

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Loving God Serving His World Changing Lives

April 2026



Update from AP Search

The team has officially posted the job description for Youth, Families, and Outreach Pastor.

We ask that you continue to pray for our future Pastor and us. Asking God to share his wisdom and direction with us as we potentially begin discussions with candidates.

We will continue to update monthly.

Jerry Trece
Personnel Elder

ARC Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive News

Christ Presbyterian Church began hosting Red Cross blood drives in February 2023. Since then, we have been blessed with sponsoring several blood drives which have collected, as of March 21, 2026, a total of 286 units of blood. With this total of donated units of blood we have helped up to 858 patients. God is good!

Marje Shirey was instrumental in getting the Red Cross blood drives started at CPC. Now it is time for her to pass the baton to someone else in the church who has a passion for coordinating blood drives and putting together a team to help. As of right now we have no other drives scheduled for this year, but that can change if someone is willing to be the next Blood Program Leader, as Red Cross titles this volunteer position. Prayerfully consider filling this Red Cross volunteer position.

Please contact Marje if you are seriously interested in following her in this volunteer position. She can connect you with the right people at Red Cross to get started and walk you through the first blood drive you coordinate. Contact information: mrs.shirey62@gmail.com OR 309-712-6482.

Choir Note

Join us for Holy Week!

Experience the solemnity of Maundy Thursday on April 2nd at 7pm, featuring reflective music and the remembrance of The Last Supper.

Good Friday service will be celebrated on Friday the 3rd at 5pm in the Auditorium.

Then, celebrate the Resurrection with joyous music, including Chancel choir, piano, trumpets and timpani at our Traditional Easter Service on April 5th at 9am.

All are welcome to share in this special season.

Shanna

Men of IAM

April: Russ Schultz will be leading our Bible Study in April. The Lesson will be the last one from our Study Guide Growing Older and Wiser. The topic is Lifelong Trust based on Psalm 71:14-24. We'll be meeting in the Auditorium from 8:30 to 9:30 on Saturday, April 11th. Plan to join us for study and fellowship.

Mark Your Calendar: We will be meeting on December 12th. Pastor Jerry will lead our lesson on a topic of his choosing. Plan to make this a part of your holiday season!

Women of the Word

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

Missions

ALL FAITH

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mobile Food Bank - Volunteers Needed

CPC continues to participate in the monthly Mobile Food Bank Distribution to help serve families right here in our community. You now have two opportunities each month to volunteer.

Skyway Church
14900 W. Van Buren Street, Goodyear
4th Saturday of each month
7:00 AM or 10:00 AM

Upcoming Volunteer Dates:

April 25

May 23

All Faith Food Bank
214 S. 5th Street, Buckeye
3rd Saturday of each month
7:00 AM or 10:00 AM

Upcoming Volunteer Dates:

April 18

May 16



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.

Mission Trip Opportunity

We are exploring the possibility of sending a team to the San Carlos Apache Reservation in March/April or October 2027, and we would love to gauge interest.

What would we do?

- Painting
- Pulling weeds
- Playing with children
- Serving in a variety of ways—no special skills required!

No matter your skill set, the Arizona Reservation Ministry team can find a place for you to serve. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Pam Bakker at 602-689-1122 or pambakker@gmail.com.

How You Can Support

- Donate non-perishable food items or gently used clothing
- (Place donations in the Pick Your Passion bin outside Pastor Mike's office.)
- Pray for the individuals and families receiving these meals
- Volunteer at one of our upcoming service opportunities
- Share these opportunities with friends or family

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.

Arctic Kids Ministry

Spring is here, and Arctic Kids is full of energy, joy, and so many reasons to celebrate! We are incredibly thankful for each child, family, and volunteer who makes this ministry such a bright light every single week.

March Recap – What an Amazing Month!

March was packed with meaningful moments, growing faith, and lots of FUN!

- Our kids continued learning how to shine bright for Jesus, diving deeper into God’s Word through hands-on activities, games, and engaging lessons.
- We saw wonderful participation across all age groups in our rotation-style classrooms—crafts, science, Bible lessons, and more!
- Palm Sunday was a highlight! Our Hosanna Dash was full of excitement as kids celebrated Jesus with joy and energy, waving palms and shouting “Hosanna!”

Thank you to our incredible volunteers who make moments like these possible!



Looking Ahead – Summer is Coming!

We are getting ready for one of our favorite seasons... Summer Sunday Blast!

Save the Date:

Summer Sunday Blast begins Sunday, June 7!

But before we kick things off, we have something special planned for the whole church family...

All Church Family Picnic – Summer Kickoff!

Sunday, May 31

Immediately following the 10:30AM service

Join us as we celebrate the start of summer together with an All Church Family Picnic!

- Chuck Wagon Hotdogs
- Delicious sides
- Fellowship & fun for all ages

This is a perfect opportunity to connect as a church family and launch into an exciting summer with our kids!

A Heartfelt Thank You

To our Arctic Kids families and volunteers—THANK YOU. Your faithfulness, energy, and love for Jesus are shaping lives in powerful ways. We truly couldn’t do this without you. Let’s keep shining bright together!

In His Service,

Shauna Farrish

Prayer Corner Pt. 2

6. In the Bible, almost every prayer includes a reason why God should answer.

The general reason why we could ever expect God to hear our prayers, as we've already noted, is because access to God is given to believers in Christ on the basis of what Jesus has done for us (see John 14:6 again, as well as Hebrews 10:19-22). Beyond this, the Bible teaches by example—in almost every prayer recorded in Scripture—we should give to God a specific reason why he should answer. One of many possible examples is the prayer of Jacob in Genesis 32:11-12 where he pleads a promise from God as a reason why he should answer. Other reasons given in prayer why God should answer include an appeal to one of his attributes—his glory, our relationship to God, the request is God's will, and more.

7. Prayer shaped by the words of the Bible solves many of the most common problems in prayer.

It's normal to pray primarily about things pertaining to our own lives. And since our lives don't change dramatically very often, it's common to say the same old things about the same old things almost every time we pray. Even when we pray about matters regarding others it's easy to pray repetitively ("Bless the missionaries.") Not only can this result in mindlessness in prayer, it can come close to violating Jesus's command not to "heap up empty phrases" (Matt. 6:7) in prayer. A simple, permanent, biblical solution to this is to pray the Bible; that is, to turn the words of Scripture into prayer. The Psalms are ideal for this, but you can also go back and pray through part of your Scripture reading for the day. You'll find that 1) you never run out of things to say, 2) you'll pray about the things you want about each day but in new ways each time, 3) your mind won't wander as often, 4) your prayers will conform more to Scripture and God's will, and 5) you'll frequently experience prayer for what it actually is: a real conversation with a real person.

Jesus did this twice on the cross when he prayed words from the Psalms in Matthew 27:46 and Luke 23:46. The church in Jerusalem prayed from Psalm 2 in Acts 4:24-26, and "the place in which they were gathered together was shaken" (Acts 3:41). The great man of prayer and faith, George Müller, said praying the Bible transformed his prayer life. Why not you?

*Our Father loves to hear our voices.
Nothing is too small to bring to him.*

8. Jesus gave us a model for prayer.

In what is commonly called the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gave us what could otherwise be known as the "Model Prayer." While it's certainly good to offer this prayer verbatim, it wasn't intended to be the only form of prayer we may use, for none of the prayers found in the rest of the New Testament include the Model Prayer. Rather, this prayer—found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 1:2-4—models the basic elements that should be part of our prayers. In other words, one of the best ways of evaluating the content of our prayers by the standard of Scripture is to determine whether they contain the components of the Model Prayer. And by the way, if you consistently pray through passages of Scripture as described above, the elements in the Model Prayer will regularly be a part of your prayers.

9. Prayer is both natural and learned. Prayer is natural for all those indwelt by the Holy Spirit (see the comments on Rom. 8:15.26-27 above). Our Father loves to hear our voices. Nothing is too small to bring to him. His word encourages us, "Let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). There is another sense, however, that prayer must be learned, for it is possible to "ask wrongly" (James 4:3). To pray rightly, we must learn the principles of prayer from Scripture.

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If you are speaking with someone and your crying child rushes in with blood all over his hand, you do not chide him for interrupting. But most of the time you expect your children to learn and speak according to the normal means of conversation you have taught them. In the same way, there are often times for each of God's children when your heart is so heavy that all you can do is "pour out your heart before him" .Ps(628:.) Normally, though, we show honor to our Father by learning to speak to him according to the conditions for answered prayer he has given us in his word.

10. Prayer should be practiced privately, with the family, and with the church.

When we think of prayer, probably most Christians envision something they do in private. Indeed, Jesus said, "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret" (Matt. 6:6). But we should also consider it a normal part of family life in a Christian home. Beyond a prayer of thanks at meals, Christian couples should regularly pray together. When Peter warned husbands to live with their wives "in an understanding way" and to show them honor 1(Pet. 3:7), he added "so that your prayers may not be hindered." The prayers here are not the private prayers of the husband, but instead refer to mutual prayer; that is, prayers husbands and wives pray together. And surely Paul's admonition to bring children up "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4) implies praying with them. Likewise, life together with the family of God should be unthinkable without the element of praying together.

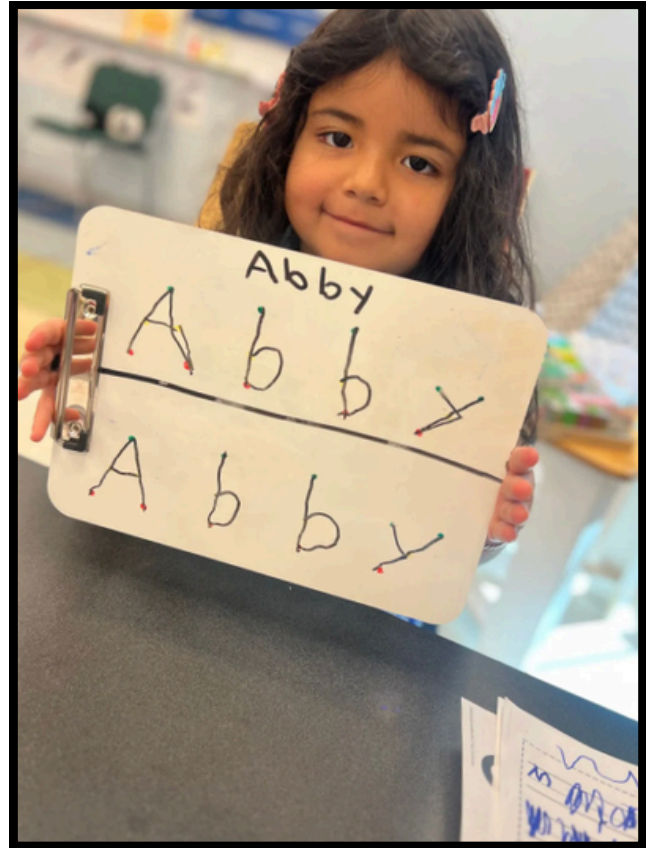
When God's people gathered in the Book of Acts (Acts 4:23-31; Acts 12:1-17; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 16:13) and elsewhere in the New Testament (1 Tim. 1-2, 8), they prayed together. It was a normal part of life together in the body of Christ. The same should be true when churches gather today.

CREDIT: This article is from [Praying the Bible](#), by Donald S. Whitney

Submitted by
Pastor Bob Shelton

Incito Preschool

Our preschool learners have made progress in their writing as we continue to improve fine motor skills and proper pencil and crayon grasping. Way to go learners! March was busy and learners gave their best effort. We had a blast with the extra science and art activities. Learners were also able to also communicate how they needed their ARFF filled. ARFF is what makes them feel Achievement, Respect, Freedom and Fun. This month we will focus on letters Y and Z, numbers 13 and 14 and the Resurrection of Jesus! We will review and keep improving name writing and reading 2 and 3 letter words.



Happenings

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 2nd
@ 7:00 PM
In the Sanctuary



Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3rd
5:00 PM
In the Auditorium



Easter Services

Sunday, April 5th

Sunrise

Backyard @ 6:00 AM

Traditional Celebration

Sanctuary @ 9:00 AM

Contemporary Celebration

Auditorium @ 10:30 AM



CPC 301 Serve
Discover your SHAPE

April 19, 2026

12PM in Education Bldg. Rm 202

Lunch Provided. Join us by writing
301 on your Connect Card today!

SUMMER SUNDAY BLAST
OUTLAWS FOR GOD

KICK OFF ALL CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY,
MAY 31, 12PM AUDITORIUM



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
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