



## From the Pastor's Desk...

August 2021

Dear Cup family and friends,

Our lives are built on relationships. We often wake up thinking about who we need to help, see, or talk to in the coming hours of the day. Our beliefs and hopes are often shaped by the beliefs and hopes of our surrounding family, friends, or community, or what we assess their reactions to our beliefs will be. We're designed to be loved and known, and while cats, dogs, and talking myna birds are wonderful, they can't quite replace the contact of another human being; especially one who cares for us and is a blast to be around. (Whoops, 'blast' probably dates me just a little bit.)

This summer's season of unmasking has shown how starved many of us are for relationship. I've entered into more small talk conversations with strangers at Giant Eagle or walking Schubert than I can ever remember in years past. Today I came across an article headlined, 'How the Pandemic Killed Small Talk & Made Us All Radically Honest', and while I'm not exactly sure where that may be headed, I think it's safe to say that we're in a season of wanting to connect with others, and needing others more than we've had for a long time.

Enter Jesus. Many of you have heard me heap praises on the independently funded television series The Chosen, about Jesus calling his first followers. (You can read another glowing response from someone who watches a LOT of media here: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/four-reasons-chosen-works/>)

In a nutshell, this production gets the genuine, winsome, empathetic character of Jesus, and how it changes his very human followers. Frankly, this can grab your attention if you need a refresher course on why Jesus is the most influential person who ever lived. (Actually, to be completely accurate 'the most influential person who ever lives.') )

Telling others a 'Jesus story' is a great way to connect with others in your life in 2021. It certainly worked for the apostle Andrew – 'Simon, we have found the Messiah!' and he brought him to Jesus (John 1:41-42) – the woman at the well – 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?' (John 4:29) – and friends carrying their paralyzed friend who tear open the roof where Jesus is teaching and healing (Mark 2:2-5).

During the next several weeks, we'll be spending Sunday mornings looking at Jesus in action – and finding out what it means for us, as well as our friends and family members who don't know Jesus as Savior – yet. This is a great time to bring others along to 'come and see'. It's often said that Christianity isn't a religion as much as it is a relationship. Let's take time to be approached, astonished, and restored by our Savior – and invite others to find out that the Lord is willing to do the same for them as well! (Mark 1:40-42)

Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

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## SAVE THE DATE

For these upcoming events!  
More info coming soon!



2021 EduNations  
Charitable Golf Outing at  
Avalon Golf and Country  
Club (1030 Forker Blvd.,  
Hermitage, PA 16148)  
on *September 20, 2021.*

**CHURCH PICNIC**  
Sunday  
September 26th  
Following Worship



Sunday School Kickoff  
Sunday  
September 12th



## BIG SALE!

September 17th 9a-6p

September 18th 9a-2p

Please start saving and collecting your unwanted treasures for donation. Please drop off your donations after Labor Day. No furniture or electronics please!



**SHINE** returns September 29th! Registration is open online for grades K-8th. There will be a mandatory parent meeting on September 26th. Time TBD.



Ms. Joel is in need of **SHINE** volunteers. Please see her if interested. Clearances must be on file in the church office for ALL volunteers.

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

<u>Aug 17</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>Aug 24</u>	First Day of School Blackhawk
<u>Sept 6</u>	LABOR DAY
<u>Sept 7</u>	5:45p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>Sept 12</u>	Sunday School Kickoff 6p Crosscurrent Kickoff
<u>Sept 17</u>	9:00m BIG SALE
<u>Sept 18</u>	9:00a BIG SALE
<u>Sept 19</u>	Pulpit Exchange
<u>Sept 21</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>Sept 26</u>	Church Picnic
<u>Sept 29</u>	4:00p SHINE Kickoff

### Weekly Meetings...

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

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm  
**Mini's Youth Group**  
(Resumes October 2021)

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

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

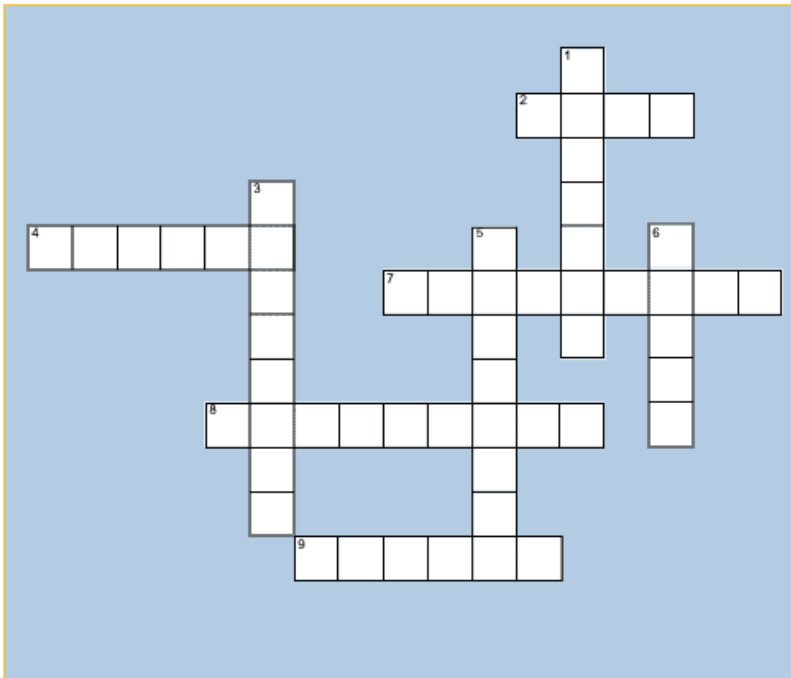
Thursday Morning 9:00am (ZOOM)  
**Women's Small Group (resume TBA)**

Thursday Evening 7:00pm  
**Bell Choir Practice**  
(Resumes this Fall)

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

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

## Where Was Jesus? Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

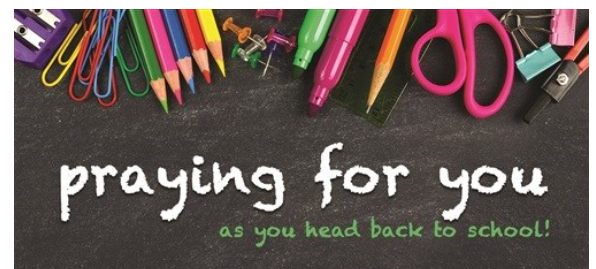
2. Mother of Jesus
4. Number greater than eleven
7. Opposite of answers
8. Looking or hunting
9. Place of worship

### DOWN

1. Another name for mother and father
3. Those who give knowledge; instructors
5. A celebration
6. Jesus said He was in "My Father's"



Blackhawk returns to school on  
Tuesday, August 24th. Please pray for  
the students and administration at  
Blackhawk, Beaver Falls, Beaver and all  
schools in our area and around the  
country this school year!



praying for you  
as you head back to school!



## Where did Summer go?

I am kinda sad at the thought that Summer has flown by so quickly! Although the warm weather will be soon gone and as Fall approaches kids are in school, it means there is more adventure ahead! This past month + the youth have been busy connecting with each other. We have had some fun with some pop-up events and even got to share an evening together playing at our Lock-Out. It was nice to have some “normal” back. We are bidding farewell to 2 seniors as they begin their next journey in college. Praying for you Caleb and Adam! We also began fundraising for our 2022 Mission Trip. It has been a fun and full but quick summer.

Looking ahead Youth Group will be kicking off Fall on September 12th 6-8pm.

Details regarding Confirmation Seekers Class will be coming soon.

Mini's Youth Group will be kicking off October 5th from 7-8 pm in the Youth Room. This is for grades 4-6th. Please see Ms. Joel for more information.

SHINE IS COMING BACK!!! We are so excited to be kicking off Shine this Fall! We are still looking for helpers as we prepare to welcome the kids back into the church. Shine Kicks off on September 29th 4-6pm.

Please keep all the children and youth in our community and beyond in prayer as school begins. Please pray that God is present in their lives and in their schools. Pray for peace and protection over them all!

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

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cunniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director

