

On Sunday, September 10, we begin our new fall schedule. Contemporary Worship at 9am, the Education Hour is at 10am and then our Blended Worship (the old 10:30am Service) is at 11am. We are also beginning the second year using Bible texts based on the narrative lectionary. What is the narrative lectionary? The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May of each year, the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and helps guide the life of faith.

This year we will begin with a five-week series on Genesis. The Hebrew word for Genesis means ... “In the beginning.” It is about origins. The origin of the world, the family, and humanity. Genesis contains some of the greatest stories in all of literature — sacred or secular. The first four-weeks will look at the entire story of Adam and Eve.

Christian preachers have not done justice to these familiar and powerful stories. Bruce Feiler, in his recent book, “The First Love Story: Adam and Eve and Us,” writes the following: “We hear a lot of stories about individuals these days. One person. One hero. One genius. One gunman. This is not one of those stories. This is the story of two people. Learning to be together. Learning to live as one. And it’s the story we were meant to hear first.”

Preachers have tended to interpret the story of Adam and Eve as a story of failure. The first couple eats of the forbidden fruit and they are cast out of paradise. Then they have two children only to have one son, Cain, murder the other, Abel. This narrative feeds the overarching theme of progressively worse sins causing God to wipe the world out with a flood and to start over.

Instead, I think the four stories of Adam and Eve and their relationship teaches us about the human need for connectedness. When God looks at Adam and says, “It is not right for humans to be alone,” God is suggesting the biggest threat to individuals is the feeling of being left out, isolated, fearful, and alone.

Later on, the first couple has to react to the unimaginable pain of having one of their children die at the hand of the other. Like most couples, Adam and Eve have to struggle constantly with the things in life that pull them apart and those things that bring them closer together. We are promised that with God’s loving assistance, we can find refuge in each other. Throughout the first five chapters of Genesis, the aching question is whether they can find a way to stay together.

It has taken 3000 years for the rest of society to catch up to the insights that are available in the story of Adam and Eve. Their lives provide a much-needed testimony to the power of relationship and the truth that the only thing more powerful than hate is love.

I am excited about again looking at the stories that speak of the origins of love and connection. I also look forward to having two enthusiastic worship services to preach these messages. See you on Sunday and bring a friend.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard



Church Directory!

Don't forget to pickup your copy of the updated
contact section of the church directory.
You will find them on the shelf in the alcove of the Narthex.

Worship Notes

September 3: (Final service of summer schedule at 10:30), Rev. Brassard returns to complete the final sermon in the series "One Text: Many Interpretations." His text is *Matthew 14:21-35*. This is the story of Peter attempting to walk on water. The title is "It's Something More." The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

September 10: Rally Day. Contemporary Worship at 9am and Blended Worship at 11am. Rev. Brassard begins a five-week series on Genesis. The text is the second creation story in *Genesis 2:4b-25* — the story of Adam and Eve. The title is "The World's First Love Story."

September 17: *Genesis 3:1-24* continues the journey of Adam and Eve as they work out their relationship with each other and with God. The title is "The Battle of the Sexes."



Thank You!

Dear Pastor James and Our CCPC Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and concerns during Mearl's illness that started with pneumonia and subsequent struggles with A-Fib and sepsis. This has lasted for the past couple months, but, finally, he's off the IV antibiotic therapy and on his way to recovery.

Also, we are grateful for the contacts from CCPC during the two tornados – what a shock to have 2 in two weeks! The first one dropped a large tree in our yard – away from the horse. Our neighbor had one demolish his playset – not the house – a close call as well. The second one touched down about a mile south in Bay City. I never thought Stevensville would make the news!

Thanks again.

Regards,
Mearl & Di Kemberling

What is the Significance of the Recent Melee in Charlottesville?

It is an illustration of how interpretations of history shape opinions and events. It is often argued that the winners write the history. In the case of the American Civil War and Reconstruction this is not the case. The ex-Confederates wrote the history and created the Confederate myth, which dominated American thinking until the mid-twentieth century.

The American Civil War occurred as a dispute between slave-holding states and free states over the expansion of slavery into the territories. The Republicans, including Lincoln, were anti-extensionists. The Republican Party included a small group of abolitionists but they wielded little influence in the party. In 1860, the Republicans' principal platform was non-extension of slavery. When they won the election, some slaveholders plotted a secessionist movement.

The purpose of the newly organized Confederacy was to maintain slavery. Two pieces of evidence illustrate the basis of the Confederacy. First, immediately after the secession of the Deep South, southerners sent ambassadors to the Upper South states. Their message was that the Confederacy's purpose was to defend slavery and urged the other slave states to join them. Secondly, on March 21, 1861, the newly elected vice president of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens, declared that slavery was the foundation stone of the Confederacy. "Our new Government is founded upon the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and moral condition."

With their defeat in 1865, the Confederates knew they had to explain their cause. Clement A. Evans, a Georgia veteran and onetime commander of the United Confederate Veterans declared: "If we cannot justify the South in the act of Secession, we will go down in History solely as brave, impulsive, but rash people who attempted in an illegal manner to overthrow the Union of our Country." (my emphasis)

Thus began a concerted effort by Southerners to create a Confederate myth. This explanation weaned slavery from the conflict and instituted the "states' rights" argument. Over the next three decades organizations like the Southern Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Confederacy, and local historical societies propagated the Confederate myth. Textbooks extolled the virtue of the Confederacy and its stand for constitutional rights. Monuments to individual Confederates and the Confederate soldier dotted the land.

The Confederate myth became a part of American popular culture with films like "Birth of a Nation," and "Gone with the Wind." Walt Disney's film "Song of the South" portrayed a happy slave singing with a blue bird on his shoulder. The Southern interpretation permeated American education and thought well into the twentieth century.

Two events in the mid-twentieth century caused us to rethink the American Civil War. First, of course, World War II raised the issue of human rights and racism. Then the Civil Rights movement of the 1950-60's forced us to reassess the plight of the Afro-American in our history. From those perspectives, historians re-examined the evidence of the Civil War and brought back the issue of slavery into the argument.

The pro-Confederate orthodoxy persisted in the popular culture, among "buffs" and re-enactors, and with educated people who learned their history a generation or more ago. Hence, the defense of Confederate monuments, such as Charlottesville, illustrates how history has influenced our understanding of our past.

W. Wayne Smith, Ph. D.
Professor Emeritus, Indiana University of Pa.

Give Hope Today

Help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) bring hope and healing to Texas families impacted by Hurricane Harvey.



<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/tropical-storm-harvey/>

PDA is in touch with presbyteries affected areas of Texas to offer assistance. We are standing by with resources and National Response Team members ready to deploy upon invitation and when it is safe to do so.

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated by going to the link above, making a check to CCPC (putting in the memo section "PDA-Houston, Hurricane Harvey" and we will include it with our gift to them, or you can send a check to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700

You can also donate by phone Monday through Friday
from 8am to 5pm (EST) at 1-800-872-3283.

God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty, and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. *Amen.*

Work Day

at the



Smith's House

Join us on Saturday, September 23 at 9am to help paint (inside and out), clean up the yard, plant some flowers, and do small odds-and-ends type jobs around the house. The address is 5518 Addison Road, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743.

Fall Children's Ministry Events



Sunday, September 10

Join us for Rally Day in Dodds Hall after the 9am service. Children's Ministry will provide a light breakfast and all the children will have the opportunity to meet their Sunday School teachers and see their classrooms. Sunday School for children, teens, and adults will be held every Sunday between the 9am and 11am church services.

Saturday, September 30

Mark your calendars for the Children's Campfire in the back parking lot of the church!



Sunday, October 29

Don't miss our annual Trunk-or-Treat!
Details to come.



SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market is the first Sunday in November

November 5, 2017 from 9am to 1pm

Adult Education

Hello CCPC Family,

Many new things are underway at CCPC! We are about to transition to a new worship schedule and new worship style for the early service. We are also focusing our efforts on community outreach and attracting new members. In the midst of these changes, Adult Education is offering a three-week series called "Cultivating Healthy Relationships." The aim of this class is to offer CCPC members some practical tools to help you communicate with your loved ones — within your family, your church, and the wider community.

Justin Devine, Kristen McDermott (a family therapist), and I will lead a discussion in Dodds Hall on September 10, 17, and 24. Please remember that the new time for Adult Education is 10am. Here is a brief description of the discussion topic for each week:

Week #1—September 10

Self Discover: In what manner do I give and receive love? Discussion is based on Gary Chapman's *The 5 Love Languages* and the concept "Love is a Choice."

Week #2—September 17

Applying Relational Knowledge — Self, Marriage, Family, Community, Workplace, and Church.

Week #3—September 24

Improving Family Relationships (Kristen McDermott will lend her specific expertise to this discussion).

The Adult Education committee aims to offer classes that address the current needs of the congregation and convey Christian principles that you can "take with you" into your weekday lives.

Thank you! Hope to see you September 10th!

Jen Woods, Elder for Adult Education

Chesapeake Choral — **Open Rehearsals!**

If you've ever been tempted to join this wonderful group of 40-50 singers, mark Tuesday, Sept 5 at 7:30pm on your calendar! It's our first rehearsal, and open to anyone who wants to check us out! You can find us in Dodds Hall! If you decide to join, auditions will be held on a different day, but no audition that night! Just come sing and see what our rehearsals are like.

The upcoming season has, as usual, a great mixture of styles. Christmas includes Vivaldi's *Gloria*, March will be Broadway, and May features a celebration of Leonard Bernstein, honoring his 100th birthday.

See www.chesapeakechorale.org for more details.



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

WOMEN'S CORNER



Ladies Tea & Mini Retreat **REVIVE OUR HEARTS WITH WORSHIP**

Saturday, September 16 from 9am to 1pm

Join us for a half-day retreat in Dodds Hall. Time for sharing, getting to know each other, and creating. Breakfast pastry at 9am and a tea-style lunch will be served.

Cost \$5.00

Peggy Oates 301-262-6959, peggyoates@hotmail.com
Cyd Radden-Le Sage 301-352-9582, wyonative@verizon.net

You may fill out the below information and mail it to CCPC with your payment (please put "Ladies Mini Retreat" in the memo section if paying by check) or contact Peggy or Cyd.

NAME: _____

ALLERGIES: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

EMERGENCY PHONE: _____

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.

