

“I Triple-Dog Dare You!”

When was the last time you were dared by someone to do something that took you out of your comfort zone? Most of us will probably admit that being dared to do something that we're not prepared for or to do something that makes us feel afraid is not a pleasant experience. Looking back at those occasions in my life I'm pretty sure the people who dared me to do something probably didn't have my best interest in mind. So, I don't blame any of us for being a little wary of a dare. But, what if I told you that all of us, today, are being dared to do something by God. And what if I told you God is not just pushing us to do something that honors Him but that He's also promising us something wonderful in return? This is exactly what Malachi 3:10 is explaining to us. I ask that you let this verse sink in for a few minutes.....I don't know about you but *this* dare doesn't seem quite so scary.

This is first of several messages supporting our Stewardship reminder. Hopefully our messages will give you reason to reflect on the many blessings you have received and allow you to prayerfully consider how best to honor our Loving Father. Please be on the lookout this week for a letter from the Stewardship Committee. Along with the letter you will find a commitment card describing your options to provide financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. It is right to give God thanks and praise! Let us honor Him with our best gifts!

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Connecting with our College Students. . . now that the school year has begun, it's time once again for the **Connections Student of the Month** ministry. This is one of the essential components of the Connections ministry where the congregation sends encouraging messages to the selected students during a one month timeframe to help fill their school mailbox and let them know that we miss them and care about them. If you wish to send a note to one or all of our October students, please check out the bulletin board across from the elevator to obtain cards, labels, and encouraging Bible verses. Please take a minute to brighten the day for Mark Aukerman, Natalie McKinley, Ryan Okuda and Steven Prigg. You don't even have to know these kids to send them a note of encouragement.... they will be blessed by your thoughtfulness!

Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church (CCUPC) is seeking to hire an experienced **Accounting/Business Administrator** to perform accounting, bookkeeping and other tasks for CCUPC and the CCUPC Preschool. A job description and additional details can be found under the Personnel link at www.ccupc.org. If you have any questions please contact Personnel Committee Chair Tim MacFarlane in person or via email at personnel@ccupc.org. This posting will close on Friday, October 20, 2017.


DON'T FORGET that the **Scrip Gift Card Center** is open every Sunday before and after worship in the Greeting Area. You can purchase retail gift cards from the inventory, or place orders for specific cards that can be picked up the following week. Scrip cards allow you to support the mission of our church without spending any additional money. Order forms are available on the nametag table.

The **Worship Flower Sign-up** is located on the counter in the office. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for either the two chancel vases *or* the basket. You can donate the flowers in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special day. Sign up now so that you can get that special date!

THIS WEEK AT CCUPC

Sunday	10/15	<i>Pray for Monaco</i>	
	9:00 am	Sunday School	All Over
	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Coffee Social	Greeting Area
		Village F	
	5:00 pm	Jr. Youth Group	Lower Level
	6:30 pm	Middle/High School Youth Group	Lower Level
Monday	10/16		
	7:00 pm	Outreach Committee Meeting	Conference Rm.
Wednesday	10/18		
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday	10/19		
	7:00 pm	Property/Maintenance Meeting	Conference Rm.
Sunday	10/22	<i>Pray for Mongolia</i>	
	9:00 am	Sunday School	All Over
	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Coffee Social	Greeting Area
		Village G & Village H	
		Session Meeting	Conference Rm.
		Village Chair Meeting	Room #110
	6:30 pm	Middle/High School Youth Group	Lower Level

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR SCHEDULE:

- We are having a **Fall Clean-Up** day on **Saturday, October 21st** at 9:00 AM! Bring your garden tools with you and come on out to help clean-up around the church building. Make it a family affair!! The more the merrier! Please write “fall” in the sign-up square located on the registration clipboard as it is passed to you this morning.
- The Deacons will hold an **informational meeting** for all **Village Chairs** and **Deacons** on **Sunday, October 22nd** directly following worship. The meeting will be held in Room 110 of the lower level. If you are a Village Chair (newly appointed or existing), please make it a point to attend this meeting.
- Let's Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!  The **CCUPC Kid's Choir** will soon be getting underway for the 2017 holiday season! Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, October 25th** from **6:15-6:55 PM** in the sanctuary. We'll be learning songs for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please see our music directors, Kris Hattman or Mindy Cable if you have any questions. We hope to see lots of you here!

Cranberry Community U. P. Church
 2662 Rochester Road
 Cranberry Township PA 16066
 724-776-5310 <http://www.ccupc.org>
 Pastor James M. Moran 724-759-4577
 Pastor Nadine L. Roy 412-848-0834



**Cranberry Community
 United Presbyterian Church**



October 15, 2017

***SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
 A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION***

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare His praise? Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.”

Psalm 106:1-3

The Welcome and Announcements

A Chili Cook-Off Reminder

Nancy Hodges

The Prelude

Bryan & Betty Kraynik

“Lord, How I Need You”

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” Psalm 37:7

(If you have a prayer request, please fill out a green prayer card and pass it to the center aisle as they will be collected during the first hymn and included during the prayer time)

The Call to Worship

WE WORSHIP IN PRAISE

*A Hymn #355

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, You graciously invite us to abide in You, but sometimes we are tempted to delay our response. We detour into trivial activities, or busy ourselves with commitments which are to our own advantage. We convince ourselves that we are choosing what is important and that other things can wait until we are ready.

Call to us again and give us the wisdom to accept Your invitation and allow us to walk more closely with You. Hear our prayer as we make it in Jesus' name. Amen.

*The Assurance of Forgiveness

*Glorifying God

“We Will Glorify”

***We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb.
 We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.***

The Joys, Concerns, and Prayers of God's People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE WORSHIP IN GIVING

Our Invitation to Give

The Offertory Bryan & Betty Kraynik
"There is Power in the Blood"

*Praising God #556 **"Praise God From Whom All Blessings"**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*The Prayer of Dedication

WE WORSHIP IN PROCLAMATION

The Greeting *(Please share words of peace, encouragement, and hope)*

The Children's Lesson and Prayer *(The children may come forward)*

(Children 3 years old - Kindergarten may now leave for TLC out the back doors of the Sanctuary with Miss Gynni)

(Children in 1st - 3rd grades may now leave for KFC out the back doors of the Sanctuary)

The Scripture Lesson (page 979)
Matthew 22:1-14

The Sermon Reverend Ted Kerr
"INVITING THE UNDESERVING"

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*A Closing Hymn #254 **"What Can Wash Away My Sin?"**

*The Benediction

The Postlude
"There is Power in the Blood"

**Please stand as you are able.*

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A warm "Welcome Back!" to our guest vocalists, Bryan and Betty Kraynik. They are long-time residents of Cranberry Township and are active in the music ministry at St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople.

We welcome the Rev. Ted Kerr as our PULPIT GUEST this morning. Ted and his wife, Julie, live in Cranberry. They were long-time members at Memorial Park Presbyterian Church before they began worshipping at CCUPC in 2012. Ted is in the process of completing his thesis towards a masters degree in Christian ministry and missiology at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge.

He is the founder and president of Touchstone Capital, Inc. He formerly served as the Executive Director of The Pittsburgh Experiment and as pastor of Deer Creek U.P. Church in West Deer Township. Ted recently published his first book, Killing Time, A Parable for the Present Age.

Ted and Julie are proud parents of Mackenzie (11) and Jared (9).

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Please keep these family members and friends in your prayers:

Marlene Burt (Ray & Peggy Wetzel & CCUPC member), Chuck Davis and the Davis family (Jeanne Smith), Denise (Gary & Kim Pugh), Marietta Eklund (Howard Eklund), Donna Jacobs (Dale & Diane Jacobs), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Sue Kirkland (Nancy MacFarlane/Kelly Stebor), Kim Long (Nancy Hodges), Jim Miller (CCUPC member), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Phyllis Pugh (Gary & Kim Pugh), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), Marie Rossi (Sam & Debbie Rossi), David Rubinosky (Vera Rubinosky), Karen Snyder (Harry Snyder), Tim (Shirl & Roy Lonie).

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Zach and Erika Shumaker on the birth of their daughter, Beatrice Mae Shumaker Monday, October 2nd. Beatrice joins big brother, Wolfgang "Wolfie" in the Shumaker household.

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Brooks and Dena Roy on the birth of their daughter, Selah Elise Roy Thursday, October 5th. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Selah joins big brother, Solomon, and big sister, Cecily, in the Roy household. Pastor Dena and Selah are doing very well!

Marlene Burt would like to THANK everyone for their prayers and cards as she recovers from an illness.

Lillian Grundler is a resident of UPMC Cranberry Place, and would love to have visitors between the hours of 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti (FLM) will have its **ANNUAL BANQUET** on **Saturday, October 28th**, beginning at **5:00 PM**. This year, the event will move to the Doubletree in Monroeville. Pastor Jim has complimentary tickets available if you would like to attend. The theme will be: **"WHY MISSIONS?"**

Are you New to CCUPC? Visiting with us for the first time? We are excited you joined us for worship. To connect with us and learn more about our church family, text **WELCOME** to **724-906-4624**. You are also encouraged to sign in on the registration pad passed in your pew and provide your contact information.

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I WAS JUST THINKING. . . by Pastor Jim

Luke's parallel to our text (Luke 14:16-24) tells the parable in a simpler, less militant way. According to Luke, the host invited three friends, but each was predisposed. One had just bought some land, another five yoke of oxen, and another had just gotten married. Given the particulars, each had a reasonable excuse.

I read of a person who took this teaching and crafted it into a song, to be sung to the theme tune of "The Beverly Hillbillies." It went like this:

"I cannot come to the banquet, excuse me, I pray,
I've just bought a field, I must gather my hay;
I hate to miss the party, and I know this sounds dumb,
Pray, Lord, excuse me, I cannot come.

"I cannot come to the banquet, excuse me, dear sir,
I've just bought a cow, and her cream I must stir;
I hate to miss the party, all the food and the fun,
Pray, Lord, excuse me, I cannot come.

"I cannot come to the banquet, excuse me, my Lord,
I've just married a wife, and I gave her my word;
I hate to miss the party, and all that good rum,
Pray, Lord, excuse me, I cannot come.

"I cannot come to the banquet, I'm too busy, you see,
Perhaps another time would be better for me;
I know the table's ready, and I feel like a bum:
Pray, Lord, excuse me, I cannot come!"

Either way, the message is the same: Whatever your excuse, the kingdom must go on. God is at work reconciling the world to Himself and, if we are too busy or, for whatever reason, unwilling to be part of this ministry of reconciliation, God will choose others to do His bidding.

Dear CCUPC Family and Friends,

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. As in the past, we would like to show our pastors how much they mean to us by showering them with cards, notes of appreciation, or share a meaningful story or thought. Please send your card or note to the church office:

2662 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

where they will be collected and presented to Pastors Jim and Dena in a "Basket of Appreciation" next Sunday, October 22nd. Also, we will collect donations of cash (or check) with which gift cards of various types will be purchased and presented to them in the baskets. Please place your cash or check (made payable to "CCUPC") gift in an envelope marked "Pastor Appreciation" and place it in today's offering plate, or by mailing it to the church office by this *Wednesday, October 18th* (write on the envelope "Pastor Appreciation").

Alternatively, you can send a card or note via any of the e-card websites that many folks subscribe to. Our pastors email addresses are: jimmoran@ccupc.org and denaroy@ccupc.org.

You can still participate in the purchase of gift cards if you so choose.

Thank you for your help, the CCUPC Session