



CPC QUARTERLY

www.cpcnewhaven.org

9:00 AM Sunday Studies 135 Whitney Avenue
10:30 AM Worship Service New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 777-6960



WINTER 2010



Welcome by the Pastor:

Perhaps you heard me say it prior to one of our worship services, or right before we shared sacred bread and wine together. But we really do mean it when we say; “you are safe here!”

CPC is not about a denomination to exclude you by, or a set of rules to judge you or a place for people that think they have it all together! CPC includes all of us regardless of our spiritual context or history that are in some way in journey toward “being in communion with Christ!” So relax and enjoy the journey with us toward being in communion with Jesus Christ.

Oh, and one more thing would you join us for our popular “CPC Café”? It's free to all who are visitors and/or just don't have any change on them for whatever reason.

Hope to see you there!
Preston

Life on Life Discipleship at CPC

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Cor. 13: 4-7

This may be the most commonly read passage at weddings. Consequently, it can be easily heard with idealistic sentimentality or bored familiarity. A friend of mine heard these words for the first time read at a wedding and began weeping as he was overwhelmed by the thought of a love that pure. He was a groomsman in the wedding so that story goes down in his book as both a turning point in his journey to Christ and one of his most embarrassing moments. Regardless, if you ask him he'd still say that love is worth crying in public over. It is the highest call of the Christian life, it is our duty and our response. We love because we were first loved. The book we are discussing in Sunday Studies is about this love. *Charity and Its Fruits* is a collection of sermons preached by Jonathan Edwards on 1 Corinthians 13. Charity is more than providing for the poor and giving others the benefit of the doubt, it is the greatest commandment – love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength – and the second as well – love your neighbor as yourself. Last semester, we focused our studies on subtle sins, the issues of the heart that we ignore in ourselves and in our brothers, seeking sensitivity to the Spirit's sanctification of us. This semester we will seek to train our hearts to love in this highest of callings, as Christ loves. More than reading the words of Edwards, we will be opening our hearts and our own histories for the sake of the church, reflecting on the love of Christ we have seen in our world. Life-on-life discipleship is about more than learning information, it is about seeing change in our lives through intentional relationships rooted in the love of the gospel. Arrive at 8:45 am for coffee to get you ready for this remarkable study.



Upcoming Events:

For more information, please check the calendar found on the church website:
www.cpcnewhaven.org

Missions Potluck: Feb 7

College Retreat: Feb 12-14

Spiritual Leadership Training Seminar: Mar 26-27

Good Friday Service: Apr 2

Easter Service and in-home fellowship meal: Apr 4

Workday: Apr 24

CPC Joining: Apr 25

Graduation Celebration: May 2

First Annual Ascension Celebration!

The Christmas Eve service was a success and now we are planning on doing it again in May – that is having both congregations (CPC on Whitney & in the Hill) celebrate together. This will be an exciting time of sharing – sharing our favorite foods, favorite songs, and stories of Christ at work in our lives. We will be under the pavilion at Camp Cedarcrest after services on May 16th. Why celebrate the ascension? Because Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father sent his Spirit to work out in us our salvation, that is to bring us to Christ and to sanctify us and that is worth celebrating!

KIDS CLUB

Gear up for another semester of Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and all-around fun! Hannah Chen and the Gribbles will be leading *God's Family in ACTION*, looking at stories from the book of Acts and learning about what it means to be a part of God's family – how different people from different places are united in Christ to work together, care for each other and welcome new members.

BOOK CLUB

Doug Bruce and George Levesque will be leading a discussion of Rev. Tim Keller's *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*. Enjoy a time of discussion and reflection on how classic Biblical stories can reveal the key to understanding our society and our own hearts.

WEDNESDAYS AT CPC

5:30 pm Dinner 6-7pm Classes

THEOLOGY CLASS

Questions and more questions! We LOVE serious questions – especially questions that bring us to a greater understanding of God – God's being and God's actions – especially as revealed in Jesus Christ for US and OUR salvation! In other words, it's not academic questions that are so interesting, but confessional ones – questions that pertain to our own journey in faith and practice and with the intent of knowing what to believe and do! And what better way to ask questions "confessionally" than to ask them with those who have gone before us in their own confessing faith-journey?

This then is what we do on Weds. evening following supper at CPC. It is also a required class for all leadership and teaching positions at CPC – so don't miss out – there is arguably nothing you can do more to prepare yourself for the Christian life than to construct a Christian worldview using the great consensus of the church over the centuries – we will do this using the historic Westminster Confession of Faith! The course is taught by Rev. Preston Graham.

Didn't go last semester? Don't be deterred, it's not too late to join!

CPC ON CAMPUS

The undergrad ministry has a busy semester ahead. Bible studies in dorms, the mentoring program with our high school students, and a retreat with the other schools in New England. In addition to this, we will be starting up prayer groups in several colleges with the hopes of someday having them in twelve colleges. Grads and young professionals also have active community groups, social events, and two upcoming Christian Faith & Practice luncheons.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR

MARCH 26-27

An important part of leadership training at CPC, this class will take you through the dynamics of spiritual leadership and the skills of a spiritual leader. This will include primers on lay counseling, small group discussion, classroom management, basic hermeneutics, recruiting team members, and leadership styles. Weekend seminars are a great way to get to know others in the congregation and learn communally.