

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS



Loving **God** Serving **His World** Changing **Lives**

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Pastor's Pen

Dear CPC Family,

Welcome back to Goodyear after your summer of vacationing or snow-birding (or just hanging around in the heat).

This summer Ingrid and I went to Germany for a couple weeks to see family and go to a wedding. It was a wonderful time!

We normally take a little time while in Europe to visit places of beauty and of historical significance. A few years back we went to Heidelberg. A beautiful city of great historic importance, especially to the Reformed Church.

It was there that "Heidelberg Catechism" was penned. It became a staple of Presbyterian history and theology. It is a document I have treasured, and I was excited to see where history was made.

The beautiful Holy Ghost Church has been the center of the city for 600 years. It birthed the University of Heidelberg and is one of the most visited churches in Germany. When I entered, I asked the woman at the information desk about the catechism that had been written there ... and to my great disappointment - she had never heard of it!

I picked up their small book on the history of the church, and although it had a chronology of all the splits and controversies over the last few hundred years, it never mentioned the great document of faith that had been birthed there. Today that church is more a museum than a ministry.

That was an "Aha!" moment for me. It taught me to never take the life of a church for granted, no matter how vibrant it seems to be at the moment. I was reminded of that truth earlier this year

when Northminster Presbyterian, our sister ECO church, closed its doors.

No local church is ever guaranteed a future on this earth. But every church is guaranteed the presence and power of Jesus Christ as we actively and daily ask for it, serving and depending upon Him.

I thank God for those who planted CPC so many years ago, and those who replanted the church at this location almost 25 years ago.

We have seen many ups and downs in our history, and have seen God's faithfulness through it all. Thankfully, we are moving in an upward trajectory by almost every measure. We see God's hand at work all around us in each other's lives and as He brings more and more people into our family.

However, we can't rest upon our laurels. We must keep moving forward toward Christ and his future vision for the church. It has been said: "as Christians we must hold on to 'the living faith of the dead,' rather than 'the dead faith of the living.'"

Pray for your elders on the Session as together we seek God's vision for our future - as we look at what it means for us to live out our mission of Loving God - Serving His World - Changing Lives.

Don't forget that on September 14, we start a new sermon series called, "Finding Freedom." It's practical set of messages to help us find freedom in Christ from the things that hold us back from all God desires for us. This is a good opportunity to invite friends.

Your Eternally Optimistic,
Pastor Jerry

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.

Prayer

Prayer is one of, if not the, most important thing that we do as Jesus-followers. Send your prayer request or request to receive prayer chain emails to prayers@cpcgoodyear.org

Men of IAM

Plan to join us on Saturday, 13th 8AM in the Auditorium. Plan to join us for breakfast, fellowship, bible study and a very short business meeting.

Our Chef will be Russ Schultz. Bob Nobis will lead our study.

Topic will be "Wiser by Faith" based on Genesis 24:1-9. The lesson is from our on-going study guide, Growing Older and Wiser.

Women of the Word

Fall Into Fellowship with WOW 🍂

The seasons are changing, and what better way to welcome the fresh start of fall than by gathering with other women who love God, love each other, and love a good cup of coffee?

WOW—Women of the Word at CPC Goodyear meets every Second Saturday at 10AM in the Auditorium, and our next gathering is Saturday, September 13. Together, we'll open God's Word, share life's ups and downs, and enjoy the kind of fellowship that fills your heart long after the coffee cup is empty.

Whether you're new, curious, or a long-time friend, this is your invitation. Come be encouraged, be inspired, and maybe even find the friend you didn't know you needed.

Bring your Bible, your smile, and yes—bring a friend, too. Let's step into a new season together!

Arctic Kids Ministry

September News

August Recap – Creation

We kicked off our new Sunday school year with God's Big Adventure by diving into the story of Creation! In our rotation, kids explored the 7 days of Creation through crafts, science, games, snacks, and Bible lessons. From painting beautiful skies to building model animals, we were reminded that God made a wonderful world—and He made us too!

September Rotation – Ruth's Journey

This month, we'll join Ruth on her faith-filled journey of loyalty, love, and trust in God. Each week, kids will discover how Ruth's story points us to God's faithfulness, learning through hands-on fun in our rotation classrooms.

- PreK Memory Verse: "God is kind to us." —Psalm 117:2 (paraphrased)
- Elementary Memory Verse: "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay." —Ruth 1:16 (NIV)

Our Why – Mission & Verse

Our new Arctic Kids Mission Statement reminds us why we do what we do:

*Following God, Helping Others,
Spreading Joy*

Whether we're sharing, caring, or saying prayers at school lunch, we want our Arctic Kids to be confident explorers of God's love and truth.

We've chosen a guiding memory verse to shine throughout the year:

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." —Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Family Worship – September 7

A reminder that on Sunday, September 7, children 5 years old and up will join their families in the main service for Family Worship. Nursery and preschool classes will still be open.

We Need You!

We are looking for a caring and fun leader for our 2nd & 3rd grade girls during 2nd service. If you love sharing God's Word and building relationships with kids, this is a great opportunity to serve. Training and support are provided!

Let's keep shining bright for Jesus as we adventure through His Word together this month!

Christ Presbyterian Church Goodyear

Loving God, Serving His World, Changing Lives

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