

# News you need to know

## June 2026



### VBS

We are **6 weeks away** from VBS week (July 6 - 10) at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church! We are excited to share that we will be welcoming over 115 children into the building to Explore the Nature of God in Rainforest Falls! For this week to be a successful outreach at CMPC we need volunteers like you!

Here are some of the areas that we need help!

- \* Kitchen Crew - adult volunteers working together each morning to prepare snacks for the children
- \* Assistant in Elementary Sticky Scriptures - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that includes a small video and discussion each morning
- \* Assistant in Preschool Recreation - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that includes outdoor fun games each morning
- \* Assistant in Elementary Bible - adult volunteer that will support the lead teacher run a station that shares the highlighted Bible story each morning
- \* Youth Leaders - youth volunteers ages middle school - high school that will travel with the crews of children around the stations and you will receive service hours

Any questions about these amazing volunteer opportunities? Reach out to Laura Jean Graybeal or Heather Gallagher at [vbs@cmpcusa.org](mailto:vbs@cmpcusa.org)

**Watch for our Wish List - Coming Soon!**

### Barb Schmehl Birthday

Come join the Bible Study women in the celebration on June 16th for the **93rd birthday** of Barb Schmehl at Lorien Elkridge. We will meet in the library at Lorien from 10:00 -11:45 am. Please allow time to sign in at the front desk of Lorien. There will be a carpool set up from the CMPC church parking lot meeting at 9:30 for those who request a ride. Please reply to this email, if you intend to go. I will need to know how many are coming to let the staff know.

For more information contact Miriam Miller at e-mail: [jtmillerj@verizon.net](mailto:jtmillerj@verizon.net) or phone: 410 302-9651.



## Memorial Garden Dedication

Dear Friends,

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 10:30 AM for a very special and meaningful day in the life of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church.

To conclude our worship service, we will gather outside to celebrate the blessing of our Memorial Garden—a sacred space created for reflection, remembrance, and peace. This moment marks a significant milestone for our church community, and we would be honored to share it with you. We are also delighted to announce that the bell tower is nearing completion and we look forward to seeing our historic bell mounted in its new home.

In addition, our choir will offer their final weekly musical presentation before their summer transition. Their music has been a true blessing throughout the year, and this will be a wonderful opportunity to experience their gifts once more before the season changes.

After the service, please join us in Fellowship Hall for our Strawberry Festival. Enjoy a strawberry sundae, fellowship, and time together as we continue the celebration. This promises to be a joyful and memorable day, and we sincerely hope you will join us.

With warm regards, and on behalf of the Session,

Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

*Memorial Garden Dedication* June 14, 2026, 10:30 worship



## Trinity Choir

All who are interested, are welcomed to join the Trinity Choir at Christ Memorial! No audition is necessary, and no ability to read is required, just a passion to spread Christ's love through music in a community choir setting.

Questions can be emailed to W. Nicholas Zurowski: [musicdirector@cmpecusa.org](mailto:musicdirector@cmpecusa.org).

We rehearse Thursdays through mid-June, with Sunday, June 14 being the last Sunday service for the summer. Over the summer, we will have a couple rehearsals and services that are open to the community, as noted below. All are welcomed.

July 18: 7 PM – 8:30 PM

July 25: 7 PM – 8:30 PM

July 28: 9:30 AM Warm-up; 10:30 AM Service

Thursday August 13: 7 PM – 8:30 PM

August 20: 7 PM – 8:30 PM

August 23: 9:30 AM Warm-up; 10:30 AM Service



## Christian Faith Night

Join us for baseball and fellowship on July 9th to watch the Orioles vs the Cubs.

**MUST RESERVE TICKETS BY JUNE 5TH.** Contact Tom Engle at [dpgroove@hotmail.com](mailto:dpgroove@hotmail.com) or at 410-533-1057





**Kick off Summer with Kona Ice  
and the Fellowship Committee**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> following worship  
back parking lot**



**Strawberry Festival**

**June 14th**

**following Memorial Garden  
dedication**

**Who's Who in the Pews:** An occasional feature from the Membership and Hospitality Committee to help worshipers get to know one another.

## Ryan and Elyn Thomas

Ryan and Elyn Thomas met at Beaverton High School in Beaverton, Oregon, when Ryan was a sophomore and Elyn was a junior in the marching band. They were good friends and Elyn drove Ryan to high school almost every day.

When it was time for Elyn to go to college, she went to Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. The next year, Ryan ended up going to Harvey Mudd College, about 10 miles away. That fall they started dating officially and the rest is history!

The couple joined CMPC in 2011 by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio and moved to Columbia. They then left CMPC in 2015 and attended St. Peter's Church in Ealing, London, and Faith Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. When they came back to Columbia in 2020, they were still on the membership rolls as they returned to their CMPC family.

Ryan and Elyn have just completed five years of service as the directors of the Wednesday night LOGOS Program. Ryan is an at-large member of the Christian Education Committee of the Session and Elyn is an at-large member of the Nominating Committee of the Session. Ryan is also the Chartering Organization Representative for the Scouting units at CMPC. He has served previously as a Deacon at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The couple has lived in Claremont, California; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Kettering, Ohio; Bedford, Massachusetts and Blacksburg, Virginia. Fortunately, they both enjoy traveling and, thanks to opportunities in the U.S. Air Force, they have visited more than 17 countries. They have family from Oregon to Arizona and South Carolina, giving them good reason to take trips.

Ryan and Elyn share an interest in cooking and entertaining, which gives them a chance to taste different wines with good friends, and in gardening and skiing. Ryan also likes to cycle and hike, and Elyn enjoys working out and fitness activities, playing in a flute choir and raising indoor plants.

With their families thousands of miles away, CMPC has become like family to Ryan and Elyn. Their two children, Mollie and Sam, have largely grown up in the church with many familiar and loving faces.

Mollie has just completed her freshman year at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where she is studying International Relations and Data Science. She has been attending Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and is active in the PC(USA) UKirk college ministries program. Sam is an 8th grader at Wilde Lake Middle School and loves all things engineering, technology and music. He sings in the Maryland State Boychoir, which is based in Baltimore, and is going to Alaska with them on a summer tour.



The couple has many special memories of CMPC over the years:

- There have been so many fun mission and retreat trips. The Mars Hill trips to North Carolina, the all-church retreat, trips to Pine Springs with the FISH youth group and then to summer camp all brought the Thomases closer as a family and with members of the congregation.
- Shortly after joining CMPC, Ryan and Elyn were the FISH directors. They got to know the LOGOS high schoolers and, as the years have passed, have seen the wonderful adults they have become.
- And there was the infamous “shirt off” incident between Sam and Pastor Scott Hoffman. Sam was probably 3 years old and was sitting at the BUGS table at LOGOS. He was eating spaghetti and his shirt had been taken off so he wouldn’t get sauce all over it. Pastor Scott walked in and Sam ordered him to take his shirt off. “Shirt off!” Sam demanded, to which Scott replied, “Shirt on!” The family laughs about this to this day, and will shout that order whenever a petty argument starts at the dinner table.

## Come Join Us

This month we’re heading to The Turn House restaurant at Hobbits Glen Country Club. Lunch on the patio overlooking the golf course... beautiful!

Where: 11130 Willow Bottom Dr, Columbia, MD 21044

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Time: 12:00pm

Please RSVP by 12 pm on Monday, June 22, 2026

Maximum: 16 guests



## HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!

Couldn’t miss this opportunity to honor all the fathers in church on this special holiday...“donuts for dads” is a catchy rhyme, but we think chocolate is so much better! We’ll be passing out chocolate bars to all the Dads in church on June 21st!



# Rise<sup>SM</sup> AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

OUR CMPC MEAL PACKING EVENT with Rise Against Hunger coming up on Saturday, June 27. During this two-hour morning event (from 10 am – noon) our goal is to pack 10,000 meals – simple bags of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a packet of 18 important vitamins and minerals – which turn into life-changing meals for those suffering from hunger around the world.

A few details about the event:

- For the event, there will be a spot for anyone that wants to help – seated or standing – we look for your participation.
- Children from 3 years up can be part of the packing process (with parental supervision). Childcare will be available for any families requesting it for ages 3 and under. Contact Sue Ashman directly to request.
- A few strong volunteers will be needed from 8:30 am – 10 am to set up Fellowship Hall and equipment. Sign up if you can!
- You may invite friends to join you...just be sure they sign up online!
- Students who would like to receive community service credit may do so after the event.

The Mission Committee is exciting to bring this amazing intergenerational ministry back to CMPC. Please join us! Again, please register online or call or text Sue Ashman at 301-821-2345 with questions, if you need to sign up offline (you will need to sign the waiver the day of the event) or to request childcare for children 3 and under.

Thank you for helping us fight hunger in the world!  
The Mission and Local Outreach Committee



Register here for the event!





# Christ Memorial Christian Preschool

## May

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

What a wonderful year we have had at Christ Memorial Christian Preschool! It is hard to believe that we have come to summer already! Our last month was busy with many special and fun activities. We enjoyed exploring the joy of spring, and learning about transportation. The children investigated vehicles for land, water and air. We also welcomed the mothers of the preschool for a special snack in their honor for Mother's Day. All our children participated in a special Fun Day at preschool this month. We spent all day enjoying being outside for water play and crafts together. Our year culminated last week with our 3-year old classes holding a special end-of-the-year picnic together and our 4-year old classes had a graduation ceremony in the church sanctuary! It was such a blessing to welcome all the families into the church for the day. It is always hard to say goodbye to our special preschoolers, but we wish them all the best in their new adventure, KINDERGARTEN!

