

Stephen Kuusisto is a poet and author who happens to be blind. He describes in his book, "Have Dog, Will Travel," the day he gets his first guide dog in his late 30's. Most of the book is about his relationship with the spirited Labrador and the freedom of movement the dog brings to his life. The book also looks back at the difficulties of his youth in the late 1950's and early 60's. His parents, who both suffered with alcoholism, were ashamed of his blindness and encouraged him to hide it.

Kuusisto recalls walking into a random church at 17 years old. His young soul was tied in a knot of shame, loneliness, and fear. Stephen was battling depression and his body was wasting away because of an eating disorder. When Communion is served — a sacrament that he knew nothing about — he knelt to partake the bread and the wine among strangers. As he does, he feels "his own flesh and blood kissed from somewhere deep and still."

This is a mystifying and transforming moment for Kuusisto and it renews a resolve to live. However, he notes that he never mentioned the experience to anyone. In the book, he shares an experience he had for decades kept to himself. He does not explain why he kept silent all these years, except to say he leaves room for mystery.

There is an empathetic power in sharing our occasions of joy, sorrow, and everything in between. I often ask new members to share their faith journey with the Session. The faith story often includes mystical moments that they have interpreted as God drawing closer to them in a sort of communion. By sharing these experiences with other believers, it draws us all together, renewing and affirming our identity as children of God.

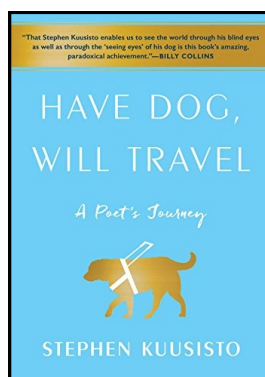
My favorite part of the Christmas story in Luke is 2:19. After the shepherds come to worship her son, Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." A dozen years later, when Mary and Joseph find the young Jesus talking to the teachers in the temple in Jerusalem, she again "treasured all these things in her heart." We know Mary became a leader in the early church but we do not have any record of her sharing the significance of those hushed cherishing's. Maybe Luke did not feel it was his story to tell.

It takes great trust to share our interior lives with the exterior world. It is much easier, and far less threatening, to make Facebook posts about what you had for lunch and where you got great Christmas bargains. However, experiences intimately held between us and God have great power. Maybe some moments belong in our private space for a time.

I know the familiar birth narratives by heart. Yet, I often experience something mysteriously comforting when I sit in silence and hear them read in worship. I believe God is still shaping us with His grace. Listening without speaking — pondering — is part of God's transforming work.

See you in worship.

James Brassard



"The ultimate definition of bravery is not being afraid of who you are."

~ Chogyam Trungpa ~





Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 16—Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Ministry will be performing their Christmas program entitled, "I Don't Believe It" at 10:00 AM in Dodds Hall.

The program will also feature performances by the Children's Bell Choir and the Children's Choir.

Sunday, December 23—Nine Lessons & Carols

Join us at 11:00 AM, as scripture and music combine to tell the story of Adam's fall, God's covenant with Abraham, the prophecies of a Messiah, and the birth of a child in a stable.

At the 9:00 AM service, Sam Guillermo will be our preacher.

Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve Services

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

8:30PM Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Choirs and a Homily titled "Side-by-Side Stories."

December 30—Morning Services

We will have our 9am Contemporary and 11am Blended Worship services with a Service of Recommitment at both.

**Please note the CCPC offices will be closed from
December 25 through December 29**



Charitable Offerings!

End of year is a good time to review your charitable offering to the church. Parishioners may avoid capital gains taxes by directly transferring assets into CCPC's Fidelity Investment account.

Simply contact your broker, identify the source and amount of funds for distribution. Your broker will need the following information:

Fidelity Investments
Christian Community Presbyterian Church
Account # Z50326291
DTC# 0226

You claim the total distribution as a charitable deduction and your basis (or cost) is your original investment. It's a great tax planning tool. However, you must do it before midnight December 31, 2018 to take advantage of this program for this year.

Speak with your tax advisor before you make the distribution to determine if this is right for you.

Merry Christmas!

Hamer and I wish each of you a happy and healthy Christmas. We thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Hug your family members. They are so precious and needed, especially when you get to be our age!!

Blessings,
Chris Campbell

Poinsettia Orders

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

We have extended the deadline for the poinsettia orders by one week.

They are now due by Monday, December 17.

Order forms are in the Atrium or you can call the office and Robin will fill one out for you.

Any questions, please contact Judyann Glazener Feinstein at judith.a.glazener@gmail.com

Adult Education!

Sweet Sorrow: Coping with Dark Experiences and Emotions

January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2019

**All Classes are in the
Adult Education Conference Room**



CCPC members and guest speakers share strategies to cope with Grief, Anger, Depression, Anxiety, and Addiction-within ourselves and our loved ones.

January 6: Guest Speaker-Author of Sweet Sorrow: Sherry Cormier

January 13: Kristin McDermott, Therapist

January 20: Gina Kobe, Psychologist

January 27: Ann Fleming-class focused on Forgiveness

COMING SOON!

SEASON 3

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**

**Join us for
Food!
Fun!
and
Fellowship!**

**Starts January 16
6:00 pm in Dodds Hall**

Children's Ministry

presents



I Don't Believe It

**December 16, 2018
10 am in Dodds Hall**

Worship is at **9 am** & **11 am**

CCPC Readers' Theater Production "Five Voices in the Age of Lamentations"

Winter Retreat!

Who: 6th through 12th Graders

Where: Rhodes Grove, PA

When: January 25 through 27

Cost: \$50.00

Bring snow clothes, active clothes, pillow, sleeping bag, Bible, pen, tooth-brush, etc.

Questions?

Contact Justin Devine at 707-344-3325

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT
MARCH 29 - 31, 2019**

LOCATION: Rhodes Grove Camp & Conference Center, 7693 Brown's Mill Road, Chambersburg, PA
(www.rhodesgrove.com).

Our main conference building contains our dining services, hotel-style rooms, office suite, & multiple meeting rooms, all under one roof! This modern facility also contains a favorite spot for guests – our main reception lobby with comfy couches, a stone fireplace, & easy access to all locations in the building. Pull right up and unload beneath the generous sized carport & you'll quickly see why guests return year after year.

INCLUDED: Two nights stay with 5 meals, beginning Friday night. Dinner at 6:00 pm

All materials, except your bibles. We will be working with stones.

If you have a rock, stone, or other item, like jewelry or art object with a stone, please bring it for our discussion.

LEADER: Sharon Youngdahl

THEME: *"Ease on down the Road" – into the Light*

COST: Double Room \$225. per person / Triple Room \$195. per person / Quad Room \$165 / Single Room \$295.

Pay in full by Feb. 24 for a \$10 discount

Need 4 meals – another \$10 discount. Scholarship money is available. We want everyone to attend.

Questions: Peggy Oates 301-262-6959 peggyoates@hotmail.com or

Cyd Radden-LeSage 301-352-9582 wyonative@verizon.net

You may mail this form with your check in to CCPC or
you may put completed form and check in the church office box labeled
"Presbyterian Women". Checks payable to: Presbyterian Women – CCPC

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NEED A RIDE: Yes No **I CAN DRIVE:** Yes No

MY ROOMMATE: _____

NEED A ROOMMATE: Yes No

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____

LIST ANY FOOD REQUEST: _____

Thank You!

Chesapeake Chorale

Open Rehearsal

January 2019

The Chesapeake Chorale welcomes all enthusiastic singers to come to the next Open Rehearsal, to be held on January 8, 2019 at 7:30PM.

Come to CCPC's Dodds Hall to join our fun.

A short audition, at a later date, is the only remaining requirement before becoming a full member.

Upcoming concerts include 'Side by Side with Sondheim' in March, and 'The Marvelous Mr. Mozart' in May.

www.chesapeakechorale.org/concerts

Questions? Contact Marty Sippel

Imagine Yoga!

Please join us for

FREE YOGA!

Dodds Hall on January 1, 2019 at 10:30 AM

Join us New Year's Day for the biggest event of the season! Start your New Year with relaxing fitness! This is a fun festive event for all, even those who have NEVER done yoga before. Modifications and all levels offered, even chair yoga!

All are welcome — all ages, all sizes — everyone!

Imagine Yoga & Wellness Center
3120 Belair Drive in Bowie www.ImagineThePlace.com / 443-510-6308

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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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.

