Christ Memorial
Christian Preschool

December 2026 Newsletter

For unto us a Child is Born. Isaiah 9:6

December is a month filled with wonder and celebration at Christ Memorial Christian Preschool. We will be busily preparing for Christmas by teaching the true meaning of the season. The children will have the opportunity to create special crafts and holiday keepsakes. They will learn Christmas songs as well as the meaning of the many symbols used at Christmas. We will also be participating in a special giving project partnership with Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church described below. Through this project we hope to help the children understand that giving gifts is as important as receiving them. We will culminate the month by celebrating Jesus' Birthday together with our special nativity programs.



December Extended Day Curriculum:
Christmas STEAM Fun!

December is filled with holiday excitement and hands-on discovery in our Extended Day program! This month, children will explore the magic of Christmas through fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities. We'll investigate how peppermint dissolves, experiment with different ways to dissolve candy canes, and create a colorful chemical reaction Christmas tree. Children will also explore physics with a Christmas tree snowstorm in a cup and discover the invisible forces of magnets.

Our little scientists and engineers will put their problem-solving skills to work as they engineer and build Christmas trees, hook candy canes, and experiment with moving snowballs and paper using air. We'll even have some reindeer-inspired marshmallow challenges!

Through these festive activities, children will practice predicting, experimenting, observing, building, and working together while discovering that learning can be both exciting and fun. It's sure to be a month full of Christmas cheer, creativity, and curious minds!

SHOW AND TELL

There will be no Show and Tell during the month of December. It will resume in January.



WINTER CLOTHING:

Please remember to send your child with gloves/mittens and hats as the days turn colder, all labeled with their name. We will always try to get outside to play whenever we can. Also, remember to check your child's change of clothes to make sure they are now weather appropriate.





Christmas Giving Project

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Oakland Mills Food Pantry collection in November. We will be partnering with Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church again this month for a Christmas giving project.

The project is called The Angel Tree. Through Angel Tree we will be collecting Christmas gifts for local Howard County families in need this season. The Angel Tree will be located at the entrance to the church/preschool when we return from Thanksgiving break on Monday, November 30th. On the tree you will find an

ornament tag that will have a family number, age and gift suggestion to purchase. You will need to return the gift unwrapped to the church (with the original ornament tag attached) and place it under the Christmas tree. All gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 11th.

This project creates a great opportunity to help your preschool child understand the importance of giving to others just has God has given so much to us. If you have any questions, please ask Mrs. Gallagher.



Classroom Guest Readers:

There are still many open slots available for guest readers in the classrooms this year. Please click the link below for your child's classroom.

Classroom Hope - Smith//Weiseman

Classroom Love - 3-day - Benzing/Schreiber

Classroom Joy - 3-day - Nienhuis/Wheelock

Classroom Love - 2-day - Benzing/Schreiber

Classroom Joy - 2-day - Nienhuis/Wheelock



Christmas Celebrations
All classes will be participating in Christmas Celebrations during the month of December. The details of each event are listed below:

December 17th at 11:15 am - Our 3-Year-Old Classes will have a short Christmas Program and Birthday Celebration for Jesus. Children should arrive at school at 9 am. Parents and guests please arrive no later than 11:05 am and go directly to your child's assigned space listed below.

Nienhuis/Wheelock's 2-Day Class - **The Church Sanctuary (2nd Floor via front steps and to the Right - Directly above the preschool)**

Benzing/Schreiber's 2-Day Class - Trinity Classroom (1st floor of church)

December 18th at 11:15 am - Our 4-Year-Old Classes will have a Christmas

Program and Birthday Celebration for Jesus. Children should arrive at school at 9 am. Parents and guests please arrive no later than 11:05 am and go directly to your child's class assigned space listed below.

Nienhuis/Wheelock's 3-Day Class - **The Church Sanctuary (2nd Floor via front steps and to the Right - Directly above the preschool)**

Benzing/Schreiber's 3-Day Class - Trinity Classroom (1st floor of church)

Smith/Weiseman's 5 -Day Class - **Fellowship Hall (2nd Floor via front steps and to the left)**

PLEASE TELL YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!



After our Christmas Celebrations we will come together in the church Fellowship Hall for treats. Please click on the Sign Up Genius below to bring something to share for our celebration. All treats will need to be delivered on the day of the celebration at 9 am. Any questions please ask Mrs. Gallagher.

2-DAY CLASSES SIGN UPS LINKED BELOW:

Classroom JOY - NIENHUIS/WHEELOCK - December 17th

Classroom LOVE - BENZING/SCHREIBER-
December 17th

3/5-DAY CLASSES SIGN UPS LINKED BELOW:

Classroom LOVE - BENZING/SCHREIBER -
December 18th

Classroom JOY - NIENHUIS/WHEELOCK - December 18th

Classroom HOPE - SMITH/WEISEMAN -
December 18th



Reminder: Reporting Absences

When you know your child will be absent either due to illness, vacation or other reason please be sure to email both the preschool office (preschool@cmpcusa.org) and your child's teacher. A reminder of the teacher email addresses is below.

Thank you all for working so hard to keep our preschool a healthy environment this year by keeping your child home if they are not feeling well.

Preschool Teacher Contact Information:

Mrs. Benzing - s.benzing@cmpcusa.org

Mrs. Nienhuis - julie.nienhuis@cmpcusa.org
Mrs. Smith - k.smith@cmpcusa.org



Christmas Events at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

If you are looking for a church to celebrate this special time of the year we would love to have you at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. Our special events this month to celebrate Christmas are listed below.

Friday, December 5th
5-8 pm - Christmas Shopping Babysitting Night
This is a special opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done or just enjoy a night out without your kids! The high school youth of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church are hosting a special babysitting night at the church. The proceeds will go towards the provided dinner (pizza, veggies & dessert) and the youth Christmas mission activity for The Angel Tree. The suggested donation is $25 per child, children ages Pre-K (potty-trained) -

5th grade are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please fill out the form linked below to help plan for meal quantities and make drop off easier.

FISH Babysitting Dropoff Form

Sunday, December 6th
10:30 am - A Christmas Pageant
Join us for a family friendly retelling of the Christmas Story. This is a great event for the youngest among us!

Sunday, December 20th
10:30 am - Special Christmas Choir Performance
This service will be a special service filled with the music of Christmas. Come planning to be filled with the Christmas Spirit through beautiful music!

Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Services - In-Person and Online via the church website: www.cmpcusa.org

5:00 pm - Family Service
7:30 pm - Traditional Service

Basic Concepts for December

2 Day Classes:
Numbers: 1-10
Colors: Red, Green & White
Shape: Star

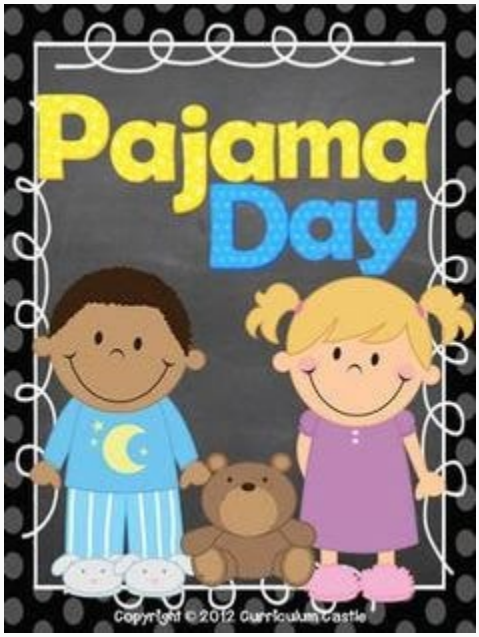
Vocabulary: Christmas Words

<u>3 & 5 Day Classes:</u>
Numbers: 1-20
Colors: Gold & Silver
Letters: K, & L
Vocabulary: Christmas Words

<u>Christmas Break</u> - Just a reminder that Christ Memorial Christian Preschool will be closed from December 19th - January 3rd.
We will reopen on Monday, January 4th.

PRESCHOOL
PAJAMA DAY!

We will be coming back to school after Christmas break as comfy as can be! Join your teachers and classmates and wear your pjs when you return to school in January.



<u>Monday, January 4th -</u> Classroom Hope, Classroom Joy 3-Day, and Classroom Love 3-Day

<u>Tuesday, January 5th -</u> Classroom Joy 2-Day and Classroom Love 2-Day



We wish all our preschool families a Merry Christmas!
We feel blessed to know all of you and have the opportunity to spend the mornings with your children! Enjoy your time with family. We will see you all in the New Year!

- The Teachers of
Christ Memorial Christian Preschool