



From the Pastor's Desk...

August 2022

Dear Cup family and friends,

I hope you and yours are having a relaxing and rejuvenating summer. Kristina and I have had the opportunity to see family, some for the first time in many years, as she and I went to a reunion in St. Louis. Earlier in June, we travelled out west to see SAFBG (sweet angel face baby girl) Ruby! Our daughter, son-in-law and a couple of national parks also made an appearance.

Summertime brings sun, laughter, and recreation, but even this season can have its anxieties. Swimsuits, shorts, and all the rest may cause us to look into the mirror or down at the scale with a bit more concern. One of the retired pastors I golfed with earlier this week said his young grandson looked him over at the beach and exclaimed, "Grandpa! What a big belly you have!" (And this man is skinnier than yours truly!) How do we appear to others? How do we appear to ourselves? And what makes us beautiful?

The Bible has a very different answer than our surrounding culture. Western society puts incredible emphasis on the external. Botox for the skin, tummy tucks for the abdomen, adornments temporary or permanent on various body parts depending on your generation and your group. I saw a young man wearing a t shirt recently that states, 'Your vibe determines your tribe.' In other words, do you look and act cool enough to belong with the people who you believe really matter?

Scripture says the internal is what truly matters. God declares as much to the prophet Samuel as he looks over Jesse's sons to see who is to be anointed the next king of Israel: 'Do not look on appearance or on the height of stature. . . for the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' (1 Sam. 16:7). A heart that seeks God, and in experiencing God, begins to ACT more like God calls us to act.

Augustine, the fourth-century foundational church leader, preached a sermon on 1 John 4:19 – "We love because he first loved us." In it, he states, "He loved us as enemies, that we might be made friends. He first loved us, and gave us the gift of loving Him. We did not yet love Him: by loving we are made beautiful." The remarkable claim is that we become beautiful as we love others, just as God initiates a loving relationship with us.

July has brought some wonderful opportunities to see "God's beautification spa" in process. Greg and Chris Callison, missionaries to the Kurdish people in northern Iraq and Germany, shared how God is at work through their efforts. They are looking forward to retiring in Germany, among the Kurdish people they have come to love while they serve. Our young people took a week long mission trip to eastern Kentucky, offering their skill and service in sweltering conditions. And our church hosted a group of thirty-one people from area churches (including eight from Cup church) who are coming together to provide help and hope to incoming refugee families from troubled points from around the world.

When we serve without an expectation of being served back in return, we are imitating our Lord, who gave of himself in ways we could never hope to repay. "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45). Let's get beautiful - service is the secret!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott



Sunday, August 28th
NOON
Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.



Please leave donations for the BIG SALE in Fellowship Hall beginning August 28th!



Blackhawk returns to school on August 29th. Please pray for the students there and around the county for a safe and educational school year!

Kentucky Bound we were! A group of youth and some adults had the blessing and opportunity to go serve for a week in Clay County Kentucky! It was challenging physically, emotionally and spiritually as we served this poverty stricken area. But wow was God ever present and working on hearts that week. It was an absolute blessing for us to have this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we saw Him working in these peoples lives as well as our own.

We can not thank the congregation enough for all your support provided to us. Financially we could not have made it. Donations were blessings and prayers were so very felt that week!

God is good my friends even in times were we feel we are the most challenged. Those are the times we are most changed!



August/September Calendar

Aug 2	7:00p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p TRUSTEES
Aug 4	6:00p DEACONS
Aug 7	5:00p Crosscurrent at FUN FORE ALL
Aug 10	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ Grand Valley Inn
Aug 13	Hall & Gym Reserved—Hinzman Anniversary
Aug 14	7:00p Crosscurrent Bonfire
Aug 16	7:00p SESSION
Aug 27	Hall Reserved—Regan Rider
Aug 28	12:00p All Church Picnic
Aug 29	EduNations Golf Outing
Sept 1	6:00p DEACONS
Sept 4	LABOR DAY
Sept 6	7:00p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p TRUSTEES
Sept 9	9:00a-5:00p BIG SALE
Sept 10	9:00a-2:00p BIG SALE
Sept 11	Congregational Meeting following Worship 6:00p CROSSCURRENT FALL KICKOFF
Sept 12	10:00a-2:00p BIG SALE
Sept 13	10:00a-2:00p BIG SALE
Sept 14	10:00a-2:00p BIG SALE 1:00p Game Day Lunch @ Grand Valley Inn
Sept 15	10:00a-2:00p BIG SALE
Sept 16	9:00a-5:00p BIG SALE
Sept 17	9:00a-2:00p BIG SALE
Sept 18	6:00p CROSSCURRENT
Sept 20	7:00p SESSION
Sept 21	See You at the Pole 4:00p SHINE Fall Kickoff
Sept 24	1:00p CUP Trunk or Treat/Harvest Party
Sept 25	6:00p CROSSCURRENT

Cup church hosted the initial gathering of the Refugee resettlement group that is a part of the ministry of Undivided Beaver County, involving churches across racial lines. Training for this group to help welcome refugees into American life will begin August 10 and 17th.

Keep this whole group, including those from Cup church in your prayers as we show the love of Christ in this way.



August 29, 2022

Avalon Golf and Country Club

[Www.edunations.org/golf](http://www.edunations.org/golf)



On July 24 we were happy to host Greg and Chris Callisons, missionaries to the Kurdish people since the 1980s in Germany and now northern Iraq. Carol Osterman was Cup's first contact person with Chris near the beginning of her ministry work, and Cup has been partnering with the Callisons ever since! The Callisons preached and then shared extensively about their work and the Kurdish people to a group of 25-30 folks after worship. Pie and finger food was also involved!



Summers almost gone?

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.” 1 Chronicles 16:23

Crosscurrent Youth Group has been busy this summer. We have partaken in helping with Vacation Bible School. A group went to Kentucky for a weeks mission trip. Lots of summer camps have happened for some of our youth and now we are gathering for a night of games and fun at Fun Fore All August 7th 5-11pm. Summer Bon Fire at the Manse. August 14th 7-830. Bring a camping chair to sit around the fire.

SHINE Fall Shine kicks off September 21, 2022. Looking for helpers. If interested see Ms. Joel

Children’s Church Kicking off September 11th. Look for busy items in the back of sanctuary.

VBS we had a great turn out this year! It was so much fun to see some new faces join us! Thank you all for you support and love as we entered God’s Wonder Lab! The kids brought in donations for our Kentucky Mission Trip. We raised as a church \$285.61 in cash donations and a ton of craft, cleaning, toiletries and other items to take with us. The mission was most grateful for our donations!

It has been a fun, busy and so rewarding a summer!

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

