

CHRONICLE PLUS

Community Church of Durham, UCC

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

office@ccdurham.org ~ CCDurham.org ~ 603-868-1230**TODAY AT COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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| 9:00 am | Bible Study | Parlor |
| 10:00 am | Worship | Sanctuary |
| 11:15 am | Fellowship Hour | Fellowship Hall |
| 11:30 am | Immigration Support Conversation | Parlor |
| 11:30 am | ECHO Thrift Shop Open! | Lower Level |

Announcements: To include an announcement in the weekly Chronicle Plus or E-News, please email your announcement to the church office by noon on Wednesdays of the week the announcement is to appear.

Advent/Christmas at Community Church:

December 17: Pancake Breakfast, 8-10am in Fellowship Hall, Christmas Pageant at 10am Worship Service

December 22: Joyce Andersen & Harvey Reid Christmas Concert, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

December 24: 10am Advent Service; 4pm Christmas Pageant; 9pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

The Giving Tree, a tradition at Community Church, is located at the front of the sanctuary with color coded stars hang on it. Each star represents a gift request from an individual or family served by one of three local organizations that our church supports and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Feel free to take a star or stars. Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, with the star attached **by Mon., Dec. 18**. Thank you for your generosity.

Immigration Support: A Conversation that Matters First of a Four-Part Series. **Today, 11:30am**, Parlor, led by Pastor Jill and Peggy Kieschnick. Please join us. This first conversation will be a faith-based discussion, and an educational one focusing upon the concerns and questions that arise as we discuss the immigration crisis. What has become clear is that we need to educate ourselves so we know what the immigration situation actually is; and we need to ground ourselves in our beliefs, values, and convictions so that when we act it will be from our deepest sense of faith. Join a conversation that enables us to think clearly, and to listen deeply to our consciences. An immigrant family under threat of deportation may need our support in simple, practical ways. We believe this will be a meaningful and timely discussion. – Justice & Witness Ministry.

Help support Dover Friends Meeting House's efforts to be a sanctuary for immigrants facing deportation. Notecards from Deerfield artist, Emily Moore, are on sale during Fellowship Hour today. Over half of the sale proceeds will go towards renovation expenses. 4 cards for \$15, cash and checks only.

Echo Thrift Shop: Echo will be open for shopping **today** and every second Sunday of the month after church for about an hour. Come visit and see what Echo has to offer.

Women's Bible Study: Wed., Dec. 13, 10am in the parlor to continue our study of *Cloud of Witness*. We'll be discussing Lesson 2, *In Community with the Living God*. As usual, there will be a brown bag lunch afterwards and this is a great time to get caught up and better acquainted with others in the group. Coffee, tea, and dessert are provided; please plan to stay for this informal hour of interaction.

Film Series: Thurs., Dec. 14, 9:30am, Church Parlor. *Ping Pong, Never Too Old for Gold*, tells the true the story of eight pensioners from around world who prepare for and then compete in the over 80's table tennis world championship held in Inner Mongolia in 2011. Each has been a champion in their home countries and each has burning desire to win. But the film is really more about the tenacity of the human spirit rather than it is about winning the title. This is a heart-warming, hilarious, and inspiring documentary - one you are certain to enjoy!

Men's Fellowship Group: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 8am in the church library. All men of the community are welcome to come and discuss spiritual and other topics of interest. The next meeting is **Thurs., Dec. 21st**.

Joyce Andersen & Harvey Reid Christmas Concert: Fri., Dec. 22, 7:30pm, Sanctuary. Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 day of show, \$10 students (8 & under free), available at Tulips (Portsmouth), Earcraft (Dover), Red Carpet (Durham), & Church Office. All welcome to hear them bring their Holiday spirit to Community Church!

Families First: Monday, Jan. 8th (second Monday for the month of January) is our next opportunity to provide a meal for Family Fun Night at Families First in Portsmouth. The menu: spaghetti and meatballs, rolls or garlic bread, garden salad, milk, fruit and cookies or bars for dessert. Contributions to serve ten in all categories are still needed! The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Please drop off food in the Fellowship Hall kitchen by 3pm on January 8th.

And you can go green by donating through your checking account or by using the GivePlus app on your smartphone. Automated giving makes it easy for you to support CCD's mission and ministries even when you're away for a Sunday. Dianne Thompson can help you set up these efficient and effective ways to support our church. Thank you for your generosity.

New Adult Bible Study! Starts Sunday, January 7, 11:45am. Ever want to learn more about these ancient stories and their many famous characters? What is their historical context? Who wrote them? When? What purpose do they serve in the scriptures? Join us with your questions in an adult Bible Study with Pastor Jill. This will be an additional study created in order to offer an alternative meeting time for those who cannot make our 9am Sunday morning meeting. If interested, please contact Kristin at kristinf@ccdurham.org. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts Invited: Please sign up to host Fellowship Hour one Sunday this fall. It's fun and easy, and is a gift to other members and friends. All encouraged to take a turn! Simple instructions can be found in the kitchen, or by contacting the church office. A sign-up board can be found in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Children's Choirs: Thursday afternoons in the Chapel. **Rejoice Choir:** Children from age 3-grade 2 are welcome to join. We will meet in the Chapel from 4:45-5:00. **Alleluia Choir:** Children in grades 3-8 are welcome. Rehearsals are in the Chapel from 4:15-4:45. Taking the bus from the elementary schools is an option. Middle Schoolers often walk. For info/sign up, please contact Kristin Forselius: KristinF@CCDurham.org & Lorna Ellis: Lorna.Ellis@comcast.net.

Get to know CCD—an invitation to membership! What brings you to Community Church? What keeps you here? What might you still want to know about the church, its program, beliefs, practices? How might you find deeper more meaningful involvement in this faith community? On Sunday, January 21st and February 4th, Pastor Jill invites those who are new to the church and those who'd like a "refresher," to learn more about church membership or deeper involvement. Sunday, February 4th will include a light lunch hosted by the Spiritual Nurture Ministry. Come learn more about the United Church of Christ and our particular congregation. Childcare provided. Those who wish to covenant in membership will be welcomed during our 10:00 am worship service on February 11th. In order to help with planning, please RSVP to the church office, or fill out and drop off/mail the form on page 11 of the *December Chronicle*.

Rockingham VNA & Hospice will be offering Bereavement Support Groups that meet once a week for 6 weeks during January and February. A Monday afternoon group (January 15 – February 26) and a Thursday evening group (January 11 – February 15) are planned. These groups are free to the public, but must have 4 registered participants for each group (with a maximum of 8 participants). The afternoon group will meet at the Epping Regional Health Center on Route 125 and the evening group(s) will be held at the offices of RVNA & Hospice, 137 Epping Road in Exeter. For more information and to register, please call Molly Brewer at 772-2981.
