

## *Welcome Reverend Susan Graceson!*

Christian Community Presbyterian Church (CCPC), is excited to announce Rev. Susan Query



Graceson has accepted our offer to be our Interim Minister. A graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, Rev. Graceson most recently served as the Associate Pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia.

A coal miner's daughter from Eastern Kentucky, Pastor Susan has lived in the DC area since the age of 13. Susan is an ordained ruling elder and has served local churches as educator, pulpit supply preacher, retreat leader, and worship coordinator. She volunteers for a number of social service organizations and Presbytery committees. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, writing, crafts and hanging out with her two cats. Susan and her husband David live in Falls Church with their young adult sons, Sammy and Carter.

In the Presbyterian church, an Interim Minister typically leads a congregation while they search for a permanent Minister – a process that can take up to a couple years. Rev. Graceson will begin as the Interim Pastor September 1, 2020. CCPC's previous pastor, Rev. James Brassard, retired earlier this year after serving CCPC for 16 years.

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## *Congregational Meeting*

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for

**Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm On Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88103982538?pwd=WktEcHlVbkJjQVRsNVVNYL281aDFLQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 0398 2538    Passcode: 2272

One tap mobile

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for the following reasons:

- ♥ Approve Evonne Tang as President of the Corporation
- ♥ Elect and install Sharon Youngdall as Elder for the class of 2023. She will replace John Backus due to his illness.
- ♥ Allow the Re-Opening Committee to report to the congregation on the status of the building and grounds of Christian Community Presbyterian Church due to the pandemic.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

# *Reopening Task Force Message*

We know that everyone is missing the joy of worshiping together. It hurts to not be able to see each other and give one another the hugs we used to share. Covid 19 has required CCPC to learn to worship and work together in ways we never wanted or imagined. This virus is new, highly contagious, and deadly. According to all the science the only way to stop the spread of this disease is by staying apart. Our church is located in one of the hot spots of the nation. Since things have been opening up in our area, we are seeing a rise in cases and hospitalizations. The task force is watching these numbers closely. It is our opinion that opening our building or calling any large assembly of people together currently is much too risky. The chance of spreading this deadly disease is a very real threat. It is our recommendation that CCPC remain closed for in-person gatherings for now. There may be exceptions made for small personal gatherings such as a memorial service or wedding.


The reality is that we must learn how to work and worship together in new and different ways during this pandemic. We are still God's people doing our best to do God's work. We all owe a great deal of thanks to Justin for his leadership and being the glue that has held us together. We are excited that a new interim pastor has been chosen and will soon be joining us in this new journey

The reopening task force is looking for your ideas and suggestions. This is new and uncharted territory.

There is not a right answer. We can only make the best decision we can with the information available to us today. We need to weigh the threat of Covid 19 against our personal need to be together. Church cannot be as it was. We cannot have live singing. We cannot have any physical contact. We must wear face masks. We must practice social distancing. How do we keep our congregation safe?

We solicit your ideas and suggestions on how we can safely reopen our campus. How can we be a more effective church community working together, just a little further apart?

Please email your response to [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net) with the word "Reopening" in the subject line.



## *Drive By Celebration for Rev. James*

**Sunday, August 9 11:30 am**

Greetings CCPC Members and Friends:

We have **moved up** the date for the Drive By Celebration for Rev. James to this upcoming weekend! As it turns out, all of James' children are in town and will be here through Sunday. So, it will be very special for them all to be here for this event.

Please meet at the **Bowie High School Annex at 3021 Belair Drive at 11:30 am**. We will get organized and then create a caravan of cars to go into the CCPC parking lot to greet James and his family. Please meet at the annex so we can be sure to do this in an orderly manner and do not go directly to the church. Feel free to decorate your cars, make signs, get balloons, etc.

As you know, after almost 16 years of dedicated service with Christian Community Presbyterian Church, James Brassard has retired from the post of Reverend. This drive by will be our way to celebrate his retirement. With your generous donations, several special gifts have been purchased and those gifts will all be delivered to James during the drive by celebration. We look forward to your participation to make the event memorable.

**Please remember that everyone must stay in their cars to ensure a safe situation for everyone and for James and his family.**

Regards, Retirement Gift Committee

# *A Message from Buildings & Grounds*

Friendly reminder that the church buildings are closed until further notice. Special permission for use of the building must be approved by Session. Any questions or concerns, please contact Skip Oates at [skipoates@gmail.com](mailto:skipoates@gmail.com).

Skip Oates, Buildings and Grounds Chair

## *Race & Diversity Task Force Digital Retreat!*

In June, Session authorized a task force to consider our response to the racial injustice that has led to world-wide protests this year. Since then, the Race & Diversity Task Force (RDTF) has met four times, via zoom, to not only increase our understanding of the depth and reach of the problem, but also to identify how we can improve our ability to share the love of Christ with people of color in our congregation and community. Our first effort is a **digital retreat** to create a safe place to discuss our increasing awareness of the problems of systemic racism.

Join us **August 21-23** for *Courageous Conversations on Race, Diversity, and Loving One Another*.

We will kick off the weekend with a movie watch party on Friday night with a follow-up conversation about the documentary, **13th**, analyzing the history that has led us to be the worldleader in mass incarceration. On Saturday, we'll meet in two zoom sessions with breakout groups to share our questions and concerns about racial justice. Our worship service on Sunday will flow out of those Courageous Conversations.

To facilitate our digital retreat, we welcome the expertise of Carlesa Finney, who among many other qualifications, served ten years with Dr. Kevin Maxwell on the Anne Arundel CountyPublic Schools school board and eight years as the Executive Director of the Office of Equity and Human Relations.

Registration is required to receive the zoom links and tech support for joining the movie watch party. Click here to [register](#).

Questions? Ask Justin Devine [ccpcdirced@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcdirced@verizon.net) or Ann Fleming [ann@annspeacefulpractices.com](mailto:ann@annspeacefulpractices.com).

**AAMC Blood Donor Center**

## *CCPC Blood Drive*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday, September 25 (Details Coming Soon!)**



To donate blood, you must be: Between 17 & 74 yrs old; 16 with parental consent; In good health; At least 110 lbs. You can give blood while taking most medications

**2020 Fall**

# *Virtual Concert Series*

**Sundays at 4:00 pm  
LIVE ON FACEBOOK!**

[ccpc.bowiemd.org/calendar--events/concert-series.html](http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/calendar--events/concert-series.html)



## **Sunday, October 4: Nolan King, pianist**

Mr. King presents a program including masterworks by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Liszt.

## **Sunday, November 1: *Rosa Parks: A Time***

Nationally acclaimed actress Ms. Briley-Strand returns as Rosa Parks in her historic act of civil disobedience that changed the course of the American Civil Rights movement.

## **Sunday, December 6: Capital Ringers**

This virtuoso ensemble performs on six octaves of handbells and hand chimes in a seasonal program that includes a light show.

*To ensure the continuation of our concert series, please consider a donation marked "CCPC Concert Series Friend", either mailed to the above address, or made online at [ccpc.bowiemd.org](http://ccpc.bowiemd.org) via 'DONATE'.*

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**For further information, please call 301-262-6008 or email [ccpcmusic@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcmusic@verizon.net)**

## *Not Getting Email Blasts?*

The Caller and other email blasts are sent through a third-party vendor. If you are not receiving them or have stopped receiving them for some reason, you may try the following:

- ◆ Check your spam/junk mail folder and if there, mark them as Not spam/junk.
- ◆ Reenter your email address by going to the CCPC website at <http://ccpc.bowiemd.org/>. On the home page, scroll to the bottom and you will see the Newsletter Sign Up. Enter your information, check the appropriate boxes, and hit Sign Up.

If neither of the above works, then you will need to call your Internet Service Provider (ISP), as CCPC has no control over people receiving and/or not receiving the newsletter or other email blasts because it is managed through a third-party vendor.

Thank you



# 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.*



## 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.

