



From the Pastor's Desk.

March 2023

Dear Cup church family and friends,

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." CUP EPC has entered into a time of transition. Times of transition bring anxiety because there is uncertainty about what is next. Fortunately, we are not alone in our transition. The EPC and Presbytery of the Alleghenies have put together a transitional process that helps churches examine where they are, where they are going, and who is the right person to lead them there. This examination, discernment, and hard work sets up the church and the next permanent pastor for long-term, Christ honoring ministry. To that end, this article will briefly help you see where we are headed.

There are many pieces to the transitional puzzle. Key pieces include the Session and other committees/boards of the church, the transitional pastor (that's me!), a Vision Team, and ultimately, a pastoral search committee. The first team that is created specifically for the process is the Vision Team. The vision team's role is to assess where we are and discern where God is calling us. The Vision Team has been created and consists of Joel Cuniff, Jale Haas, Neil Clark, Pat Hinzman, Andy Sutton, and myself. Over the next several months, we will be completing various assessments of the church, such as the SWOT analysis that has been discussed in worship. Surrounding the team are prayer teams for each member. Prayer teams consist of three people. After each vision team meeting, the vision team member contacts their prayer team members to discuss the work of the vision team and to pray over the specific projects the team is working on. Following the assessment, the vision team will prayerfully discern how God desires us to reach our community at this particular time (and into the future). When the work of the vision team is complete, a pastoral search committee will be formed to find the right pastor for our church.

You're probably wondering at this point, how do I fit into this? Also, how long will this take? To answer the first question, the most important task of each of us is to pray over the process. Pray for the vision team. Pray for the elders, deacons, and trustees as they continue the gospel ministry of the church. Pray even now for the next permanent pastor that God is preparing the person to minister at CUP. In addition to prayer, each church member will be a part of the process. Each member will be contacted and asked more about our church. What are our strengths? What are our weaknesses? What are the opportunities ahead of us? Members will also be a part of other assessments and discussions that will occur along the way. On to the second question, how long does all of this take? The short answer is, transitional processes vary in length. The work of the vision team will take several months. As their work nears completion, the pastoral search committee will be formed sometime later this year. The process of transition is significant, but the fruit of the process is even more so.

In conclusion, Paul writes in Romans 10, "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Let us pray that this transitional process will conclude with the effective proclamation of the Gospel to the lost as CUP EPC embraces what God has next for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Marc

Welcome Brooks Howard!

CUP Church welcomed another tiny member recently! Brooks Howard McGowin was born on February 20th at 6:54pm. He was 8lbs 6ozs and couldn't be any cuter! Congratulations to Mom & Dad! The family is settling in at home and Big Brother CJ is in love!



Dear CUP Family,

How surprised and grateful Kristina and I were to receive your generous Christmas Gift in the mail! Your encouragement and love over the years means more to us than we can adequately express. Your gifts will be used to help toward Kristina's first trip to Sierra Leone this April. We've received various encouraging reports about the transitional ministry at CUP and Pastor Marc! May the Lord continue to carry you into the future as he has in the past—we know he will! Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers! We are comforted in the below verse.

Much Love—Scott & Kristina

'You're faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures.' ~Psalm 119:90

John & Sylvia Myers have purchased DVD copies of many of Sight & Sound Theatres productions and they are making them available for members of the congregation to borrow for personal viewing. Reach out to John or Sylvia if you would like to borrow a copy. Below are the available titles:

- Joseph
- Ruth
- Jonah
- Noah
- Jesus
- Samson
- Moses
- Queen Esther



Picture this.....It's 1970, and time for the grooviest game show on television, "Tell Me the Truth". Host Jane Cheese, and intrepid announcer Johnny Glibb guide our 3 contestants Skip (a catch and release mosquito wrangler), Mildred (an amateur surgeon) and Adrian (a freelance astronaut) through what should be a simple array of Bible questions. The answers are surprising, and seemingly wrong, until the judges, and all of us, take a fresh look and discover the real meaning and message — Jesus!

JOIN US

Sunday, April 23rd at 7:00pm

As the SHINE Program presents:



The Family Ministries Committee held a Valentine's Service Event in February! After some yummy appetizers, we decorated Boxes and Cards for our College Students! It was a great night of fellowship and crafts!



The Family Ministries Committee is seeking fun, energetic individuals to serve on the committee. Contact Joel or Jenn if interested!

UPCOMING:

**Monday, April 7, 2023 at 6:30pm
Ice Cream Social & Game Night**

MARCH/APRIL Calendar

<u>March 7</u>	6:30p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>March 8</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @GVI
<u>March 21</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>March 25</u>	9:00a TRUSTEES Work Day
<u>March 26</u>	2:00p Crosscurrent @BF Musical
<u>April 2</u>	2:00p Crosscurrent @BH Musical
<u>April 4</u>	6:30p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>April 5-6</u>	CROSSCURRENT Grow
<u>April 17</u>	6:30p FAM MIN Ice Cream Social
<u>April 18</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>April 22</u>	9:00a SHINE Musical Rehearsal
<u>April 23</u>	7:00p SHINE Musical

Easter Flowers on sale now! The last day to order is **March 12th**. Contact Nancy Hinzman with questions.



Weekly Meetings...

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

Tuesday Evening 6:00pm
Mini's Youth Group

Tuesday Evening 7:15pm
Praise Team Practice

Wednesday Evening 4:00pm
SHINE Afterschool Program
Family Dinner at 6p

Thursday Morning 9:00am
Women's Small Group

Thursday Evening 7:00pm
Choir Practice
(March 16th-April 6th)

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

Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group



Cup Library News

Here is a list of some of the recent additions to our church library!

Books Children Love by Elizabeth Wilson

God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts

No-Brainer Guide to the Bible by James Bell and James Dyet

The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament

The IVP Bible Background Commentary – New Testament

When Christ Appears by David Jeremiah

Western Christians in Global Missions by Paul Borthwick

Belief in God in an Age of Science by John Polkinghorne

Evangelical Does Not Equal Republican or Democrat by Lisa Sharon Harper

Is God Anti-Gay? by Sam Allberry

Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger

Holy Humor by Cal and Rose Samra

Following Gandalf by Matthew Dickerson

Inside the Simple Life by Susan Hougelman



These and many others selections for all ages are available to anyone interested in checking them out. Our library is open to you anytime the church doors are open (unless a meeting is scheduled for the room). If you are interested just remove the card from the back pocket, sign your name and place in the small basket next to the card files on the table against the left wall. Enjoy!

Paula Keefer Herter, Librarian

Springing into the Sunshine,

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1

Crosscurrent Youth Group We have been busy this past month. Six youth attended Winter Retreat in January up at Camp Ligonier. It was an amazing time spent in God’s word as we worshiped, prayed and played together. It was nice to be with other EPC Churches some new to the EPiC Retreat from all over the presbytery. We also were able to partake in a 30 Hour Famine. We had a day of serving, playing and praying. It was a great time to be together and feel God’s love. We served at Hope for Renewal Coffee Shop in Youngstown, OH a Church plant. It was so fun to be with Cindy and Pastor Gary to hear the stories of how God is working in this ministry. We were able to help provide some help for them with cleaning and painting. It was a blessed time. We are still currently collecting funds for the 30 Hour Famine until March 12th. See Ms. Joel. Youth group continues to meet on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm.

SHINE kicked off on February 1st with 18 kiddos and 3 new families. We are so excited to be together. Mark your calendars for April 23rd 7pm for our Musical “TELL ME THE TRUTH”. (Volunteers still needed)

Family Ministry We had the honor to decorate and make cards for our college kiddos on Feb 2nd. Don’t miss out on Fun Family Nights! Bring a neighbor or friend and join in the fellowship and fun had!!

Mini’s Youth Group has been working through Exodus and having a blast doing so! We had a fun Movie Night with pizza and popcorn. Know anyone 3-6th grade interested in joining us? Have them see Ms. Joel

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

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

