



CHRIST CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN

“The Call” / April 2020

Coming after Easter, a new message series “*+nothing, the faith of Ruth.*”
Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff



“*+ nothing*” is a message series that will take us through the entire book of Ruth, thought by thought. In this series we will explore the questions that shaped Ruth’s world and her faith. Questions like, what does God think about all the things that divide us as human beings? Differences of race, nationality, religion, and economic status. What does faith look like when it is solely placed in God alone, when faith is truly “*+ nothing*”?

Ruth’s story has recently been likened to the story of Job. In fact, some biblical scholars have called Ruth, ‘a female Job’. While that is an unhelpful conflation of two very unique witnesses to God’s faithfulness, the similarities between Ruth and Job are nevertheless evident. Ruth and Job faced impossible situations, each of them had everything in their life removed that would have offered them stability and hope. And yet, even in the midnight of their lives, they found that God was worthy of the faith they had placed in Him. The Lord’s grace and blessings far exceeded their wildest dreams. Their faith was “*+ nothing*.” God’s grace brought with it His favor, which was *+everything*!

Below are a few suggested resources for you to read during this series:

- *Finding God In The Margins: The Book of Ruth* by Carolyn Custis James & Craig G. Bartholomew
- *Judges and Ruth: God in Chaos* by Barry G. Webb
- *Judges, Ruth: The NIV Application Commentary* by K. Lawson Younger

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SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Christ Presbyterian Church,

I hope that you and your families are settling into this new season, and that your family, like mine, is looking forward with great expectation to the day we are able to leave restricting gatherings and be together. In this season when our church campus is closed because of COVID-19 I hope you are joining our pastors every Monday to Friday in daily prayer at 9:30am on Facebook. They are using a free App that follows the Daily Office with morning and evening Scripture readings, hymns, and prayers. You can find that App here: <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/>. You can also join Pastor Mike for his weekly Facebook Live class on faith in the book of Hebrews at 10:30am, and Pastor Tony for his weekly Facebook Live class on the theme of hope in the book of Job. We are offering these classes, because they are uniquely designed to speak to the issues you are facing in the present pandemic. It is our hope that they will encourage you. Also, join our Connect groups via Zoom for fellowship.

If there is anything we can pray about for you or your family, please share that with our church office at info@cpcgoodyear.org, or share your prayers directly with our prayer chain ministry at prayers@cpcgoodyear.org.

In prayer, with great expectation for the day we will worship together again in person,

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Perfect Peace is Perfectly Possible

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

Anxiety is rampant in our world today and peace seems to be in short supply, particularly in these troubled times. Experts are telling us that the Covid-19 pandemic may be as serious as the Spanish Flu epidemic more than a century ago. People are nervous, anxious, and worried about the future. This makes it imperative that Jesus followers lean into their faith and work to deepen their trust in him. One way to do this is by remembering his promises. We can find deep and lasting comfort in Jesus' promise of peace.

The awesome nature of the peace Jesus offers becomes fully apparent when we realize the circumstances under which it was made. He spoke these words of great comfort on the eve of his violent execution. Jesus had every reason to be filled with anxiety. His disciples were also distressed and fearful. They sensed that someone terrible was about to happen and felt powerless to do anything about it. Does that describe how you feel right now?

ASSISTANT PASTOR CONT.

Jesus offers a peace that circumstances cannot overcome. When we base our ability to experience peace on the state of the world around us, we struggle. It is difficult to be peaceful when one is surrounded by chaos. It seems that few people know deep and lasting peace. Yet, Jesus promised peace to those who believe in him. The answer is found in an understanding of both the source and the nature of the peace Jesus gives us. First, the source of this peace is God, not the world. Second, this peace is an inner peace rooted in faith not an outer peace based on circumstances. A peace based on the unchanging nature of God and his unfailing love for us can never be overcome.

Do you want that kind of peace? The good news is that you can have it by leaning on to Jesus with every fiber of your being. Rely on Jesus for your every need and learn to trust that he knows what is best for you and that he has a plan for your life. It is more than possible to remain filled with peace amidst chaos when we have learned to trust in Jesus to carry us through the storm and bring us safely home. This is as true today as it was in Jesus' time.

Covid-19 may seem to have the upper hand for the moment, but Jesus is Lord forever. There is no need to be afraid when Jesus is in control. No matter how dark the darkness seems or how dire the situation, he will carry us through if we put our trust completely in him. He freely offers his gift of perfect peace to all who believe in him.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike



MUSIC MINISTRY

NOTES FROM THE TRADITIONAL WORSHIP DIRECTOR

Dear Congregation,

I so miss worshiping with you each Sunday. I try to imagine you are out there when I look into the camera, and I do feel your presence as we video the service, but not seeing your faces and hearing your voices is just not the same.

In order to keep a community with the choir I have been sending out weekly letters with information and insights into the hymns and service music. If you would like a copy of the choir letter just email me at david@cpcgoodyear.org and I'll be happy to send you one.

So I keep singing "God be with you till we meet again."

Blessings and stay safe.

David Wilson, Director of Music

- CONNECT -

CONNECT GROUPS



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all our Connect Groups are temporarily going online using the Zoom app. This app allows us to see and hear each other through our laptops, Ipads, and smartphones as we study the Bible and pray together. It is the best way to connect with others as we have become physically isolated.

If you would like to be in an online Connect Group, please email me at jcnannery@gmail.com. I will get you into a group where you will make new friends and experience the blessing of this growing ministry.

John Nannery
Director of Connect Groups

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hello to all of you who find yourselves (like we do) in a different world than we were last month. As I write this, I think everyone already knows that our campus is shutdown due to the issues associated with Corona Virus. However, it does not mean that we have stopped ministering to our church family. Specifically, our new Youth Education Director, Jenessa Prigge, has already launched a YouTube video presentation for our Middle School and High Schoolers, that I think they will enjoy watching. Go to YouTube, and bring up "CPCGoodyear", and you will see Jenessa's presentation. We are continuing to base the lessons on Gospel Project. The next 12 lessons will be based on the "Divided Kingdom", the time after Solomon's reign. Jenessa has great insight as to the Biblical relevance to our current culture and current events. Please have your teens/pre-teens take a look. It is well worth their time, and I believe will be a catalyst for family discussions. When I last checked, her YouTube presentation had 11 viewers. I know Jenessa, Mitch Jackson, Libbie Randels, and Austyn Damon are working on future video presentations. So . . . stay tuned.

Nichole Soyka and Ari Flatt are balancing their responsibilities as teachers in the Pendergast School District (teaching their students online) and are also in the process of setting up a YouTube presentation for the children. We will let the parents know when this is ready and online (before April 1st).

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is being planned, and will be the week of July 13th thru the 17th. The Theme is called "Knights of North Castle" and will be teaching our children about the armor of God. Lots of fun coming soon!

Although everything is cancelled for the time being, if you have any questions or are interested in being an adult volunteer to assist in teaching, or working in the nursery, or volunteering for VBS, please contact me (Raub Randels). My cell phone is 623-236-6445.

Always remember, God is with us!

Raubin Randels
Elder of Children's Ministry

- G R O W -

CARE MINISTRIES



Women's Ministry: We were just kicking off this new ministry (WOW and Bloom combined) when we had to cancel. It's difficult to start meeting on line when we don't have our in-person processes in place. We will re-initiate these activities as soon as we can.

Women's RETREAT: Meanwhile, we have re-scheduled the Retreat from April 4th to **October 24th. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Speaker and venue remain the same.

GriefShare and DivorceCare: We had suspended these classes but now plan to restart them on line. Church Initiative is making the course videos available on line.

Adopt-A-Firefighter: This ministry unfortunately is on hold. To protect their privacy, we only have the firefighters' names. We don't have email addresses and therefore can't do ecards. To those of you preparing cards: **please hold them until we resume.**

*For more Information, contact
Carol Phillips,
623-340-9205 or cphillips02@cox.net*



- S E R V E -

KNITTING FOR THE NEEDY

Serving in Place

As we begin changing our routines to spend more time at home, finding ways to serve others can be difficult. CPC's Knitting for the Needy is an in-home ministry actively serving people of all ages in Arizona and around the world. Since January 1, we have sent 325 items to newborns, deployed servicemen and women, cancer treatment patients, and local children needing the comfort of a blanket.

You can help make the next three months even more meaningful. Choose any crochet or knitting pattern, pick out your favorite yarn, and begin "serving in place." Servicemen and women request darker colors for their slippers, hats, and scarves. Chemo caps should be made for all ages and genders in soft baby yarn. 8" blanket squares are perfect for using small quantities of yarn left from other projects. Pray for the recipient and place finished projects in the breezeway.

Contact Jan Shaffer at cpcknits@gmail.com for questions.



- COMMUNITY -

MEN OF IAM

Here's an overview of the Men of IAM's annual activities:

Monthly Breakfast & Bible Study: Second Saturday, Atrium, 8 AM. Offered 10 months per year. Best \$5 breakfast in town (higher in December). Exceptions are March (Car Show) and November (Veterans Day). Breakeven. **Featuring Pastor Tony in June & December**

Steak & Eggs Breakfast in December.

Dinner: New starting in January 2021. FUNDRAISER.

Car Show: In March. FREE to display and to attend, including FREE coffee and donuts.

Pancake Breakfast: On Palm Sunday. FUNDRAISER (Cancelled this year.)

Easter Egg Hunt: Provide FREE popcorn. (Cancelled this year.)

Chili Cook-off: Along with the Women's Ministry, we host a Chili competition. Free but tickets are sold for voting for your favorite Chili. Prizes awarded. Small fundraiser.

Ice Cream Social: New this year. FREE. Scheduled for **Saturday, July 25th**

D'backs Faith & Family Night: Will be on **Friday, August 21st** this year. D'backs special event including fireworks and Christian singers. This year the singers will be **Cory Asbury** and **Zach Williams**.

Trunk or Treat: FREE hot dogs, chips, and drinks

Veterans Day: FREE breakfast and speaker.

Support Mission projects: On-going.

The Men of IAM was founded by John Reichard in 2008 – we're in our 13th year!

We'll return to our regular activities as soon as possible.

We're always open to ideas!

For further info about the Men of IAM and our activities:

Mitch Jackson - President; litehaus13@gmail.com

Bob Gates - Vice President; dgates316@aol.com

Scott Phillips - Secretary; sphillipsaz@cox.net

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP TEAM FINANCIAL REPORT

February, 29 2020 Expenses \$108,886

February, 29 2020 Income \$114,353

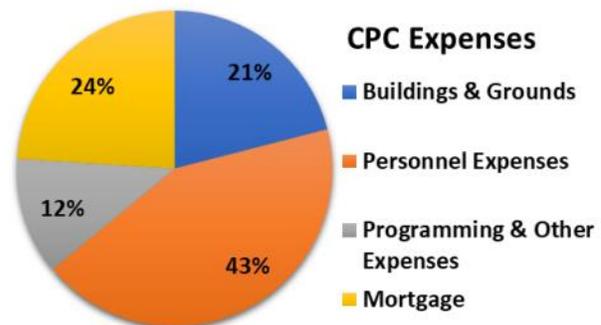
February, 29 2020 Surplus \$5,467

February, 29 2020 Cash Reserve \$224,224

Mortgage Debt \$1,812,281

The chart shows how CPC's expenses are allocated:

Questions or comments to finance@cpcgoodyear.org



SPECIAL THANK-YOU

Thanks to everyone who reached out to me after my recent stroke with cards, phone calls, and prayers. It was very much appreciated. I am feeling much better. Thanks be to God.

- Jo Ann Shepherd

RESOURCES

Online Giving - Have a recurring pledge, tithe or a one time gift? Use the ShelbyNext app for all your giving needs. Easy to download, user friendly, and helps keep in touch with your church family and events. For download instructions, please refer to the flyer in the foyer or contact the office.

Online Worship - Join us online for Sunday Worship, "From Our Home to Your Home". We will be blending our traditional and contemporary services into one worship service. Log on to our website, Facebook or YouTube with your family and friends and continue 'worship distancing'. Refer to the Senior Pastor's letter for additional day/times of daily prayer, Bible studies and Connect Groups.

Calendar - Please visit our Christ Church website for calendar information at www.cpcgoodyear.org. The calendar is under Resources; then click on Events/Calendar. You can also access the calendar on the ShelbyNext app.

Church Library - There are many new books available in the library. Come and look! If you wish to read a book or two, please feel free to take them and return after you have finished reading them. We currently do not have a way to check out books. Please put the returns on the cart labeled "returns". There are several categories of books, including a large section of fiction, and children's books. There are also several jig-saw puzzles available. If you wish to donate any books or puzzles, please put them on the "returns" cart. For questions or comments, contact: Kay Kenney (kay_kenney@outlook.com).

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Isn't it interesting how quickly our way of life can change? Those of us who have lived through earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires or floods, know that within moments everything we had planned for the coming days, or weeks, came to a screeching halt and we had to figure out how to survive in the moment of crisis, and figure out how to best care for our family in the moment and in the days that followed.

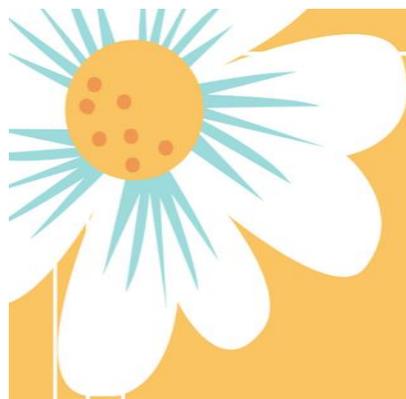
As a church family we are experiencing one of those moments in time. The news of the severity of the Coronavirus made us quickly aware that we could not 'do church' as usual. The Session gathered the evening of the pronouncement to limit group size to 10 and prepared for how to minister to a congregation through the wonders of electronic media.

Though the office may be closed, no choir practice, no gatherings for worship, no coffee hour, the ministry continues. Every member of the staff is hard at work preparing for Sunday services that are streamed into your home, reaching out to kids via computer, comforting the sick, and spreading the Word through online classes. Ministry goes on, just differently.

During this time all of our expenses continue just like in your household. All of our staff, except Pastor Tony are part-time employees who are dependent on their wage from CPC and our monthly facilities expenses continue. We are a mission station in the midst of a time of crisis. We are dependent on all of you to continue to financially support the ministries of our church during this challenging time.

Please be in prayer for CPC and let's trust that God will provide for our every need as we walk together (6 feet apart) through this difficult time. Hopefully, it will not be long when we will gather together again and praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Carolyn Weese, Co-Chair of Personnel



Happy Birthday

3	Adalia Akah Linda Gillham	17	Norma Hawk Mark Taylor
4	Judy Raithel	18	John Merrill
6	Beverly Smith	19	Diana Lunt
7	Rachel Craig Marilyn Price	20	Joe Svoboda
8	Robin Laurence	21	Rob Wehofer
10	Lindzy Bakker	22	Andrei Bank
11	Portia Taylor	23	Chuck Seely Jim Wiley
12	Terrie Kirkpatrick Jesse Kongnyuy Linda Lamphere	24	Sue Brumbaugh Bob Honson
15	Ryan Wender	25	Mieke Boschma Gracelyn Hinds Jan Quinones Russell Schultz
		26	Travis Bakker Jenessa Prigge
		29	Libbie Randels
		30	Ella Brinker Garrett Hartwig

Happy Anniversary

3	Jerry Kienle & Judy Sinor
4	Chuck & Vicki Seely
5	Bob & Lynne Hobson
8	Kyn & Terri Jensen
9	Rob & Janice Larson
10	Dick & Mary Ann Huesby
12	Bill & Susan Armstrong
14	Jim & Debby Rains
19	Gary & Orva Aukes Steve & Pat Moore
22	Alvin & Veronica Kongnyuy



STAFF

Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff / Senior Pastor
revdrstiff@cpcgoodyear.org

Rev. Mike Shirey / Assistant Pastor
pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org

Dr. David Wilson / Director of Music - Traditional Serv.
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Janet Russell / Director of Music - Contemporary Serv.
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Vitaly Serebriakov / Director of Music Performance
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Nichole Soyka / Director of Children's Ministry
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Jenna Dunn / Church Administrator
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Austyn Damon / Publications & Media Director
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Church Office Hours:

CAMPUS CLOSED

Pastors available by appointment only

Sunday Online Worship

Daily Prayer on Facebook Mon-Fri @ 9:30am

Bible Studies on Facebook Tue & Thur @ 10:30am