

# THE CUP



---

CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



---

## From the Pastor's Desk...

July 2021

Dear Cup family and friends,

Once upon a time, there was no 'Middle School' in the journey through public education. 'Junior High' started in seventh grade and went through ninth grade in the district I was a part of. I loved my time in elementary school. In sixth grade, I was a part of the 'in crowd,' as far as I knew, because I received good grades, spoke politely to my teachers and classmates (most of the time), and volunteered to help with extra jobs around the classroom as needed. To be picked for a role such as cleaning blackboard erasers (remember those?) was seen as a sign of respect. To be a 'teacher's pet' was not exactly desired, but it wasn't necessarily scorned. Singing Barry Manilow in the school talent show brought cheers.

Junior High involved a changed unwritten student handbook. After a couple of weeks, I realized raising my hand to offer an answer in class was taking me down, not up, the social ladder. My initiation into moving from class to class occasionally involved talking to friends headed the same direction, but it often involved dodging hallways or bathrooms where unaware seventh graders were tripped up, or hit with a falling shelf of books from someone who had 'stacked' your locker. Riding the bus to school, also a new experience, was a social nightmare. Singing Barry Manilow in the school talent show brought jeers (truly). It seemed everything I had learned about social interaction was wrong, at least when it came to the kids who were my own age. I didn't know where I fit into a world that appeared to have changed overnight.

Followers of Jesus Christ in America in 2021 may be wondering the same thing. Christian faith and church attendance is dropping dramatically among younger people, and it's increasingly common to hear the view that Christianity isn't simply something to be ignored, it's to be opposed.

The apostle Peter wouldn't be surprised. Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something stranger were happening to you. . . if you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (1 Pet. 4:12, 14) Peter knew, and experienced firsthand, the cultural misunderstandings and rejections that the early church received from the hands of the Greeks, Jews, and Romans around them. Some persecution came out of fear, some out of hatred, some from misunderstanding. Yet Peter is confident that the Lord will protect and nurture the scattered little flock of the church: The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. (5:10)

In a culture where the rules seem to be changing, it's important to take time to allow our minds and hearts to be shaped by God's word, worship, prayer, and developing deep, supportive relationships with other Christians. Many of the ideas our secular neighbors embrace are rooted in the Bible, but they have become distorted to the point of harming people instead of helping them. As we come out of this pandemic season, we're finding more friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors looking for hope, help, and a home. Life has become confusing for many! Yet the new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus is still true today (1:3). May we receive it for ourselves – and share it with someone else today!

Blessings,

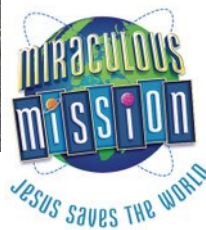
Pastor Scott

---

## Miraculous Mission VBS!!!

What a blast we had on our daily adventures into the Bible. Daily we were reminded that Jesus Saved the World! Each day we learned lessons of how God made me, how God Keeps His word, that Jesus came for me, Jesus saves me and Jesus is coming for me!! God's love beamed bright as we learned how much we are LOVED! Thank you for praying for the hearts of these young faces. I know God was working here!!!

Check out our VBS video on the church website.

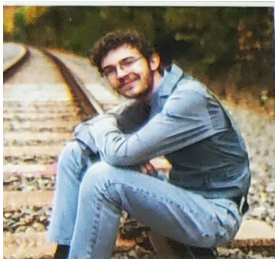
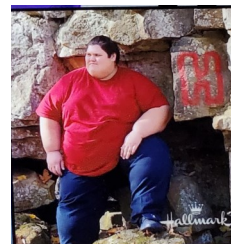


## HONORING OUR GRADUATES



### BLACKHAWK HIGH SCHOOL

**Adam Kahle** – will be attending GENEVA COLLEGE in the fall majoring in Music Business.



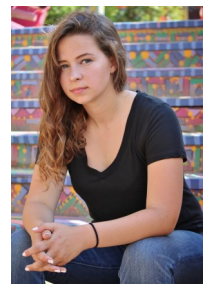
### BEAVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

**Caleb Haas** – graduated with highest honors. He will be attending GROVE CITY COLLEGE in the fall majoring in English with a minor in Music.



### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BEAVER COUNTY

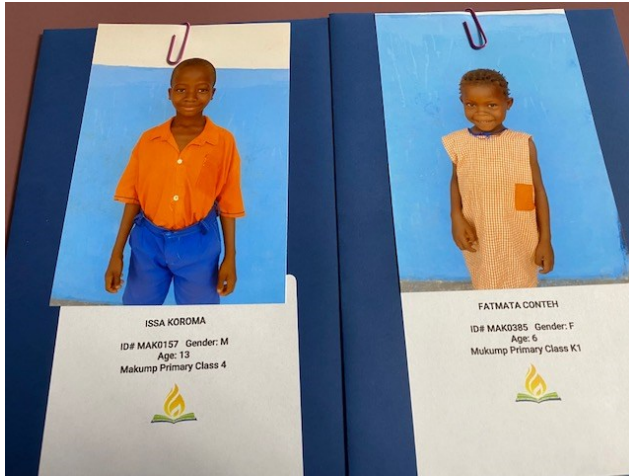
**Kylie McCandless** – graduated Cum Laude with an Associates Degree in Business Management. She will be attending ARIZONA STATE in the fall majoring in Business Administration.







**EduNations**  
igniting hope...



We have received several new student sponsorship packets for our mission in Sierra Leone to provide education in six rural villages. For \$28 a month, you can provide hope and an opportunity for a child to go to school as well as learn about the love of Jesus Christ. These students range in age from 4 to 15. You will have the opportunity to write letters and send them when teams go to the villages. I can tell you that sponsored children and their families treasure that someone from the US is helping them in such a significant way! Packets are available in the church office or after worship services.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.

Psalm 33:12



Pastor Scott will be out of the office on  
vacation July 17th through July 23rd.

Miss Joel will be out of the office on  
vacation July 14th through July 27th.



### Weekly Meetings...

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

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm  
**Mini's Youth Group ZOOM**  
(Resumes this Fall)

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**  
(Resumes this Fall)

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



A special thanks to our Deacon sponsored kitchen crew who hosted our past funeral lunch for Bud Figley's family, as well as all those who provided food! They provided a tangible reminder of God's ongoing love and care in a time of grief.



We have recently purchased a defibrillator for the church to provide immediate emergency help for cardiac arrest situations. It is located just outside the gym, directly behind the rear sanctuary doors. Recently 10 Cup church attendees received training on how to use the defibrillator. We know God cares about our hearts spiritually AND physically. Thanks to all who helped make our new safety equipment possible!



## SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER!!!!!!

Not sure exactly where the year went? Its been a crazy mystery of how time is going faster and faster!! But here we are the end of school and the beginning of summer! We welcome the warmth of the sun and (hopefully) slower schedules and the time we can share with friends. Crosscurrent youth wanted to thank everyone for the words of encouragement and the love shown during Youth Sunday. What an example of how amazing God's love is and how ever present he is in EVERYTHING we do! What a memory!! We also had our GROW move up event and welcomed in 4 new Youth Students! Such an exciting time!! Crosscurrent Youth Kicked off our Summer Bible Bonfire Nights and will meet throughout June and August with some fun outings thrown in there! Keep a look our on Facebook for updated calendar events.

Mini's Youth Group ended in May and we will kick back off in September. More details to come.

Praying daily for the CUP Church Family, our community!

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cunniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director

