

HIGHLIGHTS

Issue / 02/ March 2024

& HAPPENINGS



Please be aware the Church Office will be closed Monday, April 1, 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Jerry

Dear Church Family,

I am so grateful to finally be here in Goodyear!

So far this year has been all about change, transition, hellos, goodbyes, throwing out, saving, packing, unpacking, buying, selling, overcoming challenges, looking to God's future and trusting in him. It feels a lot like all of Ecclesiastes 3 rolled into a couple months of our life. Pray for Ingrid as she is 2 weeks behind me in moving because of house logistics.

I am very excited about the future of Christ Presbyterian Church! I keep meeting wonderful people, and in this first week I already see what a great staff we have. Jesus has been building his church here and there is a solid foundation for what is next. I'm looking forward to discovering that together.

Believe me when I say I want to get to know all of you! As you can imagine, that's going to take time, so please be patient with me as I learn names and faces and ministries and prayer requests and family connections. This first week has already been the proverbial drinking from a fire hose. My priority at the start is learning as much as I can and touching base with the staff and key leaders. But if you need me, I'm here. If you have a prayer request: text, call or email me. I want to go with you before the Lord.

As far as my weekday schedule, I'll be in the office Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is my day off, and for the sake of my spiritual, emotional, physical and marital health I try to honor that day as a gift from the Lord to rest and rejuvenate. Thank you for understanding.

Although there are many who have played an important role, I want to call out Claudia Honsberger and Bob Nobis for special thanks. They both went above and beyond to make it possible for God to bring me to CPC. What a blessing they have both been.

I hope that the coming weeks and months will reveal my deep love for Jesus and my growing love for CPC. I am passionate about my Lord and my faith and my church family. I hope you will be blessed by the sermon series I have prepared to take us through Easter called "Who Is This Jesus?"

May God's richest blessings fill and surround you this month!

Pastor Jerry

From the Desk of Pastor Mike

Strength in Reconciliation

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:17-20 ESV)

Another presidential election is approaching and with it the rhetoric and personal attacks that have long been a feature of them. I find it encouraging that people can hold strong positions about something that matters to them. At the same time, I find it discouraging that people – especially Christians – seem incapable of respectfully disagreeing with one another. I choose not to believe that this kind of behavior is inevitable. I choose instead to believe that we who claim to be faithful followers of Jesus can put our unity in Christ ahead of worldly divisions.

Jesus earnestly prayed that his followers would be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:20-21). He knew that we would struggle to live into this oneness. Division is real. The key to overcoming division is not to ignore it or pretend it doesn't exist but to work to defeat it in all our relationships. This happens best through reconciliation.

The word that is translated “reconciled” literally means “the exchange of hostility for a friendly relationship.” This is what Jesus accomplished in and through his death on the cross. God and humanity stood on opposite sides of a great chasm, one created by our sin and rebellion. God refused to allow this situation to define our relationship with Him. He sent Jesus to die for us (John 3:16-17). Jesus' death was the only way to bridge the gap. He reconciled us to God so that we could spend eternity with Him.

God wants us to share the gift of reconciliation with others. The difficulty is that human nature gets in the way. We want to hold on to hurts, favoring division over unity. Reconciliation is hard work because it requires us to examine our own faults and failings even as we point out the faults and failings of other. The good news is that no relationship is beyond repair. The power to heal every relationship is in each of us in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We harness that power when we seek to reconcile with one another in honesty, humility, forgiveness, and love.

This is about much more than helping the church to heal and grow. It is also how we reach out to and make connections with those outside the faith community. We are the representatives of Christ in the world. Our mandate is to show the world how to be united, not to provide it with more examples of what it means to be divided. There is far more joy to be found in reconciliation than in discord and disharmony. I see examples of this all the time. Please join me in praying for reconciliation in our church, our community, our nation, and our world and then working to be instruments of it in all our relationships both inside and outside the church.

Pastor Mike Shirey

Women's Ministry

WOW – Women of the Word – it's not just a catchy name for our Women's Fellowship – it signifies our identity as followers of Jesus. John 1:1 In the beginning there was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month at noon for a potluck lunch, devotion, bible study, or special guest speaker! We have great conversations, sharing our challenges and our triumphs. Is there a better way to spend a couple of hours with great Christian women?

In March we will be helping the Men of IAM with the Palm Sunday Breakfast! We've got some signed up for this March 24 event, but the men will appreciate as much help as we can muster. We need helpers for before the Traditional service, between services, and during the Contemporary service. Please call Becky Anderson at 623-633-2432 to let us know that you will step up to help.

Men's Ministry

Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday: Mark your calendar! Join your friends for breakfast on the Patio on Palm Sunday (March 24th). The menu includes Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes, Hash Browns, Fruit, OJ, & Coffee. The Men of IAM and Women's Ministry will be serving from 7:30 to 10:30 AM. Adults \$8; Kids 5 – 12 \$5; under 5 Free; Visitors Free. No ticket pre-sales this year – pay at the “door”. The “door” will actually be a table on the Patio.

Men of IAM March Meeting: Plan to start your day with Bible Study and Breakfast on Saturday, March 9th. We'll meet in the Auditorium at 8 AM. We're starting our study of David with Raub Randels leading the 1st lesson. These lessons use the book David – Developing a Heart for God. Ron Cole will be our Chef with Bob Gates as Sous Chef. Enjoy breakfast and Bible Study! We'll also have a very short business meeting.



GriefShare

A DivorceCare group will be starting Wednesday, March 27 month, 6-8 pm. Let your family and friends who are going through a divorce or separation that this caring Christian ministry is available to them. Call or text Becky Anderson at 623-633-2432 or Anita Dellarocca at 657-346-7405 for more information. Registration & more information is also available at GriefShare.org

New Sermon Series: "Who Is This Jesus?"

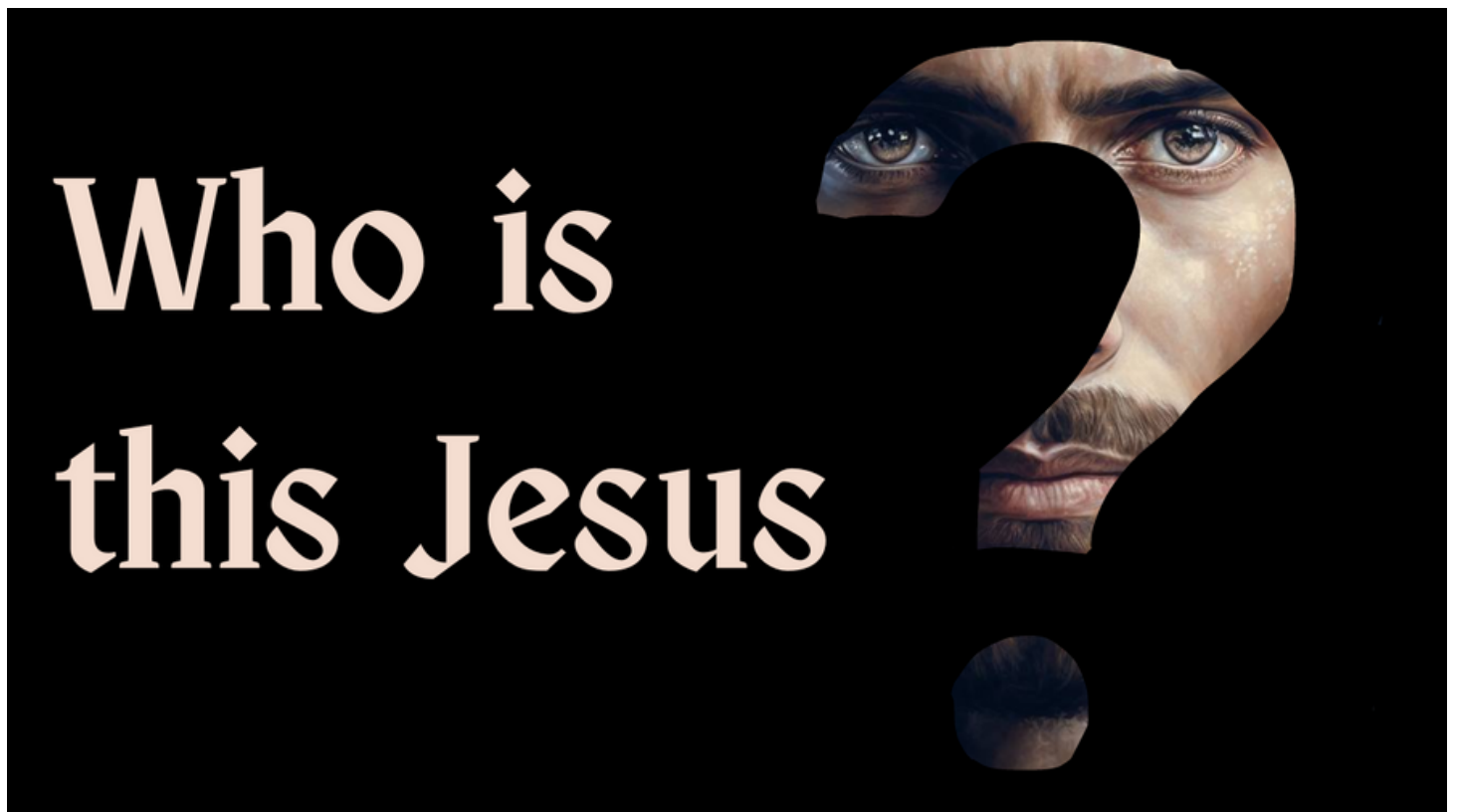
During the 6 weeks from March 3 through April 7, we will be looking at Jesus. Who he is, what he did, what his priorities were, what he came to do and what difference that makes to life today.

If you haven't been in worship recently, I encourage you to come. If you've been thinking about inviting someone to come to church with you, use the excuse of a new pastor and just do it.

I chose this series because the life of every person and every church is meant to revolve around Jesus. We are supposed to carry on his work here on earth. He wants our hearts to reflect his and our values to match his own. He wants to give us freedom and grace so that we can pass it on to others.

I pray this series will encourage, challenge and equip us to be more faithful, joyful disciple of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jerry



Arctic Kids



It's Almost Easter Y'all!

The Arctic Kids Team is gearing up for our 1st Annual Pails and Tales Family Easter Event all the while getting started on the beginning stages of VBS. Below are some details about both events as well as some needs.

We are getting ready for the Pails and Tales Family Easter Event. Thank you all so much for the donated items, so exciting! This year will look a little different than the last few years. We will have 4 stations set up in the Education Bldg and each station will be a different part of the amazing journey of learning Jesus IS Alive! Each station is designed for the entire family participation and of course, finishing the event with an Easter Egg Hunt. We need people to serve as greeters, station leaders, helpers, and registration. Needs:

- 2 youth/adults for stations
- 2 youth/adults for tour guides
- Decorating Team Tuesday, March 19th at 9 AM, we will be creating the stations, drawing large pictures, coloring cutting
- Decorating Team Thursday, March 21st at 9 AM, we will be finishing the detail

Thank you for your prayers, help, and donations
Shawna Farrish and the Arctic Kids Team

A colorful event poster for "Pails & Tales Family Easter Event". The background is light green with scattered confetti. The main title "Pails & Tales Family Easter Event" is in large, bold, purple letters. Below it, the date and time "Saturday 3.30.24 10AM - 11:30AM" are also in purple. A purple text block says "Pre Register and receive 10 additional tickets toward prizes per child." Below that, another purple text block says "Any questions please contact Shawna at 209-986-6486". At the bottom, there are four icons: a wooden cross with tulips and Easter eggs, a QR code, a family selfie, and a child with face paint. The icons are labeled "Family Selfie Area", "Age Divided Egg Hunt", and "Face Painting".

Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by Men's Ministry

Sunday 3.24.24 Palm Sunday

7:30AM - 10:30AM on CPC Patio
Adults \$8, Kids \$5 (6-12) Under 5 Free

Menu: Pancakes, Bacon,
Hashbrowns, fruit, Orange Juice
& Coffee



Easter Services

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

9AM Sanctaury

10:30AM Auditorium

Maunday-Thursday

7PM Sanctuary

Good Friday

7PM Auditorium



Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service

6AM Columbarium

Traditional Service

9AM Sanctuary

Contemporary Service

10:30AM Auditorium

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