

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS



July 2025



Loving God Serving His World Changing Lives

925 N Sarival Ave. Goodyear AZ 85338

Facebook Instagram and YouTube

Pastor's Pen

Dear CPC family,

I love celebrating July 4th!

I am proud of this country and all it stands for. Yes, we have blemishes on our past, and yes, it is easy to criticize our government. But the ideals we were founded upon are still priceless and I would rather live here than any of the other 38 countries I have visited.

This year, we honor the wisdom and courage of our founding fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence 249 years ago.

By the way, did you know that the only pastor to sign the Declaration, John Witherspoon, was a Presbyterian pastor, and the president of what became Princeton University?

The most famous words of the Declaration are still inspiring today:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness."

This is the foundation of our country and our society. We must never let go of this simple statement if we are to remain a strong country.

But these words are not universally true. They are true for a nation as we order our life together and declare our core values. They are not true, however, in our spiritual lives. What do I mean?

Life is not an unalienable right. God owes us nothing. Life is His gracious gift. The breathe you are taking right now is a gift of God. Getting up in the morning is His gift. We should be constantly and forever grateful to the core of our being.

When we confuse political rights with spiritual truths we become spoiled and entitled spiritually.

Likewise, while Liberty may be an inalienable right from the perspective of human government, again, true Freedom is a gift from God. It is only a human right because we should not seek to take from another person what God has freely given them.

Not only are Life and Liberty gifts of God rather than rights, we are not to use our Freedom to abuse how we use this life. Freedom always has limits. As Christians we know that all God's gifts are meant for God's glory and as a blessing to the world around us. They are not merely for our own personal happiness.

And that leads us to remember that the pursuit of happiness should never be the goal of life as some people have made it. It is the result of a Life well lived, using our Liberty as God intended.

So this 4th of July: Be grateful for all God's gifts, including this nation; Serve one another, using the Freedom God has bestowed on us; Pray for our country and our leaders to live up to our ideals; and Honor this country, but honor God first and foremost.

Gratefully,

Pastor Jerry

Prayer Corner

Why Pray?

For the Christian, praying is supposed to be like breathing, easier to do than to not do. We pray for a variety of reasons. For one thing, prayer is a form of serving God (Luke 2:36-38) and obeying Him. We pray because God commands us to pray. (Philippians 4:6-7) Prayer is exemplified to us by Christ and the early church (Mark 1:35; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:23-31, 6:4; 13:1-3). If Jesus thought it worthwhile we should also.

Another reason to pray is that God intends prayer to be the means of obtaining His solutions in a number of situations. We pray in preparation for major decisions (Luke 6:12-13); to overcome demonic barriers (Matt 17:14-21); to gather workers for the spiritual harvest (Luke 10:2); to gain strength to overcome temptation (Matt 26:41) and to obtain the means of strengthening others spiritually (Ephesians 6:18-19).

We come to God with our specific requests, and we have God's promise that our prayers are not in vain, even if we do not receive specifically what we ask for (Matthew 6:6; Romans 8:26-27). He has promised that when we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will give us what we ask for (1 John 5:14-15). Sometimes He delays His answers, according to His wisdom and for the benefit in these situations, we are to be diligent and persistent prayer. (Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1-8). Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do OUR will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God's will done on earth. God's wisdom far exceeds our own.

For situations in which we do not know God's will specifically, prayer is a means of discerning His will (See James 1:5). Prayer was instrumental in the Spirit's sending Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3). Solomon asked for "wisdom and knowledge" and God gave him that and much more (2 Chronicles 1:10-12).

Prayers un-prayed will be unanswered. If Syrian women with the demon influenced daughter had not prayed to Christ, her daughter would not have been made whole (Mark 7:26-30). If the blind man outside Jericho had not called out to Christ, he would have remained blind (Luke 18:35-43). God has said that we often go without because we do not ask (James 4:2). In one sense, prayer is like sharing the Gospel with people. We do not know who will respond to the message of the Gospel until we share it. In the same way, we will never see results of answered prayer unless we pray.

A lack of prayer demonstrates a lack of faith and a lack of trust in God's Word. We pray to demonstrate our faith in God, that He will do as He has promised in His Word and bless our lives abundantly more than we could ask or hope for (Ephesians 3:20). Prayer is our primary means to see God work in others' lives. Because it is our means of plugging into God's power, it is our means of defeating Satan and his army that we are powerless to overcome ourselves. Therefore, may God find us often before His throne, for we have His promise that the fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much (James 5:16-18) May God glorify His name in our lives, as we believe in Him enough to come to Him often in prayer.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob Shelton

Missions

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 9am to 11am** at 1100 West Grove Parkway, Tempe, AZ. 85283. We have reserved 15 spots. If interested in signing up, please reach out to Pam Bakker at Pambakker@gmail.com no later than July 3, 2025. Feed my Starving Children strives to eliminate starvation in children throughout the world by packing meals. <https://www.fmssc.org> In 2024 FMSC sent food to 58 different countries.



Now that summer is here, the mobile food bank distribution in partnership with Saint Mary's Food Bank and All Faith Community Services on the fourth Saturday of each month will begin at 6am. Come help give away food to the Goodyear community.

Volunteers are needed anytime between 6am and 9am. (Skyway Church 14900 W Van Buren St Goodyear)

Saturday, July 26th
Saturday, August 23rd.

Ministry Opportunities

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), Duane Johnson (Donna), Celest Jain, Bud Barber (Sue), 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.

Blood Drive

Blood Drive News

CPC will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Blood donation is a great way to spread the Love of God to others in our community.

We will be clearing the auditorium after 2nd worship on Sunday, July 13. Please see Marje Shirey to volunteer to help the day of the drive or to make an appointment to donate. You can also go to www.redcrossblood.org.

Finance

Summary	May-25	2025 YTD
Income	\$46,570.99	\$297,529.00
Expenses	-\$57,354.42	-\$289,334.57
NET	-\$10,783.43	\$8,194.43

Adult Formation

Pastor Mike leads a Bible Study for Adults each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 202 in the Education Wing. Our current focus is the book of Genesis. All our welcome to attend. Study notes are available for each lesson. Please contact Pastor Mike (309-712-6481) or the church office for more information.

Adult Formation

Prayer is one of, if not the, most important thing that we do as Jesus-followers. Please pray for the following: Duane (Donna) Johnson, Carol (Scott) Phillips, Marje (Mike) Shirey, Bud (Sue) Barber, Tom & Bridgette Gill. Send your prayer request or request to receive prayer chain emails to prayers@cpcgoodyear.org

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're planning to start a group here at CPC in October. If you would like to be part of the group that helps start this ministry, or for more information, please contact Pastor Mike at pastorshirey@cpcgoodyear.org.

Women of the Word

WOW—It's Not Just an Expression! At CPC Goodyear, WOW stands for Women of the Word—and let us tell you, we live up to the name!

Every Second Saturday at 10AM in the Auditorium, an amazing group of women gathers to dig into God's Word, sip on coffee (because Jesus and java go hand in hand), and enjoy laughter-filled fellowship that's good for the soul.

This month, mark your calendars for July 12! Whether you've been coming for years or you've never stepped foot in the room, we would love to see you there. Come as you are—just bring a Bible, a smile, and maybe a friend who needs a little extra encouragement (or caffeine).

We're saving a seat for you!

Men of IAM

Plan to join us on Saturday, July 12th at 8 AM in the Auditorium. Our Bible Study will be led by our President, Russ Schultz. Our lesson is "Listening to the Young" using the Study Guide Growing Older and Wiser. The lesson is based on Job 32.

Enjoy a great \$5 breakfast prepared by Chef Bob Gates and Sous Chef Pastor Mike. Enjoy catching up with your friends in air-conditioned comfort.

Arctic Kids Ministry

🔍 CASES, CELEBRATIONS & COMMISSIONING! 🔍

We're halfway through our all-summer-long VBS adventure, Kingdom Caper: Cracking the Character Code, and what an exciting journey it's been! Our "Inspectors in Training" have been digging into Bible stories, discovering Fruit of the Spirit clues, and growing in character and faith each week. Keep bringing those curious hearts and joyful spirits—we have more Kingdom mysteries to solve!

🎪 Playground Dedication

Even in the summer heat, the joy is overflowing on our newly dedicated playground! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the celebration. We love seeing the laughter, connection, and play happening each Sunday—what a blessing for our kids and families!

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Family Worship Continues

We love seeing families worship together!

This month, we'll again join for Family Worship on the first Sunday of July.

Children in 2nd grade and up will worship with their families and have the opportunity to serve as:

Greeters, Ushers, Prayer Leaders

If your child is interested in helping during Family Worship, please contact Shawna at 209-986-6486. We'll pair them with a leader and help them learn what to do—no experience needed!

💧 Water Day: Sunday, July 27

Get ready for a splash-tastic sendoff to our Summer Sunday Blast!

Join us for our 3rd Annual Arctic Kids Water Day on Sunday, July 27 during service.

What to bring:

- Wear water-ready clothes (swim shorts or a one-piece swimsuit)
- Bring a towel

We'll provide water, sunscreen, and FUN! Don't miss this unforgettable day!

🌍 Looking Ahead: God's Big Adventure Launches August 10!

Mark your calendars—Sunday, August 10 we kick off a brand-new season of Arctic Kids with God's Big Adventure!

This year, we're inviting every child to understand that God's calling is for them too—not just grownups! We are excited to introduce our new Arctic Kids Mission Statement:

"Loving God, Serving Others, Spreading Joy"

This mission connects our kids with the heart of our church and reminds them that no matter their age, they are part of God's Great Commission.

Join us for the adventure of a lifetime! With joy and anticipation,

The Arctic Kids Team

Family Worship Sunday! July 6, 2025

Traditional & Contemporary Services
2nd-8th Graders — Join your families in worship!

6 Weeks-1st Grade — Drop off in the Education Wing before service starts.



All Faith Community Food Bank

They are running low on resources. We will be collecting your donation of CANNED goods

Sunday, July 6 & 13

SSB Kingdom Caper SPIRIT SUNDAYS

July 6 – Red, White & Blue

Celebrate the 4th with your best patriotic gear

July 13 – Favorite Color Day

Wear your favorite color from head to toe

July 20 – Black Out

Dress in all black like a mystery-solving pro

July 27 – Water Day

Wear water-appropriate clothes for our splash-tastic end-of-summer!

Women's Monthly Bible Study Saturday, July 12

10:00AM

CPC Auditorium
Coffee, Bible Study & Fellowship

Men's Bible Study

Saturday, July 12

8 AM - 10 AM \$5 Breakfast
in the CPC Auditorium

CPC 101

Exploring Membership

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

12PM in Education Bldg. Rm 202

Lunch Provided and sign up today by writing CPC 101 on your Connect Card!

HEALING Prayers

July 13, 2025

We will have a special time for Prayer at the end of each worship service. Anyone who wants prayer for healing for themselves, for a friend or a loved one is invited to come forward. All are welcome.

Saturday, July 18

8:30AM - 1:30PM



HELP KEEP THE SUPPLY AFLOAT.

Give Blood.

Christ Presbyterian Church Goodyear

Loving God, Serving His World, Changing Lives

Staff

Senior Pastor: Jerry Cooper
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