

## From the Pastor's Desk...

August 2023

Dear Cup family and friends,

The Vision Team has been working hard during Cup's transitional process. The team has concluded the analysis phase of the process and has moved into the vision casting phase. The team reviewed a wide variety of analyses including the Church Life Cycle assessment, the Missional Posture Survey, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats/Challenges/Barriers) Assessment, and the Know Your Community Assessment. Meanwhile we have also been reading together the book, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. The Vision Team has been a joy to work with. They have a love for the Lord and for Cup Church. They have a passion for the Gospel, and they are invested in Cup fulfilling God's mission.

The missional posture survey is an assessment that analyzes where a church is among five different missional postures, these include non-missional, anti-missional, pre-missional, pro-missional, and post-missional. The assessment resulted in Cup having a three-way tie between pre-missional, pro-missional, and post-missional. Pre-missional is described as the "pastor(s) and/or church leaders are discovering the biblical necessity of making a missional commitment and are open to learning what needs to be done spiritually and strategically in order to go missional." Aka, the church isn't currently on mission, but the church is taking steps towards fulfilling its mission. Pro-missional is described as the "pastor(s) and/or church leaders are fully committed to missional ministry and are actively building missional ministry into the mainstream life of the church." Aka, the congregation is all in for its mission, and it is thriving in it. Finally, post-missional is the "pastor(s) and church leaders are drifting or pulling away from a previously held missional commitment, either by design or by loss of energy and focus. This is often seen in church plants that become self-supporting and that have achieved sustainable viability. In other words, we've been there done, and we need to refocus on our mission. Cup's three way tie says a lot about it. First, it is neither apathetic nor is it opposed to mission. Second, many people view it as being in its sweet spot on mission. However, there is ambiguity as to where it is on this missional spectrum, so a reenergized, focused, and clarified mission is important.

The Know Your Community report showed that the surrounding community closely mirrors the people of Cup. This is how it should be, but oftentimes congregations do not mirror their community. In this age of mobility, many churches are composed of people who drive in from outside their community. When they attempt to reach their community, they neither know their community nor do they reside, work, or spend recreational time in their church's community. Cup does not have this problem, which is a testament to the successful mission of the church over its lifespan. The report also showed that the people in the community can be more difficult to reach, which is a challenge for our congregation.

Please continue to pray for the vision team, for Cup's next permanent pastor, and for the entire transitional process as we seek the face of God. The Vision Team is praying about and discerning where God is calling our congregation in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, and connection. God is in sovereign control, and may the faithfulness of our congregation and movement of the Holy Spirit move Cup forward as we seek to move into the next phase of ministry.

Blessings,

Pastor Marc

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## BIG SALE!

September 1st & 2nd 9am-3pm

September 8th & 9th 9am-3pm

Please drop off donations of any unwanted treasures to Fellowship Hall from August 20th through August 28th. No furniture or electronics please. Anyone interested in helping with setup or during the sale dates please contact Judy Bixler.



SHINE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM  
returns SEPTEMBER 20th!



Wednesdays at 4:00pm

FOLLOWED BY FAMILY DINNER  
at 6:00pm

Interested in being a volunteer? Contact Joel!

Unity is not putting away our differences, because we are not the same. Unity is coming together with our differences with **ONLY ONE** purpose...serving our Lord Christ Jesus.

Father, with You all things are possible! Thank You for the Body of Christ! Together, we are to be marching toward our heavenly home in harmony and godly spirit of unity and love. We should demonstrate patience, kindness, compassion, and gracious love through the indwelling Spirit of Christ. One goal....to glorify You! "Life is better when we work together !"

**BE STRONG**  
*& Courageous*  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID**  
*or Discouraged*  
**FOR THE LORD**  
*Your God*  
**WILL BE WITH YOU**  
JOSHUA 1:9 *Wherever You Go*

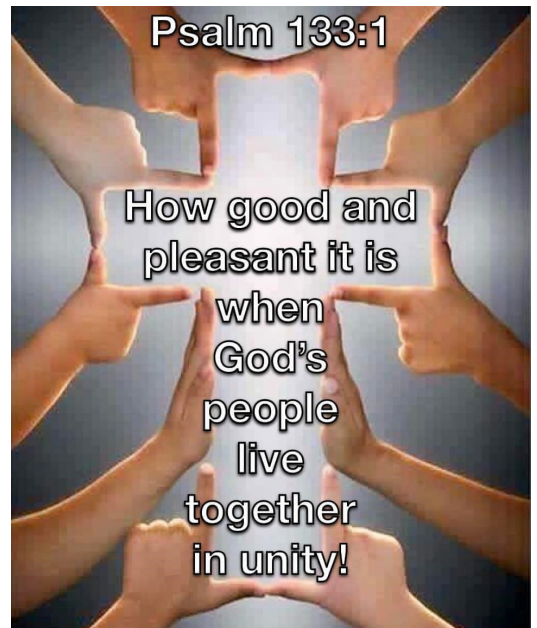


*Monica O. Blog*

Schools in the area will be returning to the classroom later this month! Please keep our kids at Blackhawk, Beaver Falls, & BCCS in prayer as the return. Please pray for a safe and blessed year for all the students and administration at our local schools and all schools around the country!

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasant it is  
when  
God's  
people  
live  
together  
in unity!





## August/September Calendar

Aug 1	6:30p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 7:30p TRUSTEES
Aug 5	Sanctuary Reserved—Wedding
Aug 6	6:00p Thirsty Thursday
Aug 9	1:00p Game Day Lunch @GVI
Aug 10	6:00p Thirsty Thursday
Aug 13	ALL CHURCH PICNIC 5:00p Crosscurrent at Fun Fore All
Aug 15	7:00p SESSION
Aug 17	6:00p Thirsty Thursday
Aug 20	Crosscurrent Outing TBD
Aug 20-28	Drop off for Big Sale
Sept 1	BIG SALE 9a-3p
Sept 2	BIG SALE 9a-3p
Sept 4	LABOR DAY
Sept 5	6:30p DEACONS 7:00p Worship Committee 8:00p TRUSTEES
Sept 8	BIG SALE 9a-2p
Sept 9	BIG SALE 9a-2p
Sept 10	6:00p Crosscurrent Fall Kickoff
Sept 13	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
Sept 16	Presbytery @ Enon Valley, PA
Sept 17	6:00p Crosscurrent
Sept 19	7:00p SESSION
Sept 20	4:00p SHINE Fall Kickoff 6:00p Family Dinner
Sept 24	6:00p Crosscurrent
Sept 26	6:00p Mini's Youth Fall Kickoff
Sept 27	7:00a SEE YOU AT THE POLE

## Our Kids SHINED Bright at the Fireman's Parade

On Wednesday, July 19th the SHINE program participated in the Chippewa Fireman's Parade. The kids and several leaders rode in style in a truck driven by Gary Crawford while Pastor Marc and Ms. Kim carried the SHINE Banner. The kids and leaders were equipped with bags and bags of candy to throw to parade spectators. Several church members cheered the kids on from the parade route! A good time was had by all.



Join us August 20th for worship at 10:30am.  
We will be blessing the students going back to school.  
Bring your backpacks and receive a gift to help remind  
you of the love God has for you.  
All ages welcome to be blessed for the upcoming school year!





Summer Time and the Living is Easy!!!

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake" Psalm 23:1-3

**Crosscurrent Youth Group** Living the slow life of summer but its going way to fast!!!! Not much happening but some pop up events for our youth this summer. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for upcoming events!

**SHINE** Look for the SHINE kids in the Fireman's Parade July 19th. Kiddos we will see you in the Fall as we kick off another fun year!

**Family Ministry** Look for details coming for our Fall events! Interested in helping us plan see Ms. Joel or Ms. Jenn and join our team!!!

**Mini's Youth Group** We will have pop up events through out the summer. Keep an eye out!!

**VBS** WHAT A FUN TIME WE HAD!!!!!! We had 40 kiddos join us for VBS week. We learned about how Following Jesus Changes the Game!!! We had a great closing night where we fed over 100 people dinner and then watched the kiddos sing and dance and share what they learned over the week! It was an amazing week and we at CUP Church are so blessed!!! Thank you all for prayers lifted over the VBS week. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who fed daily into all the kiddos who attended.

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

