

Today is the day for the Youth Group Cookie Sale! There are trays of beautifully packaged homemade cookies for sale in the Greeting Area. The proceeds from the sale benefit the youth groups and help support our various trips and activities. Stop by and grab a tray for your own enjoyment or as a gift. Cookies are priced at 3 dozen for \$15 and 6 dozen for \$30. Thank you to everyone who donated or purchased cookies. (For those that donated in re-usable containers, your clean container can be picked up outside of the kitchenette.)

Christmas is a time of reflection on our memories and our hopes. But memories can be bittersweet, and our hopes can disappoint us as we mark another year without a yearned for child, or job, or relationship. It is easy to be discouraged, melancholy, and overwhelmed. But God hears you. And God welcomes you to come and worship. If you are struggling to find joy this season, please join us for our **Blue Christmas worship service** of wholeness and healing **tonight at 6:00 PM.** *All are welcome.* Feel free to invite others by using the postcards available on the Spiritual Growth Table.

GIVING IS A PART OF RECEIVING...GIVE YOUR TIME BY...

- ◆ *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 **2017 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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT CCUPC

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	Greeting Area
		Village C	
6:00 pm		Blue Christmas Worship Service	Sanctuary
Saturday	12/23		
9:00 am		Luminary Set-Up	Outside
Sunday	12/24	Christmas Eve <i>Pray for Netherlands</i>	
9:00 am		<u>No</u> Sunday School	
10:00 am		Worship	Sanctuary
11:15 am		Coffee Social	Greeting Area
		Office Staff	
6:00 pm		Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
8:00 pm		Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
10:00 pm		Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR SCHEDULE:

- The **Youth Group Cookie Sale** is today! You can purchase your cookie tray before or after worship. More information in the bulletin.
- Today is our **Food Bank** collection! The *Items of the Month* are pasta and pasta sauce. More information is in the bulletin.
- We will have our **Blue Christmas Worship Service** this evening at 6:00 PM.
- **Luminary Set-Up** will be on Saturday, December 23rd at 9:00 AM.
- **Lighting the Luminaries** will begin at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 PM.
- **Luminary Clean-Up** will take place on Tuesday, December 26th at 9:00 AM.
- The **Unhanging of the Greens** will be on Thursday, January 4th at 9:00 AM.
- The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet Tuesday, January 9th at 8:30 AM.
- We will serve **Communion** on Sunday, January 14th.

Today is the last day to special order **Scrip cards** before Christmas. Cards ordered today will be available for pick-up before or after the Christmas Eve morning service. Of course, we always have a wide variety of cards for immediate purchase from our inventory. Need a last minute gift? No problem!! We've got you covered!

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



December 17, 2017

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

The Third Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude

"Away in a Manger"

"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 #102

"What Child is This?"

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to You in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness, honoring You in our faithfulness. We offer our prayer in the holy name of Jesus, our Messiah. 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

The Special Music

“The First Noel”

Our Invitation to Give

The Offertory

“Ukrainian Bell Carol”

*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 1049)
John 1:6-9; 19-28

The Sermon Pastor James M. Moran
“IF PEOPLE HAD ONLY KNOWN”

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*A Hymn #92 *“Joy to the World”*

*The Benediction

The Postlude *“Ding Dong, Merrily on High”*

**Please stand as you are able.*

The vases of flowers are given by her friends to the glory of God, and in celebration of Karen Raman'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:

Mike, Eileen Alexander & family (Rick & Diane Alexander), Carl & Ruth (Karen Raman), the family of Logan Dyson (Dennis Cherry), Lillian Grundler (Dick Grundler), John Horvath (Jon Horvath), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Sue Kirkland (Nancy MacFarlane/Kelly Stebor), Charlie Marner (Melinda Marner), Doug Marner (Dara Marner), Jim Miller (CCUPC member), Michael Moran (Pastor Jim & Lynn Moran), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Natalie (Pat Smith), Will Pilarski (Isaiah Clerkley & Lori Zona), Cecil & Phyllis Pugh (Gary & Kim Pugh), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), David Rubinosky (Vera Rubinosky), Jennifer Sikora (Dean Sikora), Esther Suppa (CCUPC member), Tim (Shirl & Roy Lonie), and Ed & JoAnne Yorns (Sherri Kelly).

Dick Grundler shares his JOY to the “Christmas elves” who decorated his home.

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!

Today is Food Bank Sunday. We are collecting non-perishable food items and paper products for the residents of VOICE (Victim Outreach Intervention Center). The *Items of the Month* are pasta and pasta sauce. All items should be *un-opened* and *non-perishable* (not requiring refrigeration or freezing, and no produce). If you have any questions, please check with a member of the Mission Committee, one of the pastors, or the office staff. Forgot to bring it? No worries! You can drop it off in the office Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 AM - 2 PM. Supporting local people who are struggling is just one way that CCUPC is trying to make a difference and to spread the love of God.

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.

I WAS JUST THINKING. . . by Pastor Jim

Leonard Sweet, a United Methodist, is a church analyst and futurist, one who identifies trends in congregational life and offers possibilities for what may transpire in the future. He is also an insightful, though sometimes esoteric preacher. In one of his sermons he says this: “The five year old nephew of the bride was chosen to be in charge of carrying the rings down the aisle. At the wedding rehearsal he was unusually unruly. He kept leaping out at people, baring his teeth at and then chasing the flower girls. He growled and snarled as he practiced going down the aisle. He brandished the pillow like a pistol. Finally his mother pulled him aside and demanded to know why he was behaving so badly. “‘But Mom,’ he explained, ‘I have to act fierce - I’m the ‘Ring Bear.’”

“Like so many of us, that little boy misunderstood just what role he was supposed to play. He thought he was called to be big, imposing, fearsome, large and in charge. He thought he was to BE the ‘star of the show.’ He thought the spotlight was his.

“But he wasn’t supposed to BE a bear, he was supposed to offer the supportive role of ‘ring-bearer.’ His role was important. The pastor, not to mention the bride and groom, needed those rings down front. But the focus of the wedding ceremony was not on the ring-bearer. The reason for the wedding celebration was not focused on him.

“In this week’s Advent gospel text John, the author of the fourth gospel, has no trouble distinguishing the one who ‘bears witness’ to the light from the One who actually IS the light...”

In the above reflection, Sweet is not esoteric at all. John had a role to play; a function to perform; a ministry to fulfil. He was to be a herald, a forerunner, one who would announce the One for whom God’s people were waiting in great expectation. His part in the drama was important, but he was one of the support staff. As I shared last Sunday in my sermon, our role is to point to the light, to declare the beauty of Christ, to herald the One whose coming we anticipate. May we do so with joy and enthusiasm and gratefulness in this season and always.

* * *

CORRECTION

It has come to our attention that the grant FLM Haiti has received does NOT include children’s vitamins. Please consider purchasing non-gel, chewable children’s vitamins that we may take with us in January. Or, you may contribute cash or checks toward those vitamins and our team will purchase them before we pack. Thank you!

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.