

- the -
Bimonthly
Newsletter

The Viewpoint



Christ's Community Church at the Riverview Avenue Community Center

Rev. Mary Kruse Zambrana

"A Stranger Comes to Town"

"...about three thousand were added to their number that day..." Acts 2:41b

It may or may not have been the Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy who said, "All great literature is one of two stories; a man [sic] goes on a journey or a stranger comes to town."

Surely there is also plenty of scope for learning and character development and surprise when people are in a community where they have known and trusted one another a long time and think they know what to expect from one another.

Christ's Community Church is a remarkable network of loving and faithful relationships. Still, people do leave and arrive, whether in birth and death, or due to all sorts of circumstances. People going on journeys and strangers coming to town are a part of the Scripture story and of the CCC story.

CCC is not looking for casual "like" clicks or hasty commitments that people can't keep. I am told that there is a three year process of joining the church. I believe this begins with thoughtful group study of the three books in the "curriculum for Christlikeness" Apprentice Series by James Bryan Smith, starting with The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love With the God Jesus Knows. Other Renovare' or Apprentice Institute resources for discipleship are also offered, along with the practice of stewardship of all one's resources through Crown Financial Ministries.

A person who learns and grows alongside the congregation in this way will already be deeply in relationship with Christ and the others by the time they formally enter into a covenant with the congregation.

Anyone who has the privilege of spending time here is blessed by the kindness and gentleness of this congregation. It does take time to be integrated into the life of a cohesive community, though, and not every "stranger who comes to town" knows how to find a way in.

There may be people ready to move into covenant relationship with CCC. What reflections do you have on your experience becoming part of the congregation and the current membership process?

"The greatest and most momentous fact which the history of the world records is the fact of Christ's birth." ~Charles H. Spurgeon

**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: Lisa Jeffries, Colleen Teti, 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 Joy
of CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Stay Informed

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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! November 3 | December 1

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.

November 16 December 21 9:00 a.m. | Church Library

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

November 2 and 16 December 7 and 21 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome



LIFFE CENTER MEAL

November 30 Volunteers prepare and serve an evening meal at the 63rd Street Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.



CHURCH MOUSE

November December 13 and 14 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.

We completed reading and discussing an informative book called The Black Church, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. which also gave us new insights into our own congregation.



We are wrestling with how to assess performance and provide insights to our pastors which we hope to do annually.

We are excited to know that Abel Aruan and Sheila & Wesley Cummings have started the Villanova initiative called CLEAR. It will train them in how to teach our youth in seeing God in the natural world.

Holton Falk, Clerk of Session



Consecration Sunday–December 1st Stewardship minutes during announcements will be November 10, 17 and 24.

A friend of the church recently wanted to donate to CCC from their investment fund but said we were not on "the list". So FYI, a potential donor can add a name to the list themselves if they have the name, address, and tax ID number for that organization. The office can provide the tax ID number if asked.



Just some useful information in general.



I wish to thank CCC folks who participated in Morgan's memorial service and reception (both up front and behind the scenes): Mary, Bea, Don, Loretta, Deb, Nathan, Laura, Tracy, Chris, Heidi, Melissa, Linda E., and Derick. Thank you all!

I also wish to share that Morgan's cousin Margaret Carroll (Gigi) and I made the decision to donate Morgan's organs. We have learned that his heart was received by a woman in her seventies. One kidney was given to a man in his forties, and the other kidney went to a man in his thirties. Morgan's lungs were recovered and sent to medical research. In addition to extending his own life beyond all expectations, Morgan is helping to prolong these other lives. I like to think that through these gifts, Morgan, in some way, lives on.

Morgan was a part of this congregation for 20 years. His life was celebrated with a beautiful memorial service here at Christ's Community Church that so many attended. Now, a new fund in memory of Morgan has been created by Keiko, his aunt in Japan. She has sent \$600 for the Morgan Sidor Memorial Fund to be used for outings, etc for the Sunday school class. This is certainly a fitting use of these funds. Anyone is welcome to add to this fund if they choose.

Eloise Smyrl

The Thanksgiving Food Drive and Mitten Tree Begins November 3rd.

As the days grow shorter and the cold nips at noses, we begin to think of stocking up the pantry and pulling out the scarves and gloves, and socks for warmth. On November 3 and going through December, the fir tree will be in the Narthex to receive food items as well as mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for warmth. Upper Darby Food Cupboard is the beneficiary of the donations. Food items can be placed under the tree and outerwear draped on the tree. All donations will be appreciated.



A Special Invitation for you

Christmas Eve at Christ's Community Church

Tuesday, December 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Worship Center

This service is filled with lots of singing of your favorite Christmas hymns.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."

~C.S. Lewis



Property update: In addition to regular standard maintenance tasks, we are tackling water issues most notably around the Garrett Road entrance. Heidi's brother Bill, a retired mason, will do any repairs that he can and let us know what others he finds. He will also apply a water seal layer which should help too. Additionally, we are looking to replace the bowed wall in classroom 2 and complete the finishing of the floors in the classrooms.

Property Team Members: Holton Falk, Heidi Hamilton & Woody Johnson

New windows have been installed in the Parlour, the Learning Center and the second floor classroom. Window blinds like the ones in the offices are planned for these new windows. Also, we hope you have noticed the great new folding chairs and chair rack that have appeared in Fellowship Hall plus new tables all paid for by an anonymous donor.



Coming soon will be new glass door and side panels to replace the current patio doors. They are expected to arrive soon. This is also funded by an anonymous donor. We are blessed to have such a generous friend.

Heidi Hamilton, Linda Martin, Chawezi Mwantembe, Sue Parker & Mary Ellen Scott –Restoration Committee

Glory to God Purple Hymnals



The "Glory to God" Purple Hymnals published in 2013 and the source of new music for worship can now be found in the chapel pews. The music directors who curated the hymnody expanded on the Presbyterian Blue Hymnal adding many of the songs from Lift Up Your Hearts and several contemporary pieces to the many already well-known hymns. The features that attract musicians and worship leaders is the extensive scripture reference and lectionary resource. In addition to author and composer citations,

there is also a brief background about the source and inspiration of musicians to compose the hymns and songs. It is the largest collection of hymns for Presbyterian worship bound in one volume to date.

Debbie Engell

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.



"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." ~C.S. Lewis

Mudoka Pork Community Event

Saturday, September 14, 2024



Thank You!

On behalf of Mudoka, we extend our heartfelt thanks to CCC for your unwavering support during our recent fundraising event. Your generosity in providing the venue, along with your time, talent, and financial contributions, has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate everything you do to help our mission.

Abel & Chawezi Mwantembe





Stephenie Saylee's Baby Shower

Sunday, September 15, 2024



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September 22 was a lovely Sunday afternoon, and a fun group of 6 children, 4 youths and 11 adults took full advantage of it! We traveled to Crow's Nest Preserve near Pottstown to immerse ourselves in a part of God's creation.

The youths hiked to a wooded area where they followed trails and bravely crossed the "wire bridge," walking on one wire while holding onto a second. Then they spent time becoming better acquainted with each other.

The younger kids walked in the woods, played on a climbing structure, jumped on stumps, rolled down a hill and experienced the joy of wading in a creek. There was a lot of splashing and gleeful noise! Being in a creek was a new experience for some of the children.

Under the guidance of Abel Aruan and Sheila Cummings, we look forward to future adventures with our children and youth, both outdoors and inside!



How Many Jars Can We Fill?

2 Kings 4: 1-7

The Widow's Olive Oil

⁴ The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves."

² Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil."

³ Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. ⁴ Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

⁵ She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶ When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one."

But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

⁷ She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The man of God asks (verse 3), "How can I help you? Tell, what do you have in your house?" The widow replies, "a small jar of olive oil." (verse 5)

The God who created the world and gives us the breath of life asks what do we possess that we can give to multiply to meet our provisions and more. The widow, who cannot see how she can economically support herself and her sons, is seeking provision to preserve her family because her sons will eventually be breadwinners to provide for their well-being.

In the story of Elijah and the widow's oil, we find in verse 5 that Elijah asks the widow to ask her neighbors for help by supplying empty jars to fill with oil. Elijah as God's representative invites us to ask others to help. In doing so, the jars are filled until there is no empty jar. The oil stops flowing which implies that God has the capacity to fill an infinite number of jars if we continue to provide the empty jars from neighbors to be filled.

The invitation is to ask our neighbors if they have jars to be filled. In that way, we share Christ's community with the greater community sharing God's abundant capacity for meeting daily provision perhaps in meals, clothes, and medicine but also in acceptance, nurturing, a safe environment, and love, Christ love. How many jars can we fill? Bud Dryden was a leader who has brought us through forty years, like Moses, training us to lead and to love. We have the provision we just need the jars to fill.

Debbie Engell



"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." ~Augustine

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](#)

Happy Birthday to you!

NOVEMBER

- 9 Vincent Sawatzki
- 17 Woody Johnson
- 24 Joan Williams
- 30 Mary Zambrana



DECEMBER

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

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



**November / December
Weekly/Monthly Meetings**

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

November

November 1, Friday	9:00 a.m., Overbrook Presbyterian Community Kitchen
November 2, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
November 3, Sunday	Daylight Saving Time Ends 8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m., Worship Service
November 5, Tuesday	Election Day
November 10, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Session Meet
November 16, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study Group 9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
November 17, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service <i>November Birthday Celebration</i>
November 20, Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Property Team Meeting
November 24, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service Ecclesiastical Meeting fellowship Worship
November 28, Thursday	Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed
November 29, Friday	Office Closed
November 30, Saturday	Life Center Meal

December

December 1, Sunday	8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m., Worship Service <i>Consecration Sunday</i>
December 6, Friday	9:00 a.m., Overbrook Presbyterian Community Kitchen
December 7, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
December 8, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Session Meet
December 13 and 14	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
December 15, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service <i>December Birthday Celebration</i> January/February Viewpoint Deadline
December 18, Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Property Team Meeting
December 21, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study Group 9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
December 22, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service
December 24, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25, Wednesday	Christmas Day Holiday—Office Closed
December 29, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service

