

It's Cookie Time! Next Sunday the Youth Group will hold their annual **Cookie Sale!!** There will be trays of homemade cookies for sale before and after the worship service. Cookie trays will be priced at 3 doz./\$15 and 6 doz./\$30. Each student in youth group is asked to donate 5 dozen cookies for the sale. The youth will also gladly accept donations of cookies from the congregation. This is one of our best fundraisers and helps us to send youth to various events, including the New Wilmington Mission Conference each summer. Donated cookies can be of any kind (except chocolate chip). You can bring your cookies to the church office **this week**, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM or Saturday, December 16th from 5:00 - 5:30 PM in the Greeting Area. All donations need to be turned in by 5:30 PM on Saturday, December 16th and should be clearly marked "cookie sale."

Assembly time! Anyone in the youth groups (3rd-12th grade) are invited to come on Saturday, December 16th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM to help arrange the trays. We will have a pizza dinner, make the cookie trays and play some games (if we have time). Youth should bring a \$5.00 gift card to a store or restaurant of their choice for a fun gift card exchange. (Starbucks, DQ, Walmart, 5Below, etc.)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP WITH. . .

- ◆ *setting up the luminaries* - on **Saturday, December 23rd** at **9:00 AM**. Help us when we prepare the outside areas of our church for the Candlelight services on Christmas Eve! Sign up on the registration sheet by writing "LUM-UP" in the sign-up box. And....
- ◆ *lighting the luminaries* - on **Christmas Eve** at **6:00 PM** (during the first service). Please write "LITE" on the registration sheet.
- ◆ *putting away the luminaries* - on **Tuesday, December 26th** at **9:00 AM**. The Boy Scout Troop is unable to help out this year, so please give us a hand by writing "LUM-DOWN" in the sign-up box on the registration sheet as it is passed to you this morning.
- ◆ *Infant/Toddler Nursery* during the **6:00** and **8:00 PM** Christmas Eve worship services. Please prayerfully consider helping out with this most important ministry. We often have new families visiting our church, some for the very first time, and we can only offer a nursery if we have loving caregivers, like YOU! Sign up by writing "CE-6" or "CE-8" in the sign-up box on the registration sheet. Dana Early, the Nursery Coordinator, will then contact you.

Registration for the **CCUPC Preschool 2018 - 2019** school year is underway. Church members should contact Debbie Rossi (724-776-5310) as soon as possible in order to insure a spot for your child in our 3 or 4 year old classes. Registrations can be completed through our website, www.ccupcpreschool.org.

The administrative expenses for the Presbyterian Church (USA) are covered by Per Capita funds. The **2018 Per Capita amount is \$39.50 per confirmed member**. Our Session has chosen to designate the total amount of per capita received for the work of Beaver-Butler Presbytery unless you specify otherwise. We will be happy to make available to you the breakdown for Synod and General Assembly if you have the desire to contribute to them. If you have any questions you may talk with Pastor Moran.

With the holidays approaching fast, our thoughts turn to shopping. **Scrip cards** can be purchased every Sunday before and after worship in the Greeting Area, and make great gifts, but they can also be used to make your holiday purchases. You can purchase retail gift cards from the inventory, or place orders for specific cards that can be picked up the following week. We now carry Cracker Barrel! (Kohl's cards - but only Kohl's - can even be used to pay on your Kohl's credit card.) Scrip cards allow you to support the mission of our church without spending any additional money. Order forms are available on the nametag table.

THIS WEEK AT CCUPC

Sunday	12/10	Second Sunday of Advent <i>Pray for Nauru</i>	
	9:00 am	Sunday School	Both Levels
	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Coffee Social Village B	Greeting Area
	6:30 pm	Middle/High School Youth Group	Lower Level
Monday	12/11		
	7:00 pm	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Tuesday	12/12		
	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast/Bible Study	Conference Rm.
Wednesday	12/13		
	6:15 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Saturday	12/16		
	5:00 pm	Youth Group Cookie Party	Greeting Area
Sunday	12/17	Third Sunday of Advent/Youth Group Cookie Sale <i>Pray for Nepal</i>	
	9:00 am	Sunday School	Both Levels
	10:00 am	Worship/Food Bank	Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Coffee Social Village C	Greeting Area
	6:00 pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service	Sanctuary

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR SCHEDULE:

- The **Giving Tree gifts** are due back today. (They should be unwrapped.)
- The next **Men's Breakfast/Bible Study** will meet Tuesday, December 12th at 8:30 AM.
- The **Youth Group Cookie Sale** is Sunday, December 17th. You can purchase your cookie tray before or after worship. We will have our **Food Bank** collection on this day. The *Item of the Month* is pasta and pasta sauce. We will celebrate our **Blue Christmas Worship Service** at 6:00 PM.
- **Luminary Set-Up** will take place Saturday, December 23rd at 9:00 AM.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 PM.
- **Luminary Clean-Up** will be on Tuesday, December 26th at 9:00 AM.
- The **Unhanging of the Greens** will be on Thursday, January 4th at 9:00 AM.

Please pick up your **2018 Giving Envelopes** that are located in the Greeting Area. If you find that you do not have a box of envelopes and would like one, please write your name on the sheet provided.

Cranberry Community U. P. Church
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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**



December 10, 2017

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

The Second Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"
Isaiah 40:3-5

The Welcome and Announcements

A "Shining Bright" Minute

Tom Bell

The Prelude

The Children's Choir

"Welcome the Babe"

"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

"Mary's Little Boy Child"

*Long time ago in Bethlehem so the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy-child, Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day.*

Refrain

*Hark, now hear the angels sing new King is born today,
And we will live forevermore because of Christmas Day.*

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night they saw a bright new
shining star,*

And heard a choir from heaven sing, the music came from afar. Refrain

*Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem that night;
They found no place to bear her child, not a single room was in sight.*

Refrain

*By and by they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger cold and dark, Mary's little boy-child was born.*

*Trumpets sound and angels sing, listen to what they say,
That we will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.*

Because...of...Christmas...Dav!

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we welcome the coming of Your light in a world filled with darkness. We confess to You the ways in which we have added to that darkness rather than obeying Your call to us to live as children of the light. We ask your forgiveness: for times when we worship violence and belittle peace; for times when we fight among ourselves; for times when we forget that we are children of God; for times when we do not stand up for the helpless among us. By Your tender mercy, may the dawn from on high break upon us, and give light to those of us who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Hear us, 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 The Adult and Children's Choirs
“A Christmas Calypso”

*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 990)

Mark 1:1-8

The Sermon

Pastor James M. Moran

“HOW ODD OF GOD”

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*A Hymn #99 **“While by the Sheep We Watched”**

*The Benediction

The Postlude **“There's a Song in the Air”**

**Please stand as you are able.*

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The vases of flowers are given by her friends to the glory of God, and in celebration of Marcy Hammann's birthday.

The Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary is given in loving memory of Geneva M. Cable, by her daughter, Mindy Cable.

The Christmas Tree in the Greeting Area is given by Gene and Jeanne Smith in loving memory of their parents.

The luminaries that will be displayed and lit on Christmas Eve are given by David, Linda, Katie, and Abbey Watkins to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Don, Betty and Doug Watkins, Joyce, Henry and Sally Kolacz and Ed and Margaret Dudek.

* * *

Please keep these family members and friends in your prayers:

Donna (Dale & Diane Jacobs), Fred Dunning (David Okuda), Lillian Grundler (Dick Grundler), Karen Horvath (Jon & Lydia Horvath), Jim (Gary Pugh), Katyna (Dale & Diane Jacobs), Jim Kerr (the Kerr family), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Sue Kirkland (Nancy MacFarlane/Kelly Stebor), Kim Long (Nancy Hodges), Jim Miller (CCUPC member), Michael Moran (Pastor James Moran), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Will Pilarski (Isaiah Clerkley & Lori Zona), Cecil & Phyllis Pugh (Gary & Kim Pugh), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), Rich (Mark & Kelly Stebor), David Rubinosky (Vera Rubinosky), Ruth & Carl (Karen Raman), Jennifer Sikora (Dean Sikora), Esther Suppa (CCUPC member), Chris Thompson (CCUPC member), Tim (Shirl & Roy Lonie), Vicky (Harry Snyder), and Ed Yorns (Sherri Kelly).

Chris Thompson shares his THANKSGIVING to all for the concerns, prayers, and cards during his illness.

The Spiritual Growth Committee is encouraging the Sunday School students (in lieu of individual Sunday School Teacher gifts) to make a donation to the **“Sunday School Project”** that will benefit area families who are in need this Christmas. We often get calls and “drop in” visitors at the church requesting support. We supply these needs from the gift cards donated through this project. You can purchase Giant Eagle or WalMart gift cards from the Scrip Gift Card Center, place the gift card(s) in a pew envelope, and write **“Sunday School Project”** on the front. Just drop it in the offering plate!

I WAS JUST THINKING. . . by Pastor Jim

I found the following comments helpful as they relate to our text and message this morning. They are offered by Darrick Acre in his book, A Way Made Ready:

“I love receiving Christmas cards. I especially like Christmas cards with good Christian artwork on the cover. The lion with the lamb; the three wise men and the message, ‘Wise Men Still Seek Him;’ the Madonna and child; or the star piercing the darkness over stable and manger; all are beautiful depictions of the Christmas story.

“Again, I am positive that as a group we have all perused thousands of Christmas cards like these. Yet I do not recall ever receiving one with John the Baptist preaching in the desert. Do you? I can picture it in my mind: a card front marred by the dead, barren wilderness of Judea out by the Jordan River, with this animated, prophetic figure as the focal point. But I have never read one that even closely resembles such a scene. Have you?

“John the Baptist is totally inappropriate for the way we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus as Matthew and Luke report that holy night many years ago. Mary, Joseph, angels, manger, shepherds, wise men; a child is born unto us. Glory to God in the highest! That is what Christmas is all about. Jesus is the reason for the season. So we honor sweet, little Jesus boy, get warm fuzzies, and hug our family members. What does John the Baptist have to do with Christmas?

“For Mark, everything. Instead of Bethlehem and choirs of angels, he begins the story of Jesus' coming with a prophet blaring and baptizing in the wilderness of Judea. In so doing, he adds a new figure to the good news about the incarnation and coming of the Christ. It is John the Baptist. Throughout the centuries the church has recognized Mark's unique contribution through its observance of Advent in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.”

* * *

*Giving space to those who struggle to find joy....*The holidays can be a time of mixed emotions, especially when there is grief, loss, loneliness, or regret. Sometimes it's just hard to get into the joyful spirit of Christmas. CCUPC is hosting a worship service for healing and wholeness focusing on the hope and promise of the season, even in the midst of sorrow. Together we celebrate a God who doesn't leave us, especially during difficulties and heartache. We hope that you will join us for our **Blue Christmas service on Sunday evening, December 17th at 6:00 PM**, and invite others whose spirits may be touched by such a worship service. Postcard invitations are available on the Visitor's table in the Greeting Area.

Visitors...Please Help!

If you are a **visitor** worshipping with us today, we'd like to ask you to do us a big favor. Help us discover which of our advertising dollars are doing the most good by telling us how you found our church. When the register pad is passed to you, please fill out not only your contact information, but also check the appropriate box that tells us how you heard of us.