

CONNECTION POINT

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long-time worshiper, we welcome you to participate in the life of CUPC —its activities, studies, missions, fellowship and worship. Please take a moment to write in the Friendship Pad to let us know how we can be of assistance. If you have a pastoral or spiritual concern, please let our pastors know.

ADULT CLASSES
Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45 AM in the Christian Education Building

Faith & Fellowship Bible Study: Join us in Room #101 as we study God's Word and share in a time of prayer and discussion.

What is a...the...Trinity? Is God one or is He three? Is this taught in the Bible or just someone's idea? We'll explore this topic with the study "The Mystery of The Trinity" by R.C. Sproul. Please join us in Room 103. Study led by Larry Miller.

Wisdom and Traditions: As we look at wisdom and traditions from the Bible, we'll be studying in the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and the Gospel of Matthew. Class is suitable for any level student. Led by Gary Yarbrough in Room # G-02.

Home Grown Parenting Study: As a parent, it's common to have questions about raising a Christian family. In this study, parents share the joys and challenges of raising a child as we explore ways to nurture a fuller faith in your children and yourselves! Led by Rev. Geoff Rach in G-05.

WAY TO GO CHURCH!!!

Our church collected 280 shoeboxes for children all across the world. These shoeboxes were filled with gifts as well as a Gospel storybook that shares the amazing birth and journey of Jesus Christ. Thank you for supporting this ministry! Learn more about the shoebox mission at:

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org>

During our welcome time in service today, we take a moment to shake hands with our neighbors. If you aren't feeling well today or have been recently ill, please greet those worshipping around you, though we encourage you not to shake hands.

Also, bottles of hand sanitizer are located in the main lobby of the Sanctuary and at the ramp door exit if you may have a need.

Thank you for helping us keep families healthy during this holiday season!

News and Announcements

There will not be Thursday Night Together this coming Thursday, November 24th. We wish you and your family a blessed holiday—we'll see you December 1st.

Rev. Tom Hamilton will be away from the office Monday, November 21st through Sunday, November 27th. If you may have any pastoral emergencies, please call the church office at 724-745-0800.

On Sunday, November 27th, Greg Davis from Pine Springs Camp will be joining us during worship in a moment of thanks.

Please join us.

What if...you could walk with Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem?

Using the DVD curriculum produced by Adam Hamilton, we welcome you to join the adult group of Thursday Night Together as we participate in "*The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*". This engaging and fascinating DVD series takes us from beginning to end of the amazing Christmas story as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each week we take another step in the journey, seeing the sites of Bethlehem and learning more about all that Mary and Joseph experienced in their travels.

If you are unavailable to join us on Thursdays, an interactive mobile app is available on www.journeythischristmas.com. This app features a new activity each day and includes something for adults and kids. There are videos, puzzles, bible quizzes, flip-card games and more!

Thursday Night Together is being held December 1, 8, 15 and 22nd starting at 6:30 PM.



IRRESISTIBLE INVITATION: A LOVE LIKE NO OTHER

At this point, you've probably finished reading the second week of *Irresistible Invitation: Responding to the Extravagant Heart of God*. As you read the daily chapters, how did you feel about Jesus loving you as though you are the only person in the world to love? All too often, we feel that God disapproves of us and thinks we are nothing, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Our value in God's sight has been affirmed once and for all by the gift of Jesus in death on our behalf. Yes, our behalf—and that includes you.

How would your life be different with a full understanding of the cross? During our worship service, the pastor's message will provide a glimpse into the new life we have in Christ, and you'll have the chance to look ahead to the coming week. But we must remember that we can only experience that new life by choosing to enter through the door of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

If you received a book and wish to donate towards the cost of the book (\$13) we'd appreciate it. Books are still available by calling the church office at 724-745-0800. There's no telling what will happen when we are on the same page—literally!



ACS Christmas Luncheon
 Monday, December 12 at 11 AM

Join us for a fun white elephant gift exchange and lunch. The fun begins with the gift game at 11 AM.

If you want to have fun with this unique switchero game, bring a wrapped item of under \$5 that starts with an "S" for Santa. Please DO NOT list who the item is from. Let's see how creative you can be!

You do not have to participate in the gift portion to join us for a tasty baked pasta lunch at 12 noon. Please RSVP by December 9th to the church office at 724-745-0800.

WHITE POINSETTIAS
DECEMBER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

A memorial listing will be placed in the November 27th bulletin for a \$5.00 donation. These white poinsettias will remain in the Sanctuary the entire month of December.



Deadline is Monday, November 21st

Name _____

In Memory / Honor of
 (please circle one)

Upcoming Events

Sun., Nov. 20th-	<i>Sacrament of Communion-Both Services Workcamper Meeting 6:30-8:00 PM</i>
Mon., Nov. 21st-	<i>Toy Chest Registration 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Committee Meetings (As Scheduled)</i>
Tues., Nov. 22nd-	<i>Toy Chest Registration 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service-Houston First U.P. Church 7:00 PM</i>
Thurs., Nov. 24th-	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday **OFFICE CLOSED** Community Thanksgiving Dinner Noon-2 PM Fellowship Hall Thursday Night Together Not Meeting</i>
Fri., Nov. 25th-	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday **OFFICE CLOSED**</i>
Sun., Nov. 27th-	<i>1st Sunday in Advent</i>
Mon., Nov. 28th-	<i>Session Meeting 6:30 PM</i>
Sun., Dec. 4th-	<i>Family Promise Guests Hosted at CUPC Through December 10th FINKS Theme Night 5:00-7:30 PM</i>
Mon., Dec. 5th-	<i>Joint Meeting of Session/Deacons 6:30 PM-7:15PM Trustees 7:15 PM Deacons 7:15 PM</i>

Mark Your Calendars Now

There will be a worship service Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th) at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday School to be held at 9:00 a.m. We hope you will join us!

Weekly Events

Worship Service	Sunday	8:30 & 11:00 AM
Cherub Choir	Sunday	9:00 AM
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 AM
Monday Crew	Monday	9:00 AM
Bowser - Small Group	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Men's Breakfast	Wednesday	6:30 AM
Pastor Bible Study	Wednesday	1:30 PM
Bell Choir	Wednesday	6:30 PM
Chancel Choir	Wednesday	7:30 PM
Thursday Night Together	Thursday	6:30 PM
Kearns - Small Group	Friday	7:30 PM

Irresistible Invitation: Week 2 Reflections

When we probe to the core depths of our being, when we get down to the base level of our identity, we discover four absolute needs apart from physical survival needs. There are burning emotional, spiritual, and relational needs which, when unmet, leave us less than whole, often crippled, sometimes sick to the point of being cut off from reality. The needs are common to all persons. Even though we may not use the same words to label them, the reality is the same. The needs are:

1. To receive forgiveness;
2. To love and be loved;
3. To experience community; and
4. To have a cause for which to live and die.

Other descriptions of our needs—acceptance, affirmation, security, freedom, purposefulness, and self-esteem—are rooted in these four. The cross meets us at the point of these deepest needs.

The cross calls us to take up our cross, to pray and live the petition “Thy Kingdom come.” This meets our need for a cause for which to live and die. Three of our deepest needs:

- for forgiveness
- for love for community
- for a cause for which to live and die.

... all met in the cross. Do you see it? Do you feel it?

Try to picture it, again with the words of a hymn from Charles Wesley:

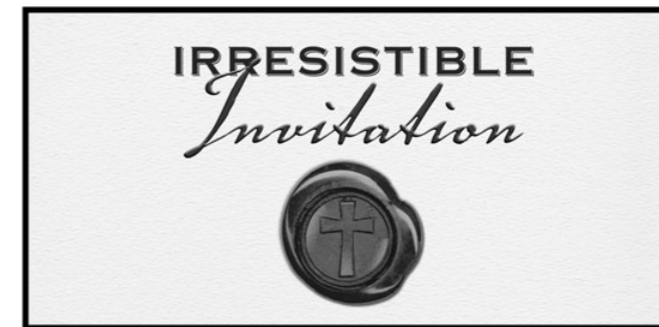
Behold him, all ye that pass by, The bleeding Prince of life and peace! Come, sinners, see your Savior die, And say, was ever grief like his? Come, feel with me his blood applied: My Lord, my Love, is crucified. (“O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done”)

And how will we respond? Hopefully, with hymn writer Isaac Watts, in total commitment:

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. (“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”)

Today's Reflection from:

Irresistible Invitation © 2008 Abingdon Press
Written by: Maxie D. Dunnam



THE CROSS: GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR DEEPEST NEEDS

Rev. Tom Hamilton • November 20, 2011

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:6-15, ESV