

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN #257 "The Risen Christ"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Susan Rothenberg

POSTLUDE Improvisation by Tim Heavner

**Please stand in Body or Spirit as able*



Bringing Christ to our community

Bringing our community to Christ

TODAY'S FLOWERS

The flowers this Sunday morning are given by Pastor Susan Rothenberg in honor of the leadership at CPCBA

You may sign up for one or more Sundays during the calendar year to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, and beautify our worship space. Flowers may be delivered on Friday before 2 p.m., or you may bring them to worship with you on Sunday. The flower calendar is located on the door to the office. Cindy will call or email you a week before your desired date as a reminder. If you have questions, please contact Cindy in the church office

MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL UPDATE

CPCBA March Donations: \$ 41,838

CPCBA March Expenses: \$ 43,657

COMMUNITY CHURCH MEAL MINISTRY THROUGH THE CHURCH DEACONS-

Community Church's Meal Ministry strives to help ease daily burdens of families and individuals within our church community. Reasons a family or individual may receive meals include birth of a child, death in the family, emergencies, hospitalizations, serious injuries/illnesses, or other hardships. Although the meal ministry is part of the church deacons' mission to connect our church and community, anyone who has a desire to serve one another in love can provide this ministry. Meals do not have to be fancy or gourmet. In times of need, a friendly face and a delivered meal are true gifts. Help us fulfill our mission to bring Christ to the community. If you are in need, know of a member of our community in need or would like to volunteer to be on the Meal Ministry, please contact the church office or Meal Ministry Coordinator Susan Houser at gandycat@comcast.net or 412-576-2025

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

There are friendship registers at the end of each pew. No matter whether you are a long time member or a brand new visitor, please sign the register every week and pass it to your neighbor. This allows us to greet one another by name and get to know old and new friends who are with us in worship.



April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30AM

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

AS WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Each Sunday, our acolytes pour water into the baptismal font to reaffirm the covenant that God makes through this community of faith, and light the Christ Candle to symbolize Christ's presence in us and among us as we worship together. If your child would like to serve as an acolyte, let Pastor Susan or Cassie know.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Susan Rothenberg

PRELUDE "VREUCHTEN" setting by George Lachenauer (b. 1933)

Tim Heavner

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Shannon

We gather to worship as Easter people,
people who know life is stronger than death.
We gather to worship as children of God,
children loved and claimed by the risen Lord.
We gather to worship as the body of Christ,
the church called out for service in the world.
Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

*HYMN #249 "Because You Live, O Christ"

WE EXPERIENCE THE GRACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mark Shannon

Recognizing our need for true peace, both with others and within our own selves,
let us confess those ways we have distanced ourselves from God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy Love, first and last, you offer yourself to us completely and call us to your life.
Yet we are afraid, for your Way demands much of us.
We confess that we are often quick to judge and slow to forgive.
When our fear overrides your call, forgive us.
When we act from our own limited love rather than your expansive grace, forgive us.
Reach down to us again.
Cast out our fear and fill us with the breath of your Spirit,
that we may live the love we see in your Son,
Jesus the Christ, in whose perfect name we pray. Amen.
Silence is kept for personal prayer of confession

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

God abides in you!
God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come.
This is the good news for us!
As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others,
so that love, hope and joy might touch all people.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN #243 "Be Not Afraid"

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Cassie Semler

WE SHARE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Mark Shannon

O God of wisdom, you delight in deep truth.
Let these words of scripture teach our hearts,
that we may hear your joy and gladness, for the sake of Christ, your wisdom for us.
Amen.

PSALM READING

Psalms 118:19-25

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Song of Hope" by Anthony Giamanco (b. 1958)

Tim Heavner

SECOND READING

Acts 8:26-40

Rev. Susan Rothenberg

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Even the Outcast?

SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN #22 "God of the Sparrow"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

OFFERING

Offertory Reflection on ROEDER by Tim Heavner

*Doxology Hymn #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Holy One, we thank you for your guidance and care.
Thank you for teaching us that giving is not an obligation, but our joy.
May these gifts and our very selves be the bounty of the fruit of the vine
to feed all people with righteousness and justice.
May we bring to the world the grace given to us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

RICHARD “JACK” LATSHAW JULY 10, 1927 – APRIL 15, 2024

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Jack Latshaw, husband of CPCBA member Patty Latshaw, and brother-in-law of Joe and Shirley Maguire. Visitation is at H.P. Brandt Funeral Home today, Sunday, April 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. The service will be at the funeral home on Monday, April 29 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Jean Henderson officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Masonic Children’s Home at masonicchildrenshome.org. You may send a card to Patty at HarborChase of Mandarin, 12350 San Jose Boulevard, Apt. 325, Jacksonville, FL 32223.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

At our church picnic on June 2, we want to celebrate our CPCBA 2024 graduates. Please let us know if you have any family members who will be graduating this year, whether it’s from graduate school, college, tech school, high school, middle school, elementary school or kindergarten! Please send the graduate’s name, email address, and what degree/grade they are completing to: Cassie Semler (cassie@cpcba.org).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, **May 19, 2024** following Worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Church officers. Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our church. Also note the change in date.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONNECT?

Prayerfully consider joining one of our many groups!

Wednesdays, 7pm, Zoom Learning Circle (Contact Jean—jhhh21942@aol.com)

Thursdays, 11am, In Church Learning Circle (Contact Cassie)

Weekly Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00am

Kids Club, First and Third Sunday of the Month 5:00 to 7:00pm

Youth Group, monthly schedule will be posted (Contact Cassie)

Sunday School and/or Nursery volunteer, see Cassie Semler or email cassie@cpcba.org

PRAY-GROUND

Back in the fall, a Pray-ground was put in the back of the sanctuary. It has been a great addition for our growing body of children in worship. Children are welcome here, voices and wiggles and all! Children learn to love liturgy by seeing it, by being around it. The Pray-ground at the back of the sanctuary is a space where they can play quietly, worship, and participate in the Sunday Eucharist as they are able. They can see everything, and get a quiet explanation for what is going on. It has coloring items, reading material, fidgets, and soft toys for children of all ages. There adults are asked to stay with or near them to monitor activities. Please reach out to Cassie or Pastor Susan if you have any questions or comments!

Welcome to Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon. For more information about our active family of faith you may visit us on our website at www.cpcba.org. You may also call 412-761-1233 or email the church at office@cpcba.org. The church office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Children and Families Welcome to caregivers of children! There are crayons, books, and children’s bulletins, and fidget helpers in our PRAY-GROUND in the back of the sanctuary. If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, there is a NURSERY (ages infant-3) provided downstairs. SUNDAY SCHOOL (ages 4-grade 5) will take place after Time with the Children during worship, except for the first Sunday of the month, where children of all ages are invited to stay in worship for the Sacrament of Communion. There will be no Sunday School that first Sunday.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the Ushers.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? If you are having trouble hearing the worship service, hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher and they will be glad to assist.

REV. SUSAN ROTHENBERG is our Transitional Pastor (leading worship, preaching, and offering pastoral care). You can reach her at 412-585-1219 or email at cpcbapastor@gmail.com. Susan is in the office on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as by appointment.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship and Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:30 AM Children’s Choir, Sanctuary

11:30 AM Fellowship Time in Narthex

12:00 PM Safe Church Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 29

7:00 PM Personnel Committee Meeting in Conference Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study Group, Conference Room and on Zoom
Psalm 98 and John 15:9-17

7:00 PM Learning Circle hosted by Bob Nadin

THURSDAY, MAY 2

11:00 AM Learning Circle in Narthex

7:00 PM Safe Church Meeting

NEXT LORD’S DAY, MAY 5

8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship and Sunday School, Sanctuary, including reception
of new member and baptism

11:30 AM Children’s Choir, Sanctuary

11:30 AM Fellowship Time in Narthex

5:00 PM Kid’s Club

SAVE THE DATE

June 2, 2024

Worship on the lawn and Church picnic