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The Good News Letter

August 2024

Greetings, Christ Family!

After a (much too) long hiatus, our monthly newsletter is finally back! We are, however, going to make some changes in how we distribute the newsletter in an effort to be good stewards of our resources and the gifts of creation.

We will primarily distribute the newsletter electronically, through our regular email list. We also know that many of you need and/or prefer to have a hard copy. We will continue to mail one to anyone who requests it. We will have printed copies in the narthex this Sunday. **If you would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter by mail, please let Shannon Guse (shannon@cpcusa.org) know ASAP.**

Speaking of Shannon Guse, have you had the opportunity to meet our new Church Administrator yet? Or how about our new Pastoral Intern, Emily Bruno? It has been an exciting summer of fresh leadership, and I could not be more thankful for the addition of Shannon and Emily to our team. They have both already made a significant impact on our congregation in their own ways, even in their brief time so far. If you have not had the opportunity to meet them yet, please reach out to them and offer them a word of welcome!

It has been a busy summer both for me and as a congregation. I was blessed with the opportunity to spend three weeks during the month of June at Montreat, first serving as the Conference Pastor for one week of Montreat Youth Conference, and two weeks as the liturgist for the Presbyterian Association of Musician's Worship and Music Conference (which our very own Linda Lovins co-led!).

It was such an enriching and joy-filled experience in ways I cannot wait to share more about with you. Things kept on moving throughout July as we revived our Hops and Hope series, held D101 at Making Miracles, had our first-ever Parents Night Out, and so much more within and beyond our walls.

It has been an amazing summer in so many ways, but I am so looking forward to getting back into the regular routine of Sunday School, Wednesday Night Recharge, and all the other opportunities for connection, worship, and service here at CPC. As we gear up for a new school and Christian Education year, I hope you'll be a part of all that is going on here as we continue to listen for who God is calling us to be.

Peace,

Pastor Sheldon

Pastor Sheldon Steen
Sheldon@cpcusa.org
850-545-8868

Should you or one of your favorite people be listed here? Let us know!

Contact the church office with your important dates...we want to celebrate with you!

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

David & Roberta Mann 8/1

Sylvia & John Collins 8/24

Richard Shefler & Emma Guilarte 8/31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Eamon Strickland 8/4

Michelle Kynoch 8/6

Vivian Hunter 8/8

Hailey Nolder 8/10

Luisa Gillander 8/18

Hosie McCarroll 8/30

AUGUST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

**Church Leadership
Session (“Governing Body”)
Clerk of Session: Carol Allman**

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Bob Crabtree Heather Fuselier Emma Guilarte Bob Lovins Nancy Replinger	Stan Barnes Zana Raybon	Ken Nolder Jay Thompson Mike Weed

Deacons (“Congregational Care”)

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Cherry Douglas Mandy Eaton Bobbie Frye Anne Hodges	Emma Guilarte Derek Strickland	Sharon Fallon Carrie Stolp

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Sheldon Steen
 Director of Christian Education: Carol DeLoach
 Minister of Music: Dr. Linda Lovins
 Church Administrator: Shannon Guse
 Pianist: Dr. Dean Peiskee
 Youth Ministry Assistant: Isabella Giles
 Pastoral Intern: Emily Bruno
 Custodian: Gerome Brown
 Nursery Attendant: Amanda Lopez

Meet Amanda Lopez



Those who have helped in the nursery since Easter have enjoyed meeting and working with our new nursery attendant, Amanda Lopez. Amanda is studying Choral Music Education at FSU and has enjoyed being a lead camp counselor and music teacher at Mason’s School of Music. In her words, “Embarking on this new journey at Christ Presbyterian Church’s nursery fills my heart with joy and anticipation. There is something profoundly special about caring for our youngest members, shaping their early experiences with love, faith, and community. I’m thrilled to contribute to their growth and to be part of their early steps in life’s grand adventure.” Please plan to stop by the nursery and welcome Amanda to our church family!

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Don’t forget to bring your backpacks and/or briefcases for our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 11. This tradition allows our children and adults to gather and receive a blessing for the upcoming school year.

Kickoff Sunday

The adult Chapel Class as well as all Sunday School classes for children ages 3 through grade 12 will resume after Labor Day on Sunday, September 8th at 9:30 am. We look forward to learning and reconnecting with you!

Bible Presentation



Bibles will be awarded to all children in the 3rd and 4th grades during worship on Sunday, August 25. To confirm that your child is on our list to receive a Bible, please email carol@cpcusa.org before August 11.

Children's Sacrament Class

What is a sacrament and how many are there? Children in grades 2-5 are invited to join Carol and Pastor Sheldon in the church kitchen following worship on Sunday, August 25 for a simple snack and a discussion of the sacraments celebrated in the PC(USA). The class will be about 45 minutes and parents are welcome to join us.

Women's Conference

The deadline to register for the Women's Connection at Montreat is quickly approaching! Make plans to join others from CPC for August 9-11 for a weekend of Sabbath, connection, and faithful conversations. Please register as an individual for a computer package at <https://montreat.org/events/wc-2024> no later than August 4. Housing has been secured. Contact carol@cpcusa.org for more information and to let her know you plan to attend.

Teachers and Leadership Commissioning

Mark your calendars: Leadership of all adult, children, and youth Sunday School classes as well as small group Bible study leaders will be commissioned during worship on Sunday, August 25. This includes the Butterworth Small Group, House Church, and Presbyterian Women Bible Study Leaders.

Chancel Choir

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee! **Chancel Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 21st at 7:30 pm and return to worship on August 26th. Remember that **every empty chair in the choir stall is a prayer** of hope that you and your neighbors in the congregation will consider lending your voice to this ministry. We don’t take attendance - when you can be there, we’re thrilled; when you can’t, you’re in our prayers; when you return, we’re thrilled all over again! If you need to sit with family during worship, it’s absolutely fine for you to join us at anthem time. For those who don’t read music or who need to miss one or more rehearsals, we often provide recordings to help singers prep on their own ahead of Sunday mornings. We’re “enablers” in the very best sense of the word and we want to help you raise your voice in praise to God in the most joyful, prayerful ways possible! JuBellation and The Children’s Choir will resume in September. Stay tuned!

Photo Search

Your Liturgical Arts Team is looking for photos of the following art installations. Can you help us find photos similar to this?



- **From 2018:** The Advent candles (hope, peace, love, joy) painted by congregants of all ages on silk banners, plus the Christmas banner of the candle held in God’s hands and the Epiphany banner with the star.
- **From 2018:** The ribbons for Ordinary Time, plus the heart (woven from ribbons) for the communion table.
- **From 2020:** The paper lace Glory to God banners (figures with arms raised in praise to God) against a multi-colored background, plus mini banners for the lights - all for Ordinary Time.

Reorganization of the Worship Arts Ministry Team

Elder Mike Weed is reorganizing the **Worship Ministry Team** and hopes your interest in worship will lead you to join the group for a kickoff meeting in the Koinonia Room on **Monday, August 26th at 7 pm**. This Ministry Team will also meet with the staff for an after-worship “retreat” (lunch included) on **Sunday, September 8th** to choose the Advent-through-Epiphany theme. It’s interesting, important work and we’d love to have YOU join us!

Lost and Found

Have you ever misplaced something at church? We have a Lost and Found drawer in the narthex—just ask an usher or greeter for help locating your items!

Thank You!

Thank you Vivian, Ethan, Adaline, and Elianah for watering our flowers and plants every week!



Blessing Box

As many of you have noticed, our Blessing Box has been getting much traffic as more people discover this resource on our side of town. The need for ongoing resources is significant and we have a few specific needs for August.

August Collection

Granola bars and applesauce.



August Dates

Aug 4	11:50 am	Montreat Youth/Chaperones Lunch
	Noon	Deadline to register for Women's Connection
	Noon	Mission and Outreach Committee (Koinonia Room)
	5:15 pm	Serve Dinner at the Kearney Center
Aug 9-11		Women's Connection at Montreat Conference Center
Aug 11	11:30 am	Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug 19	6 pm	Session Meeting (Koinonia Room)
Aug 21	7 pm	Christian Education Meeting (Koinonia Room)
Aug 23	6 pm	Parents Night Out
Aug 25	9:30 am	Summer CE Intergenerational Breakfast (Kitchen)
	10:30 am	Sunday School Teacher Commissioning
	10:30 am	3rd and 4th Grade Bibles Awarded
	noon	Children's Sacrament Class and Snack (Kitchen)
Aug 27	6:30 pm	Deacon's Meeting

September Dates

Sept 1	5:15 pm	Serve Dinner at Kearney Center
Sept 4	6:15 pm	Wednesday Night Recharge Suppers Resume
	6:45 pm	Adult Programs Begin
	6:45 pm	Children's Choir Gathers (Playground)
	6:45 pm	Youth Gather for Activity and Discussion (Youth Room)
Sept 7	10-noon	Youth Rehearse to Lead Worship on Sept 8
Sept 8	9:30 am	Sunday School for Children, Youth, and Adults
	10:30 am	Youth Lead Worship
	noon	Staff and Liturgical Arts Team Planning Meeting

Ways to Connect

As you may know, we regularly update communications regarding Christ Presbyterian's events and opportunities through the weekly e-blast and bulletin. We are increasing our social media presence in an effort to give you up-to-date information. We hope you will follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/christpresbyterianchurchoftallahassee) and Instagram (@christprestally). We also have a YouTube channel (@christchurch7547), where we are slowly uploading sermons. Be patient with us as we add this new content for you to watch and share with others!



YouTube

Wednesday Night Recharge

Come one, come all, as our weekly Wednesday Night Recharge resumes on September 4! Dinner begins at 6:15 pm, followed by programs for all ages from 6:45-7:30 pm. The suggested donation for dinner is \$7/person or \$20/family. Programming includes: adult study and discussion in the sanctuary, the JuBellation bell choir practice in the Koinonia Room, Children's Choir in the Choir Room, and Youth Activities in the Youth Room.

Summer CE Intergenerational Breakfasts

Our last Summer CE Intergenerational Breakfast will be held on August 25 at 9:30 am in the kitchen. These events have become a congregational favorite as we gather to make breakfast together in the kitchen. It's a great opportunity to share stories and enjoy a morning of laughter and delicious treats.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will resume on September 14 from 10-11 am in the Koinonia Room. This group meets the second Saturday of the month September through May. Study books are available for purchase (\$10). Please contact Marcia VanWingen for more information.

Presbyterian Youth Fellowship at the FSU Rez

Christ Presbyterian Youth Fellowship will gather with other Presbyterian youth groups in our area for the annual 850 Tally Ho event at the FSU Rez (3226 Flastacowo Rd). Make plans and mark your calendar for Sunday, September 22 from 2:30-5:30 pm. Email Carol if you plan to attend, carol@cpcusa.org. There will be a cookout! Wear your bathing suit. Bring a towel, water bottle, sunscreen, and change of clothes. Be on the lookout for more details!

Serve Dinner at the Kearney Center

Join Heather Fuselier and others at the Kearney Center on the first Sunday of every month from 5:15-7:15 pm. 4-5 volunteers are needed. Volunteers must be 13 years old or older and accompanied by an adult. If you plan to attend on August 4, please RSVP to heather@heatherfuselier.com.

Communion

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and will be served by intinction in August. During intinction, you will be given a piece of bread and will dip it in the juice before you partake.



Administrator Office Hours

The Church Administrator, Shannon Guse, will be in the office from 8 am to 5 pm on most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesday. She will be out of the office August 20-24 at a training hosted by the PC(USA)'s Office of Faith Formation.

Communication

Deadlines

If you would like to submit communications to be included in the weekly e-blast, bulletin, or monthly newsletter, please email shannon@cpcusa.org by the following deadlines:

E-blast Monday by 5 pm
Bulletin Tuesday by 5 pm
Newsletter 3rd Monday

2024 Discipleship 101

This year, our annual Christian Education summer day of service focused on the outdoor yard work needed to prepare a second group home for occupancy by homeless and pregnant women with young children. Thirteen members of Christ Presbyterian Church partnered with 9 youth and 2 adults from Canopy Roads Baptist Church as we spent the morning doing yard work at the newest Making Miracles Group Home. Board member, Jamie Brown was onsite to explain the work needed as well as tell us a little about the second group home, which they hope to open in September.

Yard work included taking down young trees, opening up overgrown space in the back yard, pulling weeds, mulching in flower beds, mowing, weed eating, removing old fencing and debris, as well as hauling and trimming several mountains of yard waste at the street.

Four additional CPC volunteers prepared and delivered a delicious lunch to the total group of 24 adults and youth. Sincere gratitude is extended to all D101 volunteers for their hard work and dedication to helping others on a hot day in July. Every single person left the site knowing that we made a difference!



This home was purchased and paid in full using funds awarded from a Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering grant. Many of us remember making donations to the annual PW birthday offering for decades. It is exciting to realize that our efforts were aligned with those from hundreds of churches who have joined forces to provide safe housing to otherwise homeless young families.

Hops & Hope

On Wednesday, July 24, twenty-three Christ Presbyterian friends gathered at Amicus Brewing Ventures for healthy dialogue on Universal Salvation. People brought questions and wonderings. We looked closely at seemingly contradictory scripture and how they fit together. We hope you will join us on July 31 at 6 pm at Amicus for our final Hops & Hope.



Reminder

Election Day is August 20 and Christ Presbyterian Church is a polling location. The church office will be open and many of our neighbors will be visiting our campus as they cast their vote.

Ways to Give

Your donation to Christ Presbyterian Church helps fund our mission and activities in the name of God's love.

To make a donation, you can place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday, use one of the envelopes located in the narthex,



go to <http://www.cpcusa.org/give.html> and click the "Donate Now" button on our website to access our secure payment portal, or use this QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



Giving for 2024 Operating Budget

June \$77,964.75 (largest giving month to date in 2024)

Year to Date \$210,977.39 (through 6/30/24)

2024 Budget \$440,000