



THE CHURCH SPIRE

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“Pondering is a Biblical Option”

We do not always pay attention to our souls. But I can tell you that the Holy Spirit and your soul have been pondering for the last four weeks about how you will make your way through all of the demands and stress of a holiday and still be ready for a holy day. A day that is almost here.

As you take a moment to prepare your soul for the holy day that is fast approaching, take a moment to reflect on this passage from Luke 2:19. It reads, “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Pondering is a Biblical option.

Mary and Joseph were certainly catapulted into unexpected twists and turns. They were not expecting to be expecting. Their plans were quiet and ordinary. But all of that changed when the Holy Spirit conceived salvation in Mary’s womb.

Something happened this last year that you were not expecting – something involving your health, your work, your family, or an important relationship. Like Mary and Joseph, your life is not where you want it to be this Christmas. At least, it’s not what you expected. The gospels tell us that Mary did a lot of pondering around the birth of Christ, trying to figure out that which was out of her control. Maybe you know that feeling as you wander down the wintry road of an interrupted life.

Some interruptions were welcomed: engagements, new relationships, promotions at work, the birth of another grandchild.

Some interruptions were not so welcomed: broken relationships, stresses at work, “the terrible twos,” the sass of a teenager, financial burdens, the loss of a loved one.

When interruptions happen and you’re not sure what to do, what to say, or what to think, remember that pondering is a Biblical option. It’s ok to try to figure out that which is out of your control.

As you ponder, don’t forget to “treasure up” the salvation which we celebrate each Christmas. Ponder the unexpected this holy day, and treasure what God has done in your heart.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Micahiah





May the Lord Bless you on this
Christmas and always

Micaiah, Brian and Sheri

Featured Advent Devotional

We are Servants

If you are a Christian, you have been tried, convicted and sentenced to a lifetime of service. Advent provides opportunities to practice being in the service of Christ. It is a time to spiritually prepare ourselves and focus on the story of the birth of our Savior. And what a story it is. Can you imagine how Mary must have felt when the angel appeared to her and told her the news that she would bear a son and he would be called "the son of God". Surely that was certainly a shocking experience, but she immediately accepted her part in this wondrous event. Her faith was strong and she accepted that she was a servant of God.

It is important that we find a quiet moment during Advent to reflect on how we can be better servants. A writer named Edward Hays wrote that "Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace." We repeat this training year after year. In preparing for the Christmas blessing, we are preparing our hearts for the months ahead so that we can share His precious gift with others and be witnesses of God's love. One of the best ways to be a servant of God is to let our light shine and invite others to know His grace.

Advent is a time for us to reflect daily on our own lives, our prejudices, and our beliefs. We are called to servitude even as sinners. We are called to improve ourselves in order to be better servants. Search your heart. Be ready to hear the call.

*Bible Verse: "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Psalm 100:2*

"I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said. Then the angel left her." Luke 1:38

Prayer: Dear God, we thank you for this Advent Season where we are renewing our spirit as we await the arrival of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for our talents and blessings and ask for your help to use them in your service. Let us sing to your glory. Make us ever mindful of our duties as convicted Christians that we may serve you with gladness. We ask your blessings on all we hold dear and the suffering world community. In Christ's name, Amen

Submitted By: Cynthia Hollingsworth





Christmas Eve Communion Service December 24th at 5PM

**No Sunday School or Youth
Sunday December 27th
Regular Sunday School and Youth will resume Sunday January 3rd**

**New 2016 Worship Leader, Flower Calendar and Youth
Food Sign-Up Sheets are posted. Please Sign up to Help.**

Way to Go!!

**Thank you for your gracious Tithes this year.
We have been able to surpass our budget requirement!**

Prayers of the People:

Tim Allen, Shelia Amos, Mary Jo Bradford, Stroby Stewart; Erica Scott; Bill Beigay; David Patrick; Julie Merwin; Des Noble; Jim Holmes; Judy Hood, Christine Miller, Andy and June Vaughn, Rex Parris, Mike Lee, Michael Boring, Viki Harrell, Miriah Penick, Ivy Bridges, Reese McPhail, Rev. Bill Allen, Charlene Allen, Cindy Rice's Father-Don Falk, Tammy Holcomb, Angie Feldwich, June Stripling, Alison McCracken, Susan Bells mother-Mary Virginia Loyd and others in our thoughts and prayers from Sunday, December 13th.

*If you have a name to add to the prayer list please use the Christian pads in the pews and drop it in the offering plate Sunday morning. You may also email them to:
scottsbocpc@gmail.com.*

Mark Your Calendars:

Room In the Inn

Volunteers needed for December 26th.

Sign-Up sheets on Bulletin Board outside Micaiah's Office

**Need: White Twin Bed Sheets, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Wash cloths*

**You may drop off donations to the Church office. If you need more information, contact Lil Noble at 256-574-1495, 256-609-8864 or by email at lillynoble3@yhoo.com*

CONVO2016: This year we have four youth and a pair of chaperones attending Convocation—a retreat for 6th-12th graders hosted in Gatlinburg, TN. There will be worship, a speaker, and a great chance to meet new Cumberland Presbyterian friends!

We will be there from January 15th through the 18th, and would appreciate your prayers for safe travels, spiritual renewal, and fun!

Deacon Meeting

Sunday January 10th

Immediately following

Worship Services



Session Meeting

January 19th

5PM



Guatemala Mission Trip

July 9th-16th, 2016

Applications available in the church office

**COMING
SOON!**

Building Plan

Fundraiser Information Coming Soon

**COMING
SOON!**

For those of you who are curious about the trip to Guatemala next summer, but don't know what to expect, let me give you a few more details about the trip.

First, you DO NOT need to know how to speak Spanish. English will do just fine.

Second, a little bit about what we will be doing: If you are a medical professional, we will put you to work checking on the kids' teeth, eyes, etc.

If you are not, we need team members who are willing to help cook the lunch for the Hot Lunch Program, members to make crafts and do activities with the kids throughout the afternoon, members who will coordinate and play games with the kids, and members who would be willing to help teach Bible stories to the kids in creative ways. *A lot of the "curriculum" that we will use with the kids will be further developed once we have a team that is ready to go. We will put together lessons and activities that we can do without having to speak much Spanish. I will also be there to translate when needed. The idea is basically to run a type of VBS program for the kids in the afternoon while medical professionals pull a few kids out at a time for their exams.*

EVERYONE will be put to work on the team. Nobody will be standing around doing nothing

Finally, a note about mission work and our perspective on it: We, as Cumberland Presbyterians, are a part of a global denomination. As such, we have CP churches around the world. Several years ago, the CP denomination decided that their next target area for expansion of the CP church is Central America. Due to connections we already had, Guatemala was the smartest place to start. There now exists a Council of churches in Guatemala that practically functions like a presbytery, but it is not officially CP, yet. All to say, several churches in Guatemala are interested in being CP. One of their ministries is the Hot Lunch Program, which is directed by Anay Ortega, a CP missionary from Colombia. Mission work can be done poorly, as many churches seek to colonize and "save" people who are not like us. We don't seek to do that. One of the main purposes of this trip is for our church here in Scottsboro to be able to build relationships with churches in Guatemala who are also seeking to become CP. It is always Biblically sound for groups of Christians to gather together and worship. We learn from each other and from different cultures when we do. It also is a good reminder that God is working in different corners of the world. So, part of our trip will be to acquaint ourselves with Guatemala. We will worship with the churches there, and we will attend any Bible studies or services we may be invited to.

AND, we will work. We will serve, we will teach, we will play games, and we will pour into the lives of children who otherwise don't get much attention. We will be culturally sensitive to their background, but we will proclaim the Good News of God's love through our work and through the things we say.

If you have any further questions about this trip, about Guatemala in general, or about our theology of missions in the CP Church, don't hesitate to call or email me.



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP 2016



July 9th - 16th, 2016

WHAT: A Trip to Guatemala City to work with the Hot Lunch Program (where we sent the Loaves and Fishes money).

A trip like this will help us build a relationship with Cumberland Presbyterians in Guatemala, to learn from them, love on them, be tourists (and who hasn't wanted to worship in Spanish?!)

WHO: 8-10 adults. We could use both medical professionals AND other adults. Medical professionals would work with the kids doing health checks in relation to their specialty. Any other adults would work with the kids, teaching Bible Lessons, cooking meals, and playing games.

WHEN: We would be flying out on Saturday, July 9th, and returning on Saturday, July 16th.

COST: \$1000-\$1200/person (depending on plane tickets) IF you are interested in going on this trip, contact Pastor Micaiah by email. Also fill out an application, and start saving your money.

DEADLINE: In order to reserve lodging and buy plane tickets, we need commitments by JANUARY 31st, with a \$200 deposit and an application. Another \$450 will be due March 1st. The remaining balance will be due May 15th.

*If you want to HELP but can't join us—you can help pay someone else's way!—make donations out to Scottsboro CPC with Guatemala Mission Trip as the subject line.

2015

General Fund

December 20th offering: \$ 8,057.00

YTD Offering: \$ 315,250.17

Budget Requirements

Budget Requires per Sunday: \$6,533.67

YTD Budget Requires: \$ 313,616.16

Attendance for 12/20/15

Sunday School: 59

Worship: 121

Worship Aids for Sunday

Head Usher: Rodney Bell

Pastor: Dorsey Walker

Worship Leader : Shane Small

Greeter: Lucy and Buddy Boykin

If you cannot serve, please find someone who will replace you.

If you need something please call the Church office If no answer please call Micaiah, (205) 478-5985; Brian (630) 730-1577 . Your concerns and needs are important to us.

The Church Spire

Church (256) 574-2575

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Julie Gentry, MDO Director

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The Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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