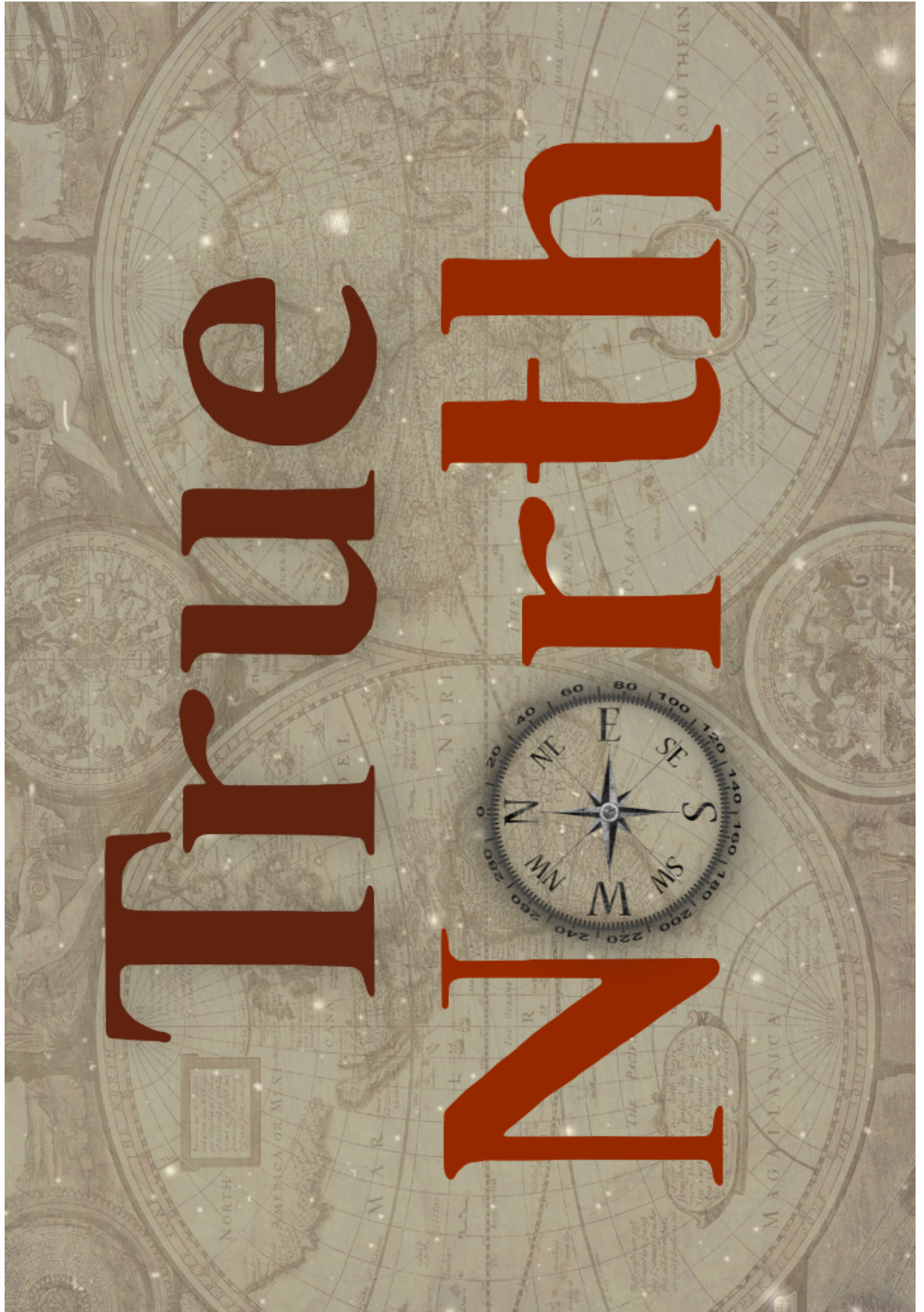


HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Loving God Serving His World Changing Lives

January 2026



Pastor's Pen

]Happy New Year!

Dear CPC Family,

I am excited about 2026.

2025 was a year full of worshipping God, growing ministries, building relationships, serving our community and gaining momentum as a church. There are so many wonderful things that happened, I'm not even going to start to list them.

By all accounts, 2026 is going to be another incredible year. The biggest "new" thing for us is going to be the search for our new Pastor of Youth, Family and Outreach. Right now we are working to finalize the search committee. You'll get more updates as we move forward.

What I am excited about this month is the start of our new Discipleship Event. It's called:

True North: Navigating Life with the Right Map

It's both a 6-week sermon series and an accompanying 6-week Connect Group study.

Each Sunday, we'll take a look at some key questions: Who is God? Who am I? How did God design this life to work? What is my purpose? Why does it matter?

The answers are fundamental to how we live life every day and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this world.

But we all need more than a sermon for our lives to really grow in Christ. We need time to reflect on the truth of God and we need to grow together with others for insight and encouragement. That's where Connect Groups come in.

During the week, our Connect groups will be digging deeper into God's truth and also applying it to our lives. Truth without application builds a callous on our spirit. I hope you want to grow together with other members of our church family. Remember, we never stop growing in Christ. That's why one part of our vision is "Growing Lifelong Disciples."

I hope you'll make the time in your schedule to join a Connect Group this month. It's only 6 weeks, but it will change the rest of your year. Pastor Mike and our "Growing Disciples" team are working hard to make sure we have Connect Groups every night of the week so you can find one that fits your schedule.

I am excited about what God is doing among us. I love hearing stories about how Jesus is changing lives, healing hearts, strengthening relationships and bringing hope. That's what being a church is all about.

God's richest blessings upon all of us!

Pastor Jerry

Pastor Mike's Memo

More 2025 Deacon Highlights

In my December article, I outlined the ministries for which our deacons are responsible. I saved the most important one for my article this month.

Many Presbyterian churches assign pastoral care responsibilities to the deacons. This takes different forms, often depending on local traditions.

When I arrived here at CPC in late 2017, every member of the church was assigned to a Care Community which was under the care of a deacon. The goal was for each deacon to make regular contact with each member of his or her Care Community to assess needs and to contact the pastors if necessary.

The Care Community model served us well until shortly after we began to emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown. Changes in the size of the deacon board and church membership made it necessary for us to reevaluate how best to respond to the spiritual needs of the church. Our solution was to develop a team of deacons who are passionate about spiritual care to assist the pastors with visits and other forms of contact.

This is a work in progress, but we hope to have it fully functional in the next few months. Once complete, we will share the names of the team members and their contact information in the newsletter, bulletin, and e-blast.

We ask for your prayers and your patience as we work to improve this aspect of the deacon's ministry.

Ministry Opportunity

We have several people in the church who are shut-in, unable to attend church regularly, or need prayer. Here is the current list: Carol Phillips (Scott), Tom and Bridget Gill, Dick Huesby, Dave Eckert, and Marion Thomas. If you know of any other people who would appreciate visits or prayer, please let Pastor Mike know at pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org.

A Note from Stewardship

Stewardship Update: Gratitude and Momentum for the Year Ahead

As we begin a new year together, we are filled with gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity of the CPC family. Our recent Stewardship season was a great start as we look toward the future God is calling us to build together.

We are excited to share that nearly two-thirds of participating households increased their gift intentions for the coming year. This reflects a deep commitment to CPC's mission and a shared desire to see us continue to grow and thrive. In addition, 37 new families submitted a gift intention this year, a wonderful sign of new engagement and a growing sense of belonging within our church family.

Because of your generosity, we received a total pledged amount of over \$546,000. These commitments will allow the Session to faithfully plan and support the ministries that nurture disciples, strengthen families, and extend Christ's love into our community and beyond.

Looking ahead, your generosity also moves us closer to an important long-term goal: increasing our giving capacity to support the future hiring of full-time Pastor for Youth, Family, and Outreach. While we are not there yet, this year's stewardship results are a meaningful and hopeful step in that direction.

Thank you for your prayerful participation, your generosity, and your belief in what God is doing at CPC. We trust that God will continue to guide us, provide for us, and use our shared gifts to make a lasting impact in the year ahead.

Missions



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:

- 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.

Prayer Corner

PRAYER IS "BEING A FRIEND IN THE MIDDLE"

The words, spoken with a heavy southern drawl, still ring in my mind. My good friend Dr. Wilson Benton proclaimed, "We are to be friends in the middle in the middle of the night!" That was the interpretation of prayer, based on Luke 11:5-13.

In that passage Jesus tells us that prayer is like friend in the middle. A person opens his home at midnight to a hungry friend who has been on a long journey. Out of courtesy the friend must feed this traveler, but there is no bread in his home. So he goes to the house of a wealthy friend who surely has bread, knocks hard on the door, and wakes him from a deep sleep, shouting that he needs bread. The wealthy friend is irritated and tries to send the noisy neighbor away, but the man continues shouting. Finally, the wealthy friend has no choice but to get up and give some bread to the man and send him on his way. This is a parable about prayer, for it tells of our position in relation to the needs of the world, our inability to meet those needs, and our link to the One who can meet them.

The needs. The friend in the middleman, was compelled to act. He could not ignore his friend's need for food. Not only did he have to be hospitable, but apparently, he was moved by his friend's need. He felt so deeply about it that he did not want to leave it till morning. It was something he had to act on right away,

People who pray have developed not only a relationship with the Father but also a deep sense of the needs in their Father's world. They see these needs with broken and compassionate hearts.

Harold Lindsell observed at Billy Graham's 25th anniversary of crusade Ministry that the measure of spiritual maturity is not in the heights of ecstasy Christians achieve in worship but rather in the pain of a broken heart over the agony and needs of the world.

Lindsell urged the audience to join the company of the brokenhearted and to stand with Jesus as He wept over Jerusalem. A person who is in a living prayer relationship with God is also in a living, painful relationship with the world! It is impossible to be in good standing with God without seeing around us the heartaches that God sees.

Our inability to meet the needs. Why do we so often look away from the needs around us? Because we are unable to meet those needs. In Acts 3:1-10 Peter and John looked a lame beggar straight in the eye; they could look at his need because they knew what to do about it. They knew that in themselves they couldn't meet the man's need. That they knew they could take it to God and that the power of Jesus' name could heal him.

How often do you look away from the family quarreling down the street or the problems of your inner city because you have little confidence in your relationship with the Source of all blessings? We are crippled not only in our inability to meet needs but also by our lack of faith that God will meet those needs. And much of the time we don't bring those needs to Him in prayer.

Prayer Corner

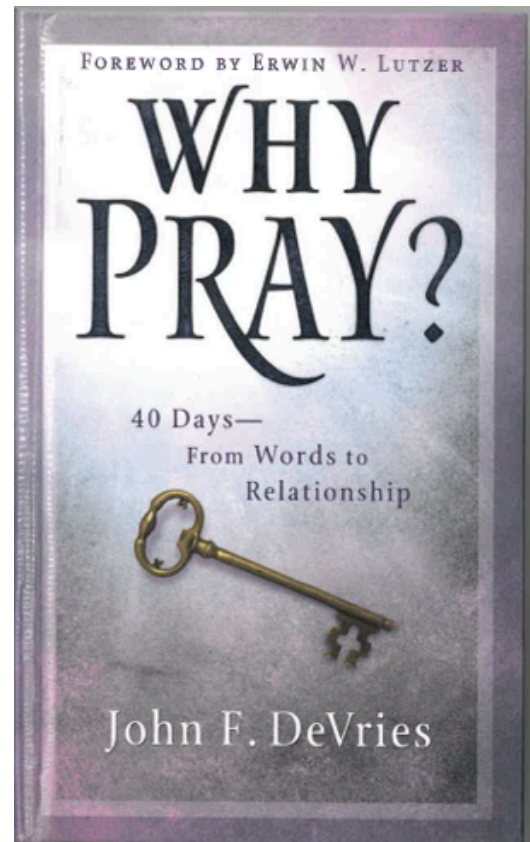
The joy and excitement of being a follower of Christ is found right here: in being able to look at the needs of the world and to know you have something significant to give toward every single need!

Knowing Who can meet the needs. The middleman gave what he had - namely, his relationship to his wealthy friend. He went to the wealthy friend in urgency knowing that the need had to be met, confident that this person had bread and would share it.

Near my home is an inner-city apartment complex of a hundred units. They are filled mainly with fatherless families and illegal immigrants. Crime was so high that the police responded to fifteen calls there every day.

But seven senior women in a neighboring church decided to become "friends in the middle" by praying for that housing complex. They began intensive prayer, and as a result, two years later, the police reported less than fifteen calls for an entire summer! Much happened, of course, to bring about this amazing answer to prayer, but it was the "friends in the middle" in the form of seven elderly women who started the flow of blessings. They could never minister on-site in such a situation, but they could pray.

MEDITATE: Prayer is a dependent relationship in which we are empowered and enfolded into God and in which we link the needs to God's infinite resources.



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. **Our first meeting of 2026 will be Friday, January 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** and every Friday thereafter. These meetings are open to the public. 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

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at CPC is on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

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.

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.

Men of IAM

Men of IAM Bible Study and Meeting:

Plan to join us on Saturday, January 10th, at 8 AM in the Auditorium. We'll start with a great breakfast prepared by Chef Pastor Mike. Our Bible Study will be led by Bob Nobis. The lesson will be "They Don't Always Listen" based on 1 Kings 12:1-20. Our Study Guide is Growing Older and Wiser.

We will have a business meeting to discuss and decide on the future of the Men of IAM. If you have an opinion, now's your chance.

Arctic Kids Ministry

December Recap & Looking Ahead to the New Year

As we close out December and look ahead to a new year, our hearts are full of gratitude and excitement. This past month, our Arctic Kids walked through Advent by learning about the angels God sent to share the good news of Jesus' birth. It was a beautiful reminder that God uses ordinary people—and even children—to share His extraordinary love.

We are so excited to see how Arctic Kids will continue to grow and shine as a light in their families, church, schools, and community in the year ahead.

More Than Church Attenders – The Hands & Feet of Jesus

This year, our focus has been helping children understand that following Jesus means more than just coming to church—it means living out His love. Scripture reminds us of this calling:

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” –James 2:17

Because of this, you may have noticed our Arctic Kids stepping into meaningful roles within our church body—greeting, ushering, collecting the offering, reading Scripture, and actively participating in worship. These moments matter. They teach our children that they belong to the Body of Christ and that God can use them right now.

Serving Beyond Our Walls – Feed My Starving Children February

We are also encouraging all Arctic Kids families to serve together at Feed My Starving Children. We will meet at the church and caravan to Tempe to work alongside others packing food for children in need around the world.

- Children 5 years old and up may serve alongside their parents
- This is a wonderful way to live out Christ's love as a family

See the information below and sign up today!!!



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@ymail.com by January 31, 2026. Learn more about the organization at <https://www.fmssc.org> In 2024, FMSC sent food to 58 countries.

Arctic Kids Ministry

Important Family Ministry Notice - Serving Together

To help reinforce that church is something we participate in, not just attend, we are asking each Arctic Kids family to serve one Sunday a month. You will be placed in a classroom other than your child's.

We ask you to arrive at Arctic Kids Check-In no later than 10:00 AM. You'll help greet children, assist with games, reading, and crafts.

You will be scheduled in month's in advance and reminded through email monthly, 3 days and 24 hours prior to your Sunday of service. You will receive your schedule no later than January 7, for now thru the Season of Lent.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, we ask that you: Find a replacement from the list provided in the calendar/email, then email the ministry team with the update.

If you are still unable to find a replacement or serve, please text Shawna as soon as possible.

❏ Questions or concerns?

Contact Shawna Farrish

Phone: 209-986-6486

Thank you for partnering with us, serving with joy, and for trusting the Arctic Kids team with your children. We are so grateful for you and look forward to all that God will do in and through our kids in the coming year.

Here's to a new year of shining brightly for Jesus! ✨❄️

Shawna Farrish
Director of Children's Ministry
Arctic Kids

Happenings

Family Worship Sunday Sunday Jan. 4

Traditional & Contemporary Services
1st- 5th Graders — Join your
families in worship!

6 Weeks — Pre-K Grade: Drop off in the
Education Wing before service starts.

Directory Addendum

Found a correction to be made?

Submit your changes by
Connect Card or by email to
Shawna@cpcgoodyear.org
We will issue an addendum
in January.

"True North"

is coming to CPC in January
A 6-week program where Sunday
preaching is connected
to weekday study groups
sign ups January 4 & 11

"Navigating Life with the Right Map"

GriefShare®

New group begins Tuesday,
January 13 at 10AM Ed. Bldg. 202

Contact Sharon at 602-882-3144
to sign up or visit
www.griefshare.org

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
vserebriakoff@gmail.com

Media Director: Austyn Damon
austyn@cpcgoodyear.org

Assistant Media Director: Kathryn Denny
katymdenny@gamil.com

Administrator & Children's Ministry Director: Shawna Farrish
shawna@cpcgoodyear.org

Youth Ministry Director: Dr. Jayson Black
youth_director@cpcgoodyear.org

Bookkeeper & IT Director: John Merrill
johnm@cpcgoodyear.org