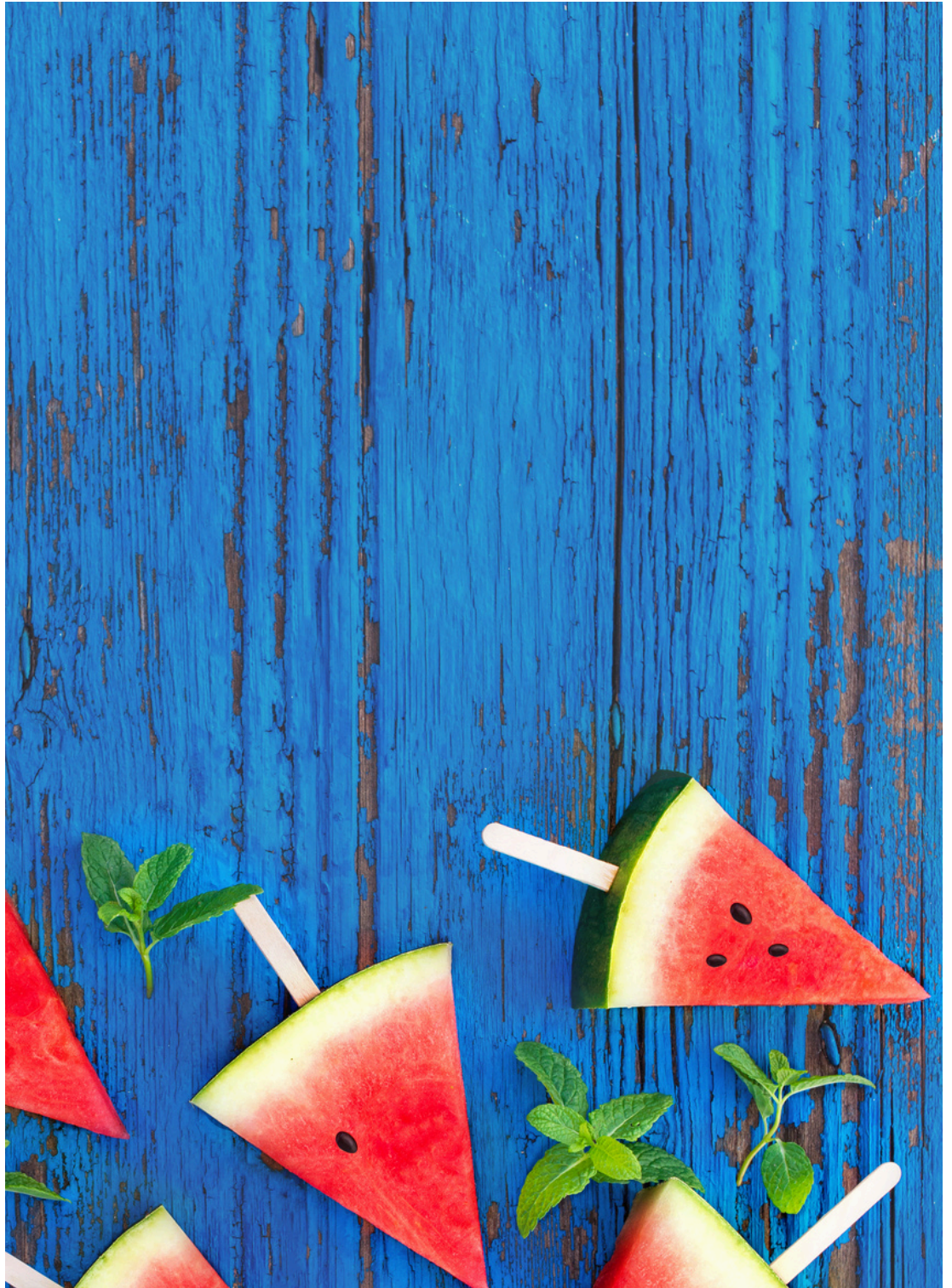


HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Loving God Serving His World Changing Lives

Summer 2026



From Pastor Jerry

Dear Church Family,

When I was growing up I always looked forward to the summer and the promise of exciting things on the way. While that enthusiasm has moderated over the years, there is still something inside me that looks forward to the promise of what summer may bring.

Let me share a few things I'm looking forward to this summer:

First, is our preaching series. Each summer, I try to choose a theme that is fun and flexible so that no matter who is preaching, they can choose a topic that fits in. In addition, when you are away for a week or two from worship, you can pick back up easily. Our theme this summer is: "Bible Characters." Some will be well known, some more off the beaten path. One is even fictitious!

Second is the class I'm continuing to teach on Tuesday evenings in June on "Faith, Science and Culture." We had a great response to the first class, and I'm looking forward to digging into more topics where our faith impacts issues of today culturally and scientifically. These are areas I've given a lot of thought to over the years and thinking clearly and biblically is important for us as we represent our Lord in the world today.

Third is the celebration of our country's 250th Birthday. On Sunday, July 5, we will have a special service of worship that brings a focus on our nation. We have members of our church family from many nations around the world, but this is where God has placed all of us to serve Him, and this is the place where we experience His hand of blessing.

Fourth, I'll be out of town twice this summer.

- The last 2 weeks of July, Ingrid and I take a road trip up the West Coast visiting family and friends and taking in the beauty of this world God has created for us to enjoy. Coincidentally, it will take us up the cool coast of California at the hottest point of the Arizona summer!
- I will also be gone the third week of August for my annual week of Pastoral Study Leave. This is the time I take away from normal life to spend time with God and focus on how He is calling me to love and lead our wonderful church. One of the most concrete fruits of this time is a plan for the next half year of preaching.

Before I sign off, let me address a huge change this summer. Shawna Farrish, our Admin and Children's Ministry Director, has stepped down this week. She is moving to Florida - a decision she is making to bless her family. While we are all heart-broken, we send Shawna off with our love, prayers and support. In the meantime plans are firming up to cover both her roles so that CPC will continue to move forward in fulfilling the Mission Jesus Christ has given us: Loving God, Serving His World, Changing Lives.

Grateful and Joyful,

Pastor Jerry

From Shawna

For the past four years, CPC Goodyear has been more than just a church to me – it has truly been home. I am so incredibly grateful and blessed for the friendships, memories, and relationships that God has brought into my life through this church family. So many of you have become part of my chosen family, and I will forever treasure the love and support you have shown me and my family.

It still amazes me to look back and see how God's timing works so perfectly. Who would have thought that a simple smile shared between a barista and a pastor would lead to finding such an amazing church family? God directed our paths then, and I trust that He is faithfully directing our paths now.

As difficult as change can be, my family and I feel God calling us into a new season and a new direction. While it is time for us to say "see you later" to our CPC family, please know this is not goodbye in our hearts.

Thank you for the countless memories, your encouragement, your kindness, and for allowing me the privilege to serve alongside you all these years.

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and lives with me. I love you all dearly and pray God's richest blessings over CPC Goodyear and each of your families.

God Bless,
Shawna Farris

Update from AP Search

We wanted to give the congregation a brief update regarding our search for a Youth, Family, and Outreach Pastor.

Over the past several weeks, we have continued conversations and prayerful discussions with another candidate. While we are thankful for the opportunity to meet and discern together, it became clear that this was not the person God has planned for CPC at this time.

As we move forward, we will be refreshing and updating our job postings with a new listing date as we continue the search process. We remain confident that God is guiding this journey and preparing the right individual for our church family and community.

In addition, we have recently updated the job description for our Contemporary Worship Leader position and will begin taking the next steps in searching for a new part-time worship leader for CPC. We are excited to see how God continues to lead and provide in this area of ministry as well.

We ask that you continue to keep the search committee, church leadership, and these future ministry leaders in your prayers. Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and faithful support throughout this process. We trust in God's perfect timing and His continued plans for CPC.

Jerry Treese
Personnel Elder

Grateful Session

Did you know?

Coming from Taylor Michigan, Bob and Donna Gates first started attending Christ Presbyterian Church in 2008 and became members shortly after. They have been active servants ever since. Their love for service is part of their belief system of what it means to be a Christian. "It's just what you do" says Bob about what drew him to volunteering at the church. Though the challenges of time, family, especially the great-grand child they are babysitting, and their community activities they would think of doing nothing less.

When asked what aspect of volunteering has been most rewarding, both Bob and Donna said bringing joy to others and the interaction at the coffee table. With responsibilities of being a deacon and Sunday School, they can plan on being busy most of the time throughout the week. They would also encourage others to volunteer at CPC, saying, don't be afraid, it's just the right thing to do.

The elders would like to thank the Gates for their loyal service to the church. The two of you are a true blessing to all of us.

Men of IAM

We will continue to meet monthly during the summer. Same place, same time -- the Auditorium at 8:30 AM on the second Saturday. We will do a Chapter each month from the book **Who is the Holy Spirit?** Here are the details -- mark your calendar:

- * June 13th What is the Holy Spirit's work? Study Leader: Bill Armstrong
- * July 11th How does the Holy Spirit Help Me Grow? Pastor Mike
- * August 8th Who is the Holy Spirit? Roy Poole

Questions? Contact Russ Schultz, 623-223-4487, russellschultz113@gmail.com




Missions

ALL FAITH

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ongoing Ministry Opportunity: Mobile Food Bank

CPC continues to serve families in our community through the monthly Mobile Food Bank Distribution. There are two opportunities each month to volunteer. During the summer, the Skyway location begins one hour earlier because of the heat. If that start time is difficult, you may help with cleanup at 9:00 AM or choose to serve at the Buckeye location.

 Skyway Church
14900 W. Van Buren Street, Goodyear
 4th Saturday of each month
 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Upcoming Volunteer Dates:
June 27
July 25
August 22

 All Faith Food Bank
214 S. 5th Street, Buckeye
 3rd Saturday of each month
 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Upcoming Volunteer Dates:
June 20
July 18
August 15

Thank you for serving faithfully. Whether you give, pray, donate, or volunteer, your support helps meet practical needs and share Christ's love in our community.

Mission Opportunities to Serve

Thank you for the many ways you continue to serve our community. Below are upcoming opportunities to support this ministry through meal packing, donations, prayer, and food distribution.


Thank you to everyone who served at the May packing session. Together, you packed 57,240 meals—enough to feed 156 children for an entire year. We praise God for the difference this ministry is making.

We invite you to join us for our next packing session in August and be part of this meaningful opportunity to serve.

Featured Opportunity:

Meal Packing Event

 August 15, 2026 |  9:00–11:00 AM
 1100 West Grove Parkway, Tempe, AZ 85283

 25 volunteer spots are reserved – sign up by emailing pambakker@ymail.com if you would like to participate.



How You Can Help

Donations needed:

- We are collecting gently used clothing and shoes in June, July, and August. Men's clothing and shoes are especially needed. (Please place donations in the Pick Your Passion bin outside Pastor Mike's office.)
- Pray: Please pray for the individuals and families who receive these meals.
- Volunteer: Join us at an upcoming service opportunity.

Arctic Kids Ministry

Wrapping Up God's Big Adventure & Getting Ready for a Summer of Fun! What an AMAZING year we have had in Arctic Kids! From creation to courage, storms to miracles, and every adventure in between, our kids have explored God's Big Adventure together. We have laughed, learned, worshiped, played games, created crafts, and most importantly – grown in our faith and love for Jesus.

This year our Arctic Kids discovered that no matter where life takes us, God is always with us! Through stories like Ruth, Jonah, Job, Creation, Christmas Angels, and so many more, we saw God's faithfulness, love, forgiveness, and power at work.

We are so thankful to the Lord for every child, volunteer, teacher, and family who made this year such a blessing. Watching our kids learn Scripture, pray boldly, ask questions, and shine their light for Jesus has been such a joy. Thank you for allowing us to partner with your family in growing the next generation for Christ!

☀️ **Summer Sunday Blast: Outlaws for God!** 🧑🏻

This summer we are saddling up for a brand-new adventure as Arctic Kids transforms into the Wild West for:

OUTLAWS FOR GOD

June • July • August

Get ready for a summer packed with exciting Bible stories, games, snacks, activities, challenges, and tons of western fun as we learn how to stand strong for God and ride the trail of faith!

Kids will discover:

- How God guides us through every adventure
- What it means to live boldly for Jesus
- How to show kindness, courage, patience, forgiveness, and faith
- That God's love never leaves us behind!

Expect:

- ★ Western-themed lessons
- ★ Crazy games & challenges
- ★ Crafts & hands-on fun
- ★ Snacks & special Sundays
- ★ Water activities & summer surprises
- ★ Memory verses & Bible adventures

🍦 **Sunday Sundae – June 28**

Join us after service for a sweet time of ice cream, toppings, fellowship, and summer fun as we celebrate together!

💧 **Water Round-Up – July 28**

Our annual Arctic Kids Water Day is back! Kids should come ready for one of our favorite summer traditions filled with water games, laughs, and BIG fun! More details and what to bring will be announced soon.

✨ **Thank You, Parents!**

Thank you for your prayers, support, encouragement, and for bringing your children each week. We truly believe God is doing something special in Arctic Kids, and we cannot wait to see what He has in store this summer.

“Let your light shine before others...” – Matthew 5:16

We are praying your family has a safe, joyful, and faith-filled summer!

With love,

❄️ Arctic Kids Ministry ❄️

Prayer Corner

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

(taken from "Abiding the Vine" by Jake Kail)

There is a connection in the Bible between the Holy Spirit and prayer. Many believers find prayer to be a difficult and laborious task, but this does not have to be the case. Prayer can be a joy and a delight when we realize that we are commuting with God Himself and when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit in our prayers. Let us look at some ways that the Holy Spirit is connected to prayer. The Holy Spirit is attracted to prayer. There are several times in the Bible where the Holy Spirit moves and comes upon people in the context of prayer. When the early Church was waiting for the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Scripture says that they "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14). They were not just waiting passively; they were praying passionately. And then they were filled with the Spirit (See Acts 2:1-4).

Look at Acts 4:31: "And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." The context of this passage is that the church was beginning to experience threats and persecution. Notice their first response, they gathered together to pray. As a result, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and had a fresh boldness to declare God's Word.

Even in the case of Jesus being anointed with the Spirit for His Ministry, there is a connection with prayer. In Luke's version, it says: "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus was also baptized and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form, like a dove, upon Him" (Luke 3:21-22). We can easily overlook the fact that Jesus was praying when the Holy Spirit came upon Him.

We can see from the above examples that prayer attracts the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit. To be a Spirit-filled believer, you must be a praying believer. To be a Spirit-filled church, you must be a praying Church. The Holy Spirit empowers us to pray. Not only is the Holy Spirit attracted to prayer, He also empowers us to pray. Look at Romans 8:26-27: "Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for, as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints, according to the Will of God. We do not always know what to pray for, but the Holy Spirit will lead us and empower us to pray according to God's Will. This includes (but is not limited to) praying in tongues by the Spirit's power. Speaking in tongues can be a powerful weapon of prayer, and the Lord can use it to empower us to pray in accordance with His Will, even if we do not know what we are saying. Another key to Spirit-empowered prayer is learning to wait on the Lord so that He can lead us and direct us in what to pray. Too often we come to Him and merely go through our "laundry list" of requests. While there is nothing wrong with bringing our requests to God or having prayer lists, we must allow the Spirit to guide us in prayer. I, personally, have found this to be one of the most difficult aspects of prayer, just waiting on the Lord in silence. But I have also found this to be the most rewarding part of prayer, as this is when God tends to manifest His presence to me most. Let us become people of prayer who seek the face of God and call upon His Name. Let us pray until the Holy Spirit comes and fills us in a fresh way and then let Him lead us and empower us to pray, according to God's will. As it is written in Jude 1:20, let us build ourselves up in faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

(Submitted by Pastor Bob Shelton)

Happenings

Save the Dates

- June 2 FSC Class
- June 7 S.S.B. Starts (Arctic Kids)
- June 13 Men & Women's Bible Study
- June 14 CPC 401 Share
- June 16 FCS Class
- June 21 Father's Day
- June 28 Sunday Sundae (Arctic Kids)
- June 30 FSC Class

**Tuesday, June 2 in Sanctuary
7:00 PM ~ Abortion & Life**

**FAITH, SCIENCE
& CULTURE**

**Do NOT need to sign
up to attend!**

SUMMER SUNDAY BLAST OUTLAWS FOR GOD

Looking for Extra Hands and Smiles
during our 10:30AM Service
Arctic Kids June 7 - July 26, 2026

1-4th Graders & 3's Class

No teaching skills necessary.

Let's chat about how you can serve.

Write KIDS on your connect card today!

CPC 401 Share
Sharing your faith naturally

June 14, 2026

12 PM in Education Bldg. Rm 202

Lunch Provided.

Sign Up Write 401 on your Connect Card

**Tuesday, June 16 in Sanctuary
7:00 PM ~ Racism & Critical Theory**

**FAITH, SCIENCE
& CULTURE**

**Do NOT need to sign
up to attend!**

**Arctic Kids!
June 28, 2026
Sunday Sundae
Celebration!**

**Happy Birthday
America!**



**Tuesday, June 30 in Sanctuary
7:00 PM ~ Gender & Sexuality**

**FAITH, SCIENCE
& CULTURE**

**Do NOT need to sign
up to attend!**

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:
Open

Children's Ministry Director:
Open

Youth Ministry Director: Dr. Jayson Black
youth_director@cpcgoodyear.org

Bookkeeper & IT Director: John Merrill
johnm@cpcgoodyear.org