

Come and celebrate with your church family *today* as we begin the Christmas season with a reminder of why we celebrate - **Happy Birthday Jesus!** We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for pizza, and cake, and head up to the Sanctuary for a time of singing all of our favorite Christmas Carols. There are crafts for the children, and a fun time for all. You do not have to have small children to attend. If you like pizza, if you like cake, if you like carols, and if you love Jesus, plan to stay and celebrate!

Hey Bakers! The youth groups will once again be hosting their annual **Cookie Sale** on **Sunday, December 18th**. There will be trays of cookies for sale after each service. They will also gladly accept donations of cookies from the congregation of any kind (except chocolate chip). You can bring your cookies to the church office from Monday through Friday, December 12th - 16th from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, *or* Friday evening from 6:30 - 7:00 PM in the Greeting Area. All donations need to be turned in by 7:00 PM on Friday, December 16th. The youth group are assembling the trays that evening. **All youth (3rd-12th grade!) are invited to assemble cookies.**

The Mission Committee will be sponsoring a **Craft Night** with members of **CityView Church** on **Thursday, December 8th**. We are asking volunteers to provide the crafts - something that doesn't take too long and that congregation members can take home with them. It is a great time of fellowship, and is open to anyone who is interested. See Dara Marner or Jo Goddard with questions. This is a great family activity!

Reminder - New 2016 CCUPC PHOTO DIRECTORY

How Do I Get My Family Picture Submitted for the NEW Directory?

Photo Sessions will continue in December. Send a family photo to photos@ccupc.org. Be sure to include the name(s) of all family members in the photo. The Deacons will be available to take photos after each service in December up until Christmas. Come on over by the "coffee area" in the Greeting Area for your photo session. If you would rather use the family photo in the current CCUPC Directory, just send us an e-mail to the address above letting us know along with the names of those in the picture.

Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions. We celebrate the joy of the season, while at the same time acknowledging the bitter-sweet feelings that the holidays can bring. When there is grief, when there is a broken relationship, when things are not as we had hoped, then there is struggle, and we yearn for comfort. Perhaps you or someone you know is grieving over the loss of a loved one, is coping with illness, or has experienced the loss of a job. Maybe you wonder how you will get through the holidays apart from family, or you simply struggle to feel the joy that rings out from the carols. Know that in the midst of such feelings, God invites us to worship, even in our brokenness. CCUPC will be celebrating a Blue Christmas Service of wholeness and healing on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary, and we invite you to attend. This service is designed to give space to those who struggle, while still pointing to the hope that is ours in Christ. If you know of others who would benefit, please invite them, as well. All are welcome. Postcard invitations are available on the Spiritual Growth Table.

THIS WEEK AT CCUPC

<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
SUNDAY 12/4	<i>Pray for Iraq</i>	
9:00 am	- Sunday School	Both Levels
10:00 am	- Worship	Sanctuary
11:15 am	- <i>Happy Birthday Jesus Party!</i>	Fellowship Hall
11:45 am	- Session Meeting	Conference Rm.
	- NO Jr. Youth Group	
	- NO Youth Group	
MONDAY 12/5		
7:00 pm	- Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
TUESDAY 12/6		
7:00 pm	- Worship Committee Meeting	Conference Rm.
WEDNESDAY 12/7		
6:15 pm	- Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
SUNDAY 12/11	<i>Pray for Ireland</i>	
9:00 am	- Sunday School	Both Levels
10:00 am	- Worship	Sanctuary
	- Coffee Social	Greeting Area
	- Villages F & H	
11:15 am	- Deacons Meeting	Conference Rm.
5:00 pm	- Jr. Youth Group	Lower Level
6:30 pm	- Youth Group	Lower Level

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR SCHEDULE:

- The **2017 Worship Flower Sign-Up** is now available on the nametag table.
- **December 11th will be your last chance to order any gift cards that are not in stock in order to receive them before Christmas.** Your order placed on December 11th will be available for pick up at the table on December 18th.
- The **Men's Breakfast/Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, December 13th at 8:30 AM.
- The Youth Groups' **Cookie Assembly** and **Christmas Party** will take place on Friday, December 16th from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- The annual **Cookie Sale** on Sunday, December 18th.
- Our **Blue Christmas Service** will be on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 PM.
- **Luminary set-up** will be Friday, December 23rd at 9:00 AM.
- **Christmas Eve Services** will be at 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 PM.

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 4, 2016

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

The Second Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude Mindy Cable and Jane Meltzer
"The First Noel"

"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 Carol #91 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive Your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from Your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked Your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be Your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that Your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. 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

Christmas Choir & Worship Team

“Mary, Did You Know?”

*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)*

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

‘The children who are in 1st - 3rd grades may now leave for KFC out the back doors of the Sanctuary)

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

(page 1012)

The Sermon

Pastor James M. Moran

“MARY, DID YOU KNOW?”

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*A Hymn

“Mary's Little Boy Child”

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem so the Holy Bible says

Mary's boy-child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new King born today,

And we will live forevermore because of Christmas Day.

2. While shepherds watched their flock by night, they saw a bright

new shining star,

And heard a choir of angels sing, the music came afar.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new King born today,

And we will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.

3. 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.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a new King born today,

And we will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.

4. 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... Day!

*The Benediction

The Postlude

“The Echo Carol”

*Please stand as you are able.

* * *

The basket of flowers is given by her friends to the glory of God, and in celebration of Marcy Hammann on her birthday.

The Christmas Tree in the Greeting Area is given by a family in our church to the glory of God.

Please keep these family members and friends in your prayers:

Geneva Cable (Mindy Cable), Candace (Bob & Gail Pierce), Mark Cowden (Bob Cowden), Debbie Fisher (CCUPC member), Logan Goetz (Granddaughter of Bob and Gail Pierce), Lillian Grundler (Dick Grundler), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Kris (Dale Jacobs), Barry Lavery (Dale & Diane Jacobs), Roberta Lickeri (Marcy & John Hammann), Kim Long (Nancy Hodges), aunt Marla (Natalie Marks), Jim Miller (CCUPC member), Morgan (Michaela Cowden), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), Barbara Reichert (Lisa Kumnik), Christina Taylor (Bob & Donna Taylor), Tim (Shirl Lonie), and Bill Underwood (Barb Smith).

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 welcome pad passed in your pew and provide your contact information.

Every year we decorate the Sanctuary and the “point” in the Greeting Area with live Christmas trees, and outline the church property on Christmas Eve with luminaries that have been sponsored by a family in our church. The purchase of the trees and candles can be funded in memory or in honor of a loved one. Recognition of the trees and the luminaries will be noted each week in the bulletin during Advent. Please contact the church office (office@ccupc.org/724-776-5310) if you're interested in sponsoring one of these gifts.

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I WAS JUST THINKING . .

In his book, God's Downward Mobility, John A. Stroman offers the following insights: “How odd that God should choose Mary. As we come to think about the unexpected, the lowly and the inconspicuous person being the vessel of hope and change, certainly Mary comes to mind. There are things about Mary that really catch our attention. Hans Kung, the Roman Catholic theologian, reminds us that there are two features of Mary's image that are solidly rooted in the Scriptures. First, she is human, a wife and a mother with all the earthiness that this may entail. Second, she is an example, a model of the Christian faith. Her faith felt both the sword of scandal, dissension, and contradiction. Notice the words of the text, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. -- Luke 1:28-29

“After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem Mary returned to Nazareth. These were long, hard years of survival in the back hill country of Judea. Mary's baby would grow into manhood in Nazareth and face a life of unending danger. He was loved by the common folks and despised by the political rulers. The religious leaders thought him a heretic and excommunicated him, and his nation thought him a traitor and crucified him. This was something that Mary could not quite figure out or understand.

“Mary must have thought, ‘Is this what it means to be favored by God?’ What a change from the starlit night in Bethlehem to the foot of the cross -- from ecstasy to agony. Mary had discovered what many Christians have come to know, that to be called of God is to suffer with God. I wonder what Mary wanted her boy to be? A carpenter like his father, possibly. A rabbi? Maybe. Who knows? One thing is certain, she was not prepared for what he became. There are many things in this birth narrative that seem strange, even odd to us, coming from our world of power politics and mega-institutions. But this is the manner that God has consistently chosen to come into the midst of life. A girl who is barely a teenager, of humble background, reared in the hill country of Judea, is chosen to be ‘the handmaiden of the Lord.’ I wonder if we can grasp the significance of this event. Mary was a woman, poor and young. The status of a woman in the first century was nothing. Yet, she was chosen . . .”

Yes, beloved, Mary was chosen to be the one who bore and brought into life the incarnate Son of God. She was an unlikely candidate for such a significant event, yet she assumed that role willingly and faithfully in spite of the uncertainty attendant to it and with all of her unanswered questions. The lesson for us? -- that we exercise similar faith even when (especially when?!) we do not have the answers.

Bless Your Hearts,

Pastor Jim

THE GIVING TREE is UP!!! It is in the Greeting Area and filled with “wish list” tags that have specific gift suggestions. We are sponsoring the Mars Home for Youth, CityView Church, the Pittsburgh Project, VOICE, and local people in need. *The gifts are to be brought back to the church unwrapped by Sunday, December 18th.* If you don't want to shop, purchase a scrip card and someone from the Mission Team will shop for you - just let us know. If you have questions, feel free to call Dara Marner (cell/724-316-3475).