

What an exciting Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Season we have just completed. We began our Lenten Journey in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3), talking about the role that she played in the story of the fall of humankind, and reminding ourselves that when we are *Playing Hide and Seek with God*, God is a master seeker and will always come looking for us, even when we fail, and we fall.

We then jumped into the Gospel of John allowing several biblical characters' meaningful encounters with Jesus guide our season and reflect upon how Jesus meets each one, including us, wherever our we are in our journey of belief. In the story of Nicodemus (John 3), we thought about what it might be like *Riding Tandem with Jesus* — knowing that riding in the back seat of a tandem bicycle is an act of complete trust and submission. When we try to take control to steady ourselves, or look over Jesus' shoulder, to see where we're going, we bobble and fall off! Tending to our life of faith is a lived experience and believing is an ongoing thing, that requires tending, and attention, and focus. And that's what we're doing here, at church! We work on believing in the kind of life Jesus offers us, together in community week in and week out.

The story of the Samaritan woman was lifted up in *Agua de Vida* (John 4) as we noticed that in her story, Jesus doesn't have a bucket to drink from, and it is the woman, and us, who have something in our buckets to offer to Jesus. Yes, at times our spiritual wells feel dry and there is nothing but dirt and dust to offer, especially when we've been in survival mode for so many years. I encouraged us as a community to shift our narrative and the questions we are asking. Let's no longer ask ourselves, **how do we survive? But rather, what makes us thrive?** We meet thirsty strangers, every day, in those interactions, the opportunity for our relationship with a stranger deepens, and in that very same opportunity our relationship with Christ deepens.

We lifted up the powerful story of the man born blind in a dramatic choral reading (John 9), and used the story of my huge bright *Pink Glasses* I wore as a child to talk about division, sin, separation and the true *Belonging* that Jesus offers to us, as our authentic, God created selves, encouraging us to be a community of faith that invites and makes space for one another's genuine God breathed, authentic selves.

As we remembered the story of how Jesus' called Lazarus from the grave (John 11), I also told the story of how my son asks me when he is looking forward to something he'll ask me, *"Is Today Tomorrow?"* Because I think that's the perfect question when we try to wrap our minds around the kind of life that Jesus promises, life abundant, abiding with God. And he's not talking about tomorrow. He's talking about eternal life-right now.

As we approached Holy week, we were invited to *Remember the Time . . .* the people of Jerusalem lined the streets crying save us . . . "hosanna" (John 12) and I asked the question, do you believe in a God who has the power to save us? This is the question of our faith and our time.

Our Holy week services were meaningful experiences for connection and community. We tried a new thing together for Maundy Thursday and held our worship service around dinner tables in Dodds Hall, celebrating the sacrament of Communion (John 13). Good Friday's service of scripture (John 18-19), prayer, music and the extinguishing of candles was

a powerful day of remembrance where many of you participated to make an evocative worship service.

It all culminated on Easter Sunday! We blossomed the cross, our sanctuary was adorned with lilies in memory of loved ones, our renovated Joyful Noise Room was ready, thanks to monumental efforts of the preceding 2 weeks by the buildings and grounds and painting team. Our children sprinted through the sanctuary to share the good news that “Jesus is Alive!” We welcomed seven new members into our church, the children had a joyful easter egg hunt, Marco’s family shared cake in celebration of his confirmation and the hospitality team hosted a lovely fellowship following the worship service. When Mary Magdalene thinks the Risen Christ was the Gardener (John 20), we leaned into that idea, asking how we might invite Jesus to be *The Gardner* of our own lives. This image gives the God of love a more nurturing tone as the risen Christ — one who tends more lovingly to us, love knows us by name, waters our soil, and tends to our roots. This kind of love pulls out weeds that threaten to overwhelm us, and when we bloom, when we show our truest selves to the world, our gardener rejoices.

Peace,
Pastor Kori



Memorial Service for Margery Conley

It is with sadness that we share the news of Margery Conley’s death. Margery was a longtime member of the church. She joined CCPC in February of 1966. Her husband, Frank, who predeceased her, joined in 1977. She was a faithful attendee and enjoyed being a circle member for many years. Margery was a kind, quiet soul who will be missed dearly by her CCPC family.

We will celebrate Margery’s life on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3p m in the Sanctuary. Following the service, we will gather in Dodds Hall for a memorial luncheon.

Please keep Margery’s family and friends in your prayers.

Adult Education



Sunday, April 16, 2023

Patti Cable, "Speaking To Your Doctor & What To Expect When Hospitalized"

Sunday, April 23, 2023

No Adult Ed – Margery Conley's Memorial Service

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Moderated by Dr. Kori McMurtry, "Why signs? Why now? A conversation about affirming that Black Lives Matter"

CCPC Work Day!

Join us on **Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 8 AM to Noon**

Help with odd jobs around the church like interior painting and other small tasks, cutting ivy off trees, spreading mulch, and trimming shrubs and bushes. If you are available, we sure could use your help!
Hope to see you there!

Welcome, New Members!

On Easter Sunday,
we joyfully welcomed seven
new members:

Rosemary Adjei
Yaw Adjeii
Marco Assam,
Kelly Falk
Matthew Falk
Ben McMurtry,
Stacye Walsh



Lenten Challenge

Ice Cream Celebration

The Children & Youth have worked hard on their Lenten challenge, so let's celebrate with a scoop or two (or 3) of ice cream!

On **Sunday, April 16**, during Sunday School make your Sundaes and take them to class to enjoy together!



Little Koalas

Music Fun

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month

Starting April 18

9 to 9:30am in Dodds Hall

Grab your little koalas (0-5 years) to spend some music time together

Make New Friends! Dance! Play to Music!

Email ccpcyouth@verizon.net,

to be added to Koala Music info email.

Noah Pageant

On Sunday morning, **April 23rd**,

our children and youth will present the story of Noah through music, narration, pantomime, and staging! This event is designed to include children of visiting families as well!

Rehearsal is Saturday, April 22.

Taco Dinner

Children and youth are invited to join us for a Taco dinner potluck on

**Friday, May 5 from 5-7pm
in Dodds hall.**

Bring your favorite side dish to the fiesta!



Looking for Liturgists



The CCPC worship council is looking for liturgists. Please click the [link](#) and sign up to volunteer. We would love to have new volunteers who are willing to participate in our worship. All are welcome to participate – new and experienced volunteers. Please contact Tricia Scabis at tashby@asha.org if you have questions or challenges.

Lynching Memorial Project

Truth First.

The DEI committee invites CCPC member and friends to join us at an event sponsored by the Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project (PGC LMP). This local chapter of the Equal Justice Initiative's Maryland Lynching Memorial Project will honor the life and remember the murder of Thomas Juricks in a public remembrance ceremony on

April 15, 2023 from 2 — 4pm

Harmony Hall Regional Center 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD, 20744

The event is free and open to the public.

The DEI committee is coordinating carpools to this event leaving from both CCPC and Collington at 1:15 pm on Saturday, April 15. For more information contact Steve Donoian or Ann Fleming.

Memorial Garden

As most of the congregation is aware, after many years devoted to caring for the Memorial Garden, Anne and Bob Shelby are retiring from that dedicated work and passing the torch. Their legacy leaves a tremendous need and a wonderful opportunity for an individual or group of individuals to share their time and talent. As with most gardening in this region, work is needed from March through November, making this request rather urgent. A detailed schedule and all other information needed to guide the next caretaker of this special place. Please contact Kevin Maxwell if you are interested in this opportunity to serve. His email address is kmaxwell24@msn.com. His cell number is 301-456-6832.

Memorial Day Parade



The City of Bowie is planning to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27, 2023 beginning at 11:00 am. The route will be the same as in previous years: beginning at the Bowie High School Annex on Belair Drive, turning right and continuing toward Sussex Lane, which will pass in front of CCPC.

The street closure will last approximately 2 hours and re-open immediately following the passing of the last parade unit.

Please note that during this time, you will not be able to drive on the parade route of Belair Drive. If you have business at the church during these hours, you will need to come in early or late or park elsewhere.

Thank you for your understanding.

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

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.

