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## From the Pastor's Desk...

April 2023

Dear Cup church family and friends,

Back in 2007 and 2008 I was deeply involved in a congressional campaign. My plan was to finish up college and run for political office. This campaign was the perfect springboard for me. I would make political connections, land a job as a congressional staffer, and prepare to launch my own political campaign one day. For nearly two years, I coordinated volunteers, managed databases, set up yard signs, attended political events, and participated in core team meetings to get him elected. I went all in. As all in as anyone could possibly go. I'll never forget election night. Everyone who I had worked with for two years were gathered together to connect and to see how we did. On the line for me was a job and the springboard to a political future. The night was over practically as soon as it began. From the first reported results, things looked bad. They ended up going from bad to worse. We had lost. I remember having a hard time falling asleep many nights that November and December, thinking about it and asking myself, "What now? What now?" I had gone all in, and now it was over. Well, as you may have guessed, God had other plans for me.

Asking, "what now?" is where CUP is today. I asked the question due to a defeat. For our church, we are asking this question because God has brought us to the point in our church's journey of asking that question. Jesus' disciples were in a similar place after Easter. For 40 days, Jesus was on the earth. Then he ascended to heaven, and his followers were left wondering, what now? What now? In one way, Christ had already told them what to do now. In Matthew 28:19-20, Christ gave them the Great Commission shortly before he ascended to heaven telling them to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach them to obey all he had commanded. However, Acts 1 tells us that they returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem and devoted themselves to prayer before the Holy Spirit descended upon them at Pentecost.

Therefore, the first reaction of the disciples after Jesus ascended was to prayer. Shortly thereafter, the Spirit moved. Prayer is critical in discerning what is next. A mentor of mine is known for saying, "pray first." Therefore, as we discern what's next, let's commit to praying first. Pray for what is next in our own lives. Pray for what is next in the life of CUP EPC. Pray for the transitional process. Pray for the current vision process and the vision team. Pray for the Search Committee, even though it isn't even formed yet. Pray for the next permanent pastor, even though God is the only one who knows today who that person is. May the Lord lead us individually and collectively as we seek the face of God through prayer.

Blessings,

Pastor Marc

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Pastor Marc will be out of the office on Study Leave from April 24th through May 2nd.

Ms. Joel and Jenn will be out of the office on vacation from April 30th through May 6th.



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



**Seeking a few good people....**

**Pat Shawgo is in search of volunteers to serve on the Fellowship Committee. Please see Pat Shawgo if interested.**



## APRIL/MAY Calendar

<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
<u>May 2</u>	6:30p DEACONS
	7:00p Worship Committee
	7:30p TRUSTEES
<u>May 7</u>	6:00p CROSSCURRENT Movie Night
<u>May 14</u>	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
<u>May 16</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>May 18-19</u>	POA Transitional Pastor Training
<u>May 20</u>	Youth Sunday Practice
<u>May 21</u>	10:30a YOUTH SUNDAY
<u>May 24</u>	7:00p Baccalaureate @BHS
<u>May 31</u>	7:00p Senior Parade Outreach BHS

## 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**

Join Us!

Monday, April 7th at 6:30pm

For a Family Ministries Ice Cream Social  
and Game Night!



Mark your calendars—you won't want to  
miss the fun!



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:



## Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

April 2nd 10:30am Palm Sunday Service

April 6th 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 9th 10:30am Easter Sunday Service



Let the Son Shine Bright on us,

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” Romans 12:12

Thank you all for the prayers and cards after the passing of my father on March 10th. He was a huge supporter of the Children and Youth Ministry at CUP Church. I will miss him dearly but I am grateful I know where he is and that one day I will join him at Jesus feet.

**Crosscurrent Youth Group** This month went by way to fast!! We met on Sundays, supported our friends in their High School Musicals and are preparing for GROW (move up overnight) we are excited to welcome 3 new Crosscurrent Youth moving up into the youth group. Pray for the upcoming event! If you are a youth and haven't registered for GROW please do so ASAP! Congrats to Sam Haas for his awesome fun roles in Footloose at Beaver Falls, High School. What a fun show!!

Youth group continues to meet on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm.

**SHINE** has been so much fun! New faces and new voices make for exciting Wednesdays!!

Please join us April 23rd 7pm for our Musical “TELL ME THE TRUTH”.

**Family Ministry** Upcoming Ice Cream Social and game night! 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 following Amazing Grace as we walk through Lent. 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

