

DID YOU KNOW..... that we have a staffed infant and toddler nursery available for you to use during worship? Children through age 2 are welcome to come and play. There is also a curtained off corner in the nursery for those who may need some privacy which can be used for nursing or for soothing your child. Additionally, we have the TLC ministry for those who are 3 years old through Kindergarten where children may go after the Children's Lesson. The KFC program is for children in 1st - 3rd grades and leave after the Children's Lesson out the back of the sanctuary. Older children can find worksheets and coloring pages on a table in the Sanctuary near the side entrance. Any of our ushers or nursery workers will be glad to show you how to locate our nursery or children's ministries and supplies. We love having so many growing families in church!

Come join the "luminary guy" (Tom Bell) **tomorrow** at **9:30 AM** to **set up the luminaries** around the church for the Christmas Eve services. The **luminary clean-up** will be on **Wednesday, December 26th** at **9:30 AM**. Come on out and give us a hand!!

Our next **Family Mission Day** will be **Sunday, January 13th** immediately following worship. Join us as we make chicken noodle soup and a dessert for our friends who are experiencing homelessness. The soup that we make will be donated to **L.I.V.L.N.G. Ministry** and will be served through the North Side Homeless Alliance and the Allegheny County Winter Weather emergency shelter. This 'pop up' shelter will see hundreds of men and women come through its doors for a warm meal and place to sleep during the cold winter days. We will have jobs for a variety of ages and abilities - from cleaning vegetables, slicing chicken, cracking eggs, mixing, and even washing dishes! This event may take a bit of time, so come when you can, and leave when you must. If you would like to contribute to this project you may sign up to bring one or more of the ingredients on the list which is on the bulletin board in the greeting area, or we will gladly accept Giant Eagle gift cards. Please clearly mark them "Family Mission Day." If you have questions about this event, please see Pastor Dena.

The administrative expenses for the Presbyterian Church (USA) are covered by Per Capita funds. The **2019 Per Capita amount is \$40.69 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. If you have any questions you may talk with Pastor Jim.

In Giving, We Receive. As 2018 quickly comes to an end, please consider whether your pledge is current for the year. If you would like to find out where you stand in regards to your pledge, please call Kim Pugh (Financial Secretary) at the church office and she can help you out with this. You can improve your tax position by making a year-end donation. What better way to help yourself than by helping your church. Please note that year-end donation gifts must be postmarked by December 31st in order to be included in this year's giving records.

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 scrip table and in your bulletin!

THIS WEEK AT CCUPC

Today	12/23	4th Sunday of Advent <i>Pray for Slovenia</i>	
9:00 am		Sunday School	Both Levels
10:00 am		Worship	Sanctuary
11:05 am		Coffee Social	Greeting Area
		Village P	
		<u>NO</u> Youth Groups this evening	
Monday	12/24	Christmas Eve <i>The Office is open until Noon</i>	
8:00 am		Luminary Set-Up	Outside
9:30 am		Candlelight Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00 pm		Lighting of the Luminary	Outside
7:00 pm		Candlelight Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:00 pm		Candlelight Worship Service	Sanctuary
Tuesday	12/25	Christ is Born! <i>The Office is Closed</i>	
Wednesday	12/26	<i>The Office is Closed</i>	
9:30 am		Luminary Clean-Up	Outside
Sunday	12/30	<i>Pray for Solomon Islands</i> <u>NO</u> Sunday School	
10:00 am		Worship	Sanctuary
11:05 am		Coffee Social	Greeting Area
		The Office Staff	
		<u>NO</u> Youth Groups this evening	

A LOOK AHEAD AT OUR SCHEDULE:

- **Luminary Set-Up** is tomorrow at 9:30 AM. Come out and join the fun!
- **Lighting the Luminaries** will begin at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 PM.
- **Luminary Clean-Up** will take place on Wednesday, December 26th at 9:30 AM.
- The **Unhanging of the Greens** will be on Thursday, January 3rd at 9:00 AM.
- The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet Tuesday, January 8th at 8:30 AM.
- We will serve **Communion** on Sunday, January 13th.

Please pick up your **2019 Giving Envelopes** 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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 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 23, 2018

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

The Welcome and Announcements

A Connections Connection Natalie McKinley

(Please sign the register pad, passing it down the row, then back to center aisle.)

The Prelude The Worship Team

"While You Were Sleeping"

"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.)

The Call to Worship

WE WORSHIP IN PRAISE

*A Carol **"Offering"** (use screens)

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about Your reordered world - a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with You, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the One who brings us peace. Hear us as we pray in His 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 Worship Team
“What A Glorious Night”

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 1013)
Luke 1:39-45

The Sermon Pastor James M. Moran
“LESSONS FROM MARY”

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

The Closing Hymn (use screens)
“Mary, Did You Know?”

The Benediction

The Postlude The Worship Team
“Joy to The World, Unspeakable Joy”

Please stand as you are able.

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Please keep these family members and friends in your prayers:

Jim Bell (Tom Bell), CW (Mindy Cable), Gary Cable (Mindy Cable), Elinor Dixon (Debbie Rossi), Lillian Grundler (CCUPC member), Janet Greer (Nancy Hodges), Joseph Justus (Linda & Dave Schuman), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Natalie & Wes Marks (Melinda Marner), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Steven Popson (Peggy Wetzel), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), David Rubinosky (CCUPC member), Lois Saleone (Peggy Wetzel), Donny Santucci (Judy Weber), Cheryl Storrs (CCUPC member), Tega Swan's mother (Dara Marner), Tim (Shirl & Roy Lonie), Ricky Vargas (Brenda Prigg), and Jerry Work (Karen Snyder).

Dave and Kris Okuda share their THANKSGIVING that all of their children made it home safely for the holidays, and that all of our college students are here with us over the break.

Helen Vogel shares her THANKSGIVING for all of the cards and support following the passing of her mother. They feel truly blessed to have such a compassionate congregation!

* * *

The vases of flowers are given by Chris Thompson to the glory of God, and in loving memory of his father, Christopher S. Thompson, Sr.

The basket of flowers are given by Ray and Peggy Wetzel to the glory of God, and in celebration of Peggy's mom, Ann Veres, on her 94th birthday.

The Christmas tree in the Sanctuary is given by a family in our church to the glory of God, and with thanks for the blessing of Pastors Jim and Dena and to all who serve CCUPC in so many different ways.

The Christmas tree in the greeting area is given by Howard Eklund to the glory of God, and in loving memory of his wife, Marietta.

The luminary candles that will be displayed and lit on Christmas Eve are given by a family in our church to the glory of God.

We are Running out of Time!! We still need help in the **Infant/Toddler nursery** on **Christmas Eve** during the **5:00 PM worship service**. 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! Please sign up by writing “CE-5” in the sign-up box on the registration sheet. Christina Taylor, the Nursery Coordinator, will then contact you.

The new **2019 Worship Flower** sign-up is now available on the nametag table in the greeting area. 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!

I WAS JUST THINKING. . . by Pastor Jim

Most biblical scholars agree that the only two books of the Bible written by non-Jews are the Gospel of Luke, and its companion volume, the Acts of the Apostles. Luke was a Gentile, a physician. His Gospel narrative is unique among the four in that he pays close attention to the disenfranchised, the outsiders, those on the fringe of society. The Gospel of Luke, above all books of the New Testament, is about women. It reads as if a woman might have written it. It contains intimate details which hardly would have occurred to a man. It begins with the birth of John the Baptizer, focusing on Elizabeth, his mother. The next major section is Mary's story. To her we will shortly return. There follows the prophecy of an old woman named Anna. When the boy Jesus went to the temple to debate the learned doctors, the only person Luke quotes is his mother.

Many of Luke's stories from Jesus' ministry are about women: the woman who was a sinner, the woman who would not give up, the widow of Nain, the bent-over woman, the widow who gave her mighty mites. At the resurrection it was only women who had the faith to go to the garden of graves. The text lists Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of Jesus, and other women. Luke reports that when they told the disciples about the empty tomb these men assumed it was an idle tale and did not believe them. And mind you, all of this from a culture in which women did not count.

The central character in the birth narrative, a story only told by Luke, is the person closest to the event, Mary. There are two ways over the years folks have imagined this virgin queen. Some have seen her as a frightened little girl, overwhelmed by events far beyond her control - just a simple, rural, unlettered child God had chosen to be the vessel of grace.

But there is another way to view Mary, a way more faithful to Luke's text. Here we find a determined, strong, assertive woman; a model for all women -- a woman of power and influence: educated, sharp, committed. It is the resourceful, competent, clear woman from whom Jesus, with respect to His human nature, learned much of what he knew about God's will for himself and for his world. While we Protestant Christians do not elevate Mary to a level that other Christians do, we do value her as the most blessed among women, and one to whom we should be indebted.

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. It will be a big help.