

**W**hen December rolls around the whole focus of life changes. It all points to Christmas — the great festival of the Incarnation. This is a story that impacts our lives and life itself. It demands our very best efforts to understand how God's story connects with ours, so we can feel and know God's presence, and allow God to work through our personalities and creativity to help bring light and "joy to the world." The message is hope embodied as God is with us. At CCPC we celebrate the arrival of God's intimate presence in our lives with several traditions.

First, there is Christmas Families. Christmas Families is more than the purchasing of gifts for needy Children and the packing of food baskets to be delivered to their families. The whole mission project is organized around activities that require many hands to do many tasks: the sorting and wrapping of gifts, the pick-up and sorting and packing of groceries, the efficient loading of cars. This all culminates with pick up day: Monday, December 11th. Christmas Families is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the team. Check the schedule. Come and help. It is fun. And, you will hear great, non-stop, Christmas music while you work!

The second tradition is passing on the story to the next generation. This year our Children's Christmas program moves to a new time and setting. The program is **Sunday, December 17** and will be held **between** the 9 and 11 worship services in **Dodds Hall**. The Youth Orchestra starts the program off with music starting at **9:55AM**. Following this, the children will perform a program focusing on the Nativity. The program, which includes singing, runs until 10:35AM. Immediately after the program, everyone is invited to stay for a continental breakfast with some seasonal specialties.

My favorite Christmas tradition is the Poinsettia Tree that adorns our Sanctuary. It will be up for services on December 17th and will remain until after the second Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to Judyann Glazener Feinstein for setting up and tending to the flower tree. Order forms are in the Atrium. Poinsettias are \$14.00 each.

This year Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. On the morning of December 24th, our Fourth Sunday in Advent worship will be **one-morning service** that starts **at 10:30**. This service of music with Christmas Carols and Anthems, by the Celebration and Clinquant Choirs, will be based on readings from Isaiah 11:1-9 and the Christmas story told by Luke 2:1-20. The sermon: "Gifts That Bring Glory."

Everything culminates with **Christmas Eve Services**. Again, this year we will have two services: 6:00pm and 8:30pm. Rev. Brassard's Christmas Homily: "The Most Important Word" is based on The Christmas Story told by Matthew 1:18-25 and John 1:1-14.

The 6:00pm service is a Contemporary Candlelight Service with Familiar Christmas Music and Carols done in a contemporary way.

The 8:30pm service is a Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Choirs and special music and communion.

Before all the activities and worries about what to buy for whom and what needs to be done for others overwhelms you, remember this: at Christmas God said unambiguously, "I am with you. I have moved into your neighborhood. I will be with you always." Leave time, space, and attention so you can absorb the power and comfort of knowing God is with us.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard

# *News About the Caller?*

The next Caller will be dated December 15, 2017 and the **deadline is by 9am, Wednesday, December 13.**

There will be no January 1, 2018 Caller. The first Caller for the New Year will be on January 17, 2018 and the **deadline is by 9am, Tuesday, January 16.** Any questions or need some help, please contact Robin in the church office at 301-262-6008.

Thank You!

## *Worship Notes*

### **December 3rd—First Sunday in Advent**

Communion will be celebrated. The Prophet Isaiah (2:1-5) sets a vision of a time in the future when all the people in the world will come to God's mountain to learn God's way and to walk in God's path. Warring nations will beat their instruments of war into instruments to prepare the soil to produce abundance, and these warring nations will no longer make plans for war. Sermon title: "The Tyranny of Low Expectations."

### **December 10th — Second Sunday in Advent**

The Prophet Ezekiel prophesies to a nation that many had left for dead. They are nothing more than a valley filled with lifeless and very dry bones. In chapter 37, we hear a dramatic version of the resurrection of the church.

Noah, son of Tara and Jordan Cunningham, will be baptized at the 11am service.

### **December 17th — Third Sunday in Advent**

The Prophet Isaiah in 65:17-25 tells the people of Israel, who are returning after 70 years in exile, what God is going to be doing through them. The prophet reminds them of what God has done in the past and promises to do even greater things in the present. Can they believe such good news? Sermon title: "Memories and Promises."



# *Christmas Worship Schedule*

## *December 24—4th Sunday in Advent Service—Morning Service*

**10:30AM** Sermon: "Gifts That Bring Glory"

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9 and Luke 2:1-20. Service of Music with Christmas Carols, Anthems by the Celebration and Clinquant Choirs; special vocal and instrumental music.

## *December 24—Christmas Eve Evening Services*

6:00PM Contemporary Candlelight Service. Familiar Christmas Music in a contemporary style.

8:30PM Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Choirs

Text: The Christmas Story in Matthew 1:18-25 and John 1:1-14

Homily "The Most Important Word"

## *December 31—New Year's Eve Morning Services*

We will have our regular 9am Contemporary Worship and our 11am Blended Worship services as well as Adult Education.

# *Thank You!*

Dear CCPC friends,

Our entire family would like to thank you for all the cards, phone calls, kindnesses, and prayers we have received following the loss of Mom. We know you all loved her and will miss her also. We are comforted knowing she was so very loved and that we are, too. May you all be richly blessed this season of gratitude and wonder.

In His name,  
Kevin, Lara, and Alaina Clemence  
Tom and Amy Clemence  
Andy Clemence

## *Merry Christmas from Africa!*



Merry Christmas from Mzuzu, Malawi (Africa). We are deeply thankful for you and your willingness to join us in the adventure of our family's call to serve in Malawi to support theological education, and bringing water and sanitation access to all. To follow our weekly blog please visit:

<http://www.holminafrika.blogspot.com/>  
Blessings, Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso Holm

# Christmas Market Update

Thank you to so many, many people who were a wonderful help to our 2017 Christmas Market. Thirteen organizations will receive some much needed monetary help because you as a congregation all gave so generously.

Thank you to the following people who helped make Christmas cards: Marge Conley, Anne Shelby, Bea Uehling, Betty Haeussler, and Ellen Wimbish. Our cashiers were Marge Clark, Bonnie Smart, Marty Sipple, and Myrna Webb. Discovery Circle decorated the tables with lovely centerpieces for our soup luncheon. Debbie Sell and her helpers prepared a delicious lunch for us to enjoy. Sitting at and manning the tables were Dick Arnold, Priscilla Bouic, Lynne de Seve, Mikaela and Justin Devine, Julia Leaman, Peggy and Skip Oates, Kris Ross, Paul Sell, Marjorie and Charles Tanner, and Jim Woods. A special thank you to Dick Arnold who created and **donated** his pictures for sale.

The proceeds will go towards the Youth Program for scholarships to Montreat.

Cyd Radden-Lesage spent a lot of time going through the market gift sheets, breaking down each Organization, and mailing them their checks. A huge, huge thank you to Cyd! How fortunate we all are to be a part of a wonderful, caring, giving, and loving congregation!

See the total donations per organization and the grand total in the chart below.

Thank you to all of you!

Sharon, Kris & Debbie

<b>2017 Christmas Market</b>	
<i>Amor - Youth Mission Trip</i>	\$375.00
<i>Bowie Volunteer Fire Dept. &amp; Rescue Squad</i>	\$1,051.00
<i>CCPC Christmas Families</i>	\$505.00
<i>CCPC Habitat for Humanity Projects</i>	\$1,245.00
<i>CCPC Honduras Water Project</i>	\$8,895.00
<i>Champ House - Addiction Recovery</i>	\$880.00
<i>Chikumbuso</i>	\$373.00
<i>Church World Service</i>	\$449.00
<i>Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW)</i>	\$425.00
<i>CCSI for Warm Nights</i>	\$730.00
<i>Dick Arnold's Photos donated to Christmas Families</i>	\$430.00
<i>Heifer International</i>	\$580.00
<i>Honduras Educational Program</i>	\$240.00
<i>Literacy at the Well Life Needs</i>	\$820.00
<i>Medical Benevolence Foundation</i>	\$1,080.00
<i>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</i>	
Houston Hurricane Harvey	\$175.00
Syrian Refugees	\$300.00
Florida Hurricane Irma	\$235.00
US Wildfires	\$40.00
Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico	\$1,042.00
Where Most Needed (any amount)	\$250.00
Sub-Total	\$2,042.00
<i>Soup Kitchen (Warm Nights)</i>	\$172.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>20,292.00</b>

# *Living Waters for the World!*

CCPC supports the need for clean drinking water throughout the world through involvement in Living Waters for the World (LWW). Below is a way to support LWW while you do your holiday shopping!

Blessings, Julia Leaman

## **Support Clean Water While You Shop!**



Helping LWW share clean water has never been so easy! Amazon.com, the world's largest online retailer, provides Living Waters for the World a referral fee, averaging 5% of the retail price, for sales made via our Amazon.com link.



Do this every time you shop at Amazon or for faster access, place our link on your browser shortcut bar or bookmark it as a favorite site.

[www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/amazon](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/amazon)  
has detailed instructions

### **Please Note:**

Shopping through LWW's link provides greater support than AmazonSmile, which donates only 0.5% of the purchase price to LWW.

## *Christmas Program Schedule*

The Children and Youth will be presenting the Christmas program on December 17 at 10am in Dodds Hall.

Christmas Program practices will be December 3 and December 10 during the Sunday School Hour.

Final dress rehearsal will be December 16 at 10am. If you wish for your child to participate, contact Justin Devine by email [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net).



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## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

CELEBRATE

*“CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD”*



Calling all Women of CCPC

**Our Christmas Potluck**

Join us DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 Noon. Bring a dish to share and a favorite decoration for the table. Turkey and ham will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Oates [peggyoates@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyoates@hotmail.com) or Cyd Radden-LeSage [wyonative@verizon.net](mailto:wyonative@verizon.net) (301) 352-9582.

## *Adult Education!*

### **Psychology and Faith**

December 3rd — Sensation, Perception, and Faith-How do we know what is Real?

December 10th — Personality-Freud, Original Sin, and much more ...

December 31st — Social Psychology and the Practice of Faith

On the same dates above, ***Living Christian in a Secular World*** will be in the Belair room.

Topics vary from week-to-week. December 3 will be “True vs False Prophets.”

## *Directory Updates*

Please update the following email addresses:

**Jan Bridger:** [jebridge22@gmail.com](mailto:jebridge22@gmail.com)

**Jim Bridger:** [bridgeja39@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeja39@gmail.com)





# CCPC's Christmas Post Office

## The Christmas Post Office is Open!

To help facilitate the sorting and delivery of your Christmas cards, the Youth ask that you observe the following courtesies:

- 1.) Please arrange your cards in alphabetical order with a rubber band around them
- 2.) Do not bring cards for out of town or shut in members
- 3.) Please pick up your cards by January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Donations for postage will go to the Youth Mission trip next summer.

Kim Tavel is the coordinator of this service.

*Also . . .*

If anyone would like to send a Christmas card to Sarah Hyde, please put in the Christmas Post Office box under "H" and Nancy Arnold will deliver to her.



## Christmas Families 2017

Christmas Families kicked off Sunday, November 19!

If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Mikaela Devine (707-344-3321).

### **Christmas Families Schedule**

**Please note, everything is subject to change. Follow the CCPC Facebook Page for daily updates!**

**Now – Dec 3: Gift Drop Off = Classroom 2 (Orange Room)**

- Dec 6: Set up Dodd's Hall for Gift Sorting & Wrapping
- Dec 7: 9am-5pm Gift Sorting & Checking & Wrapping
- Dec 8: 9am-5pm Gift Wrapping
- Dec 9: 9am-5pm Gift Wrapping (if required) / Pick up food order from Giant /Re-Set Dodd's Hall
- Dec 10: 11:30 am Baked Goods Due / 11:30 am-2 pm Food Sorting / 2 pm – 4 pm Consolidate Gifts and Groceries
- Dec 11: 9 am – 8 pm Family Pick Up/Delivery

# **2017 Christmas Poinsettia Orders**



Christmas poinsettias will be here soon!  
We will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites,  
6 pinks, and 12 marble.

The price is \$14 each.

Poinsettias will be delivered on December 14.  
**All orders must be in by Monday, December 11.**

Any questions, please contact Judyann  
Feinstein at [judith.a.glazener@gmail.com](mailto:judith.a.glazener@gmail.com) or  
240-351-4121. Thank you!

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Given in **memory or honor** (circle one) of:  
(please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Qty = \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.00 each, for a

**TOTAL of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Specify color(s): \_\_\_\_ red \_\_\_\_ white  
\_\_\_\_ pink \_\_\_\_ marble

*Thank you so much for your generous  
contribution. The Flower Committee.*



# Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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

[www.belaircoop.org](http://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](http://www.ImagineThePlace.com), call 443-510-6308, or e-mail [info@ImagineThePlace.com](mailto:info@ImagineThePlace.com). Scholarships available.

