

- the -
Bimonthly
Newsletter

The Viewpoint

Christ's Community Church at the Riverview Avenue Community Center

Rev. Mary Kruse Zambrana

Every week, Emmanuel Saylee gathers the children around him during worship, saying, "This is our hope," and the congregation responds, "To know Christ and to make Him Known." And I believe you, because of the way you live together.

Paul writes to the Philippians, "...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ..." (Philippians 3:8, 9b)

Though we are destined to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), God did not jump to creating us purely as spirits. God created us body, soul, spirit and mind in a material universe. Somehow, the numbered days of our life on earth are each an opportunity to learn to love God with our body, soul, spirit and mind. (Psalm 90:12) And it is our hope, not something we see.

April 16 marks four years since the death of my brother-in-law at Delaware County Memorial Hospital. A few months more and doctors would have known better how to treat the corona virus. He lay many days in the ventilator with family kept away. He was essential to his wife, children and grandchildren, co-workers; essential, in a way you cannot put into words, to my husband and son. The loss deepens with time.

We all lost essential people. The congregation couldn't even gather in person to hold each other. The leaders scrambled to open up the doors of the church on-line. How comforting it was to see the faces of those we loved on the screen! When the congregation came back in person, though, many people were gone.

Even now, essential losses continue among us. Christ is our greatest Good, but not without sorrows (Isaiah 53:3) and not because we don't care about life and people. "...Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father, Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love." (John 13:1b)

On screen, we are pure spirit avatars, but we have bodies and physical locations where we struggle to worship God with mind, body, spirit and soul. Even the Scripture writers express the uncertainty of life in the world that God created. "For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow?" (Ecclesiastes 6:12a) Not despite this world, but in the middle of it, we hope and number our precious days as opportunities to know Christ and make Him known in this world.

Our Vision:
To Know Christ
and make Him Known!



Prayer List

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, the Jeffries family, global neighbors and communities, communities supported by our congregation, the youth of our congregation, youth of the world, people suffering at the border-pray for solutions, shut-ins, victims of war, victims of natural disasters, hate crimes, the homeless, elderly, the hungry, our nation.

"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart." -

Helen Keller

Stay Informed

The Viewpoint | Page 2



Meet for Breakfast

BREAKFAST

The first Sunday of every month
8:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
We serve until 8:40 a.m.

Family and Friends are also invited!
May 5 | June 2

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Coffee hour every Sunday, except the first Sunday when we enjoy breakfast together, following worship service.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Join the women as they continue the discussion on the book; "The Good and Beautiful You" by James Bryan Smith; Discovering the person Jesus created you to be.

May 18 | June 15
9:00 a.m. | Church Library

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

May 4 and 18
June 1 and 15
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Newcomers are welcome



LIFFE CENTER MEAL



June 29
Volunteers prepare and serve an evening meal at the 63rd Street Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.

CHURCH MOUSE

May 10 and 11
June 14 and 15
9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.



Let's work together to fill our local food bank:

Upper Darby Food Cupboard

Bring your food items to Worship Service on the 3rd Sunday.



Position Opening

The Personnel Team has begun the search for a custodian for Christ's Community Church. We have posted the position on ZipRecruiter, and are hoping for some interested applicants.

If you know of someone who would be interested, please talk with a member of Personnel (Bea Feddy, Chawezi Mwantembe, Linda Martin) and we will share the job description with you and make arrangements to meet with any candidates.

Thank you for the interest you can help us generate.

Personnel Team

Sir Elliott Saylee is graduating from Academy Park, in Sharon Hill. He will be attending Delaware County Community College for two years. Sir Elliott would like to get into the trades.

Congratulations!



Congratulations, Sir Elliott!



A big shout-out to Linda Martin for cooking for our April Deacon's breakfast. Her egg casseroles were delish! Both our usual chefs were out of town. Although, Veronica Hernandez still sent in her sausage and peppers and hashbrowns for all to enjoy. Join us on May 5th from 8am to 8:40am for our next breakfast. Please notice the time change; we want to make sure people get to enjoy not only the delicious food, but time to fellowship. We also want to make sure the Team cleaning up gets to worship on time.

Please let us know of any concerns or visits that are needed.

Blessings,
Aaron, Nathan & Heidi

The Viewpoint | Page 3

The Session enjoyed the Lenten series of talks this year focused on what is happening in churches in various parts of the world. We looked at a representative church on each continent and had some fascinating discussions about their ministries.

Coming up for our church will be a Youth Sunday (6/2) where the service will feature the youth of our church. Also, we are considering the start of a high school/young adult group. Meanwhile, Abel Aruan and Sheila & Wesley Cummings are building a response to a Villanova University offer to fund a youth program to tie church stewardship to the environment of the world around us. This is a competitive offer but we hope to pass at least the first round of cuts.



Finally, we reiterate the status of the Pastoral Nominating group report. Namely that each of the initial candidates we chose all took positions in other churches before we could make an offer to them. We are patiently waiting for additional candidates to review.

Holton Falk
Clerk of Session



The Property Team continues to work on roof leaks, an ongoing issue exacerbated by the heavy rains of the last 3 months. Our roofing contractor is scheduled to come to inspect and repair the roof in the near future.

We also are looking to install some exterior signs directing people to the Garrett Road entrance. Further, we plan to regrade the ground to the driveway side of the Garrett Road entrance to prevent water seeping into the building.

Finally, we are setting up to have the Call of God ministry use the building once again this summer.

Holton Falk, Heidi Hamilton & Woody Johnson

We now have gift bags to give out to people who visit us for worship. The bags contain information about who we are, what we are about, a copy of Viewpoints, devotional booklets, a booklet "About Being Presbyterian," and one or two handmade items. These items include needlepoint crosses made by Harriet Hughes, wood-burned decorative disks made by Ashlee Seebach, and a jar of jam made by Molly and Eloise Smyrl.

If you would like to make a small handcrafted item to put in bags, please contact Colleen Teti (484-445-4491) or Eloise Smyrl (484-432-0772). We would also welcome short welcoming notes introducing yourself and saying something about what you value at CCC (or some such thing).

Thank you,
Colleen and Eloise



"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." -

Chuck Swindoll

The Viewpoint | Page 4

Earth Day

Miss Veronica and Miss Sandy helped the kids plant seeds for Earth Day. On April 21st the children planted flower seeds for their moms for Mother's Day.



Kayla adding 6 pennies to the birthday jar; she turned 6 on April 7th.



The Viewpoint | Page 5

Dear CCC family and friends,

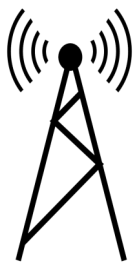
Thank you for your many thoughts and prayers! I know that you are always with me. Pastor Mary visited me on Palm Sunday and I again was able to hear the lovely sounds of the Japanese language that my Mother spoke.

Eloise and I have been working on celestial things. We tried to visualize the eclipse using plastic eggs for the sun, moon and earth. I hope to take a trip to the North Penn High School's planetarium soon; maybe the eclipse will be better demonstrated there! We have also been learning about the mythology and identification of some constellations.

I hope that you and your families will come to my birthday picnic at the Stony Creek in Lansdale. I am looking forward to seeing everyone. Please check the flyer, look online at all the fun things the Park has to offer, put the date on your calendar, and COME!



Thank You
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Sprint Buyout Funds Chester Missions

Chester non-profit organizations benefit from the Sprint Cell Tower decommissioning. T-Mobile and Sprint merged in April, 2020 and began consolidating the number of cell tower sites. Christ's Community Church leased to T-Mobile and Sprint for more than twenty years. The Sprint lease was no longer needed. A team was formed to work through the details of decommissioning. The team included Bud Dryden, Deb Engell, Rob Eyre, Holton Falk, Woody Johnson and Chris Stephano. The outcome of the work of decommissioning was a payment of \$30,000 to the church.

Some additional work was needed to make the space usable for a cost of \$5,000. The Session voted to give the remaining \$25,000 to mission to share with organizations that help our neighbors.

Sue Parker, mission chair, researched the organizations supported through the Delaware County Foundation and identified five organizations with religious affiliations. The organization receiving \$5,000 each are the 9th Street Youth Community Center, CityTeam, Salvation Army, ChesPenn Health Services, and Child Guidance Resources.

We are grateful for all who worked to achieve the outcome that enabled the organization to continue their mission endeavors.



The Viewpoint | Page 6

Confess to God and Our Neighbors

What role does confession serve for a disciple of Jesus Christ? For one seeking true repentance, it's a spiritual discipline to clean house so to speak. It's a practice to clear the mind and not get muddled in opinions and ideas interjected by the humans of this world that draw the mind away from the foundational truth of being one who dwells with the living God, "the Creator and Formator of our being." (Fr. Adrian van Kaam)

When a confession is made, it means that I recognize and take ownership of what is off in my thinking. And over time, I may become aware of a pattern of thinking that is not in line with what is the best way to be, or think, or do something. Confession allows me to come to God who already knows me but now I am getting to know myself. When I see the same action, or reaction, over and over again, I have the chance to see it, say it, and here's the thing, I can begin to change it.

From the Book of Common Prayer, 1979, there is a confession from Morning Prayer Rite Two that encapsulates this spiritual discipline. Following the opening sentences that affirm God's holiness and divinity, there is the requisite posture for true repentance... that is the posture of "the one who has a contrite and humble spirit." Humility allows me to take responsibility for whatever minor missteps or major gaffs that knowingly or unknowingly I have been complicit in.

The Prayer of Confession opens, "Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone." In one sentence, I acknowledge all the ways I fall short of the kingdom of God. (Romans 3:23) It's the next line that opened me to the what I am being called to do in alignment with God's nature.

Next is the line opens the door to exponential forgiveness not only of myself but to include everyone. I not only confess the sins I have made but I pray on behalf of the sins of the world. "Let us confess our sins against God and **our neighbor**." (Invitation to Confess (pg. 79 BCP)

What! God and **my neighbor**. Who is my neighbor? You, the family next door, the people I work with, the church family, the community, the world! Everyone is my neighbor. What benefit is this confession to one another?

When I have made a mistake and I take ownership of it, I can say to my neighbor, "You know, I think that is my fault. It's something I did not do well." Confession to one another allows for understanding what is misunderstood, making amends for what hurt another, and having a mind released from burden of the weight of sin. The weight of sin takes away from the joy that God wants for those He loves and who love Him.

Also, the prayer of Confession allows me to pray not only for my shortfalls that I take responsibility for but for also the shortfall of everyone. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23) The prayer of confession allows the believer, in humility, to pray to God directly as an intercessor for everyone. Just as Jesus prayed to the Father.

Jesus' intercessory prayer found in John 17: 7-10 reveals the divine connection from the father to the Son of God to you and me. Jesus prays, "Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; **and I have been glorified in them.**"

Jesus has been glorified in you and in me. The finality of the cross proves it. This divine connection gives you and I the power to confess and pray for each other and all the others of the world. The Prayer of Confession is a more than a spiritual discipline, it is a gift. It's a gift to unburden sin and find rest for the soul. It's a gift to invite harmony in relationships with dissonant overtones and seek peaceful resolution. It's a gift to know that my being, your being, and beings of all the world spring from the divine being of God.

Debbie Engell

*You are
Invited!*

Picnic in the Park



SATURDAY, MAY 18

Noon - 3 PM at Stony Creek Park

**Join us for a picnic in the park and
celebrate Morgan turning 20!**

Hot dog lunch and beverages provided

Contact Linda Martin for potluck dishes

Contact Eloise for carpooling

Enjoy a picnic party and
explore the fun amenities at
the park including a pond,
enclosed playground,
accessible nature trails, a
creek, and a labyrinth.

Porta-potties available
on site



STONY CREEK PARK
200 E HANCOCK ST, LANSDALE, PA 19446

Christ's Community Church
at the Riverview Avenue Community Center
337 Riverview Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA
(610) 259-2696

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
In-Person and on Zoom

Email: ccc@rcn.com

Website: www.ccchurch.co

Facebook: Christ's Community Church of the
Presbyterian Church USA

Instagram: [CCChurch_DrexelHill](https://www.instagram.com/CCChurch_DrexelHill)

Happy Birthday to you!

MAY

- 4 Greg Jones
- 10 Niza Mwanembe
- 12 Hannah Sawatzki
- 13 Antoinette Beweh
- 16 Pat McCoyd
- 17 Harriett Hughes
- 20 Morgan Sidor
- 27 Ashlee Seeback
- 29 Chawezi Mwanembe
- 30 Sandy Reilly



JUNE

- 1 Webster Quiah
- 8 Hank Engell
- 9 Kevin Engell
- 14 Shane Tilmon
- 19 Ada McDevitt
- 20 Colin Seeback

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

"Anything under God's control is never out of control."
— Charles Swindoll

**May / June
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

May

May 2, Thursday	National Day of Prayer
May 4, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
May 5, Sunday	8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m., Worship Service Session Meet after Worship Service
May 10 and 11	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
May 11, Saturday	8:00 a.m., Property Team Meeting
May 12, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service

May 18, Saturday

May 19, Sunday

May 26, Sunday
May 27, Monday

June

June 1, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
June 2, Sunday	8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m., Worship Service

June 9, Sunday

June 14 and 15
June 15, Saturday

June 16, Sunday

June 19, Wednesday
June 23, Sunday
June 29, Saturday
June 30, Sunday

Happy Mother's Day

9:00 a.m., Women's Group Meet in the Library
9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
12:00noon, Picnic in the Park and celebrating Morgan's Birthday
9:30 a.m., Worship Service
Day of Pentecost
May Birthday Celebration
9:30 a.m., Worship Service
Memorial Day Holiday—Office Closed

Youth Sunday

9:30 a.m., Worship Service
Session Meet
9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
9:00 a.m., Women's Group Meet in the Library
9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
July/August Viewpoint Deadline
9:30 a.m., Worship Service
June Birthday Celebration

Happy Father's Day

Juneteenth Holiday—Office Closed
9:30 a.m., Worship Service
Life Center Meal
9:30 a.m., Worship Service