



From the Pastor's Desk...

May 2022

Dear Cup church family and friends,

Let me share a few compelling quotes with you:

At the cross, the most powerful man who ever lived submitted to the most brutal death ever died, to save the powerless. Christianity does not glorify violence. It humiliates it.

Like paleontologists sifting through the dirt, we must excavate what the Bible actually says, while dusting off the cultural dross.

If Jesus is the Bread of Life, loss of Jesus means starving. If Jesus is the Light of the World, loss of Jesus means darkness. If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, loss of Jesus means wandering alone and lost. If Jesus is the resurrection and the life, loss of Jesus is eternal death. And if Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our sins, loss of Jesus means paying that price for ourselves.

We are all more governed by our feelings than by our rationality, and emotions run high in debates about beliefs. But disagreement is not evidence of disrespect. Indeed, I debate hardest with the people I respect the most, because I take their ideas seriously. But our society seems to be losing the art of debate within friendships, and we instead surround ourselves with people who think like us.

Like every other element of the Christian worldview, however, the recognition that unborn babies are fully human and therefore infinitely valuable belongs within a much larger story, a story in which the most vulnerable are the most important, a story in which no human being is unwanted, a story in which all of us are sexual sinners and only Jesus has the right to judge, a story in which sacrifice for others is the only path to joy, and a story that ends—for those willing to accept the offer—with a marriage of such beauty and intimacy that it makes the best human marriage seem like a heart emoji compared with a Shakespeare sonnet.

All of the above come from [10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask and Answer about Christianity](#) by Rebecca McLaughlin. We have been using this as our supplemental text for our confirmation/inquirer's class this year. This is not your parent's confirmation book; nor is it likely the same as the type of text outside of the Bible you may have used before joining the church. Getting the basics of the Biblical story right are important in every generation - Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration as the plot line, for example – but the questions and context for the Christian faith change, sometimes dramatically. Suffering, sex, Satan, science, and salvation have been addressed in some form in every group I've worked with over the past 30 years, but the specific questions on those issues have changed, and the stakes feel higher for the young people who face Jesus' claims and offer of life. No longer do youth simply nod 'yes' at the right time so they can put church membership on their college resume – publicly identifying as a follower of Jesus brings more social stigma in our country than I ever remember seeing before. In part, this can be attributed to mistakes or overreactions that representatives of the Christian church have done in the past. Social media is filled with 'deconversion' narratives of people who have 'left the faith.' Yet I would argue a pastor who sins or preaches lousy theology doesn't destroy the truth that is found in Christ. The best of hospitals still have germs that can infect – it doesn't mean that healing isn't to be found there as well.

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I have become increasingly convinced over my years of ministry that biblical Christianity can face the toughest of questions winsomely, and without fear or anger – because it is true. It doesn't mean that difficulty or cultural marginalization won't possibly occur. Jesus knew following him, and not a cultural parody of him, would never be popular (John 6:60-67). Yet I've also come to trust that Christ's path is not only true – it is the one that provides more joy IN THIS life more than any other offered. Please keep praying for our efforts to fulfill the great commission to every generation – for God WILL fulfill his purposes until the day he returns!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

National Day of Prayer May 5, 2022

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". Millions across the nation joined to unite hearts and "exalt the Lord who has established us" (Colossians 2:6-7). Below are some pictures from our local event held in Beaver, PA at Irvine Park.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27th—July 1st

9am—12pm

K—5th Grade Graduates

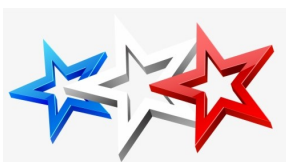
Register online at
www.cupepc.org



Sunday
May 22nd
10:30am

"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt



MAY/JUNE Calendar

May 3	7:00p Worship Committee
	7:30p TRUSTEES
May 5	6:00p DEACONS
May 6 & 7	Presbytery of the Alleghenies
May 8	Happy Mother's Day
May 10	7:00p SESSION
May 17	Primary Election
May 20-21	CROSSCURRENT GROW
May 22	YOUTH SUNDAY
May 25	7:00p Baccalaureate @BHS
May 30	Memorial Day
June 3	Sanctuary/Hall Reserved—Wedding
June 4	Hall Reserved—Graduation Party
June 5	Graduation Sunday
	Hall Reserved—Graduation Party
June 7	7:00p Worship Committee
	7:30p TRUSTEES
June 9	6:00p DEACONS
June 12	Sanctuary/Hall Reserved—Scouts
June 19	Happy Father's Day
June 21	7:00p SESSION
June 26	Hall Reserved—Bixler Anniversary
June 27-7/1	God's Wonder Lab VBS

Weekly Meetings...

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

Wednesday Evening 4:00pm
SHINE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM
Family Dinner at 6:00pm
(Resumes September 21st)

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



August 29, 2022

Avalon Golf and Country Club



*Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise
her in the gates.*

- Proverbs 31:31

SAM HAAS - NATIONAL CHAMP!

1st Place Middle Division

Current Events: World Events



Sam travelled to Knoxville, Tennessee in April with his fellow gifted classmates from Beaver Falls School District to compete at the Academic Games Leagues of America National Tournament. Sam took 1st place out of 122 students from across the nation competing in the Current Events—World Events category.



Congratulations Sam!

Hello my friends!

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13

Crosscurrent Youth Group completed a 30 Hour Famine last month. 10 Youth participated. It was a great time learning, growing and serving together. We are collecting funds through the end of May. 100% will go towards Edunations. Please give all donations to Joel Cunniff (Made out to CUP Church and tagged Famine). Please keep the youth in prayer as we prepare for GROW that is quickly approaching May 20-21st and Youth Sunday May 22nd.

We are also still looking for any adults interested in joining us on our Summer Mission Trip to Kentucky July 2nd– July 9th. See Ms. Joel for more details

Confirmation class is still in progress and our confirmands will be sharing their faith with us on Youth Sunday, May 22nd. Please keep them in prayer as they work on their statements of faith.

SHINE Our Spring Musical “Arkeology” was a great evening. The kids did an amazing job and the story told was touching. Fall Shine kicks off September 21, 2022

Children’s Church will continue through May. Keep an eye out for Summer schedule coming soon!

VBS is coming June 27th– July 1st. Helpers wanted! Join us for a leader meeting on May 15th after worship! Registration is open for all kids who just completed PK-5th grade.

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

