

One of the most exciting things about this congregation when I was in my interview process was learning about your willingness to actively work on issues in your community and our society that are breaking God's heart right now. By aligning yourselves with the **More Light** and **Matthew 25** congregations, you bear witness to the need for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the life, ministry and witness of the church and society, and commit to building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

One of the ways we are seeking to live into these bold calls is through the action of signage. You may have noticed the "Presbyterians Affirm Black Lives Matter" signs on our church property. Some of you might still be curious about what this action means for you, the church, and your faith. Please refer to the Q&A below written by PC(USA) leadership if you have questions.

I was excited to launch a new worship series "Anchoring Antiracism Work & Theology in Five Biblical Themes" last week and look forward to robust conversation and reflections from you all, as we move through the series.

~ Rev. Dr. Kori Phillips McMurtry

This statement is excerpted from an article written by former co-moderator the PC (USA) Rev. Denise Anderson. It is setup in a Q&A response format and includes several pieces of Presbyterian policy and history showing there is precedent for the church to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Don't all lives matter?:** "Saying unequivocally that 'Black Lives Matter' in no way means that all lives do not matter. It is rather an acknowledgment that many lives – specifically Black lives – are systemically devalued."

**Is the church formally joining the Black Lives Matter movement?** "As an organization, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has no affiliation or official status with the Black Lives Matter Movement," the statement says, while noting many Presbyterians are involved in the movement and Global Network.

**I just cannot agree with supporting the Black Lives Matter organization:** This section addresses misgivings about Black Lives Matter's positions and perceived tactics. While acknowledging everyone must use their own discernment, the authors caution against, as a majority-white institution, telling people impacted by oppression how they should go about seeking liberation.

"Black Lives Matter provides a way forward formulated for and by Black people," the authors write. "And we need not wait for complete agreement with every position before we act in ways that are loving, bold and (again) directed by the communities with whom we want to align."

The document also addresses perceptions that Black Lives Matter is a "violent Marxist" group saying, "we must name that these labels are not only untrue but rooted in anti-Blackness with intent to frustrate the efforts of Black people seeking justice for themselves. These things must be confronted with truth." The authors point out that there is a history of labeling movements seeking justice as seditious, anti-Christian, and other characterizations to suppress their message. They encourage readers to see what Black Lives Matter says about itself. Anderson adds, "the violence that has occurred in demonstrations has been widely condemned by BLM leaders across the country."

**The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is getting too political:** The authors note the church's long history of civic engagement in the United States, for good and bad, and the Bible's repeated call for liberation and justice.

"We believe that justice for the oppressed is not and should not be a partisan value," the document says. "Justice is a gospel value, one that all who claim Jesus as Lord should hold."

It is important for majority-white institutions such as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to vocally support movements such as Black Lives Matter, Anderson said, because "for so long majority-white religious institutions were slow to arrive to the party."

Anderson said that while making it clear the PC(USA) has no official ties to Black Lives Matter, the authors wanted to make sure they were not distancing the church from the movement.

"That movement has been put on the defensive unnecessarily," Anderson said. "I really wanted to drive home the fact that majority-white institutions have no standing to determine the path forward for the Black community. Black people can do that, and what we need are allies and co-conspirators."

Anderson said that while a lot of discussion addresses the Black Lives Matter organization, "the phrase itself elicits some weird and inappropriate responses. So, consider, what is it about the specificity to Black lives that bothers you? Then, we can work from there."

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/why-presbyterians-affirm-black-lives-matter/>

For a more detailed Q&A visit:

<https://www.pcusa.org/bearingwitness/>



## *Sundays in May*

### **Communion Sunday, May 7, 2023**

10am Worship Service with Communion - In Person & Online  
11:30am Sunday Morning Connect - Sr High Classroom & Zoom  
11:30am Children's Sunday School - Room 6 K-1st Grade  
11:30am Adult Education - Dodds Hall

### **Sunday, May 14, 2023**

10am Worship Service - In Person & Online  
11:30am Sunday Morning Connect - Sr High Classroom & Zoom  
11:30am Children's Sunday School - Room 6 K-1st Grade  
6:30pm Discovery Circle - Parlor

### **Youth Sunday, May 21, 2023**

10am Youth Sunday Worship Service with Marco Assam leading, teacher appreciation, and presentation of bibles to 4<sup>th</sup> graders - In Person & Online  
11:15am Communications Task Force - Adult Ed Conf Rm  
11:30am Sunday Morning Connect - Sr High Classroom & Zoom  
11:30am Children's Sunday School - Room 6 K-1st Grade

### **Sunday, May 28, 2023**

10am Worship Service - In Person & Online  
11:15am Children's Bell Choir - Choir Room  
11:30am Sunday Morning Connect - Sr High Classroom & Zoom  
11:30am Children's Sunday School - Room 6 K-1st Grade



## *Calling All Crafters*

There is free yarn in Dodds hall next to the book table. The yarn will be available through June 4. If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bouic.

## *Calling All Gardeners*

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. Please contact Kevin Maxwell if you are interested in this opportunity to serve. His email address is [kmaxwell24@msn.com](mailto:kmaxwell24@msn.com).



## *Reopen Task Force Disbands with the gratitude of the session & congregation*

The Covid Reopen Task Force voted to make mask wearing in the CCPC Worship and buildings optional and to ask the Session to disband the Task Force as their work has been completed. These motions were approved by the Session on April 17. We would like to thank the members of the Task Force who have served faithfully since June 2020. They are: Steve Donoian, Barbara Eng, Sue Evans, Astrid Jonas, Susan Mather, Kevin Maxwell, Skip Oates, Chuck Tanner. Staff also participated and gave their time and guidance unstintingly, particularly Justin Devine, Pastor Susan Graceson, Sam Guillermo, and Rick Osborne.



## *Little Koalas Music Fun*

Little Koalas (0-5 yrs) spend some music time together on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 9 to 9:30am in Dodds Hall.

Make New Friends! Dance and Play to Music!

Email [ccpcyouth@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcyouth@verizon.net), to be added to Koala Music info email.

## *Memorial Brick Ceremony*

The Memorial Brick Ceremony will be held in the Memorial Garden at Noon on Sunday, November 5, 2023. **The deadline for brick orders is Friday, June 30. Order forms are in the office or can be emailed or sent by regular mail.**

Please note this is a strict deadline and cannot be extended due to the process of ordering the bricks, getting them made, shipping, and installing them into the memorial walkway. If you have any questions or need help with ordering a brick, contact Robin in the church office at 301-262-6008 or [ccpcbowie@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcbowie@verizon.net).

## *Memorial Day Parade*

Bowie's Annual Memorial Day Parade is on Sat., May 27, at 11:00 am. The route will be the same as in previous years along Belair Drive. If you have business at the church during these hours, you will need to come in early or late or park elsewhere. The street closure will last about 2-hours and re-open immediately following the passing of the last parade unit.

Thank you for your understanding.





## *Work Day!*

Join us TOMORROW, 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!

## *Youth Sunday*

Please join us for a special service, Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, for our Children and Youth Sunday! The kids  
have worked hard to plan and execute the entire service themselves and can't wait to lead the  
congregation in worship. Presentation of 4th grade bibles, teacher appreciation, and blessings for  
graduating seniors will take place during the service.



# **Adult Education**

Adult Education classes are on Sundays after worship from September through May.

Join us in person at the church or online via this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83808300041> Meeting ID: 838 0830 0041 Or dial 1-301-715-8592



## May Adult Education

**May 7th with Nathan Dimes from  
Community Crisis Services**

This will be our last class until September.

Have a nice summer!

**Do you have topic suggestions?**

**Know of any volunteer speakers?**

**Would you like to lead an Adult Education class?**

**Have questions about our Adult Education classes?**

**Contact Karin Rice**

# *Congregational Meeting*

On Sunday, June 4, we will have a congregational meeting to elect the class of 2026 candidates for deacons and elders. Please see their biographies below.

## *Deacon Class of 2026*

### **Carrie Ahearn**

### **Carole Brady**

I am originally from Skaneateles, NY. I met my husband, Jim, and we moved to Maryland in 1982. We moved to Bowie in 1986 and joined CCPC shortly after. Jim and I were involved for many years with BBGC. We were blessed with 5 children and 13 grandchildren. Jim and I shared 40 wonderful years. I stay busy with taking care of my home, babysitting grands and granddoggies, spending time with family, enjoying time at Ocean City and traveling.

### **Ann Fleming**

Ann has been a Presbyterian and member of CCPC for about twenty years. She is an active member of the DEI committee, personnel committee and tech team. She also supports children's activities as a Sunday School teacher and children's sermon volunteer. Ann has led some adult education classes and even preached on Women's Sunday in the past - and coming up again this June.

Ann is a lifelong Bowie resident. She and her husband Mark have four kids in their twenties who have all moved out, leaving a peaceful empty nest. Ann currently teaches 8th grade science at Benjamin Tasker Middle School, right here in Bowie. She'd be happy to tell you about their terrapin research project. Next year she will be moving into ESOL, supporting our newest citizens as they learn English. She manages her school's Green School Certification and is an active member of the City of Bowie's Green Schools Committee. She is also a member of the Bowie Lions Club, who supports her Leo Club, hosted at Tasker. She teaches a Chair Yoga practice at the Lions Den in Old Bowie on Tuesday evenings. Ann is excited to be part of the team starting the first chapter of PFLAG in Prince Georges's County, creating a safe space for parents and friends of the LGBTQIA+ community to support each other.

Ann is looking forward to serving CCPC as a deacon, recognizing the importance of personal relationships in building congregational vitality.

### **Judyann Glazener**

### **Paula Hays**

Paula was born and raised in Grove City, Pennsylvania along with her younger brother, Tom. She joined East Main Presbyterian at age 12 and was active in youth group, choir, and Sunday school. After high school she majored in music education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, she taught music in the Pennsylvania public schools for three years. She enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to prepare to work in Christian education and music, graduating with an MA and a husband, Rick. While Rick served as pastor to churches in Rockford, Ohio, and Waverly, Ohio, Paula worked with youth and adult choirs, youth club, Sunday school and Presbyterian Women. She was ordained as an elder in Waverly, chairing the mission committee and volunteering at the food pantry and homeless shelter. She served the Presbytery of Scioto Valley as Resource Center Coordinator and Christian Educator. Later she worked for the Pike County Public Library, managing the branches and bookmobile. She joined CCPC in 2019 and was elected to Session, serving as clerk. She enjoys participating in choir, bell choir, PW and Lady Tigers. The Hays have two children. Elizabeth lives in Greenbelt with her husband Eric and their children, Tabitha and Arthur. Andrew (Drew) lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with his wife, Angie.

## *Elder Class of 2026*

### **Gladys Ayuketah**

It is truly an honor to be selected once more to serve as an Elder for the second time. I recently completed my service as a Deacon.

I was born in Cameroon, Central Africa into a traditional Presbyterian family and have remained Presbyterian. My father was a Presbyterian teacher/Educator for over 50 years and was charged to open several Presbyterian schools in West Cameroon. Together with my spouse (Adolf Schwartz) and two kids (Alexis and Abigail), we have enjoyed being a part of CCPC for over 16 years. The Children's Ministry has been my favorite initiative at CCPC. It has been a blessing to have my kids participate in the Children's, Youth Ministries and Contemporary music.

I have worked in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health for over 16 years and recently obtained a doctorate as an Epidemiologist, and working as a clinical trial scientist.

My interests are Bible studies, prayer groups and singing to the Glory of the Lord. I pray that God will guide me in this new calling. Thank you for another opportunity to serve CCPC.

### **Mary Brock**

In what seems like so many “former lives”, I’ve been a housewife, a fast food employee, a police officer and police academy instructor, an EMT, a Starbucks barista, an accreditation manager, an interim director of a Middle East language institute, a Spanish teacher for seniors, and currently still an ESL instructor. As for worship, I led singing for a Catholic folk mass back in the 70s. Later in the 90s, I was part of a Praise and Worship team for a few years and also led a small church service at a drug and alcohol rehab facility for over a year. And now, I lead the weekly Bible study for the church. Woven throughout them all, I’ve belonged to God. God has always been at the helm, whatever I’ve done, guiding me and encouraging me to say “yes” when the opportunities were presented. This is yet another opportunity to say “yes”.

### **Melodie Dzduch**

I have lived in Maryland my whole life. My husband Charlie and I have been married for 41 years. We have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren. We lived in Bowie for 36 years and moved to Two Rivers in Odenton 6 months ago. I have been a member of CCPC for 33 years, in that time I have served on various committees, as a Sunday School teacher, a Deacon, and an Elder for Children’s Ministry. I have a degree in Nursing and worked in Doctor’s offices for years. Then I worked as an Executive Assistant and Awards Coordinator for a small non-profit for ten years. After another career change, and ten years of catering, I retired in 2020.

### **Amy Littlefield**

I am a lifelong Presbyterian and have been a member of CCPC since 1997. I taught Sunday School for 7 years, served as Deacon twice, and as Clerk of Session. I currently serve as a liturgist and on the Personnel Committee. I am a member of Grace and Glory Circle.

I am originally from Houston, Texas and have been in the Washington area since 1984. My husband Roy and I have lived in our Bowie home since we married in 1989 and raised our 3 children there. We have recently moved to Chester, Maryland where we built a smaller home for our retirement years. I will be commuting to church from there as I can never imagine leaving my church home.

I have a PhD in Educational Psychology and have been teaching for 21 years after staying home with my kids when they were little. I am currently finishing my position teaching high school history and government in a private school for students with learning differences in Alexandria, Virginia. I will begin this fall at a similar school on the Eastern Shore as a Learning Specialist working four days a week.

### **Jane Mellow**

Jane Mellow has been a member of CCPC since 2009. Jane has previously served on CCPC’s session two separate times chairing Mission, Outreach, and Youth Councils. Last year she served on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Jane created and ran the slides for the contemporary service for several years and she has put together the CCPC year in review photos for the past few years. She has participated in multiple CCPC mission trips to build houses in West Virginia and in Tennessee and volunteered for VBS and various youth activities. She is the mother of 21-year-old twins Wesley and Caitlin Shoemaker. She has worked in advocacy, communications, and policy jobs both in and out of the government.

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

~ 1 Peter 4:10 ~

# Noah Pageant

On Sunday April 23, the dramatic telling of God's story with Noah (Genesis 6-9) offered much to our service of worship. Thank you to all of the families and young people who participated in this joy-filled and meaningful project, to Sharon Youngdahl for narrating, to Dan MacMillan for his tech support, and the choir for accompanying. The creative vision and direction of Rick Osborne and Kim Gedrich's leadership of our children and youth made a great team for this praise-filled Sunday! Many thanks!



# 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.*

**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](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.

