



I just finished the staff meeting where we finalized which scripture lessons, hymns, anthems, and special music will be the focus of our five Holy Week Services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise, and the Easter Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:30 AM). The gospel writers spend most of their words on Holy Week. Each evangelist has his own angle in telling the story. Each writer is attempting to make sense of the dramatic events that occurred between the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the morning the women went to the tomb and found it empty.

No one saw the resurrection of Jesus. 2000 years of art work depicts Jesus emerging from the tomb while Roman soldiers lay unconscious and the heavy tombstone is pushed aside. Many of these are masterpieces, but they are misleading. The women who arrived early in the morning found the tomb empty. When they asked the angel standing next to where Jesus' body was placed on Friday night, the angel asked them, "Why do you seek the living among dead? He is risen; he is not here." The angels rebuke reverberates across the centuries. To this day we continue to seek new life in all the wrong places.

The manner in which the resurrection occurred remains a mystery. God intended it that way. The resurrection is out of our range of understanding because it comes from another sphere of reality. Its truth cannot be articulated by explanation, although scholars have long tried to do so. Thus, the truth of Easter must always be carried by the testimony of witnesses.

At the turn of the 20th century, Physician and Missionary Albert Schweitzer made the first of many quests to discover the historical Jesus. He wrote:

Jesus comes to us as one unknown. He came to those who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow me!"

And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

The disciples are terrified and shocked by the news

Jesus was alive. They were instructed to go to Galilee where he will meet up with them again. In his book Schweitzer asks: "Where is Galilee?" Galilee is in the toils, the conflicts, and the suffering of this life which

Jesus calls us to live and serve. Galilee awaits people who have lost their bearings, whose faith is on life support, who compromise their integrity to make a living, and who sit in the pews most Sundays and are still mostly confused about who Jesus is and what he is calling us to do. We testify to his resurrection when we go out and complete the story.

We are offering opportunities for you to offer your own witness at two of our Holy Week services. At the 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service we hear the words of

Jesus around the table in the Upper Room: Do this in remembrance of me? What practices in the church, and in your life of faith, have served to help you remember Jesus? What has been passed on to you that you want to pass on to others? Then, at the Sunrise Service there will be an opportunity for you to complete the sentence of the Easter hymn, "Because He Lives." The chorus goes, "Because he lives I can...." How has the resurrection changed how you live? How are you completing the story of the resurrection?

I always get a thrill out of the Easter morning. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Grace and truth,
James Brassard

Holy Week Schedule

March 20 — Palm Sunday

With waving Palms, the large throng welcomed the popular Jesus into Jerusalem. We have a drama titled "Tombs by Matthias." The children will sing. The sermon is titled, "The Long Defeat."

Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 PM

We will examine the events of the final night

Jesus spent with his disciples in the Upper room. We will ponder the question: "What traditions have helped you remember Jesus?" Communion will be served around the table.

Good Friday at 7:30 PM

We gather to remember that wretched Good Friday in Jerusalem. The Friday that appeared to shatter the dream of a new world order. We will follow the story as told by scripture and illuminated by song and film.

March 27 — *Easter Sunday*

The Resurrection of the Lord

7:00 AM Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary:

The sermon title is: "Because He Lives." We will close the service with communion in the Memorial Garden.

The Annual Easter Breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, and pancakes will be served from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM in Dodds Hall. A continental breakfast is from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM for families arriving early for the children's Easter program.

The Children's Easter Program, including the Easter Egg Hunt and the connected lessons, will be held from 9:30 AM -10:15 AM.

Our Services in **Celebration of the Resurrection** will be held at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. We will sing the classic Easter Hymns and enjoy special choral and instrumental music. The sermon is titled: "Putting the Flesh Back in Easter."





One Great Hour of Sharing



Sharing brings joy — to Others, to God, and to Us.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to share God's love with people experiencing need.

Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. that cares for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

The PHP is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) working with congregations and partners around the globe to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. PHP is able to support projects in five program areas: Direct food relief; Development assistance; Influencing public policy; Lifestyle integrity; Education and interpretation.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

SDOP participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. In SDOP projects, low-income people determine the problem, organize themselves to do something about their condition, and are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Your gifts to OGHS mean you too are present, bringing healing and hope to some of the world's most desperate situations. Never underestimate what a difference you can make. Let us thank God for giving us the opportunity to share our gifts so generously.

**CCPC will be joining the efforts of OGHS during
worship services on March 20 & 27.**

Thank you for your generous support!

Adult Education Class!

March 20, 2016 at 9:30 AM

"Should Christians forgive Judas?" Two esteemed theologians will lay out the arguments for the "forgiving him" and "not forgiving him." Join us in Dodds Hall to hear highly instructive arguments.

CCPC Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 9th at 9 AM

Gentlemen, start your engines! While it will not be the big race at the "brick yard" on Memorial Day, we are planning our Spring Clean Up to focus both on cleaning out last year's dead growth from the garden beds and doing lots of much needed pruning and trimming. We will not be spreading new mulch this year.

Please bring yourself, a Can Do attitude as well as gloves, boots, hats, rakes, pruning shears, blowers, wheel barrows, shovels, and chain saws.

A light lunch will be provided around noon.

Gadabouts

The Gadabouts will meet at **12 noon on Tuesday, April 5th**, in the Conference Room for their monthly meeting. Beverages and a desert item will be provided.

Save the Date!

CCPC will host its first Annual Golf Tournament at the Bowie Golf Club on **May 7, 2016**. This tournament will benefit the 2016 Mission trip to Mexico and CCPC Youth Ministries.

Tiger Lilies

The Tiger Lilies meeting day changed to the second Monday each month. Next meeting is **Monday April 11 at 7:30PM** in the Parlor. We'll discuss "Telling the Bees" by Peggy Hesketh. Contact Andrea Brassard andreabrassard@verizon.net



Don't Forget!

Children's Service is **Sunday, April 17th!**

This is where the Children's Ministry leads the worship service.

You won't want to miss it!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made the Children's and Youth Ministry Lenten luncheon a success! Thank you Lynn de Seve for the beautiful decorations and help with making sure we had all we needed to make the luncheon a success. Thank you to everyone who brought all of the yummy dishes to share. A special thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up the wonderful meal, especially Kemi Komlan and Jennifer Woods. It would not have been possible without all of the volunteers!



Dear Friends,

Our lives changed in an instant on November 17, when Jim collapsed at work with a ruptured colon. You have surrounded and supported us with love, prayers, encouragement, nursing tips and support, emergency home improvements and repair, hospital and home visits, Reiki, cards and care packages, delicious meals, welcome home celebrations and late night nursing and pastoral care house calls! We cannot begin to thank you enough. You have made a scary, stressful time so much easier and we tear up with gratitude as we remember your kindnesses. We are surrounded and supported by God's Angels, and can share evidence of this Divine Love — ask us sometime! Jim is back to work 3-days a week and works a little from home every day. We are so blessed that his firm has continued to pay him the whole time he was hospitalized and as he recuperates! He is scheduled for several diagnostic procedures later this month to make sure his colon is healthy and ready for reconnection. If all goes well his surgeon will reconnect his plumbing next month. Please keep him and his medical team in your prayers. Thank you so much.

We are blessed to be part of such a caring congregation of beautiful souls; may each of you take a few moments to wonder at the amazing creation you are, and may God bless each of you and your loved ones with Health and Happiness always!

Namaste' in Christ's Love
Sheree and Jim Ruhl



CCPC Women's Retreat

It's not too late!



You can still sign up for the Women's Retreat to learn about *The Angels Among Us* and experience a weekend of study, fun, fellowship, and good food.
Forms are in the Atrium.

WHEN: Friday, April 8 to Sunday, April 10

WHERE: Rhodes Grove Conference Center in Chambersburg, PA

FEES:



Single Person Room

5 meals / 4 meals = \$262 / \$248

Double Person Room

5 meals / 4 meals = \$230 / \$215

Triple Person Room

5 meals / 4 meals = \$197 / \$187

Quad Room

5 meals / 4 meals = \$182 / \$172



There is scholarship money available.
Also, donations to the scholarship fund are welcome!



Questions?

Contact Marjorie Tanner, 301-464-2667, m.b.tanner@verizon.net





Wellness Day at Imagine!

**Saturday, March 26, 2016
from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

Join us at Imagine Yoga & Wellness Center in the CE building for a full day of classes, healing, and wellness! There will be free demos of yoga (like Bro-ga!), meditation and dance classes for you to attend. Healing sessions will be offered at a discount and may include; Reiki, Sound Healing, Shiatsu, Reflexology, Aromatherapy, and much more.

Wellness Day is a great opportunity to sample various healing modalities and tools. Appointments for sessions are first come, first served; however, you can request a session prior to Wellness Day by scheduling in person at the studio or calling 443-510-6308.



Easter is on Sunday, March 27th. At CCPC, we honor and remember loved ones with Easter lilies.

Thirty-two single stem with 5-7 blooms have been ordered. The cost is \$13.50.

**Deadline to order is
March 20th – Palm Sunday!**

The order form is on the table in the Atrium. Please put the completed order form with payment in the Flower Committee mail box in the church office or in the collection plate or you can call in your order to Robin at (301) 262-6008.

Questions, please contact Judyann Feinstein at judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or (240) 351-4121.

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
Web: <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org>
E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net



CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community,
and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*



Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email info@belaircoop.org

www.belaircoop.org



Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center



Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit www.ImagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail info@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

