



Interfaith dialogue is important. It is more important now. In our increasingly diverse religious landscape, coming to a deeper understanding and appreciation of another's faith is critical for the health of our communal life. I am always saddened when members of one religious group feel they can increase the influence of their faith by attacking the beliefs and practices of another. However, we are human and prone to sin. Misconceptions live on for generations even after they have been proven false. Remember, it took nearly 500 years to mend the divisions between Catholics and Protestants.

Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School was speaking recently to a large group of Protestant clergy in Chicago. Her lecture focused on the Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Levine began by stating the obvious: for the last 2000 years, Jews and Christians have borne false witness against each other. The problem of Christians getting Judaism wrong is more acute because Jewish practice and beliefs are component parts of our Bible. Here are three of the top mistakes Levine says that Christians make about Judaism.

First, the view that Jews are neurotic legalists who thought they needed to follow every jot of the Torah (The first 5 books of the Old Testament) to earn God's love. Jesus then arrives and invents grace and replaces the burdensome 613 commandments with the golden rule. WRONG.

Jews, says Levine, do not follow Torah to earn God's love; they follow Torah in response to God's love. The traditions Jews follow: Sabbath observance, dietary regulations, purification rituals — are designed to help Jews resist assimilation and to maintain Jewish identity.

Second, the Christian claim that Jews worship a distant god of wrath and that Jesus invented the Abba-daddy God of love. WRONG. Jews are very clear about this: God is shepherd (Psalm 23), God is king, and father, and comforting mother. Christians did not invent or have an exclusive on the understanding that god is Imminent.

Third, the claim that Judaism is xenophobic and Jesus invented universalism. This is also wrong. Synagogues have always welcomed gentile affiliates. The Jerusalem Temple, the holiest site in Judaism, had a "court of the Gentiles" that welcomed non-Jews. Jews do not proselytize because Judaism does not teach that one needs to be Jewish in order to be in the right relationship with God. Actually, early Christianity's insistence that belief in Jesus is required for salvation was the more exclusive view.

Christians and Jews share so much common history. When Jesus and the Apostles quoted scripture, they were quoting the Old Testament. When Christians developed their own rituals and liturgies, they adapted the practices of the Judaism in which most of the churches earliest members were raised. The Christian message can stand very well on its own without having to make Judaism a negative foil. Thankfully, most Christians no longer believe the vilest anti-Jewish lie: the "Jews" killed Jesus.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard

Worship Notes

March 15th: The most familiar passage of the New Testament is our text: *John 3:16-17* "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." Justin Devine will make an attempt to bring some clarity and originality to this most beloved saying of Jesus.

March 22nd: A well known California preacher wrote a mega bestseller titled "The Purpose Driven Life." Christianity bases its dogma on something different: Jesus' purpose driven death. How does the cross become good news for us? The Apostle Paul admits it is a stumbling block for non-believers. We will look at how Jesus makes the case for the paradox of life through death. The text is *John 12:20-33* and *I Corinthians 1: 25-31*.



Easter Candy!

Children's Ministry is asking for donations of wrapped candies to put in the Easter eggs.

If you would like to donate candy, you may drop it off at the church office before April 1st.

Contact Justin Devine if you have any questions.



One Great Hour of Sharing

I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Food

Matthew 25:35

Across the world, millions of people live on less than \$1.25 a day and have to survive on very little to no food. By giving to One Great hour of Sharing (OGHS), you're supporting programs working to provide those in need with food and safe water, relief for those affected by crises and catastrophic events, and the tools necessary to improve their lives.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. that cares for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

The PHP is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) working with congregations and partners around the globe to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. PHP is able to support projects in five program areas: Direct food relief; Development assistance; Influencing public policy; Lifestyle integrity; Education and interpretation.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

SDOP participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. In SDOP projects, low-income people determine the problem, organize themselves to do something about their condition, and are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Your gifts to OGHS mean that you too are present, bringing healing and hope to some of the world's most desperate situations. Never underestimate what a difference you can make. Let us thank God for giving us the opportunity to share our gifts so generously.

**CCPC will be joining the efforts of OGHS during
worship services on Palm Sunday, March 29th
and Easter Sunday, April 5th.**

**Thank you so much
for your support!**





In Memory of Buddy Primm

who passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2015.

Buddy suffered a heart attack on Friday, February 13th and another one early Sunday morning on the 15th.

Buddy was 83 years old. His wife Patricia, predeceased him on March 22, 2013. Buddy is survived by his son Tony and a granddaughter, Dianna.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 21st at 11 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Dodds Hall.

You can contact Tony at tprimm@aol.com. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tony and his family.



In Memory of Robert Rice

who passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Bob was a long-time member of CCPC along with his wife Rose Marie. Bob is survived by his wife Rose Marie, his son Kevin and his wife Karin as well as their two children and his son James and his wife Carrie and their three children.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 6 PM in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Dodds Hall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rice family.



Holy Week Schedule

March 29 — Palm Sunday

With waving Palms, the large throng welcomed the popular Jesus into Jerusalem.

We have a drama titled the “Gospel Dance,” which will lead to our examination of the revolutionary truths boldly brought to the world stage.

The sermon is titled “The Threat of Grace.”

Maundy Thursday at 7:30PM

We will examine the events of the final night Jesus spent with his disciples in the Upper room.

Communion will be served
around the table.

Good Friday at Noon

We will read the entire crucifixion narrative and its connected scriptures. The lessons will be interspersed with the very moving Good Friday hymns and times of silent reflection.

April 5th — *Easter Sunday* The Resurrection of the Lord

7:00AM Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary:

The service will conclude with
communion in the Memorial Garden.

The annual Easter Break of scrambled eggs, sausage and pancakes will be served from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM in Dodds Hall. A continental breakfast will be offered from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM for families arriving early for the children’s Easter program.

The Children’s Easter Program, including the Easter Egg Hunt and the connected lessons, will be held from 9:30 AM -10:15 AM.

Our Services in **Celebration of the Resurrection** will be held at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. We will sing the classic Easter Hymns and get the second installment of our Holy Week drama. The sermon is titled: “Walking through the Door.”





Easter is on Sunday, April 5, 2015.

At CCPC, we honor and remember loved ones with Easter lilies.
Thirty-two single stem with 5-7 blooms have been ordered. The cost is \$13.

The order form is below or you can get one off the table in the atrium. Please put the completed order form with payment in the Flower Committee mail box in the church office or in the collection plate. Any questions, please contact Judyann Feinstein at judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or (240) 351-4121.

Easter Lily Order Form

Given By: _____

Please Print! We want to be sure names are spelled correctly.

Lilies with 5-7 Blossoms are \$13.00 each

*Name:*_____ *Honor* ____ *or Memory* ____

Quantity = _____ *@\$13.00=*_____ *(total)*

*Enclosed is \$*_____ *for my total order.*

Please make checks payable to CCPC-Flower Committee

CCPC Spring Cleaning

We will be doing our annual Spring exterior cleanup on

Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 AM to Noon

Please bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, and wheel barrows. We will be weeding, mulching, and cleaning up the outside grounds of the church.

A light lunch will be provided at noon.

If you can't make it that day and want to participate, please come by earlier that week and do some weeding and cleaning of the garden beds which will be a big help in preparing for the mulching.

Warm Nights & Elijah's Bowl

Update

Warm Nights Wrap-Up -- Even with the snow on Thursday, members from CCPC were able to provide a tasty meal to Warm Nights One clients that were hosted the week of 1 – 6 March at Grace Lutheran Church. A special thank you goes to Paul and Debbie Sell who hosted the dinner and provided the lunches for Friday, the Tanners, Kris Ross, and Lynn DeSeve.

The Elijah's Bowl wrap-up meeting which was planned for Thursday March 5th has been rescheduled for March 11th at Grace Lutheran. Questions regarding this program should be directed to either Susan Brutout or Deborah Sell.

Lenten Readings

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

"The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent (Feb. 18th through April 4th) at 7:15 AM for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer. We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.

CCPC *Photo* Directory REMINDER!

It's time to update our directory!

We have two Sunday's set aside to take pictures:

March 15th and 29th between 9 AM and 1:30 PM

A professional photographer, Molly Brock Humphrey, will be taking the pictures, free of charge for the directory.

If you would like to purchase photos, they will be available online. If you are available to help, let Carrie know.

We will also be updating all contact information for the directory as well as our CCPC member database. Complete the online survey (<http://goo.gl/forms/t3NUH86VDj>) to ensure the information is correct. If you are unable to complete the survey online, join us on March 15 or 29 at the Lenten luncheons where laptops and helpers will be available to help you with the survey. Although we are confident in the security of the survey website, if you are not comfortable filing out the information online, we will have paper forms available when you get your pictures taken and the information will be entered directly into our database. We are hoping for this to be completed by June 1st.

Thank You!

Helpers contact: carrie.casto28@gmail.com

Thank You!

We appreciate the concern and prayers of the congregation following the death of our daughter-in-law, Joy Pals, following emergency surgery. Her passing was very unexpected. We especially appreciated those who ventured out on a snowy, cold Sunday afternoon and a cold, windy Monday morning for her funeral service. We especially appreciate James being available, on short notice, when we needed him.

Calvan and Lois Pals, Charles and Jon

Hello everyone!

I want to let everyone know how much the support of my church family has meant to me! You guys have made a world of difference helping me recover from this. As of now my car is back up and running, have an apartment, and things have started to get better. I'm back to work; however, nursing school has been put on hold for the time being. There is always next year. Now if only I can get it to stop snowing ...

Kyle Tavel

We wanted to thank everyone for the incredible love and caring you showed our family. There are no words to describe what a blessing all of you have been.

The Tavel's

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at CCPC,

Thank you so much for your help with Warm Nights. We really appreciate it! God's Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Wendy and Kim Weinholt

Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
Fax (301) 262-5177
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.*



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 Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

