NOVEMBER 2026

THE CALLER

CCPC NEWSLETTER





Christian Community Presbyterian Church 3120 Belair Drive in Bowie, Maryland 301.262.6008
ccpc.bowiemd.org
office@ccpcbowie.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

CCPC invites you to worship with us every Sunday at 10AM, both in-person (in the Sanctuary) and online. Find the online service live-streamed on the CCPC Online Platform.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays 10AM-4PM

and Fridays 10AM-Noon

WORSHIP & EVENTS CALENDAR

November 8: Building the Church we Believe in: Dedication Sunday, Alternative Giving Market & Soup lunch, celebrating Beth's ministry

November 15: GenOUT Chorus singing in worship, Rev. Rick Hays Preaching Leave a Wake-Up Call

November 22: Christ the King Sunday, Liturgical Year in Review, Welcoming Whitney Grimm
4pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service & Community Potluck at St. Matthew's

November 29: First Sunday of Advent, Rev. Dr. Merritt Edner preaching

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent, Rev. Dr. Kori Phillips McMurtry preaching, Communion Sunday, Hanging of the Greens

NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KORI



Dear CCPC family and friends,

What kind of church do we believe in?

It's a question worth asking. Not simply what kind of church do we enjoy attending, or what kind of church feels familiar, but what kind of church do we believe God is calling us to build together?

Last Sunday, we began our stewardship season with Jesus' question to the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It is a question that invites us to reflect on the foundations of our faith and to consider how we are called to live out that faith in each new season. And the good news is that Jesus is still building the church, through the generations, and even now at CCPC. Our giving is a way to faithfully join in that work, helping to shape that church.

Before we get too far into this stewardship letter, I think it's important to say thank you, thank you, thank you for all the ministry, love, care, and church we have built together in this past year. Now, you may look around and ask, ***what have we built?*** You might have your own answer to this question. When I look around, I see how we have been building our music program, alongside our new music director who joined us at the beginning of 2026. We have been building upon the children and youth ministries, as CCPC's young folks grow in their faith and friendship, particularly noting the welcoming and redesigned/updated spaces. We have been building creative ways to serve in mission, exploring and expanding summer mission trip opportunities, hosting a joyfully attended Yard & Craft & Bake sale in the fall, alongside our annual mission activities. Our dedicated B&G team worked to refresh spaces, fix, paint and align with PG County's fire safety inspector, and build more accessible space in the Memorial Garden that honors the saints who have gone before us. We have been building relationships with new building users, and long term partners. And it is through your giving, your hearts for worship and service, your sense of community, connection, shared ministry, your desire to learn and grow and deepen your faith that has made all that we do possible.

We know that the Church is never a finished product, and the ministry we seek to accomplish together is only a small portion of God's broader view of salvation. But, it IS a part of God's story, you are a part of God's story told through the church Jesus is building here at CCPC.

Last Sunday, one of our church Elders spoke meaningfully about why she gives to CCPC, and I'd like to invite you to join church leadership in pledging what you plan to give in the year to come. We know there is a lot in the world that we cannot control, but what we can do is keep showing up for one another, keep worshiping God and serving together, and let that be a small part of healing this broken world in the name of Jesus Christ.

With your generosity, we aim to present a balanced budget for the fourth year in a row. Please consider joining my family in increasing your pledge to Christian Community Presbyterian Church as we commit financially to its ministry for 2027.

Together, let us continue to ***Build the Church We Believe In***. We look forward to seeing you in **worship on November 8, 2026** when you will be invited to pledge your commitment to the ministry and mission of CCPC for 2027. Please make your intentions for giving known to us by filling out a pledge form and return it to us in the offering plate or mailing to the church office.

With deep gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Kori Phillips McMurtry

CCPC Stewardship for 2027— Building the Church We Believe In

For 2027, I/we will give (choose one):

_____ dollars weekly.

_____ dollars monthly.

_____ dollars annually.

We fully understand that financial promises are best guesses, and you are always free to adjust your pledge at any time if you find your circumstances change. However, having an estimate of what we expect our financial resources to be allows us to create a responsible and reasonable budget and plan for our ministries in 2027.

Name(s) _____

(Confirming your accurate information above helps us maintain our records).

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

WAYS TO GIVE

- ✓ By check or cash in the **offering plate** or through the mail. Offering envelopes are available in the office.
- ✓ **Online** at ccpc.bowiemd.org and clicking Donate. Choose one-time gift or set up a recurring donation.
- ✓ **Giving your time helps to make Sundays happen!** We'd love to help you serve as an usher, acolyte, in our tech booth, liturgist, coffee hour host or clean up, with the children's ministry, flowers, our choirs. Please note your interests below:

_____

_____

RETURN FORM ON NOVEMBER 8 . EMAIL OFFICE@CCPCBOWIE.ORG WITH QUESTIONS



WELCOME
TO THE TEAM WHITNEY

Hi everyone! I'm Whitney Grimm, and I'm so excited to be joining CCPC! My husband, Eric, and I are high school sweethearts, and we live in the Baltimore area with our toddler son, who keeps us laughing and on our toes! As a family, we love hiking, traveling, and all things Disney.

I have a background in children's and youth ministry and am currently pursuing my Master of Arts in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I'm passionate about creating welcoming spaces where children and youth feel loved, valued, and free to explore their faith. I can't wait to get to know everyone and become part of the CCPC community!

We thank you!





Celebrating & Honoring Beth's Ministry

As we say farewell to Beth Oakley, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for Beth and the incredible heart, dedication, and grace she has brought to our community. Her impact on our ministry has touched so many lives, and while we will miss her presence dearly, we are so grateful for the time and gifts she has shared with us.

Join us on **Sunday, November 8th** as we celebrate her ministry, pray with her, and thank her for all she has built here at CCPC. Her final Sunday as our Coordinator for Children & Youth Ministries will be November 15th.

Join us for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service & Community Potluck on Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 PM at St. Matthew's!

mission updates

Alternative Giving Market

Our wonderful Alternative Gift Market is on **Sunday, November 8th** immediately after church in Dodds Hall. This year, we have a record 20 nonprofit organizations joining the gift market. You can learn about each organization (and maybe win a prize!) and make donations to worthy causes as an alternative gift for Christmas loved ones. In addition, the soup kitchen will be open with soups made by our church's talented cooks.



If you are not able to attend on Sunday, you can also **shop virtually**. We have a price sheet and description of the organizations on the website. The link is: https://ccpc.bowiemd.org/altgiftmarket.html. You can pay by check or online via the CCPC Donate link. Checks and order sheets can be left in the office in the Finance mailbox. All donations must be in by **December 15th.**

Monthly Mission Meetings

We hold our mission committee meetings virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Julia or Linda.



Mark Your Calendars

Warm Nights will take place from Sunday, January 31st through Saturday, February 6th, 2027



Children & Youth

Trunk or Treat

On October 25, we were able to bless our own kids alongside kids from our community with our annual trunk or treat. We expanded our festivities by adding in a campfire with smores and snacks, pumpkin decorating, and games. It was a joy to see people turning up and lingering together.









C&Y Hiking Club Adventures: Nature, New Friends & Butterflies!

What a wonderful day of adventure for the C&Y Hiking Club! Last month, our group visited Patuxent Research Refuge for a fun-filled outing with nature, new friendships, and exciting discoveries.

We kicked off our hike with an icebreaker game that helped everyone loosen up, share some laughs and warmly welcomed some new friends to the group. Then it was time to hit the trail! Along the way, we spotted frogs of different types and sizes and even discovered a snake's recently shed skin measuring approximately two feet long. What an exciting find!

But the adventure didn't end on the trail! We headed over to the nature center, where we had the special opportunity to participate in a butterfly release. Watching the butterflies take flight was a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of nature.

We also enjoyed a scavenger hunt that kept everyone engaged and looking for more discoveries.
From meeting new friends to exploring wildlife and releasing butterflies, it was a day full of memories and fun!

Ready for our next adventure?
Join the C&Y Hiking Club on **November 14 at Greenbelt Park!** We can't wait to explore together and see what exciting discoveries await us next. Bring your sense of adventure, and come hike with us! Interested in joining?
Visit our website under events and click the link!



SAVE THE DATE



Our annual Christmas Pageant is on **December 13** during the service. Our children & youth will begin practicing on **December 6.**

Our Children & Youth Christmas party will be on **December 20** following the service.



Music Notes

GENOUT CHORUS SINGING IN WORSHIP ON NOVEMBER 15

GMCW's GenOUT Chorus is the DC area's only vocal ensemble for social justice champions ages 13-18 – LGBTQ+ and allied – who love singing, who like working with others, and who want to use their voice to uplift social justice. GenOUT is a non-auditioned chorus that gives LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice through song and connects that voice to community. GenOUT singers lead the movement to promote social justice and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ people. They offer themselves as symbols and spokespersons for the struggle against discrimination and for equality. They lend their voices to messages of acceptance, affirmation, and love, and they offer their faces to the image of what the world can be.

The GenOUT Chorus rehearses every week on Saturday mornings, 10:00-12:00, at St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church in Dupont Circle – just a few blocks from the Red line. We sing music of just about every kind, and youth have the opportunity to "crowd-source" two songs each season. The 2026-27 season theme is musical theatre! GenOUT also features a select ensemble for anyone who wants to learn and perform extra music. We perform at GMCW's three major shows (December, March, June), plus we have two shows of our own in the spring and about a dozen outreach events throughout the year. Our outreach has taken us to prestigious venues like the Library of Congress, National Cathedral, and Capital One Arena, as well as to national conferences and festivals in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Denver, and Minneapolis. Earlier this summer, we sang at the National Book Festival to open for Cynthia Erivo!

GenOUT will accept new singers in January. It's easy to sign up: go to www.gmcw.org/genout and fill out the sign-up form. Our director will be in touch with you to schedule an intro meeting. If you are a young singer who considers yourself to be a champion of social justice, this is the choir for you!

Donors can go to www.gmcw.org and click on the big red DONATE button. There is an option to designate your gift: you can indicate "GenOUT" in that box.

LIFT YOUR VOICE & RING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON: MUSIC MINISTRIES

As Advent approaches, our music ministry invites you to share your musical gifts to make our Christmas celebrations truly special. Whether you love to sing or want to try your hand at ringing, there is a place for you!

Celebration Choir (Advent & Christmas Eve): Singers of all experience levels are invited to lend their voices for our Sunday Advent services and the Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals take place every Sunday morning before worship at 8:30.

Clinquant Bell Choir (Christmas Eve): Ring in Christmas Eve with the warm, festive sounds of handbells! Rehearsals begin on Sunday, December 6, and will be held directly after worship.



THE HERITAGE SIGNATURE CHORALE CONCERT NOV 14 6PM, 945 G. ST NW, IN DC

CCPC's Music Director, Kevin Allen, invites you to attend **"Connecting the Dots... Telling our Story,"** the season opening concert for the Chorale that he performs with. details and tickets: heritagesignaturechorale.org

Hebrews 10:19-25

FROM THE PULPIT

November 1, 2026

On All Saints Sunday, we often hear the passage from a subsequent Chapter in Hebrews 12. The one that reads, Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses… let us run with perseverance The race that is set before us.

Hebrews has this beautiful, elevated rhetoric and language, that interweaves critical explanation or interpretation of scriptures, with exhortation and meaningful metaphors of faith. Scholars think this letter might have been a sermon originally, because of it's style. It is unique amongst the New Testament, because it contains this sustained argument on the nature of Christ. With it's elevated language. There are layers-building upon layers / and themes that call back to the old testament scripture and the prophets. Interwoven with the author's understanding of who Jesus is, and is meant to be, in our life of faith. Those of you who moved through Mary's excellent bible study on Hebrews last year, had the opportunity to unwrap those layers week by week.

Here our focus for the day is the final verses in this passage. *[23]Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. [24]And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, [25]not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* We used them this summer in our staff planning day, and with our elders retreat. So, when I was casting about for what kind of message felt right for today, I found myself returning to it again. It was All Saints Sunday that brought me into Hebrews, but we're also in the middle of thinking about our giving and stewardship building the church we believe in, And it's a few days before the national elections.

So, I wanted to ground us in something concrete. Something doable, AND I chose this passage for today, because of where it ends. Presbyterian Pastor Christine Chakoian writes, "as elevated and complex as the concepts leading up to it may sound, it has a remarkably practical outcome… "to maintain hope, it says, provoke one another to love and good deeds, to meet together, and to encourage one another…(10:23-25)" And that is a message that is important for this time. For this age. The world is messy and bleak, and uncertain.

And yet we persist. We hold fast to a faith, to a belief in God that gives us EVERYTHING. And Jesus modeled it for us. In prayer, in gathering, in healing, In sacrifice. In breaking down the walls and tearing curtains that divide…

Jesus has gathered around himself a great cloud of witnesses, not only to give God glory. But to inspire one another into faithfulness.

Now, it's likely true, that "In the world beyond the [togetherness] of worship, it is harder to maintain our faithfulness. The writer of Hebrews is terribly aware of our dashed hopes, our personal failures, our constant temptations. So Rather than chide us for our shortcomings, or insist on our withdrawal from the ever-present sins of the world, he encourages us, saying, "let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering… he who has promised IS faithful!"

So we are not being scolded or reprimanded or rebuked, The scripture reads: ***Provoke*** *one another to love and good deeds*. I love this use of the word, provoke because it sorts of flips whats going on, we always think of this word provoke in a negative sense. Inciting someone into something. It holds contentious undertones. Like a sibling hovering their finger close to you saying, I'm not touching you… I'm not touching you. Even when diving into the Greek word, παροξυσμός [par-ox-oos-mos'] that definition holds up and it used in the new testament only one other time in the Book of Acts, when some of the apostles had sharp contention between them and they went their sperate ways, Barnabas and Mark sailed one way to Cyprus, and Paul and Silas going through Syria.

So here we are told to: provoke one another to love and good deeds. Like we are needling someone into love, and doing good deeds. In order to provoke, there is a persistence that is necessary. Some creativity, and imagination.

And I think at it's very base level, it means that we need each other to do it well. If we are provoking one another, there is this sense that we are in it together. There is a relationship. Built through it.

If we are intended to be siblings in Christ. Provoking makes sense. It comes from love, and trust. That you'll not have to face the hardships alone. Sometimes we need to be needled into doing want we know to be right and true and the loving action.

And to be honest: We are un-reliable provokers of ourselves!

I can tell myself I want to start every day reading with my kid. But it's a lot more helpful to remember to do it, when he shows up next to my bed with a Book!

We do best when we meet together. When we are encouraging one another with good deeds and love. Worshiping together in the name of the one who IS building this church, through a faithful cloud of witness, and evening now, as we adds our dreams and faithful understanding of the gospel. To our foundation.

So when we think about all saints, of folks who's memories inspire us to HOLD FAST.

And when we think about what we want to do in future. What we what to build here together. With one another in the name of Jesus…. we think about how we might provoke, and worship. And love. And include… let us remember that we do best when we gather together. When we break bread and pray together. When we sing and remember our dearly departed together.

When we plan and we give and we visions and we hope, each of it is a building block. We are building a community that provokes and inspires people to love more generously, serve more faithfully and live out the gospel in the world. Each relationship, each new understanding of god's love and grace, all of it calls us to preserver in name of Jesus christ. As we continue building the church we believe in.

Never miss a sermon! Follow our youtube channel where Sunday's sermons are posted every Monday. www.youtube.com/@ccpcbowie

What is coming up at CCPC

QUILT SHOW & CRAFT SALE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **November 14th**, because something special is happening right here at Dodds Hall! The Southern Comforters are hosting a Quilt Show and Craft Sale from 10 AM to 3 PM, and you're invited!

Come out and see beautiful, handcrafted quilts, vote for your favorite, browse unique crafts for sale, and support the talented quilters in our community. This is a public event, so bring your friends and neighbors too.

We hope to see you there for a fun-filled day of color, creativity, and community!

NOV 14

Prince George's Philharmonic is holding a benefit concert at CCPC

FALL CLEAN UP

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates to help keep our church grounds looking their best!

Saturday, **November 21**, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM: All-Church Fall Clean-Up!

Saturday, **November 28**: Second leaf pickup by contractor if needed.

Monday, **November 30**: Second leaf pickup by the City.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support in caring for our church grounds!

— Skip Oates, Elder, Buildings & Grounds



LET'S CELEBRATE

November Birthdays

Jon Youngdahl 11/5
Geruthzcordore Ebot 11/6
Mark Fleming 11/6
Betsy McArdle 11/8
Mark Pfarrer 11/9
Allen Monroe 11/13
Sefakor Ayivie 11/14
Karen Todd 11/16
Diane Waak (Love) 11/16
Max Boteler 11/21
Mary Ann Snyder 11/21
William Falk 11/22
Miriam Salsbury 11/24
Arthur McMurtry 11/25
Ella Rice 11/25
Linda Fleischer 11/26
Terri Somers 11/27
Anastasia Tataw 11/28
Dane Frandsen 11/29
Sunny Luma 11/29

November Anniversaries

Ann & Mark Fleming 11/10
Emelie & Daniel Rubin 11/10
Mary & Scott Brock 11/24





THANK YOU!

To our Buildings and Grounds crew for preparing the memorial garden for our Memorial Brick Dedication on All Saints Sunday.