



The Good News Letter



Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, Christiansburg, Virginia

December 2019

God calls Christiansburg Presbyterian Church to be a welcoming, loving, and diverse community that offers people the opportunity to journey toward the fullest expression of their Christian faith.

Upcoming Seasonal Worship Opportunities



- Christmas music by Chancel Ringers during morning worship December 15
- Service of Lessons and Carols featuring Chancel Choir & Children's Ensemble
 - Saturday evening, December 21, 7:00 p.m., with orchestra; **AND**
 - Sunday morning, December 22, 10:30 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service, Tuesday, December 24. Extended prelude of Christmas music begins at 6:30 p.m.; Call to worship at 7:00 p.m.
- 5th Sunday Worship Service, December 29

Parsonally Speaking . . .

- **Be sure to check out our new "GATHERING SPACE!"** Have you seen the changes taking place in what we used to call the "main hallway"? Our new "Gathering Space" has fresh paint on the walls, and a monitor/screen has been installed and shows a great display of congregational life here at CPC. Other upgrades planned for the space include additional seating and more!
- **Many thanks for your donations to the 2019 Montgomery County Christmas Store "Hats and Gloves" Drive!**
Because of your generosity, CPC collected 48 hats, 54 pairs of gloves/mittens, 7 scarves, and 10 pairs of socks. Through this year's Christmas Store, these items will be distributed to many people in our community. Again, thanks!



- **Speaking of the Montgomery County Christmas Store:** For many years, it has been a CPC tradition to support the Christmas Store through a special offering. Your gifts are used to support the overall mission of this important community outreach. As you are able, please contribute by making your check payable to CPC, designated for the "Christmas Store." P.S.: The Christmas Store invites everyone to an Open House on Sunday, December 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the store location, 30 West Main Street in Christiansburg (entrance is from the back of the location parking lot).
- **I wish for each of you and all of you a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year!**

Peace and all good, Don



A Place to Pray

CPC's Prayer Chapel is located on the ground floor of the church building, next to the Multi-Purpose Room. Anyone who seeks a quiet space for individual prayer or meditation is invited to use the Prayer Chapel, which is available during regular church office hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) and any other times the building is open. To arrange use of the Prayer Chapel at other times, please contact the church office (382-2802).



Communion for Those Who Can't Make It to Church

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is available for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend worship.

To have the sacrament brought to you, please call the church office (382-2802). Anyone who wishes to request Communion for a family member or relative who is not able to make the request her/himself may do so by calling the church.



Visit Us on the Web

Web Page: www.christiansburgpres.org

Facebook Page: Christiansburg Presbyterian Church

E-mail: cpchurch@usit.net

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: www.synatlantic.org

Presbyterian Church, USA: www.pcusa.org



The GoodNews Letter is published monthly by Christiansburg Presbyterian Church,
107 W. Main St., Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone 540-382-2802; Fax 540-382-1106
The Rev. Dr. Donald E. Makin, Pastor

Sunday Worship Schedule (New This Year!)

9:30 a.m. – Journey Groups for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.

Articles may be submitted in writing and left in the *GoodNews Letter* box next to the church office or submitted by email to Kathie Hollandsworth at luraedythe@gmail.com.

The *GoodNews Letter* is distributed via an email message linked to CPC's website. If you would like to receive a hard copy by mail, please call 540-382-2802 or email the church office at cpchurch@usit.net.

Ushers for December

Bru Brubaker, Elijah Brubaker, Elaine Gall, Eleanor Horton,
Emilee Horton, Rickey Horton, Ronnie Horton

The 2019 Christmas Joy Offering

The Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the wondrous gift of God with us. Jesus arrived in a humble stable in small and insignificant Bethlehem, to lead and teach in truth and love, and bring about God's salvation to the world. What a wondrous gift indeed! This was a gift so profound that the only response was the bringing of more gifts; the Magi arrived with gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the Christ child.

Devoted and caring leaders have led many of us in the way of Christ. They have been church workers equipping us to respond to the grace we have known in Jesus Christ, and they have been God's gifts among us. As we celebrate Christ's coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will also raise up new leaders from small places that are too often overlooked by the church. The historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools were founded to educate emerging leaders from

underrepresented groups so leadership in the church would better reflect the diversity of God's people. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders.

The other half of the Offering honors those leaders who serve and have served us well.

Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have



served so well.

In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, you are invited to celebrate God's presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope. ***The Christmas Joy Offering will be received at CPC throughout the month of December.*** Please plan to give generously by making checks payable to CPC, designated for the "Christmas Joy Offering." On behalf of all the people who will benefit from your kindness, "Many thanks!"



Presbyterian Women News

PW circles will not meet in December; however, they will meet in January to study Lesson 4 of *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

The Merry Hearts Circle will meet after worship Sunday, January 5, at 12:00 noon in the Session Room (Room 201). The Bethany Circle will meet Tuesday, January 7, at 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Members are reminded to bring their 2019 Blessing Box Offering to the January circle meetings. The Blessing Box Offering will be used to help furnish the new Gathering Space.



More December Cheer!

Birthdays

Dec. 1	Susan Milovich	Dec. 16	Christopher Goff
Dec. 4	Wava Bowles		Dick Horne
Dec. 5	Ann Winters		Jennifer Makin
Dec. 7	Mason Harvey	Dec. 17	Mac Mitchell
	Kasey St. Clair		Tracie Taylor
Dec. 8	Peggy Beasley		Ned Turner
	Shelda Wills	Dec. 19	Casey Board
Dec. 10	Michael Childress	Dec. 21	Matthew Couch
	Rachel Hamlin		Jay Muscatello
Dec. 11	Cynthia Jennison	Dec. 22	Mary Childress
	Bea Jones		Joyce Overstreet
	Jim Taylor	Dec. 25	David Matherly
Dec. 12	Gary Fissell		Greg Touchton
Dec. 13	Tamella Meador	Dec. 29	Sam Lucas
Dec. 14	Estelle Chandler	Dec. 30	Richard Beamer
	Jennie Reilly		Jameson Brame
	Lori Touchton		Sammy Doak
	Lu Vacca		Zac Newman
Dec. 15	Ken Keeling	Dec. 31	Vernon Miller
			Bill Rhudy

Anniversaries

Dec. 3	Allen & Stephanie Graham
Dec. 8	James & Rebecca Thomas
Dec. 15	Herb & Doris Miller
Dec. 24	Doug & Bea Jones
Dec. 27	Adam & Kristen Brugh Thomas
Dec. 31	John Tuttle & Sharon Scott



Inclement Winter Weather Reminder

In the event of inclement winter weather conditions, *any decision to cancel Sunday Morning Journey Groups and/or Worship will be made by 8:00 a.m. on the Sunday involved and will be recorded as an outgoing announcement on the church's main telephone number answering machine, 382-2802. Cancellation news will also be forwarded to local television stations for public announcement.*



Remember Our Shut-In and Out-of-Town Members

(For contact information on any of our shut-in or out-of-town members, please call the church office at 382-2802.)

Estelle Chandler
Charlotte Davis

Judy DiIoiá
Loís Morris

Ray Obenshain
Edith Reed

Notes from the November Session Meeting

- Session members heard a brief presentation concerning “To Our House,” a winter overnight shelter for single homeless men and women in the New River Valley. The Session voted to serve as a support congregation the week of February 15-21, 2020.
 - Session members completed the discussion of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger.
 - Communications were received from the Presbytery of the Peaks, requesting a two percent increase in the 2020 Covenant of Intent (referred to the Framework Ministry Team); from Massanetta Springs, Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands, and UKirk, each expressing appreciation for the fourth-quarter benevolence gift; from the Peaks Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, thanking CPC for its support and giving a handmade “prayer square” to the church; and from Justin Hart, Campus Life Coordinator of Life Pacific University Virginia, expressing appreciation for the warm welcome his students have received in worship at CPC.
 - The painting of the Gathering Space has been completed.
 - Session members approved the design and purchase of exterior signage for the Youth Center.
 - Session members continued discussing a possible plan for increasing building security during worship services on Sunday mornings.
 - The Christian Formation Ministry Team reported that youth and young families will meet following worship the first Sunday of each month, with the older youth doing some type of activity with the younger youth.
 - The Framework Ministry Team reviewed the income and expense report for October that showed income of \$35,966.35 and expenses of \$21,908.47, for a surplus of \$14,057.88. Year-to-date income is \$236,831.77, and expenses are \$232,416.40, for a surplus of \$4,415.37. The team also reviewed the October designated accounts report.
 - The Togetherness Ministry Team reported that approximately 60 individuals attended the after-church barbecue luncheon, crafts fair, and pumpkin painting and carving on October 27, raising \$454.15 for the Montreat Youth Conference Fund.
 - The Session approved a recommendation from the Togetherness Ministry Team concerning a tentative social schedule of activities for 2020.
-

Need a Helping Hand Around the House?

CPC’s Men’s Group is dedicated to offering assistance to anyone in the church who may need a little help from time to time with small jobs at home. Need some furniture moved? A leaky faucet fixed? A running toilet repaired? A hard-to-reach light bulb replaced? Furnace filters changed? Smoke detector checked? Pictures or mirror hung? We would love to help... no charge!

Please call the church office (382-2802) to make your request. Your information will be passed on to us, and we will be in touch to set up a time. While we are not able to perform routine yard work (such as mowing, trimming, raking) or major repairs or renovations, we are eager to pitch in with the many smaller odd jobs that crop up around the house all the time.

Please do call the church office to let us know how we can lend a hand!





We Welcome All Who Worship with Us

We welcome all visitors to our worship services and activities. If you are a visitor, please know that your presence among us is noted and appreciated. We hope to see you again. Members, if you see neighbors or co-workers visiting us, please extend your personal greeting, and invite them to return. Let's be sure all our visitors know that they are welcome and needed here!



Spiritual Direction Available

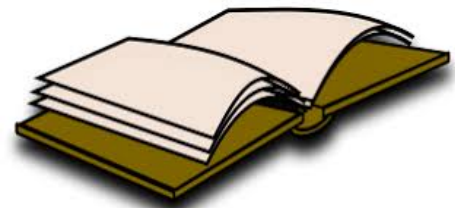


Jennifer Makin is available to assist individuals seeking to deepen in their personal relationship with God or who find themselves in the midst of spiritual crisis. The spiritual life is one of "formation" characterized by periods of healing, growth, and transformation as we gradually allow ourselves to know and be known by God. During such periods, it can be extremely helpful to have a spiritual companion or director who provides faithful listening in the context of a safe and trusting relationship where confidentiality is held in sacred trust. Jennifer is a developmental

psychologist, spiritual director, massage therapist, and healing touch practitioner. As such, she has many tools and resources to draw upon to assist those on the path to wholeness. To make an appointment, you may call her at 382-2390, or email her at ringbearer01@hotmail.com.

2019 Church Books Closing

CPC's financial records for 2019 will be closed at the end of this month. ***In order for contributions to be recorded in church records as 2019 gifts, they will need to be received in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 – OR – if mailed, postmarked no later than December 31.*** Many thanks for all your financial gifts throughout the year and for your help as we work to close the 2019 books in a timely manner. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Shelda Wills in the church office, 382-2802.



Christiansburg Presbyterian Church
107 West Main St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073

December 2019

540-382-2802
cpchurch@usit.net
www.christiansburgpres.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 – 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Journey Groups (all ages) 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Lunch & Activity - FH	2 10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Decorating Church for Advent and Christmas	3	4 5:00 PM Children's Ensemble – Rm. 107 6:30 PM Chancel Ringers – Rm. 103 7:15 PM Chancel Choir – Rm. 103	5	6	7
8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Journey Groups (all ages) 10:30 AM Worship	9 10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	10 6:00 PM "Feed the Flock" at Cooper House 6:30 PM Session Meeting – FH	11 5:00 PM Children's Ensemble – Rm. 107 6:30 PM Chancel Ringers – Rm. 103 7:15 PM Chancel Choir – Rm. 103	12	13	14
15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Journey Groups (all ages) 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Monty S. Leitch Youth Center Dedication	16 10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	17	18 5:00 PM Children's Ensemble – Rm. 107 7:00 PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 7:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary, followed by reception – FH
22 – 4th Sunday of Advent No Sunday Morning Journey Groups 10:30 AM Worship with Service of Lessons and Carols	23 10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	24 – Christmas Eve 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Extended Prelude begins – Sanctuary 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service – Sanctuary	25 – Christmas Day – Church office closed	26 – Church office closed	27 – Church office closed	28
29 No Sunday Morning Journey Groups 10:30 AM 5 th Sunday Worship Service	30 10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	31 5:00 PM Financial books for 2019 close				

2020 SANCTUARY FLOWER RESERVATION

Office use:

S P D: _____

1. YOUR NAME _____ PHONE _____

⇒ NOTE: Because of the large number of reservation requests, there is a limit of 2 reservations per person until January 1, 2020. After January 1, there is no limit to the number of reservation requests per person.

2. DATE OF PREFERRED SUNDAY TO PROVIDE FLOWERS:

1st choice: _____ Alternate choice: _____

3. "FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY ..." (as desired in the bulletin):

Name(s): _____

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ to the glory of God

_____ other: _____

4. AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE ... (please check one):

_____ I will take flowers with me.

_____ I will leave flowers so they may be shared with others.

5. PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ I will take care of providing my flower arrangement, and I will make certain it is placed in the Sanctuary in time for the worship service on the date reserved for me.

_____ Please order an arrangement for me and have it delivered to the church. **My check for \$30.00 payable to the church and designated for "Sanctuary flowers" is attached to this form.**

Calendar of Sundays in 2020

Jan.	5	12	19	26	
Feb.	2	9	16	23	
Mar.	1	8	15	22	29
Apr.	5	12	19	26	
May	3	10	17	24	31
June	7	14	21	28	
July	5	12	19	26	
Aug.	2	9	16	23	30
Sept.	6	13	20	27	
Oct.	4	11	18	25	
Nov.	1	8	15	22	29
Dec.	6	13	20	27	

Sundays marked through
are already reserved.

THANK YOU!!



305 Washington Street SW
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-4745
Phone: (540) 552-2473; Fax (540) 552-0119
www.pcusa-vt.org

November, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are very fortunate right now to have Kathy Carpenter serving as our Campus Minister and Terry McClellan continuing to serve as our Administrative Assistant. The Board of Directors is very excited to support their efforts. I am now serving as Chair, Terry Blevins as Vice Chair, and Juan Espinosa as Treasurer. The board has many dedicated members who serve this ministry faithfully. I am very blessed to be part of this outstanding group. We view ourselves as a support group to Kathy, Terry, and the students, trying to make sure the ecosystem that has been created for them through the UKirk Campus Ministry provides what they need to grow in their faith and grow as young adults trying to ready themselves for the world.

There are many activities that have occurred and are occurring on a regular basis. Please read about those in the Fall update.

One very important aspect of our ministry is that we provide an alternative Christian voice on campus. We and the Wesley Foundation try to provide a mainline Protestant witness and a place of openness and acceptance. Students know that UKirk is a safe place where they can be themselves, ask questions, struggle with questions of faith and vocation, and grow in their faith journey.

This ministry exists through generous donations from people like you. We thank you for past contributions and humbly request continued support. This ministry is very important to the students but also to all the folks that these students touch, both now and in the future. Let's continue to help them through our generous donations.

In Christ,

Gary Overstreet

Gary Overstreet, Board of Directors Chair
and CPC Board Representative

UKIRK UPDATE

UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech

November 2019

GUATEMALA 2019



We have returned from Guatemala and are now settled in our respective summer places. While the time difference wasn't enough to throw us off our axis, I know for me, stepping off the plane in Atlanta, and Roanoke, was like returning to another planet. I can't really fully describe the feeling of coming back from Guatemala but, I now understand why people in other countries feel the way they do about America.

Now that we are back, all we have from beautiful Guatemala are our thoughts, memories, and a couple souvenirs. All we can do now, is process all the information, and experiences we had while away for those short six days. Each one was packed with so many things to do that we must rely on our pictures to really remember all that we saw, and accomplished. But we will remember. Thank you to everyone who allowed us this privilege, we will always be thankful.

Meagan Espinoza

"Photos cannot capture the magnificent beauty juxtaposed among the pain and heartache of Guatemala, a country filled with some of the strongest people I have ever met. Gracias a Dios por esta oportunidad para aprender y ser bendecido por las historias de la gente de Guate. My eyes have been opened wide to the suffering that occurs not only in Guate, but within each of our own communities every day that we turn a blind eye to. Let the scales fall from our eyes, and let us start living in the discomfort that women oppression, rape, gun violence, drugs, poverty, contaminated water, dying planet, and political corruption are all very prevalent monstrosities, of our world that are certainly not hopeless causes. Throwing money at the problem or doing a few laborious acts may help for a little, but I challenge you do go deeper, get educated, learn and hear from as many different people as you can, and speak up about the discomfort that may lie 5000 miles away or just down your own block."

Mitchell Skowbo

Guatemala in three words; Beautiful, Hopeful, Hardship

"My favorite moment on the trip was taking tickets and handing the hygiene kits to the people in line at the volcano refuge camp. I was elated to speak Spanish with the people and see the impact we had helping make their lives a little more comfortable."

Connor Leidner

"To CEDEPCA, UKirk, and to everyone who made this trip possible, thank you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience something I will never forget. Gracias por todos. Soy una persona nueva. Soy una persona mejor. Through this trip, I saw what a little hope can do and what a little service can yield. I experienced pluralism, both cultural and religious. I saw resilience. I saw faith. I saw love. I saw God."



SAVE THE DATE:

Join us February 9, 2020 for our Annual Chili Cook-off!

This year will be our 22nd Chili Cook-off! Join us as we raise money for UKirk. There will be the chili competition as well as a silent auction. The Chili Cook-off will be held at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church at 5:30pm.



A PLACE OF WELCOME



Over and over I hear from our students that what is most important about UKirk is that it is a community of welcome – a safe place set apart where they can come and be themselves and know that they are accepted and loved. What greater gift can the church offer our young adults at this particular time in their lives! And, it is our students who are building this kind of community for each other. In the midst of the pressures of college life, they come to UKirk and experience their belovedness. This fall, we have worshipped together at all four of our covenant churches and we have worshipped together at Cooper House on Tuesday nights. We spent a “Day Away” in September hiking at Camp Alta Mons and we went on retreat together in October. We enjoy lively and delicious dinners each Tuesday evening and we are grateful for meals prepared by members of our covenant churches. We have had programs on racism on campus and on the PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer Program. We have marched together in the Blacksburg Climate Strike. And, we have had times of just hanging out and enjoying being together. We will take a group to the Montreat College Conference in January and a group to the US/Mexico Border in May with Frontera de Cristo (a PCUSA ministry). Each day, I grow in my appreciation of the young adults with whom I work and in my realization of just how vital this ministry is. Please continue to pray for us and to support us in any way that you can. God is at work here at UKirk. If you would like to talk with me about this ministry or if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

With deep gratitude,

Kathy

Retreat with the Wesley Foundation

The struggle to discern who God is calling us to be and how we are to live out that call in the world through our vocation is at the center of the journey of faith for college students. I am blessed to walk with them through this journey and to listen to them as they seek to discover what God is calling them to do and how that will shape their life at VA Tech. With this in mind, this fall we partnered with the Wesley Foundation in a retreat on “Call and Vocation”. The keynoter was a



nationally known speaker, Halleemah Nash from Compton, CA. 10 students from UKirk attended along with 30 from Wesley. We talked in small groups, we met new friends, we worshipped together and we shared our struggles and faith. This retreat was paid for in part by the grant from the Lilly Foundation.

Upcoming Events

Montreat College Conference
January 2nd-5th, 2020



Chili Cook-off

February 9, 2020

5:30pm

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church



UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech

A Student Faith

Community
of the PC(USA)



305 Washington St. SW

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Phone: (540) 552-2473

Website: www.pcusa-vt.org



UKirk at Virginia Tech



#UKirk@VT

Campus Minister :

Rev. Kathy Carpenter

campusminister@pcusa-vt.org

Administrative Assistant:

Terry McClellan

admin@pcusa-vt.org

Student Leaders:

Catherine Long Connor Leidner

Isaac Zheng Kate Herrema

Covenant Partner Churches:

Blacksburg Presbyterian

Christiansburg Presbyterian

Northside Presbyterian

Roanoke Valley Presbyterian

We want to stay connected! Please share with us your e-mail address, and keep us in mind if you change your contact information. Send changes to admin@pcusa-vt.org.