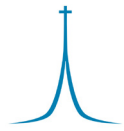


**Christ Memorial**

Presbyterian Church

**2025 Annual Report**





# Introduction

Dear Children of God at Christ Memorial—

2025 has brought some noticeable changes to Christ Memorial! There are new faces—on staff and in the pews—and the dedicated work of your Session and other leaders has brought us to a place of bright expectation for the good things to come. The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) was formed mid-year and has been hard at work discerning who will be your next pastor.

When Jesus calls us to follow him, we are invited to an experience of continual change. Homeostasis stands in direct contrast to the Christian life, because we pray for God, by the Spirit's work, to transform us continually. We pray for God to make us new, to activate us for bringing a new world into a being by our involvement and interactions—by our love for God and people.

A church's interim period offers unique opportunity to recognize and accept this. When we allow the fog of our disappointments and altered expectations to lift, we can be surprised by joy—and we can enjoy surprise! Again and again this past year when we allowed ourselves to endure loss, and supported each other through it, we found good things waiting for us. We said good-bye to talented and dedicated staff members, and were surprised by what we could accomplish with new people filling those roles as paid staff, volunteers, or altered contractual agreements. The anxiety provoked by our mostly-new facilities has been answered by some repairs and enjoyment, and the cost associated with the expansion is gradually being addressed by providential surprises, outpourings of generosity, and faithfulness demonstrated in increased pledged giving.

"Being church" doesn't mean we get settled in our ways and stay there. It means we endure losses—together—and we look forward to working—together—to create new ways of being in the world that allow us to glorify God and to imitate Jesus, in our dealing with each other and with the community.

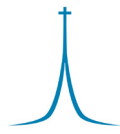
*"....By speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, <sup>16</sup> who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part."*

Ministry here has many facets, from our traditional Sunday AM worship to the Wednesday LOGOS program to the faithful worship and outreach achieved by the Pakistani Fellowship: Unity of identity and purpose will demand further work, listening, conversation, and grace-giving—all components of love. By being adaptive, evolutionary and nimble together we open ourselves up to new connections and possibilities for serving each other and the world. The structure for moving forward has been revised: The bylaws, policies, personnel transitions and process of "how we get things done" have all been reviewed, with some changes still to come.

It's my own great joy to spend time among you, to pour the baptism water, to share the Lord's Supper with you, to teach you what I'm learning about God-- in the Bible, working among you and in the broader church. It's my own great joy to see you bear witness to Jesus alive and at work in your singing, prayers, Bible studies, LOGOS involvement, dedication to mission, crunching numbers on behalf of a sensible budget, or performing property maintenance tasks. Baptisms, novel worship experiences, new member classes, new officers, and now a large and hearty confirmation class testify to the Spirit's work among you all. I look forward to sharing further such joys during whatever time remains for me here. We together wait for God's direction about who will lead you next.

The reports below reflect both the joy and the togetherness that I have seen. They reflect the earnest work, the generous giving, the attentive foresight, the silly fun and so much more that I've been allowed to enjoy here. Read them, ask questions--always ask questions--and get ready to change, some more.

Submitted with grateful joy and excited anticipation—  
*Pastor Janna*



# Table of Contents

<b>Report of the Clerk of Session.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Membership Statistics	
Church Officers	

<b>Nominating Committee.....</b>	<b>6</b>
----------------------------------	----------

## Session Committees

<b>Christian Education.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Christ Memorial Christian Preschool	
The LOGOS Ministry	
Sunday Experience	
GIFT: Generations in Faith Together	
Vacation Bible School	
Confirmation	
Bible Basics	
Nursery/Child Care	
Monday Morning Women's Bible Study	
Special Programs and Events Sponsored by CE	
Scout Programs	

<b>Finance.....</b>	<b>18</b>
---------------------	-----------

<b>Mission and Local Outreach.....</b>	<b>20</b>
--	-----------

<b>Personnel .....</b>	<b>23</b>
------------------------	-----------

<b>Property.....</b>	<b>24</b>
----------------------	-----------

<b>Stewardship.....</b>	<b>25</b>
-------------------------	-----------

<b>Worship.....</b>	<b>26</b>
---------------------	-----------

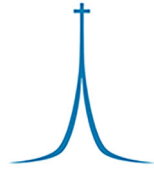
## Board of Deacons Committees

<b>Care and Wellness .....</b>	<b>28</b>
--------------------------------	-----------

<b>Communications .....</b>	<b>29</b>
-----------------------------	-----------

<b>Fellowship .....</b>	<b>30</b>
-------------------------	-----------

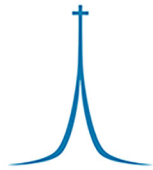
<b>Membership and Hospitality .....</b>	<b>31</b>
---	-----------



## Our Mission

**Grateful to God for God's constant loving presence and guided by God's Word, we are called to be a people who:**

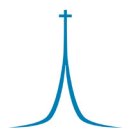
- Praise God in worship and in our daily lives
- Grow Biblically and spiritually in our life together,
- Reach out as witnesses of Jesus Christ, serving those in need, and
- Share Christ's love with one another and everyone we meet.



## Our Vision

**We believe that God is calling members of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church to:**

- Live as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, strongly bound together in loving relationship and equipped for ministry to one another and to the wider community.
- Engage all ages in uplifting worship that offers a variety of ministry styles to connect with everyone.
- Grow Biblically and spiritually by offering all children, youth, and adults a variety of educational opportunities on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.
- Reach out to the unchurched in our community -- especially younger families and adults, empty-nesters, and believers who have no active church home -- and invite them to participate in ministry with us.
- Emphasize mission by focusing on thriving projects and seeking meaningful opportunities for all members and youth.
- Strengthen our church community through love for one another, providing a variety of fellowship activities and outreach events that extends beyond church walls.
- Update and beautify our building and grounds to create new possibilities for worship and service in Christ's name.



# Clerk of Session

## Membership Changes:

The changes in membership during 2025 are presented in the Table:

Active Members - December 31, 2024	354
Additions through Profession/Reaffirmation	6
Additions through Letter of Transfer	4
Total Gains	10
Losses through Letter of Transfer	1
Deaths	7
Deleted from rolls	72
Total Losses	80
Active Members - December 31, 2025	284

## Baptisms:

Zero baptisms were held in 2025.

## Worship Attendance:

Average worship attendance for all 2025 services was 107.

## Membership Demographics:

On Dec. 31, 2025 church membership consisted of 162 females and 122 males.

Membership as broken down by age group:

**Age 17 and under:** 10

**Age 18-25:** 34

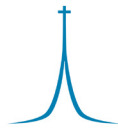
**Age 26-40:** 36

**Age 41-55:** 69

**Age 56-70:** 45

**Age 71 and older:** 67

**Non-declared:** 23



# Church Officers

## The Session

**Moderator: The Rev. Janna VanderWoude**

**Clerk of Session: Janene Holzberg**

**Treasurer: Bob Ashman**

**Assistant Treasurer: Missy Sullivan/Joyce Danzig**

### Class of 2026

Judy Brown : Nominating\*

Suzy Crabb: Mission and Local Outreach

Philip Davies: Mission and Local Outreach\*

Wes Millard: Worship\*

Debbie ONeal: Christian Education\*

Patricia Wilder: Stewardship

### Class of 2027

Sue Ashman: Mission and Local Outreach

Sally Berlowitz

Glenn DelFavero

Craig Nienhuis: Property

### Class of 2028

Josh Gliptis: Property\*

John Kim: Personnel\*

Joyce Danzig: Finance\*

\* Denotes chair or co-chair

Elders who cycled off in the Class of 2025: Jeff Bloom, Jim Cardea, Janene Holzberg, Allison Miller and Jennifer Weinell. We thank them for their service.

## The Board of Deacons

**Moderator: Steve Pettit**

### Class of 2026

Theresa Akuoko: Fellowship

Sandi Chapasko: Membership and Hospitality

Linda Dunn: Care and Wellness

Chip Garner: Nominating

Amy McMillion: Fellowship

### Class of 2027

Bob Clemens

Shelley Clemens

John Fieldsend: Communications\*

Licia Gliptis

Kathy Koch

Steve Pettit: Membership and Hospitality\*

### Class of 2028

Laura Frantz: Care and Wellness

Laura Jean Michels-Graybeal: Fellowship

Caitlin Roscoe

\* Denotes chair or co-chair

Deacons who cycled off in the Class of 2025: Emma Gallagher, Peter Gallagher, Colleen Hughes, Tom Engle and Tom Trodden. We thank them for their service.



# Nominating Committee of the Congregation

## **Committee Members 2025**

Session Representatives: Judy Brown (Chair), Jim Cardea

Deacon Representative: Chip Garner

Members-at-large elected by the Congregation: Liz Perraud, Ashlyn Sowell, Chad Board, Joyce Danzig

## **Conduct of Business**

The Nominating Committee held meetings throughout the year beginning in April until calling the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and then the process for calling Elders and Deacons were complete. Committee work occurred between meetings via email and phone calls.

The committee utilized available resources to assist with the consideration of members for possible service to the church. An important resource for the committee was the current CMPC Membership Directory, provided by the CMPC Communications Coordinator, Kathleen Smith. A spreadsheet was developed by Chip Garner, from the current list of CMPC members. This served to organize and communicate the ongoing work of the committee. A list of officers by class was also utilized by the committee and revised to meet the committee workflow.

## **The Discernment Process**

Relevant sections of the CMPC Bylaws and the PC(USA) Book of Order were studied by the members of the Nominating Committee in preparation for the process of discernment and calling to service. The committee prayerfully sought God's will for our congregation and its leaders. As each person was reviewed, the member's talents, experience, and service were considered along with the needs of the church.

As balance for the CMPC PNC and boards is desirable, the committee strove to obtain some measure of this by considering gender, age, and other demographic factors of the church's membership. Many updates to the work lists were made, prioritizing potential candidates while taking these factors into consideration. We prayed, discussed, and reflected, which led to consensus among the committee members on which individuals to be contacted. Relying on God's guidance, candidate pools were determined by the committee of those to be called and which roles for them to be called to in the church's service. The information was shared and discussed with our interim pastor, Janna VanderWoude.

## **The Call Process**

To avoid mailing expenses as well as to reduce processing time, the committee generated a formal letter to the candidates which was sent by email, requesting their prayerful consideration of a call to serve. This e-mail message included information which was to be helpful in their discernment of the call. These messages were followed-up as appropriate with a call, meeting, or email from one of the committee's members to offer an opportunity for questions to be answered. Pastor VanderWoude was also available to meet with candidates as requested.

The committee sought those candidates who felt they were guided by the Lord to answer this particular call to service at this time. Thanks were given to those candidates who considered but declined a nomination. The candidates who did accept the call were sent a message with information and guidance for the next steps as a nominee. Biographical sketches were solicited from each nominee.



## **Conclusion of the Nominating Process**

### **For the PNC:**

The session approved a motion to schedule a congregational meeting to be held after the worship service on June 22, 2025, for the purpose of electing CMPC's PNC. At the meeting the Nominating Committee's slate of 10 members for the PNC was approved by the membership.

#### PNC members

Theresa Akuoko, Robert Clemens, Peter Gallagher, Phillip Henderson, Meghan Jones, John Kim, Sarah Robinson, Ashlyn Sowell, Jennifer Weinel and Rebecca Zordan.

### **For Officers:**

The session approved a motion to schedule a congregational meeting to be held after the worship service on November 9, 2025, for the purpose of electing CMPC's officers. At that meeting, the Nominating Committee's proposed slate was approved by the membership. The at-large members for the 2025 Nominating Committee were presented and will be voted on at the January 2025 congregational meeting. That slate consisted of the following individuals for the positions as indicated:

#### Deacons (3-year term)

Laura Frantz and Laura Michels-Graybeal, each serving a second term, and Caitlin Roscoe

#### Elders (3-year term)

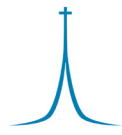
John Kim and Josh Gliptis, each serving a second term, and Joyce Danzig

#### Nominating Committee (one year term)

Chad Board, Elyn Thomas, Ashlyn Sowell, and Liz Perraud

With the addition of these new officers, the 2025 leadership team will include 14 Deacons and 13 Elders.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the 2025 Nominating Committee,  
Judy Brown, Chair



# Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is composed of members-at-large as well as representatives from a number of significant church programs. CE also serves as a liaison for the scouts who meet at CMPC.

The 2025 Christian Education Committee was made up of the following individuals:

Heather Barham, Heather Gallagher, Lindsey Kim, Cordelia Lamb, Delores McBirney, Debbie O'Neal (Co-Moderator), Liz Perraud (Co-Moderator), Elyn Thomas, Kaleigh Thomas, Ryan Thomas, Sarah Trodden, Donna Ueckermann, and Becky Zordan. These people are strongly committed to the ongoing Christian discipleship of the adults, youth, and children of our congregation.

Our committee is charged with:

- Support and oversight of CMCP Preschool
- Support and oversight of Christian Education programs
- Identifying and training teachers and curriculum approval
- Support of adult Bible studies and small groups
- Confirmation class
- Third Grade Bibles, Graduation Sunday and other special milestones
- Support and oversight of CMPC nursery/childcare
- Support and oversight of Scouts
- Oversight of volunteer screening policy

The Christian Education programs, studies, and events are possible because of the many people who volunteer to make them happen and those who participate. We look forward to 2026 as we continue to gather and grow Christian disciples.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie O'Neal

Liz Perraud

Co-Moderators Christian Education Committee

# Christ Memorial Christian Preschool

Christ Memorial Christian Preschool enjoyed its 48th year of servicing the Howard County community for the 2025/26 school year. We are licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and strive to provide a quality faith-based preschool education for children in Howard County. Our school mission is to provide a loving Christian educational environment to families in our community. Our school philosophy is from Proverbs 22:6 "Point your children in the right direction ~ when they are old, they won't be lost."

Our fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends June 30 of each year. For the 2025/26 school year our preschool is currently at 65% capacity. Unfortunately, this lower enrollment meant we had to make some changes for the school year. Traditionally, we have 5 classes in our preschool, 2 classes that serve 3-year-old students and 3 classes that serve 4-year-old students. For the 2025/26 school year we opened only one class for the 12 3-year-old students we had registered. With this change some of our 5-day staff worked only 3 days to help with our budget constraints.

## **Staff:**

Our staff consists of the following women who possess a love for our Lord and for our preschool children:

Susan Benzing  
Kim Brathwaite  
Heather Gallagher  
Julie Nienhuis  
Whitney Schreiber  
Kathleen Smith  
Barbara Stine  
Tina Weiseman  
Rita Wheelock

The preschool has enjoyed this past year keeping our strong connection with Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. The preschool included monthly inserts in the church bulletins to highlight the activities that occurred during the past month within the preschool.

## **Operational Budget:**

Although we are part of CMPC, we do not rely on the church for financial support. The money that we spend each year comes from our preschool families via tuition.

For the 2025/26 school year our budget for preschool is \$168,640.09. Expenses include salaries for the director, the teachers, and the assistants, as well as supplies and operating costs. The preschool, with donations from the Mission and Local Outreach Committee, continues to provide financial assistance for families that would otherwise not be able to attend a Christian preschool. The preschool was honored to be the recipient of the 5th Sunday offering collected by Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church on August 31, 2025. Annette Hinkle continued this year to offer her exceptional guidance and assistance with the accounting for the preschool. Her support is greatly appreciated.

**Preschool Board:**

We are especially grateful to the Preschool School Board who provides oversight, support, and integration. The board meets four times a year virtually. Members of the current Preschool School Board are Sue Ashman, Kirsten Aquino, Sarah Trodden, and Dani Wilder.

**Outreach:**

Although our school day centers on the needs of the preschoolers, we provide opportunities for our preschool families to know and strengthen their love of Christ and become familiar with Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. Our monthly newsletter and parent board are ways we highlight and inform our families of the various activities within our church. Many CMPC members first learned about our church while their child attended preschool. During the past year many of our preschool families also participated in LOGOS, Angel Tree Donations, the Toys for Tots collection and the Food Drives for Oakland Mills Food Bank. We were also pleased to have over 45 of our preschool families participate in Vacation Bible School in July 2025.

The preschool staff feels blessed to have the amazing opportunity to share the love of God with our special preschoolers and to be part of CMPC's outreach to our community.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Heather Gallagher  
Preschool Director

## LOGOS

**Overview:**

LOGOS is made up of four parts:

- ☐ Bible Study: Studying the Bible as the model for Christ-centered living.
- ☐ Worship Arts: Learning and practicing ways to serve God through worship.
- ☐ Recreation: Experiencing great fun at the expense of no one else.
- ☐ Family Time: Experiencing being part of God's family over a shared meal.

At Christ Memorial we group our children and youth as:

- ☐ BUGS (Bringing Up God's Servants): Preschool
- ☐ FROG (Fully Rely On God): K-5th Grade
- ☐ ROCK (Reaching Out for Christ's Kingdom): Middle School
- ☐ FISH (Fellowship In Senior High): High School

**Leadership:**

LOGOS is operated by the LOGOS Leadership Team and is accountable to the Session through the Christian Education Committee. The LOGOS Team meets monthly throughout the entire year.

**2025-26 Leadership Team:**

- Directors: Ryan and Elyn Thomas
- Treasurer: Lindsey Cogswell
- FISH Directors: Wes Millard and Becky Zordan
- Bible Time Coordinator: Laura Jean Graybeal
- BUGS Coordinator: Pam Mitchell
- Communications Coordinator: Tiffany Carmean
- Family Time Coordinator: Heather Gallagher
- Dinner Dean: Whitney Schreiber
- Worship Arts Coordinator: Allison Miller
- Recreation Coordinator: Heather Barham
- Kitchen Coordinators: Peter Gallagher and Tracy Locke-Kitt
- Mission Coordinator: Rachael and Rick Bis
- Special Events Coordinator: Lindsey Cogswell

**Summary of Activities:**

This year we are celebrating 38 years of LOGOS at CMPC. As of December 2025, our current enrollment is 57 children and youth (Nursery: 0, BUGS: 1, FROG: 21, ROCK: 15, FISH: 20). In the Spring 2025 we ended the year with 79 children enrolled. There are over 51 adults who volunteer regularly to run the ministry.

We are committed to the process of call (rather than recruiting) to fill the many leadership and volunteer positions and strive to match the volunteers' gifts with the needs of the ministry. A few key leadership positions were filled via call this year, including FISH Directors and Special Events Coordinator.

FISH Sunday was held on February 23rd with High Schoolers presenting the call to worship, prayers, special music, scripture reading, and offering. Preceding FISH Sunday, FISH held a lock in at the church.

The LOGOS musical chose Back to the Beginning as the annual musical production. Both fourth and fifth graders performed speaking roles. The performance was held on March 23rd.

LOGOS Sunday was held on November 16th. The FROG and BUGS choir performed and ROCK chimes rang. Participants from across the program assisted with the liturgy and special music.

ROCK practiced chimes and performed in church at both LOGOS Sundays and also for the Christmas Eve service. FROG choir also sang on both LOGOS Sundays and on Christmas Eve.

Regular training contributes to the strength of the ministry. We held an in-house volunteer training event in January. In September, we held a GenOn led training to prepare for the 2025/26 program year.

**Operating Budget:**

The LOGOS operating expenses are funded by tuition payments from each participating family and some additional donations from individuals. The operating expenses represent the costs of food, curriculum, music and scripts, postage, administrative supplies, mission projects, recreation supplies, adult training expenses, and special event fees. The tuition rate for 2025-2026 program year is \$150.00 for all participants.

The Richard Burdis Memorial Fund was established by private donations to support families needing assistance for the LOGOS registration fees, for youth attending the summer conference (GenOn Youth Summit), and other special needs as deemed necessary by the LOGOS Leadership Team. We did not need to utilize these funds in 2025.

### **Commitment to Mission and Service**

Through the LOGOS budget, Christ Memorial contributes to GenOn Ministries above and beyond the resources and training that we purchase to run our program. This financial support goes to support the wider (North American) ministry.

The LOGOS program participated in several mission activities including:

- Church-wide Toys-for-Tots drive;
- Cold Weather Shelter meal preparation;
- Brown bag food drive and preparation for Grass Roots; and
- Church-wide glove and mitten drive

### **High School Summer Conference:**

Each July, our rising eighth graders through college students, along with adult leaders, attend the GenOn Youth Summit. This discipleship-building week-long gathering brings together youth from all over for worship, small group Bible study, activities, and meals—a week of LOGOS! In 2025 LOGOS sent thirteen youth and adult participants to the conference. In support of their and other church attendance, CMPC held its annual Musical Treats and Sweets fundraisers for this cause on May 4th.

### **Congregational Support:**

We believe that God has called our congregation to offer this mid-week intergenerational ministry that focuses on providing the conditions for faith formation and spiritual transformation. God has equipped us with capable leaders, committed volunteers, and a supportive pastor and congregation. In our 38 years of operating LOGOS, we have nurtured many children, youth, and adults into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The LOGOS program remains strong due to those who support our ministry through prayer, financial contributions, and the sharing of time and talents. The program remains a vital part of the CMPC community and congregation, and continues to grow and thrive!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ryan and Elyn Thomas  
LOGOS Directors  
(2025-26)

# **GIFT: Generations In Faith Together**

## **Mary Monologues**

"The Mary Monologues" was written by Ron VandenBurg, and based on the play "Song of Mary" by John McNeil. It used material from that play, along with The Message by Eugene Peterson and We Were There by Marla Ehlers. Those from Christ Memorial who attended the GenOn Youth Summit in Summer 2025 saw it presented there as part of the Worship Arts Drama Group. Several were part of that presentation at Summit and thought it would make a powerful Advent CMPC presentation. We thank Carrie Jenkins for directing this new offering for worship.

## **Sunday Experience**

Sunday Experience continued to consistently happen during the 10:30 worship service, for children preschool through 3rd grade. This program allows children to worship with their families for the beginning of the service then move downstairs following "Moments for Children" for age-appropriate lessons and activities. Parents sign in their children and then pick them up immediately following the worship service.

The children met in one classroom. In September we switched from the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum to the Living the Word Classroom published by Spirit and Truth. The curriculum continues to be well received by teachers and families. Attendance continued for much of the beginning of the year to be steady with at least eight children most of the Sundays.

Teachers for 2025 included: Kaleigh Thomas, Laura Jean Graybeal, Heather Gallagher, Cordelia Lamb, Theresa Akuoko, Natalie Dowgiewicz, Liz Perraud, Rachael Bis, Meghan Jones, Molly Fieldsend, Becky Zordan, John Fieldsend, Chad Board and Lindsey Kim.

Teachers were assisted by: Harper Carmean, Sam Thomas, Mollie Thomas, Kofi Akuoko, Zoe Kim, Emma Gallagher, Faith Lamb, Evie Bis, Wes Zordan, Ian Fieldsend, Lucy Dowgiewicz, Abby Jones, Riley Jackson, and Alison Slingluff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Ueckermann and Kaleigh Thomas Sunday Experience Coordinators

## Vacation Bible School

In the second week of July, with the support of the VBS leadership, VBS volunteers and attendees had countless opportunities to trust in Jesus while exploring the great outdoors in the true north. We were blessed to have 123 children ranging from preschool to fifth grade along with 48 youth volunteers and 31 adult volunteers helping to ensure the week went smoothly! The space both indoors as well as outside of the church building helped to provide a natural and supportive backdrop for all of the week's activities. This year our theme was "TRUE NORTH: trusting Jesus in a wild world". Participants learned that through all of life's ups and downs Jesus will always help to guide us! We were able to start and end our daily VBS adventures in the sanctuary watching entertaining skits and celebrating God's love through music. Special thanks to our high school leaders who helped to emcee the start and end of each day. During the morning, participants rotated through 4 areas: Glacier Games, Sticky Scriptures, Wild Bible Adventures, and the Imagination Station (experiments). Within the rotations, kids were able to feel the love of Jesus through all of the thoughtfully prepared activities and lessons. Participants also enjoyed delicious treats within the Tundra treats rotation where we came together as a whole group mid day.

We were fortunate to have a great turn out for our VBS enrollment. Compared to VBS in 2024 we had 5 additional children register and we expanded the elementary school groups to accommodate the high level of interest. Based on information collected at registration, our participants identified themselves with 23% from CMPC, with the remaining registrants belonging to over a dozen other local congregations as well as for some this was a first or their only church affiliated activity. We were blessed to have a strong and enthusiastic group of youth spend the week with us and to provide an opportunity for their faith to grow and be supported.

We could not have been successful without the support of our 48 middle-school, high-school, and college aged youth volunteers that led our VBS participants throughout the week either as group leaders. Our youth volunteers played a key role in the success of the VBS program. They were timely, responsible and consistently committed to helping participants engage in all of the lessons and activities.

As the week flew by smoothly, we were able to end with a sweet treat after the final closing. Participants and their families celebrated a great week with freeze pops on the church property following an efficient and thorough breakdown of the decorations and materials. A special shout out to the dedicated creativity from Julie Nienhuis and Kathleen Smith for transforming our space into the great outdoors of Alaska with soaring mountains, wandering moose, and even the northern lights. Additionally, further appreciation is echoed for the many adult volunteers and generous donations from the congregation. Whether you donated physical supplies or your time, we are thankful for all of your efforts in helping to create and support a successful VBS program at CMPC!

The directors feel blessed to have been able to gather together people of all generations to offer this fun and faith-filled week to our church family and to our community. We look forward to another week of fun and celebrating God's love when VBS returns the week of July 6th through 10th in 2026.



**Our VBS Leadership Team:**

Directors: Laura Jean Graybeal & Heather Gallagher

Kitchen: Kris Bloom

Decorations: Julie Nienhuis

Wild Bible Adventures: Sarah Trodden

Imagination Station: Lindsey Kim & Whitney Schreiber

Sticky Scriptures: Chad Board, James Board, & Molly Fieldsend

Recreation Station: Laura Curran & Becky Whitaker

Preschool Coordinator & Bible Time: Pam Mitchell

Sticky Scriptures: Preschool Station: Kathy Koch & Sally Berlowitz

Craft & Play Station Preschool: Debbie O'Neal & Sandi Chapasko

Recreation Preschool: Natalie Dowgiewicz & Kiki Roy

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Jean Graybeal & Heather Gallagher

Vacation Bible School Co-Directors

## **Confirmation**

2025 was an "off" year for Confirmation Class. We look forward to an 8th and 9th grade class starting in January 2026.

## **Bible Basics & Zoom Bible Study**

Bible Basics is a weekly Bible study, which meets in Classroom 3 at 11 am on Tuesdays during the school year. Participants study a book of the Bible, discussing what they notice and wonder about the text and what God is saying to them through His Word.

Monday Night Zoom Bible Study: This class is a thematic Bible study using an Intervarsity study guide. In 2025, the group discussed The Fruit of the Spirit and Four Loves.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Koch

## **Nursery/Child Care**

CE continues to coordinate the nursery for the youngest members of our congregation, children through age two. Our nursery staff provides care during the 10:30 worship service. Our nursery staff are Laura Holderman (continuing her role as lead staff) and Tracy Locke-Kitt. Volunteers from our congregation provide additional care as needed. We are grateful for our staff and volunteers for their enthusiasm and cheerfulness in providing a positive experience for the children. We have a paging system to make it easier to contact parents if needed during the worship service. A TV monitor allows the nursery staff to monitor the progress of the church service. Childcare is also provided for select church activities. We will be looking to add to our staff during 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Delores McBirney

## Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study Group met from September to May on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room of CMPC.

Members engage in prayer time, Bible study, fellowship and mission projects. All women of the church and community are welcome to meet with the group in-person or on ZOOM at any time during the study year.

January 2025 brought in the New Year with the continuation of our study using the book, *James: What You Do Matters Study Guide* with streaming video by Margaret Feinberg and other accompanying subject material. Barbara Petro and Miriam Miller led the lessons. *The Sermon on the Mount- Four week Mini-Study* from BSF "The Unexpected King" was led by Barbara Petro. The study was completed the Monday before Memorial Day. There was a potluck celebration luncheon in Fellowship Hall before breaking for the summer months.

Nancy Walworth, our dear friend and long time original member of the Monday Morning Women's Bible Study went to be with the Lord on March 8th. We gave tribute to Nancy by remembering her for her loving heart, dedication to volunteer work and for her wit and humor.

We collectively gave a brick donation to the CMPC Memorial Garden Fund to honor the many women who have been a part of the Monday Morning Women's Bible group throughout the years.

September brought on the call to come together again with an introduction to our study of *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. There was then a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

The Women's Bible Study Group was involved in several different mission projects this year, The Christmas mission project was in coordination with the CMPC's Angel Tree donations and Toy's for Tots. The collection from our meetings was donated to a family in need. The women provided a dinner meal and served it for the Cold Weather Shelter in December.

The women's group participated in fellowship with Barbara Schmehl in her residence at Elkridge Lorian for Christmas activities, scripture reading and caroling. The Christmas celebration, potluck-luncheon was graciously hosted by Sally Berlowitz in her home. These were wonderful activities and gatherings to bring in the Christmas season of joy.

There have been twenty-one women participating in the Bible study.

The group is led by Barbara Petro and Miriam Miller.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miriam Miller

# **Special Projects and Events Sponsored by CE**

## **Blessing of the New School Year**

On Sunday, August 24, all students and teachers were invited to bring their backpacks and briefcases to the 10:30 worship service. Rev. John Schmidt led the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship for students and teachers returning to the classroom or starting for the first time. Approximately 45 laminated tags which attach to backpacks were distributed to students and teachers during worship.

## **Graduation Sunday**

On Sunday, May 11, Pastor VanderWoude recognized eight graduates from high school, college, or graduate school during the 10:30 worship service. Graduates included Kofi Akuoko, Aaron Aquino, Toby Aquino, James Board, Patrick Gavan, Nick del Favero, Riley Jackson, and Mollie Thomas. Each of these graduates received a card, a small gift, and a blessing from the congregation.

## **Third Grade Bibles**

Children in the third grade were recognized by Pastor Janna VanderWoude on January 5, 2025. Each child received a copy of the CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible. Each family received a copy of Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home. Our third graders were Quentin Cogswell, Catherine Curran, Thomas Jones, Eileen Fieldsend, and William Millard.

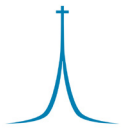
## **Scout Programs**

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church (CMPC) sponsors three units of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA): Pack 371, Troop 75B, and Troop 75G. The BSA has chartered CMPC through the Baltimore Area Council to provide the Scouting program to our youth via these units in order to instill lifetime values, develop ethical character, and to train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership.

There were several highlights over the course of the year:

- Scout Sunday on February 9th was a success;
- The troop attended Summer camp at Camp Ockanickon the last week of June; and
- The Pack and Troop provided volunteer service hours for community organizations such as Scouting for Food for the Howard County Food Bank. Troop 75 also assisted with the Cold Weather Shelter support.

At the end of 2025, the Pack has 59 youth and 14 adults on its roster, Troop 75B has 67 youth and 44 adults on its roster, and Troop 75G has 21 youth and 30 adults on its roster.



# Finance

The Finance Committee is charged "To be effective stewards of assets, provided by God, contributed by the congregation, and committed to God's work; and to safeguard the resources of CMPC."

Committee members in 2025 were Jeff Bloom (Chair), Bob Ashman (Treasurer), Joyce Danzig (Assistant Treasurer), Annette Hinckle, Dick McBirney, and Jerry Ueckerman.

CMPC started the year with a budgeted \$135,000 deficit. Due to the abundant blessings from God leading to generous contributions from members above their pledges and expense reductions, the final deficit was under \$20,000. In addition, CMPC received a one-time tax credit (described below) allowing CMPC to increase its reserves.

There were several significant efforts undertaken by the committee during 2025:

- CMPC fully implemented the accounting module within the CMPC Bridge (Realm) business suite. Realm Accounting streamlined accounting by automatically posting contributions that were recorded in the Realm Giving module
- With interest rates having risen in recent years, the treasurer, working with the finance committee, has invested a greater portion of CMPC's reserves in market-rate investments (e.g., CDs) and reduced balances in low-income accounts such as bank money market and deposit accounts.
- In January 2024, CMPC applied to the IRS for an Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), a pandemic-era program. In July 2025, CMPC received those tax credits, which totaled a net of \$141 thousand after filing expenses were subtracted.
- Late in 2025, CMPC joined RaiseRight, a fundraising platform where members can purchase gift cards and a percentage of the purchase price is rebated to the church. This is expected to grow during 2026.

## Final update on the Third Ministry Expansion Capital Campaign

- In late 2021, \$1.39 million was pledged to the third capital campaign, scheduled for contribution over 2022 through 2024. A few contributions carried over into 2025.
- Through December 2025, with the scheduled time of the campaign time elapsed, \$1.35 million was contributed to capital campaign 3, or 97% of the total pledged.

## Update on the 2025 budget

- The initial budget for 2025 included revenue of \$543,572 and expenses of \$679,254, yielding a deficit of \$135,682. This includes the mortgage of \$128,109 for the first time; in prior years, the mortgage was paid out of funds from the capital campaign.
- The final actual numbers ended up with revenue of \$619,462 and expenses of \$638,582, leaving a deficit of \$19,120. The change from the budgeted deficit to the actual surplus stemmed primarily from: greater revenue (increased contributions, interest income) and reduced expenses (staff vacancies, property management efficiencies).

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>543,572</b>	<b>619,462</b>
Christian Education	1,775	7,119
Mission	28,500	38,864
Communications	20,200	17,381
Worship	13,800	9,767
Stewardship	900	0
Finance	37,000	34,397
Personnel	294,586	264,077
Membership and Hospitality	300	0
Fellowship	3,500	2,194
Care and Wellness	850	798
Property	149,734	135,875
Debt Service / Mortgage	128,109	128,109
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>679,254</b>	<b>638,582</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(135,682)</b>	<b>(19,120)</b>

Notes:

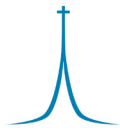
- Certain pass-through revenue and expenses excluded from this table
- The one-time IRS ERTC mentioned above is excluded

Update on status of reserves

- The Finance Committee has a policy of maintaining financial reserves equal to approximately three months of expenses. This has been maintained at \$120,000 for several years. In 2025, the reserve was increased to \$198,000 to account for the mortgage being fully incorporated in the budget. The net ERTC of \$141,000 was added to the reserve in 2025.
- As of the end of December 2025, CMPC has financial assets of \$589,648. That breaks down as:  
Designated funds [1]: \$101,703  
Financial reserves: \$198,000  
Other reserves: \$289,945
- An anticipated deficit in 2026 will reduce the Other reserves line.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Ashman/Joyce Danzig with the support from the Finance Committee.

[1] Designated funds are earmarked for specific ministries such as LOGOS, Memorial Funds, special-purpose grants, etc.



# Mission & Local Outreach

## Overview

The Mission and Local Outreach Committee is responsible for overall benevolences, special offerings, and support for local, national, and global missions. It looks for ways to match congregational members' interests and skills with various projects and welcomes new initiatives.

In carrying out its work, the committee responds to Jesus's call to take our living faith into our communities and the world to respond to the needs of people who are hungry, without a job and home, imprisoned, and oppressed.

Opportunities for hands-on mission involvement is an important component of local and national missions. This year there were opportunities with the Cold Weather Shelter (described below), Rebuilding Together Howard County (described below) and Home of Our Own Howard. In addition, CMPC volunteers provided and served dinners on the fourth Monday of every month to guests at the Grassroots Day Resource Center on Route 1 in Laurel.

Committee members this year were Sue Ashman, Pete Berlowitz, Kathryn Koch, Susan Crabb, and Philip Davies (Chair). The committee met at the church on the first Tuesday of every month.

The M&LO budget for 2025 was \$40,500 that was disbursed across the following categories:

- Local Mission - \$15,000
- National and Global Missions - \$13,000
- Mission Designated Funds - \$12,000
- Committee Expenses - \$500

## Local Mission

The Committee provided financial support to the following organizations whose common theme is to work with groups that provide disadvantaged people with food, shelter, and support in times of crisis, especially to organizations where CMPC members are involved.

- Columbia Community Care
- Howard County Food Bank (Columbia Action Council)
- Rebuilding Together Howard County
- Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center (sponsor of Cold Weather Shelter and Route 1 Day Resource Center)
- Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS)
- CMPC Preschool
- Bridges to Housing Stability

Throughout the year, numerous volunteers generously provided and served dinners to the **Route One Day Resource Center** in Laurel on the fourth Monday of every month. The need for food at the Center has grown as the number of guests continues to increase. This is an ongoing ministry of CMPC that welcomes new volunteers. Suzy Crabb serves as the coordinator of this mission.

**Rebuilding Together Howard County** workday on April 26 attracted 15 CMPC volunteers, including several young people. Over Memorial Day weekend, Michael Schreiber and Pete Berlowitz returned to the unit to replace old living room carpet with laminate flooring, which they extended into the kitchen and hallway entrance. A week later, Pete, and Wes and Greg Millard finished up by installing quarter round molding and fixing the threshold so the entry door could properly close. The homeowner is thrilled with the all the work performed.

In lieu of the Angel Tree, Sue Ashman and Rachel Bis facilitated a partnership with **Toys for Tots** to collect toys in November. In December, hats, gloves, and socks were collected for the CWS. In addition, monetary donations from the congregation were received for gift cards for Grassroots residents. FISH separately did Christmas shopping, wrapping and donating gifts to seven students at local schools.

For the twenty-second year, CMPC participated in the **Cold Weather Shelter** organized by Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. From December 29 to January 4, CMPC volunteers and groups including LOGOS, Scouts Troop 75, Women's Bible Study, and the Mission and Local Outreach Committee, provided and served home-cooked dinners and delivered breakfasts to 60 residents (including homeless persons) housed at the Grassroots facility in Columbia. Suzy Crabb, Tina Helble, and Kathryn Koch helped coordinate effort and transport the food.

### **National Missions**

This year M&LO supported three national missions; namely,

- Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders – Moss Point, MS house rebuild
- Pine Springs Summer Camp, Jennerstown, PA
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – US Wildfires in the West

## **Global Missions**

Support was provided to the following global missions.

- Timothy International - Dustin and Holly Garner mission support
- Friends of the Presbyterian Education Board - Pakistan
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem - Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza
- World Central Kitchen
- Uganda Water Project
- Save the Children – Ukraine
- Friends for Health in Haiti

## **Mission Designated Funds**

In addition to collections for One Great Hour of Sharing and the Baltimore Presbytery Joy Offering, there were four Fifth Sunday Offerings throughout the year that were designated to the following missions:

- March - Rebuilding Together Howard County
- June – CMPC Preschool
- August – Uganda Water Project
- November – Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

In February, CMPC took up a special offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for wildfire relief assistance in the West.

Throughout the year, numerous donations were received for the Crisis Intervention Fund, which responded to several requests for assistance handled confidentially by Pastor Janna.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks goes all members of CMPC, mission volunteers, and members of the committee who committed their time, talent, and resources to do God's work with a loving spirit.





# Personnel

2025 was another year of transition for the Personnel Committee with the following departures and additions to the CMPC staff:

June 7, 2025 - Tito Baca departs due to the elimination of the Facilities and Property Manager position

July 13, 2025 - Joy Exner retires as Music Director

September 19, 2025 - Nick Zurowski hired as Music Director

October 15, 2025 - Ted Markle resigns as Accompanist

November 8, 2025 - Jeremi Lukanus hired as Accompanist

The Personnel Committee is grateful for the staff's hard work of the entire CMPC staff.

Interim Pastor, Head of Staff Janna VanderWoude who continues to lead CMPC during our pastoral transition.

Kathleen Smith as our Communications Coordinator

Heather Gallagher as our Preschool Director

Laura Holderman and Tracy Locke-Kitt as our Nursery Attendants

Members of the 2025 Personnel Committee were Jeff Bloom, Tiffany Carmean and John Kim with Allison Miller and Jennifer Weinel assisting the Music Director and Accompanist hiring.

Thanks,  
John Kim

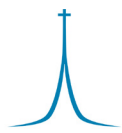


# Property

In 2025, the CMPC Property Committee (PC) included Joshua Gliptis (chair), Terry Brown, Daniel Lamb, John McPherson, Craig Nienhuis, Jeffrey Orndorff, and Robert Dunn. Notables include:

1. New HVAC and plumbing repair contractor assigned
2. Spring Clean-up
3. Property Manager position eliminated. PC assumes responsibilities including contractor administration, repair and service work scoping, oversight, and inspection, misc. electrical, plumbing, grounds, and light carpentry repairs.
4. Sanctuary humidity issues resolved including installation of dehumidifiers and automation of exhaust fans in bathrooms.
5. Seal coating of parking lot
6. Support Memorial Garden design, approval and contract award
7. Support Session Commission on Ministry Expansion (COME)

Additionally, the PC has completed numerous plumbing, electrical, light carpentry, and grounds repairs/maintenance efforts. In 2026, we will continue some of the above-mentioned efforts such as the Memorial Garden and COME efforts, take on new efforts, and evaluate the possibilities for contract property management or hire of a sexton or property manager. The actual expenditures were within the 2025 approved budget.



# Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee organizes the annual stewardship campaign and identifies ways to encourage giving. The committee tracks the financial pledges throughout the year and educates the congregation on the importance of stewardship. Stewardship is the way that we use all of our resources — time, talents, possessions and money — to love God and to love our neighbor. This year we focused on the following:

**God points to a new world --  
where there is room for everyone to be themselves,  
where there is enough of what we need to go around, and  
where we have the imagination to stretch to God's possibilities for  
welcome, participation, and service.**

Your Annual Contributions are also used for our mission in the local community and beyond; and support the essential Christian workers who serve the church. Just as we could not continue to do what we do without the volunteer hours our members contribute, we could not continue to serve God in this place without financial resources.

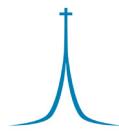
We kicked off the campaign in worship in November with a Moment for Stewardship, followed by an official email letter to the congregation. We encouraged online pledging but also offered paper pledge cards, both in the pews and available for printing from the Stewardship website. We presented additional Stewardship Moments throughout the campaign, including via the Moment for Children and testimonials from other members. We concluded our campaign on November 23rd.

We are pleased to report that, as of 1/9/26, we have received 79 pledges for a total of \$558,382. Importantly, this community answered the call and increased their pledge amounts by a collective \$61,810 over last year. Well done, CMPC!

As we continue to implement our plans to expand our ministries, and as we prepare for our next installed pastor, we encourage you to periodically and thoughtfully consider your giving ability. It is never too late to pledge or increase your pledge!

CMPC has a long history of sharing our bounty with others and bringing God's love into the world. We want to thank you for the many and various ways you help CMPC build upon the foundation that God has laid. Together, we can realize all that God has planned and continue to spread the Good News to those near and far.

The 2025 Stewardship Committee (Joyce Danzig, Sue Ashman, Patricia Wilder and Jennifer Weinel)



# Worship

The Session is charged with three major tasks: “Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard; provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received; and nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.” The first two missions—the ones that happen every Sunday morning—fall under the guidance of the Worship and Music Committee. Therefore, the Worship and Music Committee:

- With the pastor and music staff to imagine and create worship experiences that address the first two missions with which Session is charged.
- Oversees the schedule approval and preparation for the Lord’s Supper (Communion), by tradition at CMPC a monthly celebration.
- Manage the recruitment, training and scheduling of liturgists and communion servers.
- Monitors the usage, maintenance, and appropriate seasonal decoration of the worship space to include use for worship, (including baptisms), weddings, and funerals.
- Oversees and assists in the evaluation of its capable and dedicated music staff and volunteers, who in addition to leading church members in creating beautiful music together, also maintain the music library and music equipment.
- Teams with members of the Communications Committee to operate, maintain, and plan out the audio-visual equipment necessary to run worship, musical events, and other celebrations.
- Teams with members of the Christian Education Committee to bring the Word to the children and youth of the church.

2025 was another year of significant transition in our music staff. On July 13th we celebrated the musical leadership and direction of Joy Exner since 1987, as she moved from Musical Director to Musical Director Emeritus. Her work to spread the good word through music has touched many many lives of our congregation and beyond, and we joyously welcome her into this next phase of her life in CMPC! Through the hard work and teamwork between several Elders, the Personnel Committee, and Choir members we quickly found our next Musical Director Nick Zurowski. Nick has quickly transitioned into the position; working to resume Choir in worship, learn the cadence of Presbyterian service, prepare for our Advent season with special music, work closely with our other staff members, and to tie together our musical work in the LOGOS program.

Soon after the change in directorship, Ted Markle decided to step down from our Accompanist position. Again, our overworked Personnel Committee teamed with Elders to quickly fill the vacated position. Jermi Lukanus accepted the position in October and was quickly integrated into our worship services. We welcome Jermi to our family!

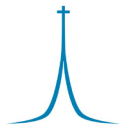
Pastor Janna VanderWoude has continued into her second year of energetic leadership through our transitional interim period. General services have followed the Narrative Lectionary Year 3 with the gospel of Luke. Janna molded these services well around our losses of loved ones, and our joys of Baptisms as well as welcoming of new members. We worked to bring spirit to our special services on Epiphany, FISH Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, through Advent and Christmas. We also brought the experiences of non-traditional services into our summer season with a series on Meals with Jesus in Fellowship Hall, and into our Old Testament readings with a raucous retelling of Nebuchadnezzar. In place of a Cantata this year, our young adults performed the Mary Monologues to help us empathize with the virgin mother and enhance our feeling of anticipation.

We would like to offer thanks to God for overseeing our work and providing us with the gifted individuals below who dedicated their time and expertise in the areas listed. The list below is not comprehensive as many have offered help and support.

- For the preparation of the sanctuary pews, Karen Hawker; the cleaning of service linens, Colleen Hughes; and all who have vacuumed floors, cleaned pews, prepared for special services, and the many other large and small tasks.
- For all who chose to offer announcements and help lead our worship services as liturgists.
- For all who have provided special music, and substituted for our accompanist {find name}.
- For all who have helped to prepare for communion services, Gil & Mae Burckart, Dr. Rashid Gill, Colleen Hughes, Wes Millard, Allison Miller.
- For our talented team of audio and visual volunteers who operate our sound system every service, and live stream our service to those who cannot be in worship in person; Neil Danzig, Allen Exner, John Kim, Zoe Kim, Kevin Wilson, the Bis family, Kofi Akuoko, Sam Thomas

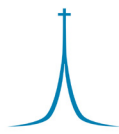
In 2025, the following members of the congregation participated on the Worship and Music Committee: Sally Berlowitz (Elder, Bell Choir Director), Joy Exner (Music Director Emeritus), Allen Exner, Neil Danzig, Allison Miller (Elder), Wes Millard (Elder; Chair), Karen Hawker, Kevin Wilson, Linda Shields and Nick Zurowski (Music Director). We offer them our thanks and hope that they will continue to offer their ears, inquiries, imagination and judgment to the oversight of worship at CMPC. The committee is looking forward to continuing their work in 2026, striving to provide soul uplifting music and life affirming worship to feed the congregation and all people of God.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elders Wes Millard and Allison Miller



## Care and Wellness





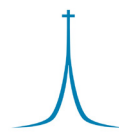
## Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee connects CMPC members with one another by planning and organizing events and activities which focus on fellowship and relationship building within our church family. The Committee's events are always fun and open to all ages.

The year 2025 began with a sense of togetherness as we entered a new year. Fellowship Hour expanded with a consistent schedule of every Sunday. Drinks and light refreshments were had as we gathered in Fellowship Hall after worship and enjoyed extended conversation and relationship building. Spring started off in April as we provided coffee and donuts at the Spring Cleanup of the building and grounds. Many hands were busy as we gathered to make improvements to the church. Easter Sunday brought the annual Easter Egg Hunt following the traditional service. Many children participated in the event which was held outside on the Church grounds. Carnations were given to our mothers in attendance at worship on Mother's Day and chocolate bars were passed out to fathers on Father's Day. The Kona Ice Truck returned to CMPC in June to celebrate the beginning of summer and the close of the school year. We hosted our fourth annual Yappy Hour in July where we gathered with our dogs and shared some snacks and conversation. A large group of CMPC members travelled to Camden Yards to watch an Orioles baseball game followed by a Christian music concert after the game. It was a memorable event, and we look forward to making this an annual event. The Church Picnic was held at the end of September. The weather was beautiful, and many enjoyed the great food and fellowship as we transitioned into the Fall season. The Care and Wellness Committee co-hosted a Fellowship Hour in October with us and many good treats were shared. The Greening of the Church was a high point of the year as we were able to decorate the Church for Christmas once again for all to enjoy in person. Shelley and Bob Clemens led us in this annual tradition with the support of the Fellowship Committee and many other volunteers.

I am grateful to all the 2025 Fellowship Committee members – Laura Jean Michels-Graybeal, Peter Gallagher, Theresa Akuoko, Amy McMillion, and Shelley and Bob Clemens for their support and hard work to bring fellowship to our CMPC family. Several of these members also serve in other roles within CMPC so their time, talents, and efforts are much appreciated. The committee is always welcoming volunteers to help us in our ministry with our events. Many hands make light work, and the Fellowship Committee itself is a fantastic group of people. I pray that the year 2026 will be an even brighter and better year.

Respectfully submitted by  
Thomas Trodden,  
Fellowship Committee Chair



## Membership and Hospitality

The Membership and Hospitality Committee is responsible for preparing the sanctuary for worship on Sunday. Each week, Leta Loring enlists volunteers needed to fill vacancies to Usher and Greet. Volunteers greet members and guests at the parking lot entrance, the side entrance to the sanctuary and the Narthex. Volunteers who greet also assist with the offering. Following worship, our committee collects used communion cups (first Sunday of the month) and removes any items left in the pews.



In February, we implemented a new project called, "Who's Who in the Pews". This is a creative way to introduce our members with one another. Janene Holtzberg agreed to conduct interviews and write up the profiles. Photos of individuals/families accompany each publication. The articles are published in the Friday Enews and the church bulletin the third week of the month. Featured this year were Karen Hawker and Janene Holberg, Bob and Jackie Jenkins, Nancy Whitelock, Jim and Margie Pierce, Don and Pam Mitchell, Clarence Wingate, Barb Stine, Bob and Shelley Clemens and the Trodden and Gallagher families.

The third Sunday of the month is designated as Name Tag Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to fill out a name tag and wear it. It's a great way to place a name with a face and greet your pew mates. Plus, it's the perfect time to introduce yourselves to someone new.

Each week our Welcome Center is set up in the hallway, outside Fellowship Hall. Our display offers information about our church and a QR code to the CMPC website. We like to "mug" our guests by offering them a mug with our church logo, a pen and chocolate kisses as they exit. We have plastic cups with a pencil and other novelty items for the children.

Every Sunday day, the Head Usher locks the lower level door (parking lot entrance) at 10:45. This prevents people from entering our church unobserved. Anyone arriving later will enter via the unlocked Narthex doors. A sign on the parking lot door informs guests of the change.

Pastor Janna requested our committee update the membership roles. Steve Pettit reviewed a list of people who have not attended regularly. A letter was sent out via email and snail mail in March to 70 families to confirm their membership. In March, our membership was 330.

Membership & Hospitality continues to support the CARE (Connect, Ask, Respond, Encourage) Group program. This program connects church households with a caring church officer or lay person who serves as a liaison between members and the pastor. In April, July and November, the CARE Group initiated a food drives to benefit Oakland Mills High School. Each event was well received and supported by the congregation.

Throughout the year, Membership & Hospitality supported other committees by assisting in special events such as handing out flowers for Mother's Day and chocolate bars for Father's Day. Our committee "hosted" Fellowship Hour October 17. We provided cookies, muffins, fruit and fellowship to all. M & H purchased a brick for the upcoming Prayer Garden.

On Christmas Eve, CMPC held two evening services, five o'clock and eight o'clock. Four of LOGOS FISH participants assisted in handing out bulletins, candles, and taking the offering at the five o'clock service. Chad Board, Joyce Danzig, Annette Hinkle and Bob Clemens served as Ushers for the later service.

We hold our monthly meetings in person the first Monday of each month. Members of the committee are Colleen Hughes (chair), Chad Board, Sandi Chapasko, Emma Gallagher, Licia Gliptis, Tina and Tim Helble, Leta Loring and Cindy and Steve Pettit. Nancy Whitelock, 95, retired from our committee in May. We thank her for continued dedication and devotion to our committee and her many years of service. We rely on CMPC members-at-large to support our weekly commitments.

Thank you to all who served on and volunteered for the Membership and Hospitality Committee. Contributing their time to support and maintain the care of our church, makes members and guests feel welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Hughes, Chair