



From the Pastor's Desk... JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Cup church family and friends,

Hark! the herald angels sing

"Glory to the newborn King

Peace on earth, and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled."

Famous and beautiful words penned by Charles Wesley to the melody of Felix Mendelsohn. We love singing this during Christmas. But what are the implications for this truth for the rest of the year? We sing there's a new King in town: what's His reign supposed to look like compared to the old king, an emperor called Caesar?

Paul's letter to the Colossians gives us that thrilling answer. In the words of Mark Meynell, 'Paul is shockingly, dangerously politically incorrect. He sees the world in black and white (with everyone split between the dominion of darkness and the kingdom of light), and towering over all stands Jesus Christ. Whatever Christ has said or achieved is automatically true for every person at every time in every place. There are no exceptions. He is the universal king. Paul knows how important it was to be crystal clear for these young believers in Colossae because so much was stacked against them.'

Rome's coins of the era preached a simple message. The goddess of Pax (peace) was on one side, weapons on the other. Pax Romana was by the blood of the sword. Yet Paul knew that no government this side of heaven could provide the lasting shalom peace, security, and provision that Jesus, the Son of David, could provide. His proof? The crucified carpenter from a back water town of Nazareth had provided miracles and healings of all kinds, capped by his prediction of his crucifixion and resurrection, which had occurred just as he had promised.

Now Jesus is 'the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created. . . . he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.' (Col. 1:15-17)

Amazingly and fortunately, the one true God, far mightier than Caesar, also is exceedingly merciful, and graciously invites us into his very family. 'In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.' (2:9-10)

Just as in the days of Paul, we are tempted to believe that we are defined and dismissed by forces of power, fame, or fate that have little use for Jesus. Not so! Join us over these next several weeks as we discover and rejoice in the treasures found in Colossians. Grace and peace from the TRUE King of kings be yours!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

Dear Cup church family,

Thank you once again for your generous gift which was presented at our Christmas Eve candlelight service. Your outpouring will go a long way toward our air fare for us to go see our brand new granddaughter in Tacoma! Your love and support during this challenging year is a true godsend to us. Blessings to you, and may the new year bring us all much joy!

Scott and Kristina Graham

Dearest CUP Family,

I am overwhelmed with the gift you blessed my family and I with this year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please know we are ever grateful and continue to pray for you all daily! Blessings for a God Shaking 2022!

Joel, Martin, Theresa and Lillian



**Joint Watch Night service with
Second Baptist Rochester**

Cup EPC joined in with Second Baptist Rochester to bring in 2022 together with prayer on new year's eve. Dr. Rev. Bryan Crawl, who did a pulpit exchange with Rev. Graham this fall provided the message, and Pat Shawgo along with Scott and Kristina Graham and Tina Keefer provided the music. About 40-50 attendees from several churches around Beaver, Chippewa, and Rochester prayed for our churches, our county, our country and our world. It was a beautiful, enthusiastic evening, and many expressed the hope that this could become a new tradition in our community.



A very special thank you to the Christmas 'elves' who both set up and took down the decorations in our sanctuary and beyond this year. There is a lot of hustle and bustle and huffing and puffing that happen behind the scenes, but the various hands, feet, hearts and minds that make this a reality are certainly appreciated. God bless you everyone!

Thank You



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



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!

SAVE THE DATE

**The TRUSTEES Annual Soup Sale is
set for February 27th! Stop down after
worship and purchase a quart or ten.**



JAN/FEB Calendar

<u>January 4</u>	7:00p Worship Committee
	7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>January 11</u>	5:30p DEACONS
	6:30p Family BINGO/Game Night
<u>January 15</u>	8:30a Officer Leadership Training
<u>January 16</u>	12:00p Election of Officers
<u>January 18</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>January 23</u>	12:00p Congregational Mtg/Install Officers
<u>January 30</u>	12:00p Mission Trip Meeting
<u>February 1</u>	5:45p DEACONS
	7:00p Worship Committee
	7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>February 11-13</u>	CROSSCURRENT Winter Retreat
<u>February 15</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>February 27</u>	12:00p Trustee's Soup Sale

Weekly Meetings...

Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library)
 (Resumes in Spring 2022)

Thursday Morning 9:00am
Women's Small Group

Friday Morning 6:00am
Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park
 (every other Friday)

Sunday Evening 4:30pm
Confirmation/Inquirer's Group

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group

Welcome Ruby Grace!

After a lengthy but safe labor, our first grandbaby, Ruby Grace Lee was delivered on January 2, shortly after we prayed for her during morning announcements! Ruby is 5 pounds, 1 ounce, 19 inches long, and a bundle of joy for all of us! Parents Taylor and Jessica are also doing well, and we are grateful for all of your prayers and well wishes. 2022 couldn't have started on a better note for us!



EPC Sierra Leone Youth Camp
great success

Thanks in large part to your generosity, the youth camp in Sierra Leone was a great success! Exactly 500 youth participated; 92 were youngsters 6-11 from the village of Rokassa, the rest were teenagers from the six villages the Evangelical Presbyterian Church works with, including Fintonia. The theme of the camp was 'That I may know Him,' from the book of Philippians, which was studied in small groups and in the larger worship services through the week. In addition to really enthusiastic worship, there were numerous games and competitions. A young man from Fintonia, Alimamy Turay won the 'sword drill' (Bible search) competition, and the Susu girls from Fintonia (pictured here) won the singing competition based on an original song (and choreography) based on Philippians 3:10! Several students prayed to receive Christ, turned in magic charms (a pretty serious issue in West Africa), and committed themselves to a life of discipleship even in village environments where they will likely face ridicule or persecution. Samuel Sesay, our in-country leader, shared that this was a joyful week that 'blew my mind and gave me goose bumps!'

Happy New Year!!

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.’”
Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV)

Crosscurrent Youth Group ended with a “bang” as we rang in the New Year with worship and horns! What an adventure we have been on and we can not wait to continue onto the next one! Thank you all who have been praying for and supporting our Youth at CUP Church. We feel your prayers and see your goodness and we are all so grateful! We hope you will join us January 9th for our Luncheon Fundraiser to help us get to Winter Retreat. We are also looking for any adults interested in joining us on our Summer Mission Trip to Kentucky June 26th-July 1st. Informational meeting will be held January 30th after worship!

Confirmation the youth have been busy reading and learning! Please keep them in prayer as they continue to grow in their faith.

SHINE Our Spring Semester kicks off January 26, 2022. Volunteers NEEDED!!!!

Children’s Church Children ages PreK-3rd grade will be invited to join Ms. Joel during the sermon for their own time of learning and growing. Children will still be a part of worship at the beginning and end. Children will be escorted with Ms. Joel after Pastor Scott’s prayer before his sermon. We are looking forward to learning and growing together. *If you are interested in being a helper for Children’s Church please see Ms. Joel.

Family Ministry more details regarding January 11th Family Game Night on other page.

As always I ask you to please keep all the children and youth in our community and beyond in prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

