



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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The Rev. Susan A. Henderson, Interim Senior Minister

The Rev. Sandra K. Dodson, Associate Minister

Nae Pearson, Director of Music

Sarah Anders, Director of Senior Adult Programming

Dianne Abraham, Church Administrator

Susan Gray, Program Support Administrator

The Rev. Robert E. Marston, Minister Emeritus

Alfred J. Neumann, Director of Music Emeritus

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE On Sunday, March 30, the Red Cross is conducting a blood drive in the Social Hall at CCC from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to schedule your donation or note the sign up sheet on the office bulletin board. Walk-in are welcome. *Dick Meyer 301-445-1866.*

COVENANT CLASS SHARING IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP As part of our 9th graders exploring what they believe, learning more about their Christian faith heritage, and the United Church of Christ, Covenant Class members are assisting in 10:30 Sunday worship leadership. The Deacons coach them in their tasks and the entire congregation affirms their visible presence among us. *Zane Brown* will assist with worship today.

SOCIAL WITNESS 2008 FILM SERIES – MARCH 30 On March 30, after the second worship service, the BSW will show *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*. This 50 minute film “features the experiences of white men and women who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States.” According to Shauna Marshall, Hastings College of Law, the film is “a triumphant achievement!!! Shaki Butler [the director] has managed to engage white Americans in an honest discussion of race and privilege that has eluded this nation for 3 centuries. This is a film that ALL Americans need to see.”

THE ANTI-RACISM DISCUSSION GROUP will meet this evening at 6:30 in the Conference Room. We will finish watching the movie *Crash* and discuss racism in the context of Mr. Obama’s speech.

CCC BOOK GROUP – NEXT MEETING For its next discussion, the CCC Book Group will read *Restless* by William Boyd. This exciting mother-daughter espionage novel spans the years 1939-1976. Set in Europe, North America and England, it won the Costa Novel Award (formerly Whitbread prize). The group will meet on March 30 at 7 PM at the home of Valerie Freeland. All are welcome.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY MORNING TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION meets on Tuesday mornings from 7:00 – 8:00 AM in the Meditation Room.

SENIOR ADULTS April Fool’s Day is around the corner and we’re gathering for fun, games and BELGIAN WAFFLES! Catered by Omelette Chefs, you’ll be served waffles with fresh strawberries, whipped cream, maple syrup and more! Join us for a fun-filled event April 1, 11:30 – 1:30 in the Social Hall. Sign up on the foyer bulletin board or by calling Mable Elliott (301-622-3174) or the church office (301-585-8010). Cost is \$8.00 per person. *Sponsored by the Senior Adult Committee.*

CREATING PEACE IN THE FAMILY Parenting's essence is one of religious education and we want to support and nurture families in this task. Join us on Thursdays in April, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. The evening begins with an all family potluck. Childcare will be provided during the one hour class time.

- April 3 – Glenda Neal presents helpful hints for encouraging cooperation
- April 10 – Glenda helps us work out the details after a week of practice
- April 17 – MJ Park introduces the Peace Train and other family resources
- April 24 – Peace Festival! Parents and children create peace together

Prayer, movement and song will be part of each evening.

Fee: \$35 family for entire series. \$10 family for each evening. Pick up an orange flyer in the lobby.

Upcoming Retreat to be co-led by Nae Pearson at Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, Maryland-- April 4-6, 2008 Sound and Silence: The Harmony of Hope Weekend Retreat

Theme: SOUND AND SILENCE: THE HARMONY OF HOPE. "Into your hands I commit my spirit."

Calvary was a place of extreme brokenness in Jesus' life and in the world. Yet a new movement began there, through loving surrender, one which still resounds throughout the Universe. How shall we sing a new song of hope? In this awakening season of Spring, after Easter, we will reflect on the Hidden Beauty of broken chords in our own life movements. Singing and chanting and listening for Wisdom, we will explore the harmonies of sound and sience coming from our authentic depths, composed by Grace and offering new life.

Leaders: Ann Dean, spiritual director and teacher at the Servant Leadership School, is a member of the Retreat Mission Group and Program Director at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Nae Pearson currently serves as Director of Music at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is a graduate of Shalem's Leading Contemplative Prayer Groups and Retreats Program. Contact Nae Pearson at 301-585-8010, ext 224 or at Holymusic@aol.com for a brochure and how to register.

CCC WORK DAY Saturday, April 5, 9:00 – 12:00 Spring has sprung. Please join us to plant grass seed, mulch trees, tidy flower beds, and make improvements in church offices. A sign up sheet has been posted in the lobby. Student service hours can be earned in this activity. Questions – call Christopher Lewis at 301-593-5628.

ART EXHIBIT Please spend a few minutes in the Tate Gallery enjoying the creative energy of the Potomac Thrummers, a group that makes hooked wall hangings. Our own Joanne Holcroft is part of this group.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 6

CONSECRATION SUNDAY On **Sunday, April 6** the Board of Stewardship invites you to bring your pledge card with you to church to be consecrated during the service. Then join us after worship for a 'Sundae' Celebration in the Social Hall. Your pledge card will be mailed out on the week of March 24th. If you are unable to be with us on the 6th, there will be a box in the church office for you to place your pledge cards or they can be mailed into the church.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH Join us on April 6 in the Social Hall following the 10:30 worship service for a potluck lunch sponsored by the Board for Church Life. Hot dishes may be brought to the kitchen before the service.

COMING EVENTS

REBUILDING TOGETHER Youth and Adult Volunteers Needed for April Service Project

CCC volunteers will be helping a local family with home repairs and disability modifications Saturday April 19 and Saturday April 26. We will be helping the Valdez family, of the Viers Mill Road at Connecticut Avenue area in conjunction with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County. The family has owned its home for 12 years, and has a disabled daughter who needs assistance with mobility. This year's project is particularly well suited for youth and young adults, as we will be repairing and exterior drainage system to help the home's basement living space stay dry. We are also seeking a donated dehumidifier to help reduce dampness in this part of the home. If you have a dehumidifier you can donate, contact either John Enagonio at 301-649-6492 or Bud Dennie at 301-460-4379. This year marks CCC's 12th year supporting this vital community service project.

SISTERS FOR SISTERS will meet on Sunday, April 20th at 12:00 PM. Please bring your lunch. A beverage will be provided.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Board and Committee Chairs, Staff and Officers

Annual Reports are due on Sunday, April 27

ELECTRONIC BANKING AND YOUR CHURCH PLEDGE As you consider your pledge for next year, you may want to consider an electronic pledge. Electronic pledging means you don't have to worry if you miss a week of church. Maybe it's easier on your family budget to pay monthly versus weekly. Maybe you would like to save paper. And lastly, by pledging electronically and scheduling it with your bank, you are ensuring that you fulfill your yearly pledge to CCC.

Here's how you do it! You may pay CCC electronically by setting up CCC as a payee in your Bill Payment section of your online bank account. If you currently do not pay any bills online, you will need to contact your bank about setting this up. Once you are online and have created CCC as a payee, by putting in the full name and address, then you set up the payment. Put in the amount you pledged **monthly**, select the day of the month you want the money withdrawn from your account and then in the **MEMO** field, please make sure **to put your envelope number**. It is VERY important to our financial officers that you reference your envelope number as it helps them to track your pledge. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your envelope number may change from year to year, so please check your new envelopes before setting up this year's payment.

If you have any questions or concerns about Electronic Payment feel free to contact Alison Petersen, Dave Main or Sue Dollins.

WEB POSTING: Hear ye, Hear ye! We've posted the audio of most of the sermons for 2008 to the website. Not only can you read them, you can listen to them as well! At the top of the home page, click "Sermons." Also, if you have borrowed any CD recordings of our services, please return them to the office so we can post any missing sermons.

SOCIAL WITNESS CONCERNS

The UCC in the News: Targeted and Responding The UCC has been at the forefront of the news recently as a result of two separate, but probably related, issues. The first is the IRS' investigation of the UCC's tax exempt status in light of a speech given by Senator Barack Obama at General Synod last year. The second involves criticism in the national media of the pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago in the context of the presidential campaign.

On April 9, at 7:30 PM, the Rev. John Deckenback, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference, of which CCC is a part, will come to CCC to discuss these issues with us and to update us on the UCC's responses. Everyone is cordially invited to become a part of this very important discussion about what it means to be a prophetic church, the separation of church and state, and the close scrutiny that the UCC can probably expect in the press for much of this election year.

In the meantime, please read the direct and forceful responses of The Rev. John H. Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC, to both of these controversies. The responses can be found at the UCC website at www.ucc.org. Or, see the information available on the Board for Social Action bulletin board in the lobby, immediately to the left of the door to the CCC office.