

# THE CORNERSTONE

"Mobilizing Disciples to fulfill God's passion to save and transform lives"

June 2020 Volume 16 Issue 6

[www.centralparkcc.org](http://www.centralparkcc.org)

## In This Issue

What Can You Bring?  
*page 2*

Bring continued  
*page 3*

Student Ministry  
*page 4 & 5*

Student Ministry  
*page 6*

Worship Ministry  
*page 7*

Women's Ministry  
*page 8*

Outreach  
*page 9*

Missions  
*page 10*

News & Notes  
*page 11*

Prayers & Notables  
*page 12*

June Events  
*page 13*

Serving You  
*page 14*



## A RETURN HOME

On Sunday, May 24th the church leadership bathed our building in prayer following worship service in preparation for our "Return Home". This return home began with the first of two "soft openings" on Sunday, May 31st. This first opening invited those with last names starting with letters "A" through "L" to attend worship service. Our second "soft opening" will be held on Sunday, June 7th and will include those with last names starting with letters "M" through "Z".

We are looking forward to our complete "Return Home" set for Sunday, June 14th. On this Sunday, most restrictions will be lifted; however, we will still encourage people to follow certain criteria through the summer.

### \*\*\* Please stay home if...

- A) You work directly with Covid-19 or have been exposed within two weeks.
- B) Fall under the description of more vulnerable (elderly, weak immune system).
- C) Have been, or are currently sick (Fever, cough, etc.).

- We will continue to encourage personal space.
- There will be no in-person Sunday school until July.
- Kids church (K-motion) will be back in place on June 14th.

It will be such a blessing to gather together once again to worship our Lord and Savior!

\*A complete description of our "Return Home" can be found on the church website.

*a message from*  
**OUR SENIOR PASTOR**



Derek Slack

## **Jesus uses what we bring**

What if Jesus just used what we bring? What can He accomplish with what we bring to the table? I have really been thinking on this as of late. What if all I have to offer is the equivalent of the boy who brought five loaves of bread and two small fish that we read about in John 6.

Jesus took that amount of food and fed over 5000 people. The truth is that the number is probably closer to 20,000 or more because they did not count children and women in their records of that day. Now it would be easy to look past that story and miss a key component. There was food left over, 12 baskets full to be exact. What a miracle that was! So again I ask, what if Jesus took what little amount we bring and did something? What would that look like?

Over the years here at CPCC, God has taken the little and done a lot. So much great ministry has taken place here over the years long before I ever became pastor. Lives have changed and ministries started, all because someone brought their little. We are at a place in our church that God is asking for your little.

Can you imagine how much more CPCC could do if everyone brought a little? It would be overwhelming. It would be amazing. The church functions best when God's people all contribute. Coming through this time of pandemic we have seen a shift in needs, not only in our community, but also in our church.

The needs are not just monetarily related to be clear. We have people in need of encouragement, physical help, childcare assistance occasionally, food and errands ran, just to name a few in our community. In our church we see needs as well. Anywhere from the need of a drummer, funeral set-up help, kitchen workers, volunteers on the cleaning team, sound team and live-stream team, to people that can help with rides, provide emergency meals occasionally, teachers and leaders for both youth and adult ministries. That is a smattering of some of the needs we see right now.



**continued on page 3**

**Jesus uses what we bring...continued from page 2**

Maybe you look at the list and think one of these two thoughts. There are so many needs or that you have little to offer. I say look at John 6. All the boy had to bring was so small in comparison to what was needed. It looked like a feeble and pointless idea on his part to be honest. If that would have happened in front of us, we would have patted him on the head for his cute effort. But not Jesus... Jesus's hands on feeble ideas brings about leftovers!

The old saying of leaving it all on the field does not work for us because when we do that, we have nothing left. For our current volunteers to thrive in the church and have something left in the tank (leftovers), we need everyone to bring their little and let Jesus bring the leftovers. Ask God to reveal to you what that is. You may not think much of it, but Jesus can make leftovers from it. Looking forward to homecoming and seeing your smiling servant minded hearts again soon.

Swimming in the deep end,

Derek

# STUDENT MINISTRIES



Jeff Martens

## High School & Middle School Youth Group

**Middle School Youth Group** will begin meeting again at the church on Wednesday, June 3rd.

**High School Youth** is currently meeting at Jeff's house on Sundays after church. This will continue until June 14th.

## Attention 2020 Graduates

If you graduated from High School, College or Trade School this May, please contact Pastor Jeff with your name, school from which you graduated and your future plans.

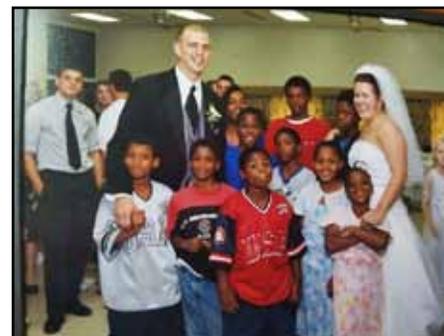
We will celebrate this milestone with you on **Sunday, July 19th.**

**Contact Pastor Jeff at 785-845-4131 with questions.**

## Joy, Sorrow & Connection

There is so much joy and so much heartache wrapped up in this picture. As my wife Heather and I reminisce at this picture from 18 years ago our eyes fill with tears...

So much emotion. There are countless stories, there are memories to last a lifetime and so many precious lives represented. **THIS** my friends is our **WHY**. **THESE** are the people God used to show US **WHAT HIS** love looks like. **THESE** are the faces **WHO** inspired our love and passion for people, for families, for foster care and for ministry. Oh my, how we **LOVE** these people... our family... God's people... our inspiration.



These sweet memories are overshadowed by sadness of recent devastating news regarding one of our "kids". The news makes us wonder where did we go wrong? Why do these things happen? What could we have done different? Even though Heather and I question ourselves during these tough times, God has reminded me personally, through my daily devotions, over and over again to Trust Him. Trust Him when we don't understand. Trust Him when life is hard.

Here is what God has been speaking to me lately:

**Ask for help by praying.** By asking him to be with you, you are able to endure far more than you'd ever be able to on your own. If you are wondering how to pray, just speak and trust God will hear you. Pray for his comfort and strength, rather than praying for him to remove difficulties.

**Trust In the Lord our God!** Psalm 46:1-3 says, "**God** is our refuge and strength, an ever-present **help** in trouble." Isaiah 41:10 says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your **God**. I will strengthen you and **help** you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

**There's no doubt that life has its ups and downs.** For every touchdown in the 4th quarter, there's a field goal attempt that gets blocked. For every couple who makes it last forever, there's another breaking up with heartache and tears. For every test you completely ace, there's another that you nearly bomb. The truth is we will all experience good times and bad times. The only thing we really can control is our response to those circumstances.

**continued on page 5**

## Joy, Sorrow & Connection...continued from page 4

**Make Real Connections.** It's crazy to think about how much access we have to people. With just a phone, we can call, text, FaceTime, send a Snap, DM, watch a video game, join in on a live story and more. Connection has never been easier! But isn't it funny, even with all of this, we still have a hard time reaching people? Somehow, all this accessibility to other people makes real connection more difficult. Thankfully with God, the connection is always there. He will never leave you hanging. He will never leave you wondering where He went. Today, find a way you can connect with God. Maybe your thing is prayer, maybe its listening to music or maybe its going for a walk. Find a way to connect with Him in that way.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

*"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

**God calls us to respond to our circumstances with things like prayer, worship and joy.** So, in this season of life, whatever the occasion—in good times or bad—commit to asking God for His help in responding well. When you go to Him, have confidence that He will not only help you, but He'll give you what you need to respond.

James 5:13

*'Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.*

~ Jeff

# STUDENT MINISTRIES



Miranda Bohlender

## **Kid's T.N.T.**

Thursday Kid's T.N.T. will resume on June 4th, but with a few minor changes.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., with activities taking place from

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

No dinner will be served in June.

We will reevaluate this decision for July.

## **VBS & Summer Camps**

Updates regarding VBS & Summer camps will be posted on the church website and Facebook page as details become available.

## **A Different Kind of Summer**

Unfortunately, our summer will look a whole lot different this year. Normally, we would have kids asking day after day how long until camp and they would be filled with joy and excitement as camp drew closer and closer. We would be holding fundraisers for our high school camp in July and we'd be asking for prayers as we load up kids for another fun camp experience.

None of that will be the same this year, as our usual camps have been canceled. We have some very disappointed and upset youth who will not be able to enjoy some time away from home with their friends, leaders and a whole lot of Jesus. We have others who were excited to finally be old enough to go to camp after watching their older siblings attend year after year. It may not be a big deal to some, but for others it is super sad and very frustrating. Please pray for those who are affected by these changes.

For me this will mean less stress in the sense of collecting money, figuring out themes, getting vehicles in place and ordering T-shirts; however, all of that stress is worth it due to the amazing things that happen at camp. It's worth it for the bonds that are built, the fun that is had, the tears that are shed, the knowledge that is gained, the lives that are changed and the new experiences that are enjoyed.

It is sad how we take for granted the things we get to do every summer, until they are no more. I will be the first to admit camp planning is stressful, but I am gonna miss it this year. Not for my sake, but for the kids that are heartbroken by yet another missed opportunity. On a positive note - although summer will look different, we are going to try our best to make it memorable and fun!

I have tremendously missed our weekly youth programs. I am excited to resume these programs the first week of June, even if they have to "look a little different". We have been in prayer regarding VBS in August as there are still a lot of unknowns. We will keep the church body updated on any changes.

We may stumble through the summer with adjustments and changes, but we can find peace and rest knowing the God of the universe already knows what this summer holds!

~ Miranda

a message from

# OUR WORSHIP LEADER



Jayme Green

## Together

For the past nearly three months now, one of the most common phrases I have heard is “we’re all in this together” or some semblance of it. It’s everywhere, it’s on TV, on the radio, on billboards, in print ads, people are even spouting it on the street like some sort of pandemic mantra. At first, I thought it was great. It was endearing and comforting to know that everybody everywhere had the same worries I did. The idea that we really were all going through the same thing, not only at home but globally, was almost inspiring. I thought we were all going to buckle down and get through this as one big happy family and I took comfort in that.

But then the world and our fallen sinful nature got in the way.

It didn’t take long until this thing that was supposed to bring us closer started to drive an even bigger wedge between us. It became political and it got nasty. There were those that thought we were in the middle of the next plague with their masks and social distancing; there was the personal freedom crowd, complete with protests and conspiracy theories; and there was everybody in between. I heard people on both sides of the argument say awful, hateful things to each other. People who claim to be brothers and sisters in Christ were all of a sudden spouting venom at each other because of this pandemic panic. I almost can’t stand to hear that phrase anymore because while we absolutely are “all in this” we sure aren’t together.

I don’t care what side you’re on, the fact of the matter is that we really are all in this together. Whatever this is, whether it really is a serious health crisis or just an overcautious exaggeration, we really are ALL going through it. The Word tells us countless times of the importance of loving each other, I can think of a dozen off the top of my head. You know what I can’t seem to think of though, anywhere the scripture tells us that it’s OK to hate someone who may not agree with you.

So get through this however you see fit and keep your eyes fixed on the Lord, but please respect those that may not see things the same and keep 1 Peter 4:8 in mind “Above all, love one another...”

Like it or not, we really are “ALL in this together.”

# Women's Ministry



Please keep in mind...

*Due to COVID-19, the events listed on this page, are subject to change.*

*Please contact Allison Crow, Barb Gray and Judi Cox regarding Bible Studies & Prayer Shawl.*



## Ladies Bible Studies

Wednesdays

6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

*The Book of James*

by Kay Arthur

Led by Barb Gray

*Group will begin meeting again in the CPCC Parlor on June 3rd.*

---

Thursdays

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*Selected Psalms*

*Study will resume on June 11th.*

*Group meets at the home of Allison Crow. To ensure proper social distancing, please notify Allison if you are new to the group and would like to join!*



## Deaconess Meeting

The next Deaconess meeting is  
**Saturday, July 11th**  
from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the church.

No Prayer Shawl Meeting in June.

There will be no Prayer Shawl meeting this month.

See you in July!



## Monthly Bible Verses

*Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. - John 15:2 NIV*

# Outreach

## I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE JOHN 6:35

We continue to collect non-perishable food items, hygiene items, masks and cleaning supplies for our biweekly food drives. There is always a need for protein items such as canned chicken, tuna, salmon, peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauces, fruit, soups, etc. (NO CLOTHES PLEASE!)

Donated items will be given away every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church. (weather permitting)

Donations may be dropped off at either the Sherrer/Holmes or White family's homes. Items are accepted any time of day, simply drop your items on their porches to be given away. There's no need to call in advance.

**White Family**  
1515 SW Fillmore  
(785) 338-1378

**Sherrer/Holmes Family**  
4710 NW Redwood Dr.  
(785) 845-9995

**THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO  
HAS DONATED! WE  
APPRECIATE YOUR  
GENEROSITY!**



With the COVID-19 restraints on everyone, Doorstep has continued to provide services to our neighbors in need through phone intakes. We have been assisting with food, rent, utilities, prescriptions, and dental and gas vouchers. We know we will continue to see more people in need as this continues and everyone tries to get back to 'normal'. We appreciate those who have donated food and/or money during this time to help Doorstep. The staff and food room volunteers have continued working to help our neighbors.

We are working on opening the clothing room on limited days, and by appointment only, and to take donations. Once we have something in place we will update our volunteers, board members, coordinators, member congregations and the public through our Facebook page...Doorstep Inc. Please like and follow us for the most up-to-date information.

### **SAVE THE DATES...**

In July, Doorstep will combine our Summer Cash Bash to raise \$20,000 and matching funds, Christmas in July to collect donations for our adopted families and the Envista Cares Challenge where Doorstep is the charity in July!

We will have one food sale fundraiser this year! We plan to take orders for **Cinnamon Rolls and Tamales September 11th – 27th**, with delivery the weekend of October 16th. Mark your calendars to stock your freezers!

**Doorstep's 3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run is Sunday, October 4th at 2pm** at Lake Shawnee. Plan to join us in getting some exercise around the lake and raise funds for Doorstep this October. The walk/run has been moved to a Sunday afternoon this year in the hopes of competing less with other events during that time of year! Mark your calendars!!



Pictured above are some of the families we have been able to help in Bangalore.

## MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

### MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT Samuel Balachander - Emerging Young Leaders

Greetings and love in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Let us enter into this new month with thanksgiving for the Lord, for bringing us thus far and for sustaining us with His grace during the time of this global pandemic. Just this morning, it made my day to receive a Facebook live video from an 86-year-old pastor. Obviously, he's a member of the "at risk" segment of the population, but rather than cower in fear, this octogenarian made a lively video to encourage people to "call on 91-1" (instead of 9-1-1). He quoted the great truth of Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." Both his example and the truth he shared encouraged me.

As believers, we have the opportunity to serve and encourage people who are scared. A friend shared with me that he gave packages of food to poor migrant people in the nearby slums in Mumbai. Another woman I know reported giving a brief word of encouragement to people through a recent phone conversation. Who might we encourage or serve today? A hand-written note, a video call or a home-cooked meal dropped off at the doorstep can shine the light of Christ over someone's day.

The Lord reminds us again and again to spend more time in prayer. We've been praying for every precious soul across the globe, witnessing and also standing in the gap between the dead and the living. Our EYL M-12 team has been very active in reaching out to one of the largest slums in the world which is in Dharavi, Mumbai. They have been distributing food and face masks to help protect from the virus. There is no chance of social distancing in a slum like Dharavi.

We have also been able to give provisions in Bangalore to all the Niriksha kids and their families. We will continue to provide for them as the lock down extends and the economy recovers from this pandemic. Many of the parents have lost their jobs.

#### **Below are our Praises and Prayer Requests:**

- # Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in taking care of us all during quarantine.
- # Pray for EYL staff and associates from around the country.
- # Pray for Miss. Viny and the team in West Bengal who can't travel home.
- # Pray that a revival will breakout in India & the world turning people to God.
- # Pray for the poor and marginalized labourers who are walking back to their home states without food or transportation.

**continued on page 11**

## Missionary Spotlight...continued from page 10

- # Pray for the non-profit status of our mission to be established soon, giving us stability in our funding.
- # Pray for churches to open so we will be able to worship the Lord together as a family again. Pray for businesses that have been shut down to reopen and that God will give them a double portion of blessing.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

With Blessings,  
Samuel Balachander

# News and Notes

## JUNE CROSS GUARD

**Sunday Worship**  
**10:30 a.m. - Noon**

**June 7th**  
*Richard Murray*  
& *Mike Swickard*

**June 14th**  
*Mike Thomas*  
& *Gary Burks*

**June 21st**  
*Tim Cunningham*  
& *Lynden Landholm*

**June 28th**  
*Chuck Shockey*  
& *Tyler Crow*

*\*\*There is no in-person  
Sunday School during  
the month of June.*

## IN SYMPATHY

Please keep Mike & Amy Swickard and Rodney & Loretta Barrand, along with their families, in your prayers. Mike's father passed on Saturday, May 23rd and Loretta's father passed on Friday, May 29th. Our hearts are with them!

**WORSHIP WITH US VIA**  **YouTube**



As we begin to open up our church building, our online streaming service will continue to be available. This service gives those who are more compromised the ability to participate from home, should they choose to stay home. This service will also give those away from church the opportunity to worship with us where ever they are. Our live stream can be found on our YouTube channel, CPCC Topeka.

## **VOLUNTEER CLEANERS NEEDED**

From year one, CPCC has never hired a janitor or cleaning company. We believe keeping the church clean is something every family member should help with! Our building is one big "house", and if we all pitch in, we can get our chores done in a timely fashion, use our financial savings for ministry and take some pride in our building and grounds. Would you consider "helping out around our house"? For more information, contact Cheryl Wathen at 235-1290 (home) or 215-9758 (cell).

The next Cornerstone newsletter will print Friday, June 26th.  
Please have all items to the office by 5 p.m. Saturday, June 20th.

# Prayers & Notables



*Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...*

**Topeka Presbyterian Manor Residents**  
Robert & Agnes Cox

**McCrite Plaza Nursing Home Resident**  
Darlene McCarter

## *Operation Rolling Thunder*

Please take some time on

**Saturday, June 6th**

and commit to prayer regarding:

***church, education, military, government, entertainment, health, family and business.***

## *Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting*

Once we begin meeting again in person, everyone is invited to join the Sunday morning Prayer Group.

The group meets in the middle classroom off the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes beginning at 8:30 a.m. For now, the group will continue to pray together via Zoom. Please join them at [zoom.us/j/2029856144](https://zoom.us/j/2029856144).

## *Monday Prayer Meeting*

All are invited to join the Elders on Monday evenings at 5:30, as they continue praying for Central Park Christian Church.

The prayer meetings are now being held in-person at the church.



# Monthly Events at CPCC...

## JUNE 2020

**\*\*\*Please note, there will be no in-person Sunday School classes until July.  
Many of the classes are meeting via Zoom. Contact the church office for more info.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church	2 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	3 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Derek's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	4 No Women's Bible Study <i>Group resumes on June 11th.</i> 6:30 - 8:00 PM Kid's T.N.T. (No Dinner)	5	6 Operation Rolling Thunder 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
7 8:30 AM Group Prayer via Zoom 10:45 AM Worship Service for Groups "M" to "Z" No SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group at the Marten's.	8 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church	9 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	10 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Derek's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	11 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study at the home of Allison Crow 6:30 - 8:00 PM Kid's T.N.T. (No Dinner)	12	13 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
14 8:30 AM Group Prayer via Zoom 10:45 AM Worship Service "A Return Home" <i>Service open to all!</i> No SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group at the Marten's.	15 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church	16 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	17 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Derek's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	18 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study at the home of Allison Crow 6:30 - 8:00 PM Kid's T.N.T. (No Dinner)	19	20 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
21 8:30 AM Group Prayer via Zoom 10:45 AM Worship Service No SIAFU No High School Youth Group <b>Father's Day</b>	22 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church	23 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.	24 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study-Derek's Office 6:45 PM Women's Bible Study-Parlor	25 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study at the home of Allison Crow 6:30 - 8:00 PM Kid's T.N.T. (No Dinner)	26	27 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study <i>Group meets at the church</i>
28 8:30 AM Group Prayer via Zoom 10:45 AM Worship Service No SIAFU 12:30 PM High School Youth Group at Marten's.	29 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting at the church	30 6:30 PM A.R.R.O.W./T.N.T.				

# CPCG Pastoral & Support Team



Randy Lesseski  
Associate Pastor  
randy@centralparkcc.org



Derek Slack  
Senior Pastor  
derek@centralparkcc.org

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1535 SW Clay St.  
Topeka, KS 66604

Phone: (785) 234-5963

Fax: (785) 234-0538

[www.centralparkcc.org](http://www.centralparkcc.org)



Miranda Bohlender  
Student Ministry Pastor  
miranda@centralparkcc.org



Jeff Martens  
Student Ministry Pastor  
jeff@centralparkcc.org



Jayme Green  
Worship Leader  
jayme@centralparkcc.org



Lynda Buchanan  
Administrative Assistant  
lbuchanan@centralparkcc.org



Linda Bohlender  
Media Specialist  
lbohlender@centralparkcc.org

## JOIN US DURING THE WEEK

Prayer Time - Sundays at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

Sunday School - No in-person SS in June.

Fellowship Time - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Worship Service & K-motion - Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

SIAFU - No SIAFU in June

High School Youth Group - Sundays 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Prayer Time - Mondays at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

A.R.R.O.W. - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Kid's T.N.T. - Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.