

Dear CCPC members and friends,

Thank you for your involvement in the CCPC family over this past year. Your very presence has an impact in how we continue to worship and serve God, in this thing we do together called church. Your time, energy, prayers, and financial contributions were critical in helping us grow as a community of faith that we might share the love of Christ with one another, and beyond our walls.

As we look ahead to the 2024 year, we can report a fantastic response to our *Entrusted Treasures* stewardship campaign, with 66 pledges committing \$279,920 to CCPC's mission and ministry. This is the highest number of pledges we have received since 2019. Those numbers include several first-time pledgers, and 60% of you increased your pledges! I am overjoyed by the trust and commitment you feel to this community of faith and am honored that you have entrusted CCPC with your spiritual life and growth. As we peer into the next year, I feel grateful for you, and am excited about what we might do together in Christ's name.

Do you remember back in February, during our annual meeting when our finance chair gave a compelling report encouraging us to increase our giving by \$9.99 a week in order to help balance our 2023 operating budget? The budget projected a \$97,113 deficit for the year. Because of your generosity during 2023, *we have decreased that projected deficit*. We do have a way to go if we'd like to end our year balanced. If you are experiencing a season of abundance at year's end, we greatly appreciate any increased contributions in December to help us **Close the Gap (CTG)**! Any contributions over your 2023 pledge will be compiled into our year end CTG push.

Blessings to you and yours in the Advent Season. I look forward to celebrating our first Christmas together!

Pastor Kori

Acolyte Training

CCPC will begin an Acolyte ministry during the season of Epiphany. The lighting of the candles in the worship service is an important symbol that reminds us that God is here, in our midst as we worship.

Beginning in January, an acolyte will bring the light into the sanctuary, and light the candles on the communion table as we gather for worship. At the conclusion of the service, the acolyte will carry the light back out of the sanctuary, symbolizing how we go out and spread God's light into the world.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world!" Please consider joining us as we help to carry that light at CCPC.

Who Can Serve? CCPC children, youth and friends of the church are eligible to participate in this training and to serve in this ministry. Ages 6+ are eligible to serve in this role.

Training dates: January 7 and 14, 9-9:45am

Commissioning: January 21, during the 10am worship service
Acolytes will begin serving in worship on January 28.

Supporting our Neighbors at Temple Solel during Hanukkah

The DEI committee reached out to Rabbi Weisman at [Temple Solel](#) to ask how we as a congregation can show our support for their congregation during this rise in antisemitism. He invited us to join them for Temple services **tonight Friday evening, December 8 at 7:00pm**. Please consider attending this service in a big show of neighborly concern and support. Together we can help shine the Light in the darkness. Contact Ann Fleming if you need a ride or would like to carpool.

Clusters Connect with Pastor Kori

Pastor Kori will have a monthly meet and greet with a deacon and their cluster after worship service. Meetings will last about 30-minutes and will be in the Adult Ed Conference room. Next meeting is **December 10**: Cluster 8 w/Kori and Deacon Patti Cable

Offices Closed

The offices will be closed Christmas Day through January 1, 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Online Worship Experience

We're thrilled to share some wonderful news with you! Beginning January 7th, 2024, we're enhancing our online worship experience by uniting our church community in one special place. **We will be streaming our Sunday services exclusively on our church's own streaming page:**

<https://ccpcbowie.online.church>. This move is all about bringing us closer together, whether we're joining from home or in-person. By streaming in one location, we can better connect, share, and grow in our faith as one big family. We will no longer be streaming on Facebook, but you'll still find a link to our service on our Facebook page every Sunday morning. Just one click, and you'll join the rest of the congregation online! It's that simple. For those who love interacting during our services, you can easily sign up on our new streaming page to chat and request prayers. This is a great way to stay connected and engaged with our church community. Missed a live service? No worries! You can catch up later on YouTube, with links also shared on Facebook.

We're excited about this new chapter and how it will bring us all together in a more unified and vibrant online space. If you have any questions or need help getting set up, we're here for you. Thank you for being a cherished part of our church family. We can't wait to worship together in our new online home!

Blessings and Love, CCPC's Tech Team

Offering Envelopes

Time to make your request 2024

It is that time of year to consider if you desire to have offering envelopes for next year, calendar 2024.

CCPC will continue to recycle from our inventory of unclaimed offering envelopes from past years. It is a labor intensive job to recycle offering envelopes, but it saves the church lots of money when compared to the purchase of hundreds of pre-printed boxes of offering envelopes that are never claimed. It is most efficient to recycle as many boxes of offering envelopes as possible all at one time. Therefore, if you desire to have offering envelopes for calendar 2024 ready for pickup at church by Dec. 31, we need your written request by Friday, Dec. 22, 2023. You can make your request by dropping it in the offering plate or in Financial Secretary mail box in the church office or by US Mail to the church office or with an email to ccpconline@aol.com.

We will honor all requests for offering envelopes received after December 22, but as of now cannot provide a certain date for delivery.

Per Capita

At the beginning of each calendar year the National Capital Presbytery (NCP) assesses a fee to all the churches within the Presbytery that allows each church to connect and participate in the wider work of the Presbyterian Church. The assessment is based on the reported church membership multiplied by the Per Capita fee. To offset the budget impact of this assessment, CCPC is asking the membership to make a one-time special contribution to pay the 2024 Per Capital fee for themselves and other family members that are members of CCPC. You can make your Per Capita contribution with cash, check (payable to CCPC), or through the online payment portal (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3Y3/home>).

Make sure your contribution is clearly labeled that it is for payment of the 2024 Per Capita fee.

The Per Capita fee for calendar 2024 is \$48.56 per member.

We appreciate your contribution toward the 2024 Per Capita assessment. Thank you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 17

10:00AM Family-friendly worship service with Christmas Pageant:
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Services

10:00AM worship service with Lessons & Carols and a birthday cake
for Jesus after church.

4:30PM Special music prior to the 5:00PM service with favorite
Christmas selections by solo pianists, our contemporary singers: the
Grace Notes, and our adult handbell choir: Clinquant!

5:00PM candlelight Christmas Eve worship service.

Sunday, December 31—Morning Service

10:00AM Worship Service with guest preacher
Rev. Janna VanderWoude.

Sunday, January 7—Morning Service

10:00AM Epiphany with star words.





Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office Is Open!

To help facilitate the sorting and delivery of your Christmas cards, we ask that you observe the following courtesies:

1. Please place your cards in alphabetical order by last name and put in the appropriate box.
2. Please do not bring cards for out of towners.
3. For homebound members and friends, please drop your card in the appropriate package that we will deliver to them before Christmas.
4. Please pick up your cards by January 31st or ask Robin to hold them in the church office for you.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Poinsettia Tree Project

Join us on **Friday, December 15 at 2pm** in the Sanctuary to help setup the Poinsettia Tree. Since the Christmas Pageant rehearses on Saturday, we will be setting up the tree Friday. Please save this date and time and come to help with this beautiful project. If you know of anyone that would love to help, invite them to come.

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia, it's not too late! Fill out the order form in this caller and return to the church office or put in Judyann Glazener's mailbox.

Salvation Army Help

Julia Monroe and Linda Fleischer at the Salvation Army warehouse delivered some of the gifts and clothes for our adopted angels and worked that morning helping to sort arriving packages.

They are going back on **Monday, December 18** to volunteer for the gift distribution to the families, so please let Julia Monroe know if you are interested in volunteering.



Poinsettia Orders



Christmas poinsettias will be here soon. To build our poinsettia tree, we will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites, 6 pinks, and 6 marble. Any questions, please contact Judyann Glazener at judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or 240-351-4121. Thank you!
Names will be listed in both bulletins on December 24.

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Given in honor and memory of (please print clearly):

7" Poinsettia - Qty. _____ @ \$20.00 each

for a **TOTAL** of \$ _____

Circle color requested: red white pink marble

**Tuesday, December 12 is the deadline date to place orders.
You may write a check or contribute online in "Flower Fund."**

*Thank you so much for your generous contribution.
The Flower Committee*

Children's Christmas Pageant

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Join us as our youth retell the story of Jesus' Birth!

Sunday, December 17th
during 10am church service

If your child would like to participate in the pageant, just show up Sunday morning 9:30am for a costume. Specific roles (parents have been notified) will have rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th at 12 Noon in the Sanctuary.



Children & Youth

Christmas

Party

Following worship service,
Sunday December 17,
all kids are invited to a
Holly Jolly Christmas Party in
Dodd's Hall from 11am-12 noon
with crafts, snacks,
and a special visitor appearance!



Mission Projects

Alternative Christmas Gift Market

It is almost time for the Christmas Gift Market! Please make your way over to Dodds Hall on **Sunday, December 10th** immediately after the church service. The market will go on until 1:30pm and you can enjoy some soup from our soup kitchen!

It will be great to see everyone in person at the market, but if you are not able to be there, you can also shop virtually. We have a checkout sheet and description of the organizations on the CCPC website available now. If you donate online, you must leave a copy of the checkout sheet in the Mission mailbox in the office so that we know how to distribute your donation. You also can mail a copy to the church or send it electronically by email to Kris Ross (educatorkris@gmail.com).

You can pay by check or online via the CCPC Donate link.

All donations must be in by the end of December.

Warm Nights 2024

CCPC is supporting the Warm Nights program from **January 14 – 20, 2024**

The program is managed by Community Crisis Services, Inc (CCSI). Since the pandemic, CCSI has hosted families in need of shelter in hotels instead of in churches. However, they count on our support each year to provide breakfast and lunches for the week.

Mission committee is looking for volunteers to help with shopping for the food supplies, making sandwiches, and delivering the breakfast/lunches to CCSI throughout the week.

There will be a sign up sheet in the atrium in December or contact Kris Ross (educatorkris@gmail.com), Julia Monroe (juliaL11@verizon.net), or Donna Hopkins (donyay100@aol.com) if you are interested.

Hudson House

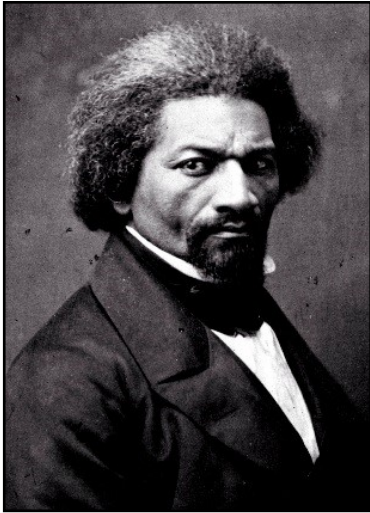
We are almost ready to re-open Hudson House! Mission Committee's hope is to provide a temporary housing situation for someone in need coordinated through CCSI.

Thank you to all who have donated items for Hudson House. The donated items from so many of you are greatly appreciated. We also want to acknowledge the support from the Buildings and Grounds committee for arranging for a new drywall ceiling as well as painting, electrical work, and more!

Thank you to Charlie Dziduch (Elder for B&G), Mark Pfarrer, Skip Oates, Dave Conrad, Chuck Tanner, and Kevin Gedrich.

There will be an OPEN HOUSE to show off how great everything now looks during the Alternative Christmas market! If you have never seen inside Hudson House or if you want to see how good it looks after the repairs, please plan to attend the market!

DEI-Sponsored Field Trip



Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

**February 3, 2024
2:00 to 2:30 PM**

Carpool to be arranged closer to the event.

Please contact Steve Donoian
for more information or to RSVP.

Souper Bowl of Caring

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”



On February 3, be part of this national movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Bring your cash and coins so you can give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry, our Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

Women's Retreat

Save the Date

**March 8-10, 2024
Rhodes Grove
Conference Center
Chambersburg, PA**

The theme this year is "It Is Well With my Soul."
Our leaders will be Sue Evans, Laurel Cox, and Ann Fleming. Save the date and make plans to join us.



Christian Community Presbyterian Church



3120 Belair Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone (301) 262-6008
ccpc.bowiemd.org
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.



301-464-5782

bcnsboard@gmail.com

www.belaircoop.org

