



OCTOBER 2022 | ISSUE 10



ENGAGE

Go beyond to lead people of a hurting world into new life through Jesus Christ.

Greetings from Pastor Bee

Dear Colonial Park Family,

One of my favorite spiritual writers is, Joyce Rupp. Rupp is a Catholic nun and writes beautiful poems, liturgy and devotions. One of her books is named, "May I Have This Dance". There is a devotion for each month of the year. The October devotion starts with a beautiful poem. Enjoy.

God's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bee

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

- Tiny Humans = Tiny Disciples
- Fall Outreach Opportunities

TINY HUMANS = TINY DISCIPLES

BY TOMMYE WINDSOR-CUMMINGS

"Jesus isn't just for the big people, y'all! Jesus is for all of us from the tallest to the smallest. While this does start in the home, we here at Colonial Park have the incredibly wonderful opportunity to serve the very smallest of our congregation in a multitude of ways. But say someone has a calling and desire to teach our little ones, but they have no idea where to start. I am here to help!! In this article, I am going to give you a brief synopsis of each of our kid's classes as well as a look into the curriculum we use.

CP Kiddos (1-4 years old)

CP Kiddos meet every Sunday at 10 am.

Their class is taught by Jean McHugh, Claudia Irizarry-Mendez, and Emily Peterson. The lessons are crafted with love by Jean herself and focus on real-life things from a biblical perspective. The current lesson series is called "We Can Bee"! The lessons themselves focus on Love, Kindness, Forgiving, Thankfulness, and Happiness.

CP Kiddos Teaching Opportunities:

If you are interested in helping out with our little friends, we could use someone 1 Sunday a month at 10 am, and 3 Sundays a month at 11 am (after the children's moment in The Gathering).

CP Kids (Elementary Age)

CP Kids also meet at 10 am every Sunday. They have a regular rotation of teachers that teach 1-2 Sundays a month. These incredible teachers include Denise Cooper, Michelle Matilla, Melissa Williams Gooch, Cindy McDonald, and Denise McCormick. If you have been upstairs anytime in the last month, you have likely noticed the brightly colored doors that lead into the Elementary Sunday School Class. The classroom doors introduce what the theme is each month as well as the monthly memory verse. Each month, our CP Kids dive into one theme with 4 weeks of lessons and games to help them to learn and remember. For example, September's lesson series was entitled "High Wire - I can Trust God no matter what".

I hope this helps you see what our young disciples are working on and how YOU can help. Since all the lessons are provided, it takes very little prep time during the week to prepare for Sundays. I just ask that you read the lesson ahead of time and take time to pray that God speaks to our sweet kids through you. It means so much to all of our kids to get to know more members of our congregation. We specifically need an additional Sunday School teacher on the first Sunday of every month at 10 am, and 2 Sundays a month at 11 am (after The Gathering) for our exciting Elementary school students. If interested in any of these openings, please contact Tommye at twindsor@colonialpark.org.

Tune in next time for the exciting conclusion: Youth Group and Nursery, What does that mean and how do you fit in?

Greetings from Pastor Bee continued

The Falling Leaves by Joyce Rupp

With a constant chorus of cicadas
the leaves tumble down,
from long silver poplars,
they twirl to the ground,
dancing the Autumn death dance
beneath the great blue sky

The leaves seem glad at the going.
(Is there something I don't know?)
sparkling in the October sunshine,
they fill the air with gentle rustling.

One, then another and another,
on the skim down from above,
bedding the forest table before me
with comforting crunches and crackles.

This gigantic death scene of leaves
does not smell of sorrow and sadness,
rather, the earth is colored with joy
and the leaves make music in the wind.

Why is this dance of death so lovely?
Why does the leaves seem so willing to
go? Are they whispering to each other,
urging one another to be freed?

Maybe "you first then I'll follow"
or "you can do it, go ahead"
supporting one another gladly
in their call to final surrender.

I have not yet discovered the secret
of the serenity of sailing leaves;
every autumn I walk among them
with longing that stretches forever,
wanting to face that death-dance and
the truth of my own mortality.

*Like clothes, every body will wear out,
the age-old law is, "Everyone must die."
Like foliage growing on a bushy tree,
some leaves falling, others growing, so
are the generations of flesh and blood;
one dies, another is born.*

Sirach 14:18-20

**October
U-Can Ministry Collection Items:**
canned fruit
canned soups
rice
instant potatoes
crackers

Mark Your Calendars!

10/1: Churchwide Cleaning and Organizing Day
10/2: Heal 901 Lunch
10/6: COVID Shot Clinic
10/6: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
10/6: Church Directory Photos
10/7: Church Directory Photos
10/7-9: Christ-Centered Camp Out
10/8: Men's Breakfast
10/13: JOY Luncheon
10/20: Flu Shot Clinic Day
10/20: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
10/30: Trunk or Treat with Food Truck

REST

BY MEGAN WARREN

Have you ever had a plan in mind, and life got in the way?

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. - Matthew 11:28-30

After several weeks of COVID, sinus infections, ear infections, and just lingering ickiness permeating my home, I've wondered when things will get back to normal. Compounded with the heartbreaking world we live in and the crucial need for Jesus in the darkest corners of humanity, I know I run the risk of getting emotionally worn down if I don't tether myself to God and Christ-centered community (which I am doing). I'm normally someone who craves routine, to-do lists, clear expectations, and I so appreciate a good plan. For several months, practically every plan I've made has been tossed, diverted, uprooted, or barely completed and certainly not how I would have it done. I'm feeling a bit perturbed by this, but I'm also experiencing some intrigue. I know God is moving through my life in ways that are redefining and refining me. While I'm a tad uncomfortable being in a zone of disequilibrium, I know that something good will rise from this and for that, I'm encouraged.

This scripture in Matthew reminds me of God's desire for me to simply rest in Jesus. As though we were on an unknown hike together, Jesus will take my overstuffed pack and lighten my load. The weight being lifted allows me to experience the journey more fully and see the surroundings in more engaging ways – to be more present freeing me to experience the joy of just being. What a tremendous gift to know that Jesus bears the burdens of this world – the ones we place on ourselves and the ones the world places on us – if we humbly turn towards Jesus seeking his example and teachings.

I imagine the profound impact living into this scripture might have on my family. What if this feeling of disorder IS my new normal in this season of life? What if I'm being divinely challenged to lean into this moment? How can I be an example to my children when life throws curve balls? How can I respond in such a way that invites them to lean on God when evil tears apart our city? Our life? Our schools? How can my resting in Jesus prepare me to mobilize change in Jesus' name?

I invite you to reflect on Matthew 11:28-30. What is God saying to you? How might you respond to what God is saying? If you feel called to share your exploration, I'd love to hear from you.

FALL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

BY GARY W. VAUGHN

We have a lot of activities going on here at Colonial Park! I am continuing to work on ways to connect with the Community so that their voices are heard as we strive to welcome each and every person to be a part of our Outreach Ministries. Serving as one.

Here is a list of "Did you know?" and "Are you ready?" outreach opportunities that you may want to mark on your calendar and get involved with.

DID YOU KNOW??

Life Line Screening: CP is partnering with LifeLine Screening on Dec 2. In 2022 alone, 127 of our neighbors have been screened in our community.

Missions Round Table: I am a part of a group with representatives from 26 local churches with a common goal. We want to create a digital resource manual to help churches realize the resources available in our area to help folks in need. We are meeting at month end and I'm heading up zip code 38119. Our goal is to have at least one Church in every zip code in Shelby County. This is led by Landin Norman who is the Discipleship Minister at New Hope Christian Church in Bartlett.

On Campus Visitors seeking Help: We are steadily averaging 30 to 40 folks a month that seek our assistance through several ways including Prayer, Clothes, Gas, Food and extending God's Love. The need is so great!!

ARE YOU READY???

We are working to build relationships in Christ Centered Outreach teams to serve through Room In The Inn (RITI), Mobile Food Pantry, Community Garden & U-Can.

On Campus Community Activity Day / Evening: We are in the planning stages, but our very own Cindy McRae has given me a host of ideas to explore. Look for more information as these really exciting family activities are developed!

Community After-school Program: We are exploring the possibility of a neighborhood program that could include things like tutoring, fundamentals of basketball, snacks, crafts, and other activities. We are in talks with several local organizations who may partner with us. All with Christ in the center of the message and love shared.

Big Lawn Event: Hoping to set a date in the near future for a "Praise Band on the Lawn" event.

Mobile Food Pantry: We are currently serving about 2400 people a month by providing 2 weeks' worth of food. The praying with and sharing God's love has become so important to our community! We are continuing to find ways to sustain the needs of our Neighbors. Recently we partnered with Methodist LeBonheur to administer COVID vaccines to 59 of our neighbors and we received a \$1000.00 check to CPUMC for our efforts. We will be joining LeBonheur again on October 6th (our next mobile food pantry day) to give out the new omicron vaccine booster for free and each person that gets a shot will receive a \$50.00 Kroger gift card. The Benefit Solutions Group will continue to work with CP to provide essential items and educational materials regarding no cost benefits ie: Dental, Eyeglasses, Over the Counter, Medication and Groceries. Walgreens will be partnering with CP on October 20th to supply free Flu shots. Although these events fall on the Mobile Food Pantry days, ALL of our Community are welcome!

Hopefully you have seen something that sparks your interest enough to look into it further. Maybe an idea has come to mind you would like to explore. I pray that everyone finds that joy in serving our neighbors and sharing God's love. Isn't that what God intended for His children? Let's talk about how **YOU** can get involved.



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Join us Sundays for In-Person Worship at 9:00 am for Traditional Worship, 10:00 am for Sunday School and 11:00 am for Casual Worship. Not ready to be in-person yet? Catch us on Facebook or YouTube at 11:00 am @Colonial Park UMC. Or you may call the worship service hotline at 901-329-6527 to listen from your phone.

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Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to Easy Tithe. This is an easy way to remain faithful to the ministries of Colonial Park.

This is a newsletter of Colonial Park United Methodist Church. The newsletter is published monthly & mailed third class, and e-mailed weekly except holidays.

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