

Dear Friends,

As we get ready for our annual congregational meeting, it is good to remember what a joy it is to be Presbyterian! Our very polity, including the way we do congregational meetings, has roots in the early Christian churches of the apostles. If you read our wonderful Book of Order (seriously -- it's a good read!), you will find that there are regular references to the words of Christ, the deeds of his disciples, and the writings of Paul. All things Presbyterian flow from these Godly roots. We like to keep things sacred and simple.

With this in mind, the business to be covered at the congregational meetings is fairly simple. Congregational meetings are not meant to be open forums for discussion. According to our Book of Order, there are only 5 points of business to be covered at any congregational meeting (G-1.0503):

1. Electing ruling elders, deacon, and trustees.
2. Calling a pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor (NOTE: This does not include transitional pastors, who are contracted by the session, not by the congregation).
3. Changing existing pastoral relationships, by such means as reviewing the adequacy of and approving changes to the terms of call of the pastor or pastors, or requesting, consenting to, or declining to consent to dissolution.
4. Buying, mortgaging, or selling real property.
5. Requesting the presbytery to grant an exemption as permitted in this Constitution.

Of course, this does not mean that we do not wrestle with issues outside of these 5 agenda items. Matters of church finance, staffing, worship design, administrative decisions, etc., can be worked out at the committee level and then brought to the session for discussion and action. If you have these or other concerns, I encourage you to contact me or one of our elders to make sure that your voice is heard. Robin Seekford, our amazing administrator, can provide you with a list of elders and which committees they chair.

I hope that you will join us for our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 7, at 11 a.m. on Zoom. I am confident that we will see God and the church doing God's good work.

Peace,
Pastor Susan

Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780650966> Meeting ID: 857 8065 0966

One tap mobile +13017158592,,85780650966# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780650966>

Copies of the Annual Report for 2020 were emailed to members on Friday, January 29th. Printed copies are available upon request and can be mailed to members who receive their communications by regular mail. Please contact Robin in the church office at ccpcbowie@verizon.net or 301-262-6008.

Session Update

JANUARY 2021

Pastor Susan mentioned what she was looking forward to in 2021: hiring an education ministry associate, session retreat, new deacon support group, CAT assessment tool, staff retreat, the season of Lent and Easter, re-opening the church for worship, and reviving Stephen Ministry.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 7, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom technology, arranged by Sam.

Session received a letter of resignation from Bob West, who is retiring from his position as CCPC Treasurer. The reason is his upcoming move from the area. Stanley Dixon has resigned as elder, also because of a move from the area. Session will miss them both very much and thanks them for their service to the church.

Evonne Tang, Finance Chair, reported that December was the strongest month for income since the pandemic began. She will give a complete report on 2020 finances at the Congregational Meeting.

Skip Oates, Building & Grounds Chair, informed Session of the interest of a new organization in renting space in the Education Building. He is in communication with them.

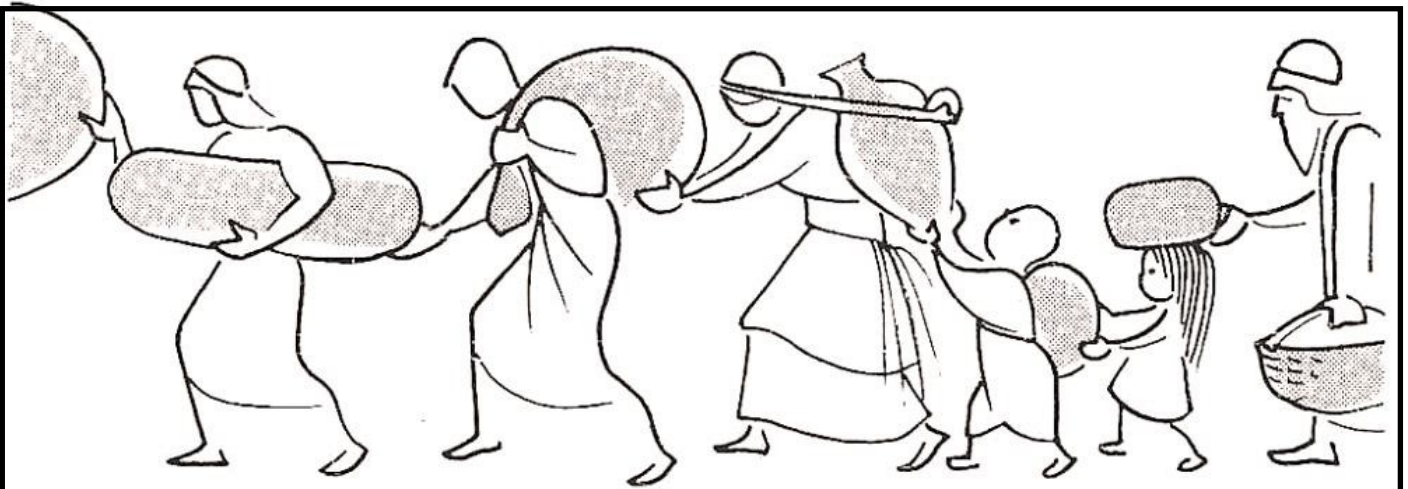
Ann Fleming, Personnel Chair, stated that Robin, Rick, and Sam received Christmas bonuses due to the generosity of church members. Pastor Susan reported that they were very grateful for this recognition of their hard work. The contract between session and Sam Guillermo's company, Creation4Use, LLC, was approved for the year 2021. The committee is continuing its search for an education ministry associate.

Ann Fleming, Race and Diversity Chair, reminded session of the podcast club on **White Lies**, an NPR production, which began January 15. She encouraged them to write letters regarding Fair Youth Sentencing bill. The **Just Mercy** movie watch party is set for January 30. There will be a book discussion about **Good White Racist** in February and March led by Kris Ross and Steve Donoian.

An interesting group of Sunday morning adult education classes through April 18 is nearly complete.

Judyann Glazener, Outreach Committee Chair, reported another Blood Drive coming on January 22 from 8:30-2:00 to be held in the church parking lot. Elder Sharon Youngdahl expressed hope that some of the new Facebook followers of the Sunday morning worship will officially join the church in the future.

Pastor Susan is holding a Zoom Session Retreat Friday, January 26 – Saturday, January 27.



New CCPC Support Group

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Our Board of Deacons has decided to form a new support group to help us "carry each other's burdens." Pastor Susan will facilitate this group which will meet on the **2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 2 p.m.**, on **Zoom beginning on March 12th**. Each group session will include devotional readings, prayer, sharing, fellowship, and encouragement. Please join us if you are in need of some extra support. Contact Pastor Susan or your deacon for more details.



Farewell to the Dixons!

Sharon and Stanley Dixon joined CCPC in February 2018. From day one, they fit right in and started helping out with events and anywhere there was a need. Stanley also served as an elder, a stand-in pastor who delivered some terrific sermons as well as sharing his beautiful singing voice as part of the choir. We will miss them both, especially Sharon's hugs!

February 21st, will be their last Sunday with us. On Thursday, February 18th at 7:30pm instead of our All Church Prayer Time, please join us for a Poetry Slam for the Dixons! Come and share stories and tributes to them. Extra points if you can put your tribute into poem form for this poetic couple!

Reopening Report

January 22, 2021

The reopening task force has been meeting monthly since the beginning of the pandemic. Each month we look at all the numbers concerning covid 19 in both our local area and in the nation. We very much want to reopen our building so we can gather again for worship. Currently, we believe the risk of spreading a deadly disease is much too high to consider reopening the building. The church is not a building. The church is the people who work and worship together. The church is indeed still working and worshipping together.

Our building will not be closed forever. When it is safe to gather again, we will open our building. Before we will be able to worship together several things must happen.

- ♥ Our staff all want to receive the vaccine to be protected from covid 19.
- ♥ The positivity rate for covid 19 needs to fall to a consistently lower percentage.
- ♥ Our worship service will not be what we remember for a long time to come. We will continue to have all our music prerecorded. There will be no congregational singing until the threat of covid 19 is past.
- ♥ Masks and social distancing will continue for a long time. Our service will be livestreamed for all those who are unable to attend in person.
- ♥ We will need a team of techies to make the livestreaming possible. We will need people to operate the cameras and people to handle the sound system. If you are interested in learning how to help operate all the equipment please let Pastor Susan know of your interest.

Let us all continue to pray that soon our life will return to a more normal way of doing things. We are all longing sing together and once again pass the peace. Until then we will continue to do all we can to keep one another safe.

Per Capita

We ask each member to prayerfully consider contributing \$42.67 to the Per Capita Funds of the National Capital Presbytery for 2021.

Per capita are funds gathered from all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and mid-councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It allows us to connect and participate in the work of the wider church.

Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ. Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to sustain our governance system. The PC (USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

We appreciate your contribution toward Per Capita this year.
Please indicate it on your offering.

Puppet Ministry Coming to CCPC!

We are preparing to launch a puppet ministry program this Spring as part of our Children's Christian Education program! Puppets and scripts have arrived and a portable puppet stage is under construction. Our plan is to create a program that eventually (post-covid) will involve adults, youth and children. Two members already have volunteered to help write scripts for future shows! We hope to make our "official debut" sometime in Lent during one of our Sunday morning virtual services. If you are interested in helping with this fun ministry or if you would like additional information, please contact Rick Osborne.



2021 Virtual Concerts!

Sundays at 4:00 pm

Sunday, March 7: Joshua Espinoza Trio

Haunting original compositions are interspersed with this trio's unique interpretations of pop hits as they inhabit that undefined space between jazz and classical idioms.

Sunday, April 11: Mark Jaster and Matthew Pauli

"Two Fools Split the Bill"

Two family-friendly clowning performances featuring Wingnut, a foolish carpenter and his musical misuse of tools, and Mr. Smudge, an average guy with bigger than average dreams, preparing for a musical performance.

Sunday, May 2: Ann Street Trio

This trio performs chamber music from the classical era to the 21st century, while providing an up-close look at the excitement of works composed for clarinet, cello and piano.

Sunday, June 6: Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers

Virtuoso drumming and thrilling dancing combine in a celebration of African American culture and history.

Sunday, October 3: Bayfield Brass Quintet

The regionally acclaimed quintet returns with a varied program including works of the Italian Renaissance and a patriotic salute to our armed forces.

Sunday, November 7: The Capital Ringers

The ensemble, performing on six octaves of handbells and hand chimes, returns with the inspirational program, "Rise Up!" and its message of hope and resilience.

Sunday, December 5: A Celtic Christmas

Pipers Randy Welch and Michael Binnie with percussionist Robert Murray and Celtic harper Mary Fitzgerald return with a program of seasonal music from the British Isles.

2020 Annual Giving Statements and 2020 Offering Envelopes

The annual giving statements were mailed to your address of record today, Friday, February 5.

Offering envelopes for 2021 continue to be available at the church for you to pick up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11AM to 3 PM. Church staff can mail the offering envelopes to you upon your request. To make arrangements to have your offering envelopes mailed to you, please contact Robin at the church office at 301-262-6008, ccpcbowie@verizon.net or Bill Radden-Lesage at ccpconline@aol.com.

Due to the CoVid-19 protocols there has been a significant change in how donations are received by CCPC. Donations can be in cash or using a personal check mailed to CCPC with or without an offering envelope or mailed using bill pay through your bank or electronically through the online donation portal on the CCPC website. However, not knowing when the building might reopen, last September the finance committee ordered offering envelopes for 2021 based on 2020. The offering envelopes are a significant expense that are being utilized by a diminishing group of members. Therefore, the finance committee is exploring alternatives to the traditional offering envelopes for 2022. The finance committee welcomes any comments you might have concerning alternative offering envelopes. Please email your thoughts and suggestions to ccpconline@aol.com.

Outreach & Parish Life

The Outreach and Parish Life committee has gotten an exciting new infusion of energy and we are looking for a few more church members to round out our group. Outreach is crucial for us to continue to grow our church family. Parish life is how CCPC continues to enrich the lives of the vibrant tapestry of our community. Our plan is to create a diverse and vital team to work towards our goal of making CCPC the place where everyone not only feels welcome, but finds our church a place to plant roots and thrive. We are especially interested in some of our moms of young children, our teens, our men, and anyone who wants to see CCPC thrive and has an opinion about how to reach our goal.

If you are interested, please contact Olivia McMillan by text 410-292-4901 or email livmacmilly@gmail.com.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Race & Diversity

Race & Diversity Committee Update

CCPC is now officially a [Matthew 25](#) church, a PCUSA program that encourages acts of service for “the least of these” as described in the [parable of the sheep and the goats](#). This story told by Jesus admonishes us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take care of the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick and visit the imprisoned. The Race and Diversity Committee is kicking off a [Living Matthew 25 Book Discussion](#) to consider how we can better follow the lessons in Matthew 25.

We at CCPC do many things to help those in need and less fortunate, with our participation in Warm Nights, the Alternative Christmas Market, and Living Waters. We help each other when we are sick, and even recently participated in a letter-writing campaign for fair youth sentencing legislation. The harder part is what we don't do, and what we don't realize we are doing. None of us would ever deliberately do or say things that would hurt others. But is it possible that we have hurt others without knowing it? Our first book addresses things we may say or do that inadvertently hurt others.

About the book

Good White Racist? Confronting your Role in Racial Injustice by Kerry Connelly is a suggested study book recommended by PCUSA. In the book Connelly exposes the ways white people participate in, benefit from, and unknowingly perpetuate racism—despite their best intentions to be a “good person.” *Good White Racist?* unpacks the systems that maintain the status quo, keep white people comfortable and complicit, and perpetuate racism in the United States and elsewhere. Combining scholarly research with her straight forward personality, Connelly shows us that even though it may not be our fault or choice to participate in a racist system, we all do, and it's our responsibility to do something about it.

The book has a study guide with questions for each section that guide us through a reflective review and then a “what to do next” section. We are hoping to have the author stop in for one of our meetings and join us. Lent is the perfect time to reflect on how we are doing as followers of Jesus and his teachings.

How will it work?

We will only do 2 chapters a week so, so everyone can still be part of their regular book clubs. This gives us an opportunity to think about our personal fidelity to Jesus' teachings and our church's as well. How can we improve ourselves? Our church? This reflection and actions and activities that result will be a wonderful gift for Easter morning. We look forward to our time together and to growing in our awareness of what we can do to better to live Matthew 25. Discussion leaders, Steve Donoian and Kris Ross, already participated in a discussion of the text with the author in an event hosted by the presbytery in 2020.

How to join

The Matthew 25 Book Discussion for Lent will begin Feb. 21 at 4:00 and meet each Sunday until Palm Sunday March 28. There are 11 chapters so we will have one week with a single chapter and a guest speaker (hopefully the author). **If you [register on the website](#) by Feb. 14, we will provide the book for you.** You can pick it up after Feb. 14 at the church. If you register after Feb. 14, you will be on your own for getting the book. You can go to Amazon, PCUSA or any provider you use. The [Zoom link](#) for our Sunday afternoon meetings will be on the event page for Matthew 25 Book Discussion.

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
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.*

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.

