

Dear CCPC members and friends ,

Well. The new year is here, and how. It is easy to let any feelings of hope and excitement be overwhelmed by the events of our first full week in 2021. But we must remember that we are people of God, followers of Jesus, guided by the Word. Scripture tells us over and over again in many different ways in many different circumstances, "Be not afraid." That is the first message that nearly every angel messenger conveys from God. So I encourage you, friends, "Be not afraid."

And so, I invite you to dwell in hope about the days to come in 2021. Recently, our wonderful Adult Education team put together an inspiring program where we did just that -- various CCPC planners revealed the projects they are working on for 2021. Here is a sampling of them:

- *Virtual concert series
- *Ongoing programs on race and diversity
- *Purchasing equipment for live-streaming worship services
- *Hiring a new staff person whose duties will include children and youth ministry
- *Starting a new support group
- *Reviving Stephen Ministry
- *Vacation Bible School
- *Mission projects
- *Administering the Church Assessment Tool (CAT-Scan)
- *Continued exploration of when to reopen for in-person worship services

So you see friends, regardless of what is happening in the world (or even just a few miles away in our nation's capital), God's people are at work and the church is God's home in this world. God's home is always a **force** for beauty, justice, peace, and love in the midst of chaos. How blessed are we to dwell in that force!

Happy New Year -- Happy 2021!

Peace,
Pastor Susan



Dear Pastor Susan:

My mother has asked me to write you on her behalf and that of her children. She is unable to send handwritten thank you notes to the 23 households of CCPC who sent sympathy cards and notes after James died (and her children are unable to visit her to do this on her behalf). The cards were deeply appreciated and so moving. She has saved them so that she can re-read them and so that we and James' children can read them when we are able to visit her again.

Please know that we are all praying for you personally and for the church as a whole.

Blessings,

Marla Brassard
(Rev. James Brassard's sister)

Session Update

December 2020

In her Moderator's Report Pastor Susan stated her love and gratitude for the ministry here in Bowie. As she has watched the Holy Spirit at work as members have cared for one another, she said that she has "seen the heart of CCPC".

Finance Chair Evonne Tang moved that Rev. Susan Graceson be named Resident Agent for CCPC, replacing Rev. James Brassard, and keeping CCPC in compliance with Maryland state regulations. The motion carried and Pastor Susan officially accepted.

Evonne moved a proposed lean or "slow" budget for 2021, explaining measures the church needs to take to keep the budget balanced. The motion carried. This budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting in February.

The search continues for a ministry associate to work with Christian education and youth. Personnel Committee is also in discussion with Wesley Theological Seminary so that CCPC might become a site for a seminary intern.

The Race and Diversity Podcast club restarts in January with White Lies, an NPR production. A Just Mercy movie watch party is set for last Saturday in January. Plans are to invite the community and to advertise at the city-wide MLK service. The book discussion for February/March will be "Good White Racist".

A monthly celebration of Communion was approved for the outdoor vesper services. Pastor Susan was authorized by session to serve home Communion when she visits the homes of members who are shut-ins or on hospice as the need arises, even though an elder might not be present with her.

Pastor Susan is planning a winter retreat for session. Dates will be determined soon.

2021

Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has provided an Expression of Faith for calendar 2021. Your continued support is most appreciated. The annual Expressions of Faith pledge drive for 2021 currently has 60 pledges that total \$230,880. By comparison, last year, 2020, there were 104 pledges that totaled \$360,886, of which \$318,515 was actually received. An additional \$155,420 of funds in addition to the pledged amount was received during calendar 2020.



2021

Offering Envelopes &

2020

Contribution Statements

Offering envelopes for 2021 and 2020 Contribution Statements will be available at the church office for pick up beginning January 12, 2021, and throughout the remainder of January, on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11AM and 4PM, and on Wednesdays from 11AM until 5:30PM. If you are unable to pick up during these hours, please call the church office (301-262-6008) to arrange an appointment to pick up your documents.

Adult Education

January 2021

Series Title: *Hope, Despair, Holiness, and History*

Jan. 10: Hope in Emancipation turns to Despair with Jim Crow

Jan. 17: The 1800s Holiness movement and Freedom

Jan. 24: "1619" NY Times project: How slavery began and how race became a major theme in the understanding of American history



This 3-part series by Wayne Smith and Mary Brock begins with the Hope that African-American slaves experienced in their emancipation from slavery, commemorating this day as Juneteenth. This Hope quickly turns to Despair just 11-years later as the Jim Crow laws become institutionalized, paving the way for life literally exploding in 1920s Tulsa where deputized and armed white citizens destroy 35 square blocks of black businesses.

The series ends with a discussion of the recent work, 1619, a New York Times project that takes a much closer look at the quality-of-life affects of slavery and post-slavery decisions on black communities, their aftershocks felt even today.

Sandwiched in between is the equally explosive response by northern black Christians in the Holiness movement of the 1800s. Fed up with being subject to the abuse of a segregated white church, freedmen and women felt the call of the Spirit to pull away and form their own denomination. Influenced by the 2nd Great Awakening in the white churches, these children and grandchildren of slaves put their own mark on the teachings of Wesley, preparing the ground for a real freedom of both body and soul.

There is no end to education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

Updates from Rev. Tara Sphuler McCabe, Director of Congregational Development and Mission for National Capital Presbytery

In 2021, we will challenge, equip, and support our congregations and their leaders in their discernment of God's invitation to discipleship and stewardship. CDC (Church Development Committee) continues to provide Church Assessment Tools and match you with interpreters and coaches. Tech Grants continue to be assessed and provided so our congregations can worship safely. Programs (virtually still) are provided across the presbytery for growth and development. MCC continues to respond to requests of mission growth opportunities in areas of food scarcity, health care, and environmental stewardship. MCC also serves as a strong ministry partner with three College Ministries throughout the DMV. The DC YAV program will welcome new Young Adult Volunteers this coming program year, we pray!!!!!!

In 2021, we will launch new Christian communities. EarthenHands with Rev. Jean Brown and Germantown Global Connections with Rev. Norm Gordon have begun unique Christ centered worshipping communities that connect with people who are "nones" or the "dones". CDC supports the discernment of next growth opportunities with Mono-Culture fellowships who are a part of Light to the Nations in NCP. This is the year for critical next growth decisions to be made: nesting community with a congregation, New Worshipping Community/1001, or become a chartered church.

In 2021, we will provide care, oversight and accountability for teaching elders and certified educators. CDC and MCC are following up this year with recent grant and scholarship recipients. The follow-ups begin with conversations to learn if what is being provided does strengthen and offer growth to God's invitation of discipleship! In collaboration with the Leadership Council and the Dismantling Racism Team, all Teaching Elders, Certified Educators, and other key leadership of the Presbytery will partake in Allyship and Anti-Racism training.

Presbyterian Women's Prayer Breakfast

February 13th at 10 am

We hope you will join us in "Finding Hope and Peace Through Challenging Times." Our program will include speakers, Megan Klose and Le Quan Turner, who will lead us in thoughtful meditation. Our prayer gathering will pause to remember and give thanks for the lives of those souls who have been called home. We respectfully ask you to include the names of sisters called to eternal rest in 2020 when you register for the gathering. We will lift these names up in memoriam and take a moment to pray for all those who died from the COVID-19. Please register by February 3, 2021, at www.presbyterianwomenncp.org.

A New Year's Message for America

January 14th at 7:00 pm

James Lawson, one of the most important figures of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, has spent a lifetime teaching, preaching and training people in how to work for nonviolent social change. A leading theoretician and strategist for the Movement, he also served as mentor to some of the most important figures of that time, including John Lewis, Diane Nash, James Bevel, and many more.

A week before the Inauguration of a new President, Rev. Lawson will share his thoughts about where our country is now and what we need to do to live up to our founding ideals that call for equal rights and justice for all. This program is sponsored by the McClendon Scholar Program at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Register to receive the zoom link: www.lawsonjanuary14.eventbrite.com

A Message from General Presbyter, Rev. John Molina-Moore

Happy New Year!

We will have new and exciting things happening around our presbytery in the coming year. Our hope for this year is to strengthen all our ministries so that they can grow. Many of you have heard me talk about framing things through the lens of "...so that our churches can grow". That is our focus for 2021.

All our efforts will center on church growth. Growth not by numbers alone, but a focus on impact and reach. Together, we can achieve this goal. I look forward to the adventure with all of you!

Loving God, may the year ahead be filled with your blessings. May our churches be strengthened. May our mission and ministry be received to our communities fresh and anew. May our work together continue to glorify you.

Amen,
John



AARP Tax Aide Program **2021**

The AARP Tax Aide Program is going virtual for 2021!

The details are unsettled at the moment, but for all information and instruction now and in the future, please go to <http://www.aarp.org>.

Please do not try to contact any of the places where you went in-person previous years because they do not have any information and can only aid you by sending you to AARP's website.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.*

Please remember CCPC in your will.



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.

