



From the Pastor's Desk...

November 2025

"Handling the Conflict-Avoiding the Chaos"

'Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ' ~ Galatians 6:1(ESV)

For a pastor to complain about chaos in ministry is like a SCUBA diver complaining about being wet. Chaos isn't a condition of the job it is the job. The work of ministry is primarily to bring a message that apart from Jesus, we are all living chaotic lives and doing our absolute best to avoid God bringing any sort of order to them-But God chose to save us anyway.

Because of this we should never be surprised that conflict occurs in the church. We "who are spiritual", that is those in Christ, are always in the process of being sanctified by the Holy Spirit, but the reality is that none of us are entirely sanctified yet. So our sinful natures, as yet incompletely defeated, will remain many times in conflict with the same natures in our neighbors-even those in the Church.

This chaos and conflict is why the right exercise of Discipline is a part of and one of the marks of the true Church. Discipline begins first and best with yourself and within your own household. It is why we hold as a part of the responsibilities of the church to promote true religion in the home. Self-discipline and family discipline prevents the need for discipline imposed by others.

But living and working together in the Church, we will often frustrate, anger, offend and even hurt one another. Discipline in the church exists first to be focused on forgiveness and restoration or reconciliation. The Bible teaches us how we are to handle offenses or sins committed against us or within the church

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Matthew 18:15-17(ESV)

We owe it to one another in the church to be honest with each other, especially if we are hurt or offended. In the church we often have problems. These are made worse by the fact that we do not honestly speak to one another about problems, avoid talking about them, avoid the people that we have problems with, and let things escalate. A church is not a collection of perfect people. If there is sin or strong error it must be disciplined. If it is disagreements or offenses, they must be either forgiven immediately or talked about face to face. These offenses should be named and confronted first with mature conversation (with assistance as needed by a mature Christian that you trust) with the offending person so that they may repent and be restored or in the case of an offense so that you both may come to understanding. If there is no result and you cannot forgive at that point, and their offense is serious enough, it needs to be taken to the pastor or Session to discern the right result and lead to reconciliation.

Our disciplinary process for serious offenses is in the Book of Order of the EPC, a part of the church's constitution, within the Book of Discipline. Even these processes begin with the requirement that the person making the charge indicate that he or she has followed the Biblical process for correcting error described in Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15.

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It is important to stress again that church discipline rightly practiced has as its goal forgiveness and reconciliation. It should never be viewed with intent for punishment or revenge. It is also not a tool to force our will on an individual or upon the church. All things must be done in genuine Christian love with the best interest of the person in mind while also upholding the holiness of God whom we serve. Galatians 6 continues at verse 10

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)”

Our goal in handling conflict is to bring the whole body into good spiritual health, and to serve one another, making one another better for the service and Glory of God.

In Christ,

Mark

November/December Calendar

<u>Nov 4</u>	5:30p Outreach Committee
<u>Nov 4</u>	6:30p DEACONS
<u>Nov 4</u>	8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>Nov 9</u>	3:00p Callison's Visit
<u>Nov 11</u>	OFFICE CLOSED Veteran's Day
<u>Nov 12</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>Nov 18</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>Nov 27</u>	OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving
<u>Nov 28</u>	9:00a Hanging of the Greens
<u>Nov 30</u>	First Sunday of Advent
<u>Dec 2</u>	5:30p Outreach Committee
<u>Dec 2</u>	6:30p DEACONS
<u>Dec 2</u>	8:30p TRUSTEES
<u>Dec 7</u>	Second Sunday of Advent
<u>Dec 10</u>	1:00p Game Day Lunch @ GVI
<u>Dec 13</u>	6:00p SHINE Musical
<u>Dec 14</u>	Third Sunday of Advent
<u>Dec 14</u>	3:00p SHINE Musical
<u>Dec 16</u>	7:00p SESSION
<u>Dec 18</u>	6:00p ALL Church Christmas Party
<u>Dec 21</u>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
<u>Dec 21</u>	6:00p Crosscurrent Christmas Party
<u>Dec 23</u>	5:00p Crosscurrent Caroling
<u>Dec 24</u>	OFFICE CLOSED
<u>Dec 24</u>	7:00p Lessons and Carols
<u>Dec 25</u>	OFFICE CLOSED
<u>Dec 31</u>	OFFICE CLOSED

Weekly Meetings...

- Monday Afternoon 1:00pm
Adult Bible Study (Library)
- Wednesday Evening 4:00pm
SHINE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM
Family Dinner at 6:00pm
- Thursday Evening 6:00pm
Praise Team Practice
- Thursday Evening 7:00pm
Choir Practice
- Friday Morning 7:30am
Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park
- Friday Evening 5:30pm
Kid's Night Out
(every other Friday)
- Sunday Evening 5:00pm
Confirmation Class
- Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Crosscurrent Youth Group

Pancake Luncheon

Sunday, November 23rd

Following Worship

All proceeds benefit the 2026
Youth Winter Retreat



“He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.”

PSALM 104:19

The Harvest is Plenty!

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Crosscurrent Youth Group has been pretty busy as of late! We have had the opportunity to serve some of our members by doing some yard work. We have also had lots of fun together playing games, eating food and being together. See you at the Pole was amazing this year! So many partook! My heart was overflowing! The youth helped with Trunk or Treat by painting little faces, greeting our visitors and helping where needed! We also partook in an out reach event at Chippewas Harvest Festival. Confirmation kicked off this month as well with 3 youth looking to take the step into membership. We are so excited! The youth also had a Cereal Drive for “Families Matter Food Pantry” we collected 115 boxes of cereal with your help! THANK YOU! We have been busy and our schedule is full with lots upcoming! Please join us on November 23rd after church for a Pancake/Sausage Fundraiser Lunch. All proceeds will help us get to Winter Retreat in January 2026. We also have our Annual Soup and this year FUDGE Fundraiser starting this month! Our youth are also collecting items to assemble “Cake in a Box” for the food pantries around Beaver County. If you’d like to donate, more details will be coming soon. Thank you for the prayers for our Youth! We are looking forward to a year learning, growing and serving this year.

SHINE kicked off with so many new faces we are so excited! We have announced our upcoming musical and can’t wait to share it with you all on December 13th and 14th. Mark your calendars now! We are so thankful for all the SHINE Volunteers who are helping this semester! I just wanted to make sure that they all knew how much they are valued and appreciated! It has been a great semester so far!

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



