



Events

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cogpca.org/events



SCAN ME

YOU'RE INVITED

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 14th
Immediately after church

Spend a relaxing afternoon enjoying old friends and making new ones at the Church Picnic. We'll have lots of food, yard games, a bounce house, cotton candy, and much more.

Register online or in the Welcome Center

Fall Women's Bible Study

ISAIAH: THE LORD SAVES

By Kathleen Buswell Nielson

Study days / times are as follows:

- Tuesday morning 10:30 to 12
- Tuesday evening 7 to 8:30
- Wednesday morning 10 to 11:30 (childcare provided)
- Wednesday evening (zoom) 7 to 8:30

Begins week of September 15th
Book costs \$15

To Register: contact Brenda Wilson
(wtwilson1@verizon.net)

NEWCOMERS Lunch

September 28, 2025 12:30pm
Pastor Mark's House
Sign up here

Good Food
New Friends
Information about
Covenant of Grace

Sunday Morning Christian Education

Children

9:15am "Lord Teach Us to Pray" Fellowship Hall
10:30am Rainbow Room-Nursery - infant-age 3
Kids worship during sermon in Room #6- age 3-2nd grade

Adults

9:15am "Lord Teach Us to Pray" Fellowship Hall
9:15am Matthew- Room #9
10:10am Prayer Meeting in the Church Office

GIVING

SECURELY GIVE ONLINE OR VIA
SANCTUARY GIVING BOXES

COGPCA.ORG/GIVE

September 7, 2025

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Finding significance and
joy when life is a vapor



Covenant of Grace
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:15am Christian Education

*Coffee and Tea available in the Welcome Center between
Christian Education and Worship

10:30am Worship Service

Connect with Us

Covenant of Grace - church office

410-833-2160 office@cogpca.org

Sr. Pastor Mark Samuel | mark@cogpca.org

Assistant Pastor, Ken Harris | ken@cogpca.org



@COGPCA



https://cogpca.org



We are so glad you're here! At Covenant of Grace we strive to be a hospitable, gospel-centered fellowship committed to helping people know God, become more like Jesus, and serve his world. As we worship together today, our prayer is that Jesus would be glorified, his word made clear, and his people equipped and empowered to love and serve God & their neighbors. Soli Deo Gloria!
~Pastor Mark Samuel

Children @ Covenant of Grace

Your children are welcome in all parts of worship at Covenant of Grace! To help support the full participation of families in worship, we make available a kid's worship program during the sermon for children ages 3 - 2nd grade as well as a nursery and cry room. Christian education classes are available for all ages (see back cover). Have a child with special needs? Please let us know & we'll make every effort to accommodate.

After the Service an Elder will be up front with stickers for children who share what they learned this morning.

Week at a Glance

Sun. September 7, 2025

10:30am Worship Service
12:00pm Choir Practice
6:00pm Youth Group

Tues. September 9, 2025

12:00pm Ladies Craft Day

Wed. September 10, 2025

7:00pm ESOL Registration Night
7:00pm Middle School D-Group

Thurs. September 11, 2025

7:00pm Men's Bible Study

Fri. September 12, 2025

8:50am Wo. Prayer Mtg. (Zoom)

Sat. September 13, 2025

3:00pm Picnic Set-Up

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
Church Picnic after service

Order of Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....PASTOR MARK SAMUEL
RECOGNIZING RISING 2ND GRADERS
CALL TO WORSHIP.....MATTHEW SHARP
from Revelation 19: 6-7

SONGS OF PRAISE

PRAISE THE LORD THE ALMIGHTY
ALL SUFFICIENT MERIT

INVOCATION PRAYER

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE & RENEWAL.....ASST. PASTOR KEN HARRIS
Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Forgive those, O God who confess their faults. Restore those who are repentant, according to your promises declared to humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for Jesus' sake that we may from now on live godly, righteous and sober lives. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE.....MATTHEW 11: 28-30

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH.....ELDER GREG COARD

OUR GIFTS FOR GOD'S GLORY.....TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF PREPARATION

FROM EVERLASTING (PSALM 90)

SCRIPTURE READING*.....ECCLESIASTES 1: 1-18

THE SERMON.....PASTOR MARK SAMUEL

"THE QUEST FOR MEANING"

SONG OF REFLECTION

GOD HIMSELF

CONFESSION OF FAITH.....HEIDELBERG CATECHISM Q.75

Q. How does the holy supper remind and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?

A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him. With this command come these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

SONG OF COMMITMENT

DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION

*Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited to attend Kids worship in room #6.



Sermon Notes

Title: The Quest for Meaning

Text: Ecclesiastes 1: 1-18

Message: Ecclesiastes invites us to open our eyes wide to the baffling absurdities of life in our fallen world that we might find the ultimate source of meaning in God.

Outline:

I. What's up with Ecclesiastes? Is everything really meaningless?

1. Yes

2. No

II. What we see when go outside and open our eyes.

1. All gain and the product of our work passes away.

2. Nature is a prison

3. No one leaves a lasting legacy

4. The more we learn, the more baffled we become.

III. What happens when we climb the stairs for a better view.

1. Everything is meaningful

2. Nature is is a beautiful gift

3. God has a home for us.

4. True wisdom begins at his feet.



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Prayer Requests

Steve Danko: Please pray for Steve's sister Lesia who is extremely weak from the chemo treatments. Doctors are concerned about her gaining enough strength to be able to go through with the bone marrow transplant in September. Also pray that her daughter will be an acceptable donor.

Linda Davidson: Continue to pray for Linda, her back is much worse and has a few appointments coming up for shots. The shots have helped her in the past, however, the first appointment is not available until 9/16.

Teresita Metzbower: Please continue to pray that Teresita builds strength and that her body recovers well, with improved tolerance to therapy after a stroke.

Karen Van Fossen: Continue to Pray for Karen's brother-in-law Rich as he begins chemo treatments for advanced prostate cancer..

Sofia Samuel: Pray for Sofia as she is having meniscus repair surgery on Sept. 10th.

Terry Zentz: Pray for her as she rebuilds strength and endurance. Pray that we continue to make progress as she is able to do what is needed every day. God has truly answered our prayers and we are most thankful for the prayers that keep us going each day.....Always grateful.

Missionary Prayer- RUF

Reformed University Fellowship known as RUF connects the big truths of the Bible with the big questions college students face. They reach students for Christ and equip them to serve. COG supports three RUF Campus Ministry staff members:

Jacob (and Pei) Jasin -RUF International at Johns Hopkins University. Biblical hospitality is the backbone of RUF International ministries. Jacob works with both graduate and doctoral candidates. One of the students who graduated and was leaving said, "RUF-I is the most important thing in my life in America—more important than my degree."

Pray that God will bring new Christian friends into the lives of the students as they return to their home country.

Trip (and Joy) Beans - University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC.) Trip has been at UMBC RUF for 5 years

We will be working on a last fundraising push for the end of the year. We would like to raise \$50,000.00 additional to balance out some financial transitions our ministry is going through. We will be preparing our staff team for the fall. Our new intern, Titus, will be joining the staff made up of Ruth (full time staff), Joy (part-time staff), and me. We are excited to hit campus!

Ruth Wilmot - University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC.) Ruth interned at UMBC for a year which transitioned into full time ministry in June '24. She has been focusing on establishing a Women's Group and working with small group Bible studies.

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