future kingdom and his coming universal church.'

Our surrounding culture's views of people, the world, our identity, and our purpose in life are increasingly at odds with what we find in the Bible. Even the way we face THIS is different than how the world tells us to act toward those who differ from us.

With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers (and sisters), as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. (Romans 12:1-2, Phillips)

Our Sunday School classes will be resuming on April 11 at 9:15, and our topic will be Reading the Signs of the Times: Loving and Following Jesus while understanding our Neighbors. Without understanding the ideas of the world around us, we'll be incomprehensible to those who aren't Christ-followers around us. And without developing a shared love and appreciation for the Triune God, we won't have anything worth sharing with those who aren't Christ-followers around us. Both of these goals take the shared community and love that the church family provides. Let's recommit to the family of faith as we have opportunity to come together again for worship and fellowship in Christ!

Cordially,  
Pastor Scott

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**PATRICK EMERY**  
**Coalition for Christian Outreach**

Have you ever been on a retreat and experienced God's Presence, guidance and healing in a new way? There's something about that "sacred space" where you're out of your comfort zone that God uses to move you along in your spiritual journey with Him.

Patrick Emery, the CCO missionary we have been highlighting in the months of February and March, leads college students on wilderness trips where they too can encounter His Presence in a new way.

He and his wife April, along with their three kids, Grace, Abigail and Gabe have been involved in pouring into students' lives for the past fifteen years. Patrick is coming to visit us on May 16th, which will be a great opportunity to learn more about what God is doing through the Emerys and the CCO.



**EduNations**  
igniting hope...

Following our worship service on April 18, Pastor Scott will be travelling to Sierra Leone to visit our mission churches and schools. If you have a sponsored student through EduNations that you would like to write to, please bring the letter into the church office. Pastor Scott will be helping to dedicate the new Senior Secondary School that is functioning as the crown of the educational process for our students in these rural villages. Please keep him in prayer during the trip, along with Pastor James and Agnes in Fintonia, and the head of EduNations and the EPC in Sierra Leone, Dr. Samuel Sesay.

*Pastor Scott will be out of the office  
immediately following service on  
April 18th through May 3rd.*

He is  
not here  
for he has  
*Risen*  
Matthew 28:6

## APRIL IMPORTANT DATES

<u>April 1</u>	7:00p Maundy Thursday Service
<u>April 4</u>	10:30a Easter Sunday Service
<u>April 6</u>	7:00p Worship Committee 7:45p TRUSTEES
<u>April 11</u>	Sunday School Spring Kickoff
<u>April 13</u>	7:00p SESSION

### Weekly Meetings...

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

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

Wednesday Evening 8:00pm  
**Young Adult Small Group**

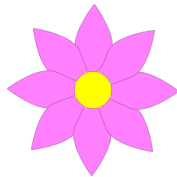
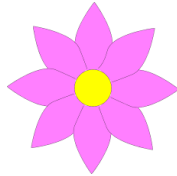
Thursday Morning 8:30am  
**Prayer with the Pastor - FB LIVE**

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

Thursday Evening 7:00pm  
**Bell Choir Practice**

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

Sunday Evening 6:00pm  
**Crosscurrent Youth Group**



Blackhawk High School

PRESENTS

**Annie**

### LIVE PERFORMANCES

Friday, April 23, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 24, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 25, 2:00 pm

Blackhawk High School, 500 Blackhawk Road

**PLUS! Live Stream Performance during the Saturday Evening Show.**

### BUY TICKEST BEGINNING APRIL 7

All tickets are \$11 and will be available **ONLY** through Showtix4u.

Please check our Facebook page or the Blackhawk School District Website for ticketing information beginning April.

### YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!!

We have 15 SHINE Alumni and 1 current SHINE Kiddo in this production of Annie!

These kids have worked so hard and CUP Church should be very excited to see so many SHINE Kids on that stage!

Unable to attend in person? Please watch via livestream!

## Cup Library News

**Paula Keefer-Herter, Librarian**

Perhaps you have noticed a small book on the table in the church entryway that is offered along with other things to those attending services during the Lenten season here at Cup Church. The book is called "The Case for Easter" and the author is Lee Strobel. What you may not have realized is that we have a series of books in our library that are written by the same author. Strobel, who has a journalism degree from the University of Missouri and a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School, was the legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and considered himself an atheist until 1981.

In 1979 his wife surprised him by becoming a Christian and in the years to follow challenged him to put his journalistic talents to work investigating Christianity and then "follow the evidence". The result was a series of books like the three that are now part of our library, "The Case for Christ", "The Case for a Creator", and "The Case for the Real Jesus". His books are dramatic and are no-holds barred quests for the truth.

Please check out this and many of the other books and videos our library has to offer. 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.

The Sun will come out tomorrow,

We are very much looking forward to a great Spring for the children and youth at CUP Church! This past month children and youth have journeyed through the last week of Jesus' life on earth.

Crosscurrent has been walking through the last week of Christ with a new lens. Its been quite an adventure. In the process we have created drawings of what the "court room" might have looked like that Jesus was in. We also went deep to think about our relationship with Christ. Mixed in that we had some fun Egg Hunts and other fun games as well as lot of treats! We also took time to create cards and spring ornaments for the shut ins and nursing home residents. We have been having fun walking through the bible together and we can't wait to continue on. Upcoming quickly we will have our new incoming youth kids move up on May 21-22 at our annual GROW overnighter! Look for registration details on the Crosscurrent Facebook Page!

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 6-7 via zoom. Exodus to Ruth!! We are currently in Deuteronomy! We are having fun!! If you need more info on Mini's please contact Ms. Joel. (current 4-6th grade)

VBS is scheduled for June 14-18th HELPERS NEEDED!!!! 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

