

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS



December 2025



Merry
Christmas

*from the
Staff of CPC*

Loving **God** Serving **His World** Changing **Lives**

925 N Sarival Ave. Goodyear AZ 85338

Facebook Instagram and YouTube

Pastor's Pen

Merry Christmas CPC Family!

This is a favorite time of year for me. The decorations, the music, the mood and the story itself are all uplifting and heart-warming. There are also so many wonderful memories that come with Christmas.

I must confess, however, that it drives me a little crazy to see Christmas ads and sales pop up earlier and earlier. I guess some people like to plan way ahead! For better or worse, I'm more of a last-minute shopper.

You know who takes the cake for the longest Christmas preparation? God.

God began to plant seeds and leave hints about Jesus over a thousand years before he was actually born. These clues he left for us are called the "Messianic Prophecies."

They are scattered across the whole Old Testament. The very first one is found in Genesis 3:15, which speaks of him crushing the head of the serpent. The final OT prophecy is found in Malachi 4:2, which says, "the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings." (Bonus question: do you recall which famous Christmas carol uses these words?)

On each of the Sundays in Advent this year, we will be looking at a few of the great Messianic Prophecies. They teach us about who Jesus is and why he came and what we have to look forward to. This is a season of hope, joy, peace and love. I hope you experience each of these this year.

Sometimes Christmas can be difficult. The Lord knows there are lots of emotions and expectations, memories and even hurts that surface around this time. I pray for the grace and peace of God to flow into your life no matter what your circumstances are.

I can't wait to celebrate with all of you this month!

Like a kid,
Pastor Jerry

Pastor Mike's Memo

2025 Deacon Highlights

The CPC Deacon Board spent time this year reorganizing how we complete the tasks with which we have been entrusted. Our Greeter & Usher Team deploys people to greet, hand out bulletins, and collect the offering at both services. Contact Greg Soyka (1st service), Jennifer Hartwig (2nd service) or the church office to share in this ministry.

Our Bereavement Ministry focuses on memorial services and funerals held at our church. Our goal is to provide families with a stress-free time and place where they can celebrate their loved one's life and receive comfort and support. It involves being present for the families to answer questions, give directions, and show compassion.

Another focus is food – fellowship time on Sunday morning and other events in the life of the church. We prepare beverages and set out refreshments before and after each service and to clean up afterwards. We owe a debt of gratitude to Bob & Donna Gates for their faithfulness to this ministry. Please speak to them if you can help in some way.

The deacons also prepare the elements for communion, clean up, and ensure that the homebound receive communion monthly or as needed. We are always looking for people who are willing to serve. We provide all the necessary training and always pair experienced people with those just starting out. You can help with any of these ministries even if you are not currently a deacon. Contact Pastor Mike or the church office for more information or to help with any of these ministries.

Prayer Needs

We have several people in the church who are shut-in or otherwise unable to attend church regularly. Some of these folks would appreciate calls, texts, or cards. Here is the current list: Carol Phillips (Scott), and Tom and Bridget Gill. If you know of any other people who would appreciate visits or prayer, please let Pastor Mike know at pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org.

A Letter from the Staff

As we close out this year and step into the season of Advent with grateful hearts, we find ourselves reflecting on God's goodness and the many ways He has moved in and through our church family.

December is always a time to pause, breathe, and remember the One who came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love into our world—and we pray you feel His presence in a special way during this blessed and Spirit-filled Christmas season.

This past year, our staff has had the privilege of watching the CPC family grow—not just in numbers, but in connection, community, and faith. Together, we have sought to live out our mission, “Loving God, Serving His World, and Changing Lives,” with heart, purpose, and conviction. We’ve also spent intentional time discovering and embracing our vision:

In joyful gratitude to God, we are reaching out with the love of Jesus to create a community where everyone belongs. By the power of the Spirit, we are building lifelong disciples, equipping faithful servants and growing healthy families, to impact the world.

—a reminder of who God is calling us to be as we move forward in unity and hope.

As we look to the year ahead, our prayer is that each of us—staff and congregation alike—will go about our daily lives remembering what God has called us to do, where He has placed us, and how He invites us to shine His light in every space we enter.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you for your encouragement, partnership, and support. Serving this church family is a gift, and we are deeply grateful for the ways you bless us throughout the year.

May the Lord surround you with joy, fill your homes with peace, and draw you near to Him this Christmas and into the new year.

With warmth, gratitude, and many blessings.

The CPC Staff

Prayer Corner

PRAYER IS FILLING THE GAS TANK

I drive a rather old care with 130,000 miles on it - a big car that "floats" down the highway. I don't like the newer SUVs. They ride too hard. It may be fashionable to drive them, but I am old enough that I don't need to be fashionable. I can say I like to float rather than bounce down the highway. I really don't care what other people say.

Imagine that it's Sunday morning about ten minutes before worship time at your church and that I'm going to be preaching there. You notice me pushing a big old car down the road. It dawns on you that I am the guest preacher, and it's clear that I'm never going to arrive on time. I'm right in front of an open gas station about a five minute drive from the church and I'm passing the station! You slam on your brakes, hop out of the car, and ask me, "What's the matter? Why are you pushing your car?"

I brush some perspiration of my forehead and reply that my car happens to be out of gas.

"Why, then, are you pushing it past the gas station?" you ask. "Push it into the station, and fill it up!"

"But," I protest, "I don't have time to stop for gas. I have only ten minutes left to get to church. I can't be distracted by anything. I must be on my way!"

My reply is so foolish that it's hard to comprehend. No one in his right mind would be too busy to fill up if he were out of gas. No one would push his car past a gas station because he was in a hurry to get somewhere.

Think of this illustration whenever you want a good example of a prayerless Christian. The vast majority of Christians in our society claim they don't have time to pray. But that excuse is as senseless as my saying I don't have time to stop and fill my gas tank.

Prayer is the relationship in which we stop, right where we are, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Without Him we can do nothing. "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me" (John 15:4). Just as a branch apart from the life of the vine is fruitless, so we are empty apart from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit of God is given to every believer upon being born again—for there is never new life apart from His presence—there are many descriptions of being filled with the Holy Spirit in exceptional ways (see Luke 1:15; 4:1; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9, 52). The distinction made in all these passages—namely, that these people were filled with the Holy Spirit—is a distinction over other Christians who had the Holy Spirit but did not give evidence of that kind of filling.

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Prayer Corner

We are called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, neither resisting nor grieving Him, so that every aspect of our being may surrender to and be saturated with His holy presence.

The Holy Spirit's power flows into us during regular times of prayer and praise. Jesus told us, as we will see in more detail later in this book, that we are to be "yoked" to Him-and when that happens, His power flows into us (see Mat. 11:29-30). The "yoke" of which He speaks is the "yoke" of prayer.

Prayer, then, so far more than merely a relationship, even more than a dependent relationship upon God. It is a relationship of empowerment. In simple language, it is the time when our spiritual gas tank is filled with the power of the Spirit of God.

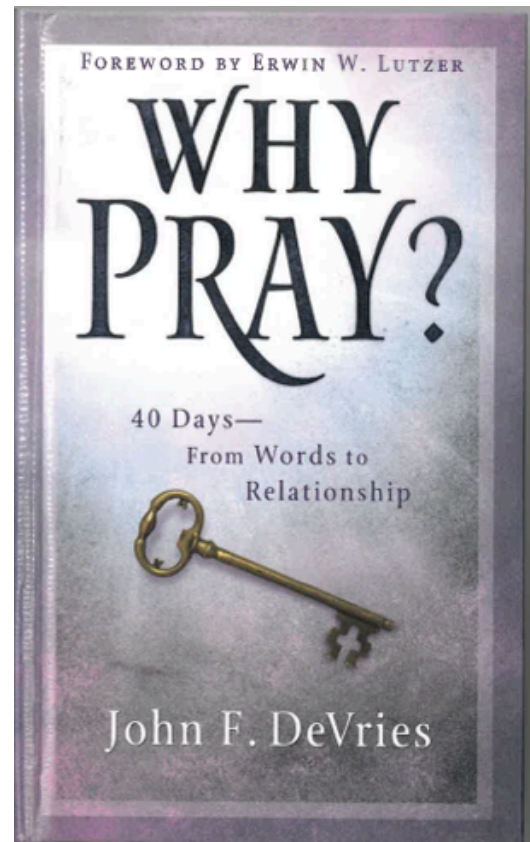
PRAYER IS FILLING THE GAS TANK
REFLECT/DISCUSS:

Describe times when you prayed and did not feel empowered but rather felt as weak and limp as when you started. Why didn't the power flow?

MEDITATE:

Prayer is not a program but a dependent relationship upon God, through which we are empowered and filled by His Holy

From: "Why Pray?" by John F. DeVries
Submitted by Bob Shelton



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery

Do you have a hurt, a habit, or a hang-up that you can't seem to shake? Celebrate Recovery may be the answer to your struggle. Celebrate Recovery is NOT solely for the chemically dependent and has great lessons to overcome many temptations. It is a faith journey as much as it is a journey of recovery. We started a group here at CPC in October and will open it to the public in January. If you would like to be part of the group, or for more information, please contact Pastor Mike at pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org.

GriefShare

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Our next session of Grief Share begins on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 10 AM in Room 202. Please visit griefshare.org to sign up today. If you have any questions please email Sharon at sharon@offerdahl.com

ARC Blood Drive

American Red Cross Blood Drive News
The next Red Cross Blood Drive that CPC will host is on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

Why does CPC host Red Cross Blood Drives?

We host Red Cross Blood Drives to provide a place in the West Valley for people to donate. We typically host drives on a Saturday so working people have an opportunity to donate.

Why donate blood?

Science has not yet been able to replicate human blood. Blood and blood products are vital for survival. Every three seconds someone needs a blood transfusion. The only way they can receive a transfusion is from blood donors.

Why volunteer to help with blood drives even if you can't donate?

"Many hands make light work." There are things that happen behind the scenes before, during, and after a blood drive. No one person can do it alone. Volunteer positions include: recruiting donors; clearing the auditorium before the drive; greeting & registering donors; monitoring the canteen & thanking donors; clean up & reset the auditorium after the drive for Sunday worship.

Who do I contact to volunteer to help?

Marje Shirey is our current "Blood Program Leader". Her contact information is: 309-712-6482 or mrs.shirey62@gmail.com. She is always looking for people who would like to serve on a Blood Drive Team.

Missions

Your generosity made a huge impact! We filled 163 Operation Christmas Boxes this year! These gift-filled shoeboxes will soon be delivered to children in need around the world—especially those affected by war, poverty, and disaster. Please keep these boxes in your prayers for a safe journey and that they bring hope and joy wherever they go.



Thanksgiving Community Outreach Program

Thanksgiving is a time for sharing, and CPC stepped up in a big way! We donated \$4,000 to help cover the cost of the meat vouchers for the Thanksgiving meal boxes. Each box includes:

- boxed potatoes and gravy
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Boxed dessert
- A \$20 Walmart voucher for a turkey, ham, or fresh produce.

Thank you for helping us make this holiday special for families in need!

Mobile Food Bank – Volunteers Needed

CPC participated in the monthly Mobile Food Bank Distribution at Skyway Church (14900 W Van Buren St, Goodyear) on the 4th Saturday of each month. Volunteers are welcome anytime between 7:00AM and 10:00 AM – or come at 10:00AM if you'd like to help with cleanup!

Upcoming Dates:

- December 20th (adjusted for Christmas)
- January 24th
- February 28th

Mark your calendar for Saturday February 21, 2026 from 9am to 11am at 1100 West Grove Parkway, Tempe, AZ. 85283. We've reserved 25 spots for this amazing event where we'll pack meals to help eliminate childhood starvation worldwide.

If you would like to participate, email Pam Bakker at Pambakker@gmail.com by January 31, 2026. Learn more about the organization at <https://www.fmssc.org> In 2024, FMSC sent food to 58 countries.

As we celebrate the season of giving, let's remember that every act of kindness, big or small, creates ripples of hope. Together, we are making a difference in our community and beyond. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!



Women of the Word

You're Invited! Women's Christmas Bible Study

Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 AM

Led by Pastor Jerry Cooper

Join us for a cozy, joy-filled morning as we open God's Word together and reflect on the hope of the season! Pastor Jerry will guide us through a Christmas Scripture study designed to encourage, uplift, and center our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas.

Expect:

- ✦ Hot coffee
- ✦ A beautiful time of sharing and fellowship
- ✦ A festive holiday atmosphere
- ✦ A meaningful Bible study—full of hope, truth, and joy

Bring your friends, your favorite Christmas mug, and your holiday spirit! Let's kick off the season together as sisters in Christ.

Men of IAM

Steak & Eggs Breakfast

The proper theological title for Pastor Jerry's lesson is "The Incarnate Manhood of Jesus" The cheesy title: "Was Jesus a lady's man or a man's man?" You don't want to miss this!

Also, we have a great menu: Steak, Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Fresh Fruit, Biscuits, OJ, and Coffee.

Tickets are \$10 (instead of the usual \$5) to help defray the cost of the steaks

Arctic Kids Ministry

A Wonderful November – Thank You! November was a meaningful month in Arctic Kids! Our Jonah rotation taught children about listening to God, trusting His plan, and growing a thankful heart. Their excitement and curiosity made each Sunday an adventure.

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped make Fall Into Community such a joyful success! Whether you hosted a booth, brought chili, volunteered, or simply came to enjoy the afternoon—you helped bless our church and neighbors. The fellowship, laughter, and fun were unforgettable!

December in Arctic Kids – Advent: The Angels' Messages

This Advent season, we are exploring the moments when God sent His angels to share the greatest news the world would ever hear. Each week, children will journey through the story of Jesus' birth as they discover:

Week 1: An Angel Visits Zechariah
– God prepares the way for Jesus through John the Baptist.

Week 2: An Angel Visits Mary
– A message of hope and the promise of the Savior.

Week 3: An Angel Visits Joseph
– God reassures Joseph of His perfect plan.

Week 4: Angels Visit the Shepherds
– Joy bursts into the night sky as Jesus is born.

Through crafts, activities, storytelling, and hands-on lessons, your children will experience the wonder of Christmas in a meaningful and memorable way.

A Season of Blessing

As we move toward Christmas, we pray your home is filled with peace, hope, and joy. May this Advent season bring moments of rest, reflection, and togetherness as your family celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Looking Back With Gratitude

As we close out the year, our hearts are full. Thank you for supporting Arctic Kids, partnering with us, and sharing your children with our team.

From learning about Creation, Ruth, Job, and Jonah to entering Advent—your kids have grown in faith, joy, and understanding. It has been a blessing to walk beside them each week.

Merry Christmas from the Arctic Kids Team! May the miracle of Jesus' birth fill your family with light, love, and joy this season.

In His Shadow,

Shauna Farrish



CPC Financial Overview

October 2025

Summary	Oct 2025	YTD
Income	\$44,241.41	\$581,958.50
Expenses	-\$63,151.57	-\$586,100.54
NET	-\$18,910.16	-\$4,142.04

Nominating Committee

Completed form turned in by
Sunday December 7, 2025

This Child Shall Be Our Peace

CPC Goodyear Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 14, 6PM

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 18, 2025
at 7PM in Sanctuary

Honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

Happenings

December Save the Dates:

12.13 Men, 8 AM & Women's, 10 AM Bible Study
12.14 CPC Christmas Concert, 6PM
12.18 Blue Christmas, 7PM
12.24 Christmas Eve Services, 4 & 7PM
12.24 - 26 Office Closed
12.31 - 1.2.26 Office Closed

Women's Bible Study December 13, 2025

Led by Pastor Jerry

Bring your favorite Christmas Mug
and join us for a morning of
Jesus & fellowship

Steak & Egg Breakfast
hosted by Men of IAM

Saturday, December 13
8AM Auditorium
\$10

Speaker: Pastor Jerry

Christ Presbyterian Church Goodyear

Our Vision

In joyful gratitude to God, we are reaching out with the love of Jesus to create a community where everyone belongs. By the power of the Spirit, we are building lifelong disciples, equipping faithful servants and growing healthy families to impact the world.

Our Mission

Loving God, Serving His World, Changing Lives

Staff

Senior Pastor: Jerry Cooper
jerry@cpcgoodyear.org

Assistant Pastor: Mike Shirey
pastormike@cpcgoodyear.org

Traditional Worship Leader: Shanna Steinback
choir_director@cpcgoodyear.org

Contemporary Worship Leader:
Open

Pianist: Vitaly Serebriakov
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