

## A Message from Pastor Paul Hudson

### When Faith and Politics Intersect

“Christianity is not politics, but Christianity has something to say to politics.” This is a quote I heard last month from a pastor, and I thought it was insightful. I make it my aim to keep politics out of the pulpit. However, in our times, the devil has successfully crafted ways to turn biblical values into deeply divisive political issues. In effect, certain biblical values have been taken out from God’s Word and used by both sides of the political spectrum---either to exploit or attack.

The common reaction for pastors and churches is to simply avoid preaching the parts of the Bible that speak to those political issues. As a result, people are left to fashion their own truth based on either imagination, cultural currents, a favorite influencer, or alternate interpretations that are outside of Christian orthodoxy. I must say I am certainly guilty of that in my own life! I work very hard to separate ideology from biblical truth, but I have found that sometimes an ideal can sneak through and when I try to find biblical support for it, I find none! Or worst yet, I’ve unknowingly twisted a truth to fit the narrative I want. AAAaargh! This is not good!

Nonetheless, there are indeed very clear biblical values in the orthodox Christian faith that have turned into divisive political issues. And it is the enemy’s aim to stop the church from speaking about those issues on account of them being deemed ‘politically divisive.’

Well, when a pastor or church fails to faithfully engage in the difficult scriptures, they are really only doing the devil a favor. I don’t think it is good to avoid scriptures just because they have become political issues. That being said, I am completely against exploiting faith and the Bible for political agendas! And I definitely disagree with political churches that bombard their people with left or right agendas day in and day out. Nonetheless, the Bible must be allowed to speak what it speaks, regardless of the politics of the day.

If we are to believe that the Word of God is inspired by the Holy Spirit and authoritative, then we should work hard with humility to recognize and interpret biblical truth apart from politics. We need to form our faith upon a solid biblical foundation, not on political agendas.

## A Message from Pastor Paul Hudson (cont'd)

This is not as easy as it may seem because we cannot take our cultural upbringing out of ourselves. We click the way we tick because we were raised to click and tick that way. Our beliefs and ideals are so ingrained that they can blur our ability to read the Word of God clearly—that goes for all sides of the political spectrum. It takes a willingness to step outside of political ideals and into the new kingdom—God’s kingdom. And that requires the work of the Holy Spirit reconciling us to Christ. 2 Cor. 5:16-21 says, “So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” The Corinthian church was struggling when Paul wrote this to them because of their adoption of Roman and Greek cultural values, which resulted in a misapplication of the teachings of Christ.

As Christians, we are ambassadors for Christ. An ambassador by definition is one who represents a different governing ruler in a foreign land. We are of a different kingdom and under a different rule, which is founded upon our reconciliation to Christ. In Christ, there should be no left or right, but only the righteousness of God through Christ and his ministry of reconciliation.

1 Peter 2:9 says that we are a holy nation, God’s special possession made to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness and into his wonderful light. This is how the Bible speaks to our politics—It says, you are not reconciled to a worldly point of view or to a man-made governing rule, or to any political agenda, but to Christ. You are a new creation, a holy nation, a people of God marked by his mercy. Christ is our leader, and his kingdom is not of this world. We are his ambassadors in a foreign land.

The devil will continue to make faith and God’s Word a political issue. In fact, we’re coming to a time where the Bible in its entirety will be viewed as one divisive political book, if we’re not there already! Pastors won’t be able to preach the Word without appearing political. Christianity is already labeled as “activism” in today’s world. What is your response to this?

I think 2 Tim. 2:14 is spot on as a good, biblical response. It says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” And we must not forget 1 Pet, 4:8, “love covers a multitude of sins.” When your life aligns with God and you live the truth of his Word, politics will try to attack you or annoyingly latch onto you with agendas you may not ascribe to, but do not be ashamed or dismayed. I encourage you to correctly handle the word of truth in love. God’s truth cannot be defeated, and His love covers a multitude of sins.

Pastor Paul



# Family Ministry for Youth & Children

## *A Message from Chyna Bradford LaGrande, Director*

Hello CPC Families!

October is here—pumpkins on porches, sweaters in closets, and pumpkin spice everything (seriously... even pumpkin spice Spam now?). For many of us, October is one of our favorite months—cooler weather, cozy vibes, and that little reminder that fall is finally here. Now, we all know October is also the month of spooky decorations and ghost talk... but let's be clear: the only ghost we're celebrating is the Holy Ghost! 🙌

Instead of trick-or-treating, we're inviting you and your kids to something way better—our Fall Celebration Family Night at the end of the month! There will be games, crafts, laughter, and more fun than you can fit into a pumpkin. The kids are going to love it, and we hope you'll “fall” into fellowship with us. This October, let's “Fall in Love with Jesus”—because unlike the leaves, He will never leave us.



### 👉 Mark your calendars:

#### ***October 5th – Kingdom Kids Sunday & Baptism Service***

We're so excited to celebrate with 10+ children being baptized! Let's cheer them on as they take this amazing step of faith.

#### ***October 24th – Fall-O-Ween Family Movie Night*** ***7:15 PM to 9:15 PM (Social Hall)***

Bring the whole family for a night of fun, crafts, and joy. No ghosts, no goblins—just giggles, games, and God's love. Festive decor, food & more. Register on the church website: [www.425cpc.com](http://www.425cpc.com)

#### **Kids Church**

Parents, please bring your kids to Kids Church this month—we've got incredible lessons, fun crafts, and activities that point them straight to Jesus. You don't want them to miss out!

So grab your scarf, sip that apple cider, and join us as we celebrate the best part of fall: falling deeper in love with Jesus.

With love (and maybe too much candy corn),

Your CPC Family Ministry Team

Chyna LaGrande - Family Ministry Director



# Family Ministry for Youth & Children

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# Presbyterian Enrichment Preschool (PEP)

## *A message from Renee Inman, Director*

We have been greatly blessed with a wonderful start of our new school year! Each day, we greet those sweet smiling faces and welcome them into our developmentally appropriate environment. We have the opportunity to love them, share God's love with them and give them an awesome preschool experience. While our philosophy is that children learn through play, they are also making friends and developing the skills they will need when they launch to kindergarten. Our dedicated staff is committed to serving God and helping our students grow in that love.

In October, we will begin having Bible stories in the classroom each week and we will be offering a preschool Bible to our families.

Something for all of us to remember as we serve God in the raising and teaching of His children...

### **One Hundred Years from Now**

*One hundred years from now it won't matter*

*What kind of car I drove*

*What kind of house I lived in*

*How much money I had in the bank*

*Nor what my clothes looked like*

*BUT*

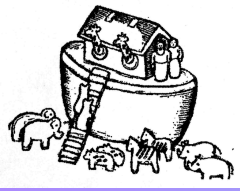
*The world may be a little better*

*Because I was important*

*In the life of a child*

*-by Forest Witcraft*

For more information about PEP School, please call 448-1626.



# Mother's Day Out (MDO)

*A message from Margaret Jacobs, Director*

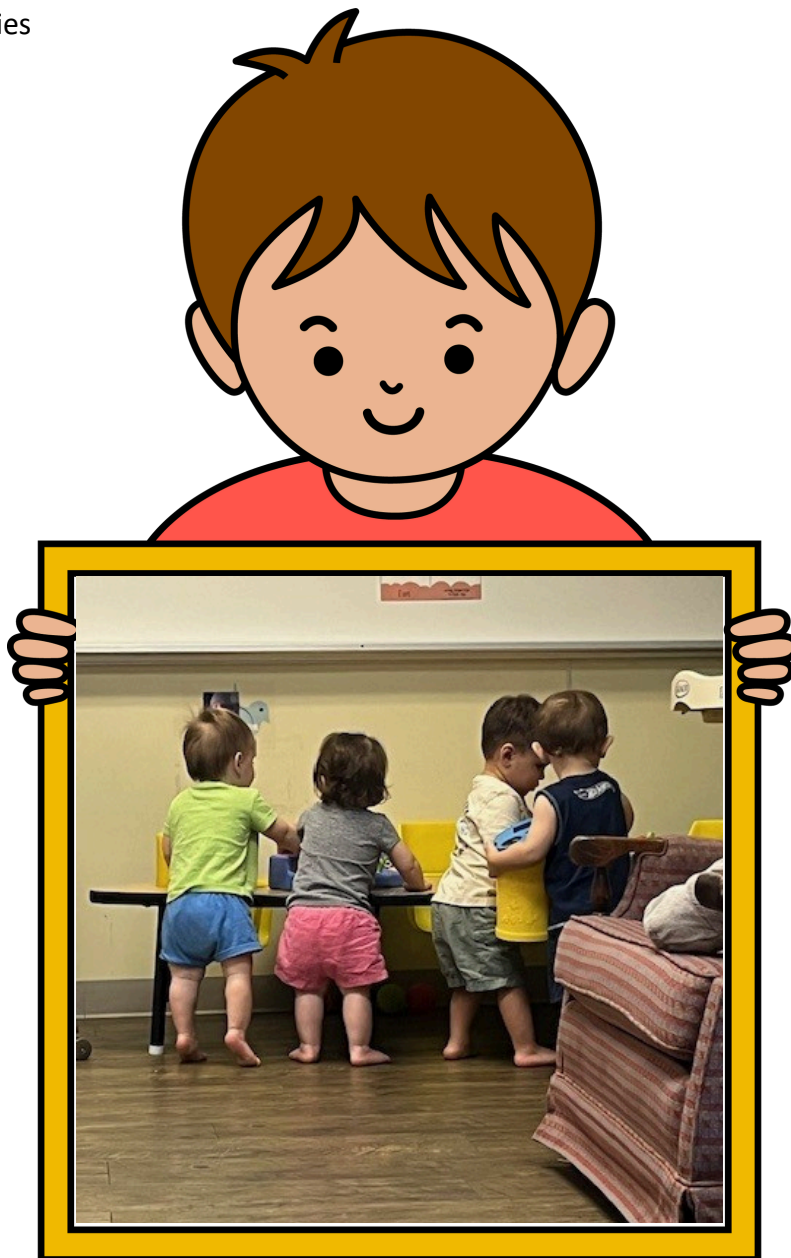
Mothers' Day Out is back!

We are happy to be back and gearing up for fall. We are fewer in number, staff and children, so please spread the word "MDO has openings in our 2-preK classes". We can be reached by email at [MDO@communitypresbyterian.com](mailto:MDO@communitypresbyterian.com) or by phone, 707-448-5159.

Currently, we are sharing God's great outdoors with our children through art, music, and outdoor play. We are looking forward to spending more time outside, playing in the rustling leaves, collecting sticks, and taking nature walks.

Blessings and Happy Fall!

MDO staff, children and families





# Women's Ministry & Community Connections

*A message from Traci Becker, Director*

## **A Note of Gratitude and Hope**

I asked Pastor Paul if I could write one final Newsletter message, and He gave me his blessing. Here it is.

Soon ... Lord willing, my husband Richard and I will be relocating to Oregon. While we are looking forward to the adventures and opportunities that lie ahead, we realize leaving comes with challenges and unknowns. We have family in California, and CPC has been our church home - our extended family for nearly 5 years. We are going to a place we know and don't know, since it's been almost 20 years since I lived there. We have hope that we will find a new church to serve with a church family that is as warm and inviting as CPC. We will let God lead the way and trust He will guide our steps.

I want to let you all know that it has been one of the greatest privileges and honors of my life to serve alongside you – in women's Ministry, Community Connections, and in the many ways we've worshiped and worked together. I know I speak for Richard as much as myself when I say we are so thankful for the friendships formed, the prayers shared, and the ways we have encouraged one another in faith. You have blessed us more than you know, and we appreciate the opportunities we had to learn and grow in our faith walks.

As we step into this next season, I hold onto the promise of God's Word in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." This truth is not only for Richard & me, it is for all of us. God's plans are good, and His future for CPC is full of hope. Praise God and Amen!

While I will miss you deeply, my prayers and love remain with you. I am confident that God will continue to do new and beautiful work in this congregation. Some of you will rise up and fill the gaps left because of our departure, and I am praying now for those of you who do!

One final encouragement – you have a great pastor who shares God's Word and delivers truth in every sermon. I encourage you all to dive deeper with the study, sermon notes, and devotional he provides every week. We have so much to learn – even if we have heard the scriptures many times. There is always something new. I further encourage you to invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to visit CPC. Get involved in Community Connections and help this church grow. More of Vacaville needs to hear the message of the Gospel and Pastor Paul is one who delivers the message in a way it can be understood and applied. Let's not keep this to ourselves, instead step forward in faith, trusting His guidance, and welcoming the opportunities He places before you. Be brave! I believe with all my heart that CPC IS and can be an even bigger glowing beacon of light in the City of Vacaville if everyone pitches in to make it happen.

With love and gratitude,  
Traci Becker



# New Focus

## *A message from the Co-Directors*

We are very happy to have celebrated our 27th anniversary as a community as well as a church. New Focus is growing and evolving in many ways, all of which are exciting. Our members and alumni look forward to contributing whenever possible to help CPC with needs and projects as they arise. Folks have signed up for the patio project so we can all make a run at that and spend some time together.

Judy, Rick and I are truly grateful to witness our members work toward reaching their personal potential, the confidence they gain becomes contagious, it is a case study in what a faith based community can do.

We thank you again for helping make all this possible and we look forward to growing together in the future.







# Deacons Report

*By Kathy Reid, Lead Deacon*

## All Church Potluck!

**October 12th**

**11:30 AM - Social Hall**

Bring your favorite chili dish to share. Fellowship with good food & great company.



### It's all church potluck time!

Share your favorite chili dish and savor it all. Fellowship with good food and great company!

Oct 12 | Starts at 11:30 am | In the Social Hall



## Session Minutes

*By Ethel Hoskins, Clerk of Session*

### Session Highlights from our September 2025 Meeting

Our treasurer, Rick Smith, has been working on reconciling our QuickBooks reports with the bank statements and discovered QuickBooks sometimes does not get caught up with the actual deposits, as sometimes it shows up the following month. The same is sometimes true with debits. The average bank balance for the first six months of the year was \$72,000. At the end of August, it was \$46,000. Currently the balance is \$47,000. We had expenses, including a large water bill and the purchase of a large gazebo for the patio area. Our reserves are healthy, and Session is monitoring the bank account balances to recommend a transfer of funds if needed.

CPA, Dave Cram, had to reschedule his time with us to Oct. 19th-22nd. He will report his findings to the Finance Team and Session the evening of the 22nd.

Our Sunday services in August had an average attendance of 68.

Session was happy to authorize the baptisms of several children and youth. The joyous event will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> - Kingdom Kidz Sunday.



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



**10/06 - Bill S.**

**10/22 - Jared B.**

**10/08 - Chris I.**

**10/24 - Dianne M-V**

**- Luke P.**

**- Dave S.**

**- Valerie D.**

**10/26 - Renee I.**

**10/14 - Diane H.**

**10/30 - Lee R.**

**- Zach M.**

**- Virginia W.**



**10/01 - David & Sharon R.**

**10/11 - Jeff & Missy M.**

**10/13 - Gary & Keri G.**

**10/25 - Jeff & Tracey M.**

**10/28 - Paul & Yam H.**





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Praise & Worship Service**  
Sundays @ 10:00 AM

**Prayer at Church**  
Saturday, October 4th @ 8:00 AM  
in the Conference Room

**Women's Laughter & Latte**  
Saturday, October 4th @ 10:00 AM

**Operation Christmas Child**  
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

**Kingdom Kidz Sunday & Baptisms**  
Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM

**All Church Potluck**  
Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 AM  
In the social hall.

**Fall-O-Ween Movie Night**  
Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15 PM to 9:30 PM  
In the social hall.

**Men's Coffee Hour**  
Thursdays @ 10:00 AM  
In the social hall

**Men's Bible Study**  
Sundays @ 11:30 AM  
In the conference room.

**Women's Bible Study**  
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM  
In the conference room.

**The Book of Genesis Sermon Series starts**  
September 7<sup>th</sup> to November 23rd.

**"For where two or three gather together**  
in my name, there I am with them."  
- Matthew 18:20

**Join us for latte and fellowship at**  
Journey Coffee, 896 Alamo Dr., Vacaville.

**Boxes will be available in the narthex**  
to take and fill with small items for children.

**A special service where the youth of the**  
congregation lead the worship service.

**Share your favorite chili dish. Fellowship with**  
food and great company.

**Showing the movie Despicable Me.**  
There will be a paint station, crafts, music & food.

**Come together for coffee, donuts, and**  
fellowship.

**Following Pastor Paul's sermon series on**  
Genesis 1-4 - In The Beginning.

**Following Pastor Paul's sermon series on**  
Genesis 1-4 - In The Beginning.  
Facilitators: Sandy Crouse & Judy Schneider

# CPC Chart of Organization

Key:  
 Blue= Volunteer  
 Orange= Paid Staff.  
 DFM= Director of Family Ministries.  
 MDO = Mother's Day Out  
 \* = Existing conflict of Interest  
 Dashed line = limited Oversight

