

The Viewpoint

*Our Vision:
To Know Christ
and make Him Known!*

Christ's Community Church at the Riverview Avenue Community Center

The Rev. Mary Kruse Zambrana

*"A voice says, 'Shout!'
I said, 'What shall I shout?'" (1)*

The Prophet Isaiah starts chapter 40 (2) with **comfort**. Jerusalem has completed the sentence for her sins and will move forward. God's glory is to be revealed in a new way! Each person is **responsible to clear all obstacles out of the part of the road that runs through their life**.

But, goodness! We're pretty fragile and wobbly to take care of **important work the community needs in order to see God's glory arrive!**

"Aren't these people just so much grass?"

*True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade,
But out God's Word stands firm and forever."*

The reality of human frailty never stops God from going forward with His plan. When we are weak, **God listens, but doubles down on His purposes**.

*"Climb a high mountain, Zion.
You're the preacher of good news."*

Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem.

You're the preacher of good news.

Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid!

*Tell the cities of Judah,
'Look! Your God!'*

*Look at him! GOD, the Master,
comes in power,
Ready to go into action."*

The core of Christ's Community Church, I think, is confidence that God is good, all the time.

You are realistic that bad things certainly happen and that each of us pathetically struggle to grow in loving God and our neighbor. However, this community of faith has decided to stake everything on the goodness and reliability of God and God's Word. Yeah, I'm listening to you. **What is it that we need to clear out of the way in order to make room for a new revelation of God's glory?**

Whatever God does now will be a **continuation of all God has done in the past here, and it will also be something new**. I'd like to join you in making it good and loud.

"Look! Your God!... Ready to go into action."

1. The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language, trans. Eugene Peterson, NAVPress, 2002.
2. The chapters of the Old Testament were not consistently numbered until the 14th Century. Before that, the books of the Hebrew Bible were divided into sections (Open/Closed, similar to a binary computer programming code) for study. Verse numbering was not common until the 16th century. Peterson numbers chapters but goes back to not numbering the verses.

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The Viewpoint

November/December

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Christ's Community Church
of the Presbyterian Church
USA

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The gift of prayer enables us to join with one another in consecrating our world, our lives,

and our ministries to God.

Please lift in prayer: Morgan, Madonna, shut-ins, victims of natural disasters, war, and hate crimes, the homeless, elderly, youth, the hungry, our nation, Presbytery of Philadelphia, General Assembly.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

YOU ARE INVITED!

November 4 and 18

December 2 and 16

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Newcomers are welcome

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Join the Women's Study Group as we continue our discussion on the book; "The Good and Beautiful You" by James Bryan Smith; Discovering the person Jesus created you to be. Meet us in the church Library!

November 18 and December 16

9:00 a.m.



Church Mouse

November 10 and 11

December 8 and 9

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 5

Don't forge to set your clocks back one hour!



YOU ARE INVITED TO BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 5

Sunday, December 3

8:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

We serve until 8:50 a.m.



Life Center Meal

Saturday, December 30



Coffee Fellowship Resumes After Worship

Coffee fellowship has resumed following morning worship in Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the building **except on the first of the month** when we share breakfast at 8:00 a.m. We are called by God to set apart a day for rest (the fourth Commandment) so as to be in communion with God. What better way to commune with God than to be together in the family of God. We invite and encourage everyone to enjoy this time together and bring along a pastry or food item to share. Coffee, hot water, and juice are provided. Before the Covid pandemic we met in the Parlor. Yet we are a growing community and Fellowship Hall is a space that can accommodate a larger number of people.

Let's work together to fill our local food bank:
Upper Darby Food Cupboard

When: Every Sunday in the month of November:

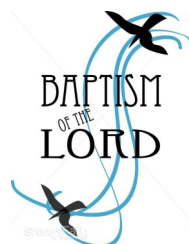
November 5, 12, 19 and 26

Bring your food items to Worship Service.



And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40



Open Invitation

If you are interested in being baptized, or reaffirming your vows, there is a preparation class you can attend with a minister. Please see Rev. Mary Zambrana, or call the church office at (610) 259-2696. The date for the Baptism Service is Sunday, January 7, 2024.



Restoration Committee

So grateful that we as a church have the financial resources to take care of our building so it can be of benefit to not just us as a congregation but also to the greater community. In view of this great gift we have begun to make long overdue improvements. Those on zoom will not have seen the new paint job in all the first floor hallways and the Riverview entrance. The narthex and coat room will soon be painted as well. Also, repair and painting is scheduled for the damaged wall in Porter Chapel.

New energy efficient windows in the office complex have been installed. The painter will return in November to paint the area.

We are working our way through our 5 year plan. Any questions can be directed to anyone on the Committee; *Heidi Hamilton, Chawezi Mwantembe, Linda Matin, and Sue Parker*

God is good all the time! This year at Christ's Community Church has been busier than ever! To support the expansion of the many activities and the arrival of the new pastor, Linda Evans has agreed to become full time with CCC. We have also added Ignatius as our full-time sexton who has already made a huge difference in the appearance of our building inside and out.

We have completed several building projects; added lighting to the sign on the front lawn, restored the drinking fountain and the AC units in the office complex, painted the lower level, and removed the tiles in the pastor's office and classrooms 2, 3, and 4. Also, we continue to financially support our many mission initiatives. Projects currently in the works; new flooring and upgrades for the pastor's bathroom, replacing the windows on the lower level, and upholstering the couch in the Parlor – and there's so much more to come!



Amazing developments like this would not be possible without you.

We are asking everyone to please follow-up with your pledges for 2023, including your initial offering of \$9.00 and per capita for \$32.00. This is the time to do it! Let's finish this year strong!

Thank you for supporting our vision:

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"



Thanksgiving Meal Ministry 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Glenolden is spearheading their (30 years and running!) annual *Thanksgiving Meal Ministry*. They are reaching out to the needy, elderly, disabled, homeless, sick and homebound people in Delaware County and providing Thanksgiving turkey meals. They are asking other churches, organizations and individuals in our area to join them in this compassionate and much needed ministry.

Because COVID is still on our radar, they are suggesting a number of ways you can help:

Provide a frozen turkey

Provide \$25 grocery card(s)

Make a financial donation to Glenolden Presbyterian Church to be used for this purpose

If you are interested in and able to help with this community Thanksgiving dinner outreach ministry, please contact Debbie Hadden (of Glenolden Pres. Church) at 610-457-7442.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will again be ordering poinsettias for our Worship Center. It will be especially pretty and festive to see a grouping of bright red poinsettias up front for everyone to enjoy.

If you would like to order a flower in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend, please watch for an insert in the Sunday bulletin. Pricing will be determined by the nursery and order forms will be available to be filled out.





A special invitation for you
Christmas Eve at Christ's Community Church
Sunday, December 24



9:30 a.m. | Worship Service in the Worship Center

4:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service in the Worship Center

This service will be filled with lots of singing of your favorite Christmas hymns. And we will conclude with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night! Holy Night!"



Celebrating Loretta Hartnett's Tenure as Music Director

Loretta Hartnett will step into full retirement the end of November and we plan to celebrate the more than 45 years she has served as music director following the worship service on Sunday, November 26. Loretta has been a faithful part of the fabric of our community, a binding cord in our tapestry. For many years, Loretta directed a large choir and led special service music programs. In 2000, she co-led the transition to the contemporary service with the newly-formed Praise Team. She has been an integral part of developing the present liturgy.

Loretta's leadership strength lay in three pillars. The first pillar is the ability to teach music in the context of its place in the history of traditional church hymnody. The second pillar is musically leading the congregational singing by playing the melody line which is underscored by the colorful accompaniments on organ and piano. The third pillar is the knowledge of the liturgical calendar and the movement of life in the church throughout the year which punctuated the musical selections for each of the church seasons.

Loretta began her training as an accompanist in fourth grade at St. Edmond's Parish School in Philadelphia. In that year, the nuns recognized her music knowledge and trained her to accompany rehearsals for the choir. In fifth grade, she began playing during Lent and by sixth grade she was playing most of the children's masses. In eighth grade she was encouraged to take a scholarship at the Academy

of Notre Dame in Rittenhouse Square where she continued her music studies.

Loretta studied organ under Mr. Anselmo Inforzato eventually becoming his assistant at St. Monica Church. Earning another scholarship, Loretta developed her musicianship with pianist Mr. August Vella. Mr. Vella developed Loretta's appreciation for classical masters including Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Handel. While earning credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree, Loretta studied, under scholarship, with the world-renowned Dr. Robert Elmore at the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, today known as the University of the Arts.

Loretta attributes her love of music and her musical discipline to her father. He was a saxophone player with a knowledge of playing with other musicians. "My father insisted that I would pay attention to the tempo and count out the time correctly," she remembers.

Loretta remains connected with colleagues as a member of the American Guild of Organists. As a Guild member, she served on the Executive Committee, chaired the Volunteer Committee, and co-chaired the Hospitality Committee for the Guild's convention in Philadelphia. In 2016, Loretta was honored by the Guild with the first Honors Members Award.

Loretta latest and last student, Chris Kramer. "For me, I could not have had a better blessing than teaching Chris to play the organ."

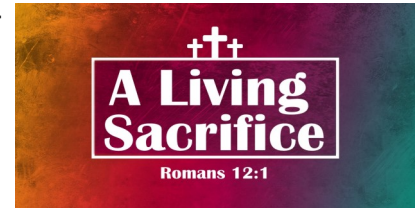
In the span of forty-five years, Loretta has seen worship music transition along with the church from the modern to post-modern age. She has served as a steady guide through the years. We are grateful for her leadership and thankful that she has been God's gift to us.



Living Sacrificially

Romans 12:1-3: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

James Bryan Smith, author of "The Good and Beautiful God" series and professor at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, asked his upper-level students a profound question during a recent class discussion: *If you were God, how would you want to live your life?* ("The Turn", Things Above Podcast, September 6, 2023) Just sit with that question: *If you were God, how would you want to live your life?*



The apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans, writes that to live in the fullness of life is to live sacrificially. Every Sunday, as we prepare to bring forward our tithes, we are invited to present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God which our spiritual worship." We say this so often that we don't, with conscious intention, digest the words. The words don't feed the engine of our soul to produce the pouring out of fullness of life to the world. When we repeat our intentions in a communal setting like worship every week, sometimes or most times, we are not really setting our minds on the importance of the Word. And I am not here to chastise or make anyone feel bad. Each of the scriptures we embrace in our Sunday worship is so distilled and refined that every scripture has a very deep purpose to remind us if we were God how would we want to live our lives. It would be a great feat for us to intimately digest each word we profess every Sunday. But I would urge you to meditate on one of the scriptures each Sunday.

In light of the current events in the Middle East, it is important to digest the scriptures that serve as food to our souls and food to the world, the world outside our doorsteps and the global universe. Ann Voskamp in her book "Waymaker: Finding a Way to the Life You Always Dreamed Of" offers an excellent personal practice which I urge you to read. But for now, what does it mean to live today sacrificially as Jesus, God incarnate, lived.

Paul urges the Romans not to conform to the patterns of this world but to think on the attributes of God and to live the cruciform life. The cruciform life is a life lived with open or outstretched arms alike the cross. It is a life ready to welcome and embrace the world. It is a life of love as Jesus loved. "For God so loved, He gave." (John 3:16)

I invite you to dwell with God on what it means to live sacrificially in God's love. Here is a prayer I will share from the Book of Common Prayer, The Prayer for Mission (pg. 101),

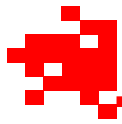
"Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen."

Debbie Engell



Just
For
Laughs





Weaving Fellowship and High Tea

The ladies gathered in the parlor at Christ's Community Church for the first time since the Covid 19 epidemic for afternoon high tea and craft-making on Saturday, September 30. Jean Mitika Sashihara is a person who finds great joy in arts and crafts. She shepherded the group in the skill of loom potholder making. There were a number of us who rekindled memories from summer camp arts and crafts. But for those who did not grow up in the United States, this project was a rite of passage.

Reverend Mary Kruse Zambrana opened the tea with prayer and served as the cheerleader encouraging us as we pieced together our visions on the looms. Jean provided all the necessary materials including the looms, tools and a large array of colorful loops ranging from deep bold to jewel pastel hues.

Jean gave a brief introduction to the loom-weaving skill with the visual assistance of craft design books. From that moment on, we interwove the loops on the looms with conversation, laughter, encouragement and, of course, tea, tea sandwiches and pastry. God granted us the joy of being but being together in community set apart for rest and restoration of the body and soul. The potholders are a cherished reminder of the afternoon we passed together.



**To know Christ and
make Him known!**

Christ's Community Church
at the Riverview Avenue
Community Center

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Presbyterian Church USA

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Sunday worship

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

In-Person and Zoom

NOVEMBER

17 Woody Johnson
24 Joan Williams
30 Mary Zambrana

**DECEMBER**

6 Paula Dryden
Eric Myers
25 Ethel Myers
26 Bea Feddy
28 Carol Pauls
Alice Springer

The Viewpoint is a publication of
Christ's Community Church at the
Riverview Avenue Community Center
The Rev. Mary Zambrana, Bridge Pastor
The Rev. Robert Eyre, associate pastor for
missional outreach;
Linda Evans, editor

November/December**Weekly/Monthly Meetings**

Sunday	9:30 a.m.,	Informal Worship Virtual Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.,	Al-Anon in the Parlor
	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall
Friday	7:00 p.m.,	Cub Scouts

November

November 4, Saturday
November 5, Sunday

November 7, Tuesday
November 10 and 11
November 12, Sunday

November 15, Wednesday
November 18, Saturday

November 19, Sunday

November 23, Thursday
November 24, Friday
November 26, Sunday

December

December 2, Saturday
December 3 Sunday

December 8 and 9
December 10, Sunday

December 15, Friday
December 16, Saturday

December 17, Sunday

December 24, Sunday

December 25, Monday
December 25—29
December 30, Saturday
December 31, Sunday
January 1, Monday

9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship

Daylight Saving Time Ends

8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

Election Day

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

4:00 p.m., Session Meet

7:00 p.m., Property Team Meeting

9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship

9:00 a.m., Women's Group Meet in the
Library

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

November Birthday Celebration

Congregational Meeting

Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

Office Closed

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

Loretta Hartnett's Celebration

9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship

8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

Consecration Sunday

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

4:00 p.m., Session Meet

January/February Viewpoints Deadline

9:00 a.m., Women's Group Meet in the
Library

9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

December Birthday Celebration

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

4:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Worship
Service

Merry Christmas

Office Closed

Life Center Meal

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

Happy New Year!