

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Loving God Serving His World Changing Lives

March 2026



Pastor Jerry's Thoughts

Dear CPC Family,

We are now in the middle of the season of Lent, which I try to think of as a season of simplicity.

Many of you grew up celebrating Lent, but many did not. Just for a little review, Lent comprises the 40 days leading up to Easter, not counting Sundays. So it begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

The whole aim of Lent is to help us prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Easter with the greatest joy, gratitude and honor for God. This requires introspection. It takes the ability to slow down and remember what Jesus has done for us. It takes looking around us and seeing God's hand of grace at work every day. It means quieting our minds enough to let the Holy Spirit speak to us and show us where we have left the path as well as guide us back onto it.

Life is often too full of busy-ness, noise, entertainment and anxiety for us to let God speak into our lives. We need more simplicity. We need to slow down. We need to focus. We need to listen.

I chose to preach on the Beatitudes this month as a way of slowing down, focusing and listening. These simple statements of Jesus in Matthew 5, that start the Sermon on the Mount are profound, simple and surprising. They

describe our new perspective on life as disciples of Jesus Christ. In many ways, these treasures of wisdom grow out of our last sermon series on True North. The Beatitudes are countercultural. They point us to True North.

I was being a bit funny and facetious when I said I was giving up long sermons for Lent, but I was also being serious and intentional. The True North series covered a lot of ground spiritually as we looked at foundational truth versus cultural delusions. The Beatitudes are going to narrow down and focus on our hearts in a different way, and I don't want to overcomplicate them. I want the simplicity of these truths to shine through.

I hope you'll join me in simplifying and refocusing this month. I would also encourage you to add one thing to your schedule this season. If you aren't already a part of a Connect Group here at CPC, why don't you think about joining your brothers and sisters to dig deeper into the Beatitudes and together apply God's word to life. Following Jesus in community is always better, and that's exactly how Jesus designed it. You might remember that he led a connect group called "the twelve disciples."

For God's Glory Alone,

Pastor Jerry

Update from AP Search

We have almost completed the job description for our future Youth, Families, and Outreach Pastor.

The team has a goal to have this released by March 15, 2026. So we ask that you continue pray for our future Pastor and us. Asking God to share his wisdom and direction with us.

We will continue to update monthly.

Jerry Trecco
Personnel Elder

Men of IAM

Plan to join us for Bible Study and Christian fellowship on Saturday, March 14th. We'll meet from 8:30 to 9:30 in the Auditorium. Jim Rains will lead this session of our ongoing study from Growing Older and Wiser. This lesson is entitled "Dealing with Fears".

Women of the Word

Plan to join us in the Auditorium on Saturday, March 14 from 10AM to 11AM

Secret Sister

♥ Secret Sister 2026 –
Join the Sisterhood of Prayer & Encouragement

The CPC Secret Sister Ministry is back for 2026, and we would love for YOU to be part of this special sisterhood!

Being a Secret Sister means committing to be a year-long prayer warrior for another woman in our church family. Throughout the year, you'll encourage your assigned sister through:

- Faithful and intentional prayer
- Notes and letters of encouragement
- Small, thoughtful gifts (completely optional, but always appreciated!)

It's a beautiful way to build connection, strengthen faith, and remind one another that no one walks alone.

How to Join:

- Stop by the Secret Sister Table in the Café
- Pick up and complete an information form
- Return your completed form to Shawna by Wednesday, March 4

If you are unable to stop by in person but would still like to participate, please contact Shawna at shawna@cpcgoodyear.org to get signed up. Important Dates:

- Forms due: Wednesday, March 4
- New Secret Sisters assigned: Sunday, March 8, 2026
- (Check the Secret Sister table for an envelope with your name!)

And yes – snowbirds are absolutely welcome! We have simple ways to coordinate during the months you are out of Arizona, so don't let travel keep you from participating.

There is something incredibly powerful about knowing someone is specifically praying for you all year long. Join us in 2026 and be part of this meaningful ministry of prayer, encouragement, and Christian sisterhood. ♥

Missions



Mobile Food Bank – Volunteers Needed

CPC continues to participate in the monthly Mobile Food Bank Distribution to help serve families in our community. We volunteer on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Skyway Church
14900 W Van Buren St Goodyear
7:00AM and 10:00 AM.

Upcoming Volunteer Dates:

- March 28th
- April 25th

We would love to serve alongside you as we help provide essential food to families in need.

Meal-Packing Events – Thank you
A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the meal packing event on Saturday, February 21st. Thanks to your hard work, our team helped pack 37,284 meals, enough to feed 103 children for an entire year! We are grateful for your time, compassion, and willingness to serve.

Upcoming Packing Events:
We have two additional events scheduled and hope you can join us.

 May 16, 2026

 9:00–11:00 AM

 August 15, 2026

 9:00–11:00 AM

 1100 West Grove Parkway, Tempe, AZ 85283



We have 25 spots reserved-please consider volunteering for one or both events.

How You Can Support

- Pray for the individuals receiving these meals—that they and their families will continue to receive the food needed.
- Consider volunteering at one of our upcoming service opportunities.
- Share these opportunities with friends or family who may want to join.

Every act of kindness—big or small—creates ripples of hope.

Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community and around the world.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

Contact: Pam Bakker – 602-689-1122 or pambakker@gmail.com with any questions.

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.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous but is not associated with AA. CR also uses 8 Recovery Principles from derived from the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-11) It is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ to heal us from our hurts, habits, and hang-ups and grow in our faith.

Celebrate Recovery is NOT solely for the chemically dependent. More than half the people who regularly attend CR are struggling with food, codependency, anger, and dysfunctional relationships, among other issues.

CR is a faith journey as much as it is a journey of recovery. Those who commit to working the steps and principles grow in their faith as they deal with the issues in their lives. While it can be a painful and difficult process, the growth that comes from working the program more than compensates for the struggle.

CR focuses on living in freedom from our problems instead of just stopping what we know we should not be doing as followers of Jesus. There is something for everyone regardless of the nature of the struggle.

CR at CPC meets every Friday evening, 6:30-8:00 p.m. We always start and end on time. Everyone is welcome to come and check it out. Each meeting begins with teaching or a testimony in large group followed by a small group time for men and women to share.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Pastor Mike at pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org.

Financial Statement

CPC Financial Overview Jan 2026

Summary	Jan-26	2026 YTD
Income	\$75,142.27	\$75,142.27
Expenses	\$56,373.46	\$56,373.46
NET	\$18,768.81	\$18,768.81

Our Daily Bread Devotional

We are so blessed that the Men of IAM faithfully provide a free daily devotional for our church family through Our Daily Bread Ministries. These powerful little booklets are filled with Scripture and encouragement to help you stay rooted in God's Word each day.

They are printed quarterly—copies from the current quarter are still available, and the next quarter will be ready beginning Sunday, March 8.

Be sure to grab one in the Sanctuary foyer (Media rack to the left of the exit door) or from the media rack in the Auditorium, (hanging on the front of the sound booth.)

Pick one up for yourself—and maybe one to share!

Arctic Kids Ministry

February Recap – The Miracles of Jesus February was full of awe and excitement as our Arctic Kids explored the Miracles of Jesus! From calming the storm to feeding thousands, our kids discovered that Jesus is powerful, compassionate, and always present. It has been beautiful to watch their faith deepen as they learn to trust Him more each week. Thank you for continuing these conversations at home!

March Lessons – Jesus & the Lent Season In March, our Sunday School rotation will focus on Jesus during the Lent season as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Each week will highlight a meaningful moment in Jesus' journey:

Week 1 – Science Room:

Jesus Prays in the Wilderness. Children will explore what it means to trust God when facing challenges and how Jesus relied on prayer.

Week 2 – Kitchen Room:

The Last Supper

Through hands-on food activities, kids will learn about communion, remembrance, and Jesus' love shown through serving others.

Week 3 – Art Room:

Jesus Loves Us So Much

A creative week focused on understanding the depth of Christ's love and the sacrifice He made for us.

These lessons will help our kids reflect, understand, and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Easter in meaningful, age-appropriate ways.

 **Hosanna Dash** – March 29 (Palm Sunday) 

Get ready for one of our most exciting Sundays of the year! During 10:30 AM Service, Arctic Kids will host our 1st Ever Hosanna Dash – Color Run!

What is a Color Run?

A color run is a high-energy celebration where kids run and cheer while volunteers toss safe, washable colored powder as they pass by. By the end, their shirts become bright reminders of celebrating Jesus as King and shouting “Hosanna!”

**It's joyful.
It's colorful.
It's unforgettable.**

Important Parent Reminder
Please send your child in:

- ✓ “PE-style” play clothes
- ✓ Tennis shoes
- ✓ Clothes you don't mind getting colorful
-  **No good clothes, please!**

We will provide a special event shirt for each child to wear during the run. We are so excited to journey through Lent together and celebrate Palm Sunday in such a joyful way.

Thank you for partnering with us as we help Arctic Kids grow in faith and shine brightly for Jesus!

In His Service,
Shauna Farrish

Volunteers Needed: Palm Sunday Color Run & Easter Scavenger Hunt!

Arctic Kids is getting ready for TWO of our biggest outreach Sundays of the year – and we need YOU to help make it unforgettable!

On Palm Sunday, our kids will run the Hosanna Dash (Color Run) – a high-energy Gospel experience walking/running through the Roman Road of Salvation.

On Easter Sunday, we'll host our exciting Arctic Kids Easter Scavenger Hunt, welcoming guests and new families as we celebrate that Jesus is alive!

These events are powerful opportunities to love families well – and it takes a team.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 HOSANNA DASH HELPERS

We're looking for: (All under Shade)

 Station Volunteers

Smile, greet kids, and just be visible.

 Crowd Control / Flow Leaders

Help release groups safely and keep traffic moving between stations.

 T-Shirt Team

Assist families with shirt pickup and help kids get ready before the run.

 Children's Check-In Support

Welcome families and help check kids in smoothly.

EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT, APRIL 5, 2026 HELPERS

We're looking for:

 Greeters

Welcome families with warmth and excitement.

 Station Greeters (Inside and Outside, under shade)

Help guide kids during the scavenger hunt.

 Extra Hands in Classrooms

Not teachers – just supportive adults to assist, help with transitions, and love on kids.

Why Volunteer?

- ✦ It's short-term.
- ✦ It's high-impact.
- ✦ It helps us welcome new families with excellence.
- ✦ It helps kids clearly hear the Gospel message.

You don't need to be a teacher.

You don't need special training.

You just need a willing heart and a smile.

Click the link [Here](#) to sign up and serve today!

Incito Preschool

At the preschool, we have had a very positive and productive week! We have been learning all about Zacchaeus and how he changed his old ways of stealing to please God. We covered how Jesus loves us, even if we did something wrong, we can still change our ways and choose to be better. Jesus loves us so much that he wants us to have a chance to be better. We are focused on learning the number 11 and have begun covering letter U u, along with formation chants and writing. Learners are practicing writing their names with a pencil in 3" size to support their finger dexterity and holding a pencil properly. We have been using blocks and a ball activity to cover spatial words like over, under, between, etc. We have added extra review on number formation chants and recognition from 0-10.



Prayer Corner

1. Prayer is talking with God.

It's easy to complicate prayer. There is a place for detailed, theologically precise definitions of prayer. I could write a paragraph-length one that included most of the points found in this article. And while it might be a thorough and helpful explanation (more than a definition) of prayer, it wouldn't be memorable. So while there is a lot of important biblical information to understand about prayer, at its essence, prayer is simply talking with God.

2. Prayer is acceptable to God only in Jesus's name.

All access to God, including prayer, is possible only through the merits of who Jesus is and what he has done. Jesus made this plain in John 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." But to pray "in Jesus' name" is not accomplished simply by adding (often mindlessly) those words at the end of a prayer; rather, it is to pray with reliance on what Jesus has done for us and not the worthiness of who we are or what we have done. See also the emphasis made by Jesus on praying in his name, John 14:13 and John 16:23-24

3. Prayer, apart from a relationship to God through Jesus, is heard—but not with a view to answering.

God hears everything. He hears the sound of every electron going around every atom in the universe. He even hears our thoughts (Psalm 139:2). So in one sense, God hears every prayer uttered by every person. But he does not hear with a view to answering unless we are in a relationship with him through Christ and honor his word. As Proverbs 28:9 puts it, "If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." Proverbs 15:8 adds, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him."

"Again, Jesus's words in John 14:6: "No one comes to the Father except through me."

4. Prayer is a lifelong desire in all those indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit indwells a person, he gives him or her the voice of a child. Just as children by nature begin communicating with their parents as soon as their voice can make a sound, so when the Holy Spirit makes us children of God, He causes us to cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15.) In other words, the work of the Spirit within us gives us a new Fatherward orientation. As a result, all those who are indwelled by the Spirit become people who genuinely want to talk with their Heavenly Father. His presence makes them prayerful people. Offering Christians encouragement and advice for reinvigorating their prayer lives, this practical resource outlines a foolproof plan for praying through the Bible—turning the duty of prayer into delight.

5. The Holy Spirit helps believers pray.

The Holy Spirit not only prompts prayer in all believers, but he also helps us pray rightly. As Romans 8:26-7 explains, "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Not only can the Spirit call to mind biblical truth to guide our prayers when we do not know what to pray for or when we might pray for the wrong things, he can improve our prayers in the Father's ears and even pray for us. Beyond that, the Spirit is able to take even our Godward groans and transform them into prayers that conform to the will of God. Thus, we should pray despite "our weakness" and uncertainty, and even when our hearts are so heavy that all we seem able to do is groan Godwardly.

CREDIT: This article is from Praying the Bible, by Donald S. Whitney. Submitted by Pastor Bob Shelton
continued next month, April

Happenings

March Save the Dates

- 3.08 CPC 201 Grow
- 3.14 Men's & Women's Bible Study
- 3.21 ARC Blood Drive
- 3.29 Palm Sunday
- 3.29 Arctic Kids Hosanna Dash

Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, 3.21.26
from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Contact Marje at
mrs.shirey62@gmail.com
for more information

Family Worship Sunday!

Sunday 3.1.26

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.

HOSANNA DASH

COLOR RUN FOR K-5TH GRADE

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026
10:30 AM during Contemporary Service
Arctic Kids will run the Roman Road.

Would you sit and welcome the kids to the Activity Station? Would you smile and encourage them to the next station? Then we need you, write Station on your Connect Card today

Secret Sister 2026-27

Be a year-long prayer partner & encourager!

- Pick up a form at the Café table
- Return by March 5
- Sisters assigned March 8

❄️ Snowbirds welcome!

Join the sisterhood of prayer & encouragement!

HOSANNA DASH

COLOR RUN FOR K-5TH GRADE

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026
10:30 AM during Contemporary Service
Arctic Kids will run the Roman Road.

Free T-Shirt Provided, wear
"PE-style" play clothes, Tennis shoes
Clothes you don't mind getting colorful

CPC 201 Grow

Tools for Growing in Christ

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

12PM in Education Bldg. Rm 202

Lunch Provided sign up today by
writing "CPC 201"
on your Connect Card!

April Save the Dates

- 4.2 Maundy Thursday
- 4.3 Good Friday
- 4.5 Easter 6AM, 9AM & 10:30AM
- 4.11 Men's & Women's Bible Study
- 4.19 CPC 301

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: Katy 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