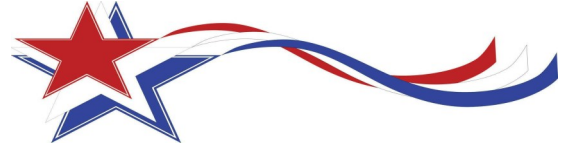


THE CUP



CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

'Join us for a drink of Living Water'



From the Pastor's Desk...

JULY 2025

"Be Excellent to Each Other"

Luke 1:3–4 (ESV) says:

"... it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Those of us of a certain (Gen X) age can't help but hear Luke call the recipient of his Gospel "Most Excellent Theophilus" and think of either Wayne and Garth of Wayne's World or Bill and Ted from Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure. The second of these concluded with the simple philosophy "Be excellent to each other!"

Sounds simple. But in its simplicity, it is profound. There is a need in a world that is constantly pushing us with timelines and deadlines and that tempts us constantly to do the minimums to get done and get through, to abandon excellence. Luke's account of the Gospel is one that together with his book of The Acts of the Apostles known to most of us as simply, Acts, is his planned attempt to "write an orderly account" with the purpose of setting down the life of Jesus and the history of the early Church so that it is clear what we are taught and therefore believe. Luke took seriously his task.

We are the Church. The only Church. No, I don't mean that there are no other small C churches than CUP Church, but THE Church is THE Church- the only one we get. And we have been given THE Gospel, the only one that will ever be given. That means like Luke we must be orderly and excellent with how we present and display the Gospel. The Gospel is our sole task. Every outreach, every song, every program, every work of service, everything we do exists for the singular purpose of communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that will only receive it from one source :The Church. So that means Excellence. We must do everything with excellence.

Now given our sinful nature we will not do everything perfectly, but if the beginning goal is excellence rather than "good enough" we will do well more often than not. We will also have room to give more grace to one another because we will assume that when another person falls short of our personal preferences or expectations, rather than assuming that they are doing badly out of some bad motive, we can give them grace, assuming that in their striving for excellence they have simply fallen short this time as we have ourselves, at other times.

If we have this attitude among ourselves then not only will we seek excellence but will in Ted's words be truly able to "Be excellent to each other!" and that will be a kind of excellence in the Gospel that many will find attractive in our church here at CUP

In Christ,

Mark

PS: When we finish Hebrews this month we will be starting "Trustworthy and True: A Series in Luke and Acts"

TRUSTEES COMMUNITY YARD SALE **FUNDRAISER**

The TRUSTEES will be hosting monthly Community Yard sales in the church parking lot.

Open to all members of CUP and the Surrounding Community.

Come sell your "treasures".

Spaces are \$10 for a parking space size

Tables can be rented for \$10 a piece up to 2 tables until sold out

Youth Group will be in the pavilion selling Water and Snacks to help fund their upcoming Mission Trip

Please sign up for the dates you would like to participate via the Google Form on the church website.

www.cupepc.org



Dates are as follows: (set up begins at 6am)

July 11th & 25th 7am-2pm

Aug 1st & 15th 7am-2pm

TIGER PAUSE

Summer Camp Kitchen Crew

Thank you to all who worked in the Tiger Pause kitchen June 16 - 20. Lunch was prepared and served to 82 children K-8th grade. This is an awesome program spreading the love of Jesus to the children. You were all a blessing to Tiger Pause!



Cadet Training Schools (CTS) is the annual training for Cadets in the Civil Air Patrol (United States Air Force Auxiliary) in the Pennsylvania Wing. It consists of a Basic Encampment for newer cadets, Leadership Development Course for advanced students looking to serve as staff, Color Guard Academy teaching advanced Ceremonial techniques, and STEM Academy focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. **Pastor Mark** (A Captain in CAP) served in the dining facilities, **1st Lt PJ Simonds** and **Cadet Major Gabriel Simonds** were on staff for STEM Academy and **Cadet Tech Sergeant Isaiah Simonds** attended STEM Academy.



The Outreach Committee will meet in the library following worship on Sunday, July 6th. If you are interested in joining the committee please reach out to Andy Sutton.

Upcoming Outreach Events:

7/12 Chippewa Community Days

8/6 Band Camp Lunch at BHS

July/August Calendar

July 1	8:30p TRUSTEES
July 9	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
July 9	3:00p Crosscurrent at Soup Kitchen
July 9	7:00p Youth Bonfire
July 11	7:00a TRUSTEES Yard Sale
July 11	8:00p Fam Min Movie on the Lawn
July 12	Chippewa Community Days Outreach
July 13-18	Kingdom Week
July 14	6:00p Worship Night at Mt Carmel
July 16	6:00p Chippewa Fireman Parade
July 20	7:00p Youth Bonfire
July 25	7:00a TRUSTEES Yard Sale
Aug 1	7:00a TRUSTEES Yard Sale
Aug 5	5:30p Outreach Committee
Aug 5	6:30p DEACONS
Aug 5	8:30p TRUSTEES
Aug 6	Band Camp Lunch Outreach
Aug 13	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
Aug 13	3:00p Crosscurrent at Soup Kitchen
Aug 15	7:00a TRUSTEES Yard Sale
Aug 17	ALL CHURCH PICNIC
Aug 19	7:00p SESSION
Aug 24	Back 2 School Blessing
Aug 25	6:30p Mandatory CPP Training

20 MILES WITH JESUS Tues 8am & Thurs 6pm

Ms. Joel will be out of the office on vacation from July 21st through August 17th.

Church Picnic



SAVE THE DATE - Church Picnic
Sunday, August 17th - after worship

Food - Games - Fun - Fellowship

Committee sign-up sheet is in the
entryway by the office.



Starting on June 29th, at 9:15 AM Pastor Mark, together with his wife PJ and Daughter Torah will be leading a Summer Sunday School class for all ages. We will be learning about the second most published book in English after the Bible,

John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Come and join in learning about this allegorical tale of a man who finds himself in a city that is doomed for destruction and embarks on his way to the "Celestial City". You will find that "Christian's" journey will have a lot in common with your journey as a follower of Jesus. We will begin on June 29th by watching the movie together to familiarize ourselves with the story then the group will be sometimes together, sometimes apart with adults and older youth in a class taught by Pastor Mark from Derek Thomas's Ligonier Video series while PJ and Torah lead a class for younger kids. Copies of the book can be found online or you may download a free copy at <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/bunyan/The%20Pilgrim's%20Progress%20-%20John%20Bunyan.pdf>.

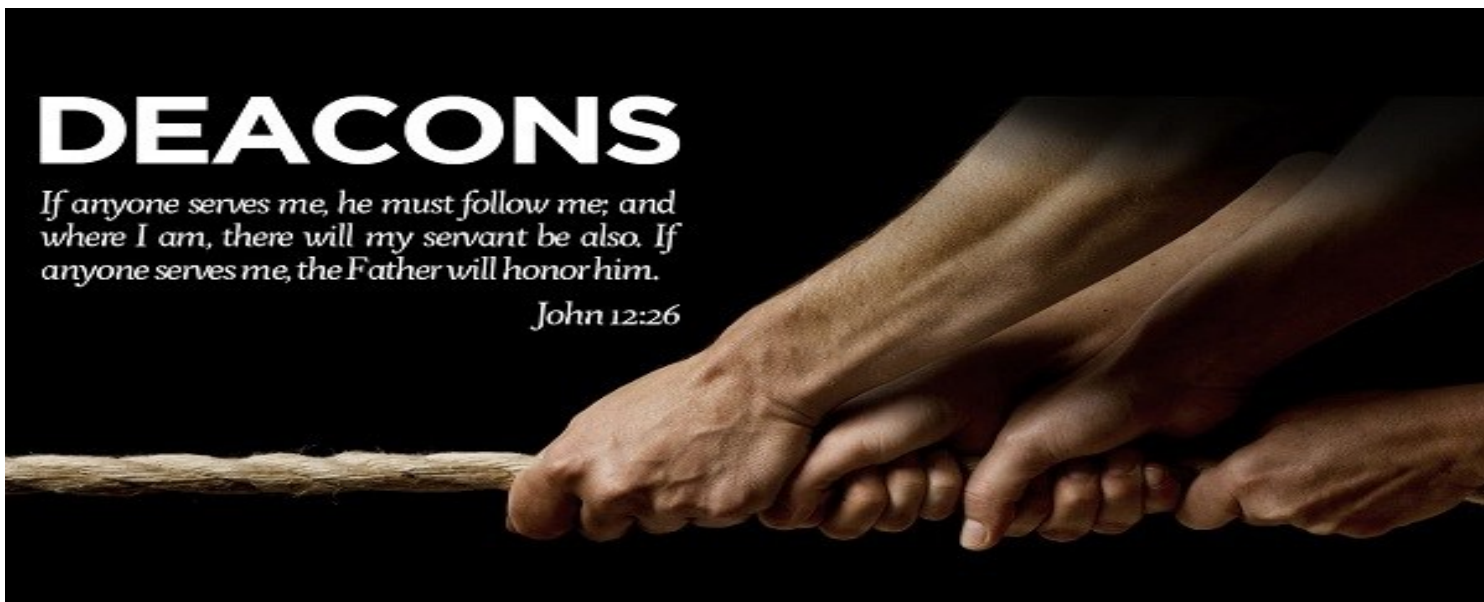
Come join us on the journey.



For information about upcoming mission opportunities, as well as news from CUP supported missionaries, stop and check out the Missions Board located outside of the library!



Ari Simonds spent the end of June in Africa working with the CEED Foundation Uganda. She is currently headed home. We look forward to hearing all about her trip!



DEACONS

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:26

When you are asked to become a Deacon, you don't always know what to expect; I know that is how I felt when I was asked at the beginning of the year. I never knew what all they did other than funeral lunches, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much they do for the Church as a whole. The Deacons as a group are responsible for the care of the church body, aka YOU!

Our Sunshine person, Linda Trimmer, has been on top of sending little notes of inspiration to many in our congregation, celebrating the good times and the bad. Whether it be a birthday, anniversary, birth, death, or illness, Linda tries her best to make sure you know that you are loved by not only God, but also those who sit next to you in the pew. It might seem small to some, but those notes are a reminder that someone cares for you even in your darkest hour.

In times of need, we Deacons keep a food pantry stocked for public use. The person in charge of this is Kathy Crawford. She has been revolutionary in her efforts to keep the food rotating out to ensure canned goods and frozen foods are fresh and not going to waste. Our food pantry is located in the Library; if you or anyone you know are in need, please reach out to the Church office or to Kathy directly. Kathy is also in charge of the many luncheons that the Deacons prepare for funerals/remembrance services. She takes charge and coordinates with precision to make sure we all don't bring the same dish and that the event runs smoothly keeping the stress from the families involved.

While we are on the topic of food, let's not forget about the emails we get about the Meal Trains; thank Karen Woodshick for those notices. Anytime there is a passing of a beloved church family member, birth of a new baby, illness, or moving; Karen reaches out to let you know that the church is here to help you by taking the biggest question off your mind, "What's for dinner?" If you have never heard of a meal train before, let me tell you it is quite amazing. It is an online sign-up sheet where you put your name and what you will be delivering for dinner. It gives you the number of people in the household, any food allergies/ aversion, as well as the address and delivery instructions.

Our Deacon's Outreach person, Paula Keefer-Herter, also has been spreading the joyous love of God and the church to those members who are not always able to attend on Sunday. She has been instrumental in organizing little gifts and treats to be hand delivered to our "shut-ins". In January, we delivered books (199 Promises of God) with a prayer card; in April, we delivered Inspirational cards accompanied by a beautiful Begonia. Along with these gifts comes a complimentary visit to check on the well being of all those we see. One takes for granted how much impact a simple "just called to check on you" or a "stopping by to drop something off for you" truly means to those who can't always leave their homes.

Along with the Deacon's outreach, we also have our Community Outreach. This role has been given to Pat Hinzman, who has taken it and made it his own. He has represented CUP Church and the Deacons on numerous mission projects, such as the Dollar Energy Fund, The Beaver County Women's Shelter, and now the Day's for Girls project. As it stands, we have given \$1,000 in addition to the \$285 congregational donation to the Dollar Energy Fund, \$200 in gift cards to be used by the women at the Beaver County Women's shelter, and \$1,000 to the Day's for Girls project.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

The last Two members of Deacons, go hand-in-hand: Moderator, Laura Osman and Treasurer, Carol Osterman. The two ladies keep us on track and are responsible for our designated tasks. Laura is always willing to step in and help any of the Deacons. She is the main contact person if you don't know who does what in the Deacons. Carol as the Treasurer makes sure that we can continue to do what we do. These two ladies quietly and efficiently mobilize the Deacons and ensure we work as team.

Not everything the Deacons do, nor are planning to do have been included in this brief letter. The purpose of this letter was to let you, the church, know what it is the Deacons have been doing with the donations they have been given. It is my honor to work alongside these kindhearted ladies and gentleman as a Deacon. If you haven't guessed by now, I am the Secretary in charge of keeping the records as well as keeping you, the church informed of what we do behind closed doors. I have learned the Deacons work in the shadows, behind the scenes, helping to keep the Church healthy. When describing this group of Deacons, Mr. Rogers put it best: "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

Respectfully Yours,
Valerie Copeland



STUFF A BUS



The Family Ministries Committee is sponsoring
STUFF A BUS—Back to School Edition!

We will be collecting new back to school supplies to bless families in need. Look for the list of suggested items posted in the entryway and help us to "stuff" the bus! Donating school supplies helps bridge the gap for students who may not have access to necessary materials, ensuring they can start the school year prepared and confident. Your contributions can make a significant difference in their educational journey and overall well-being.

All donations must be received by August 24th. We will pray over them during the Back 2 School Blessing during worship.

Family Ministry Corner

Join us Friday, July 11th at 8pm for a
MOVIE ON THE LAWN!

Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.
Concessions will be available.

Wanna be part of the planning committee?
See Joel we'd LOVE to have you on our committee!!!!



POLICY UPDATES

Attention all Children and Youth Volunteers:

Per our *NEW* Child Protection Plan, all volunteers (SHINE, VBS, KNO, Youth, & Nursery workers) must have updated clearances and attend a mandatory training. The training has been scheduled for Monday, August 25th at 6:30pm. If you are unable to attend, please reach out to Joel or Mark ASAP, as this training is required. Jenn will be reaching out to everyone individually regarding clearances in the coming weeks. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Summer time and the living is easy!

“From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lords name is to be praised.” Psalm 113:3

Crosscurrent Youth Group have been on the light side as we venture into the summer schedule! We have had a few bonfires even with the rain! We have had the opportunity to serve at the Beaver Falls Soup Kitchen this month. Quite a few youth helped with VBS this year and what a blessing they all were. They truly were Christs servants over those 5 days! We have more upcoming and look forward to having more fun in the SUN together!

Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming: Summer Bonfires, Soup Kitchen Serving, Concession Stand selling for missions trip, Sunday worship and other fun outings!

VBS CAMP CHAOS VBS was a “squirrel’lastic” week. We had so much fun over our 5 days of VBS with yummy treats at the Mess Hall, Adventurous Games, Fancy Woodland Crafts, Singing and Dancing at the Fireside, and Stories by the Lakeside. Thank you to all who helped by volunteering or donating items! It was truly a God Filled week as God met us in the Chaos and we learned to always seek Him!

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

