

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Atlantic Beach, Florida

OVERVIEW



Community Presbyterian Church | 150 SHERRY DRIVE | ATLANTIC BEACH, FL 32233

www.cpcab.org

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COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: OVERVIEW

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CPC – AN OVERVIEW

Introduction

Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) is seeking a full-time Pastor to lead its congregation in spiritual growth and service. Despite having a short-term Pastor of just over two years, followed by our current Transitional Pastor, CPC has not been in a holding pattern. During this period church leaders and congregation members deepened their maturity, commitment and sense of purpose. We see the budding of many positive trends and are excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads the ministry of CPC.

Our new Pastor will continue and further the mission of this vibrant 425 member PCUSA church. Community is not only the name of our church, but it is the core of who we are. We are a multi-generational community of faith that feels like a close-knit family. Yet we strive to always welcome others into our midst, guided by our faith in God, and expressing our love for God and one another through joyful worship services. Growing in the love and knowledge of Christ is primary to our mission and empowers us to serve the needs of not only our church community, but our local community, at the beach and into the world. Underlying all that we do (worship, grow, serve) is our sense of community. Our vision of CPC is of a loving church home that welcomes, embraces, and nurtures, not just on Sunday mornings, but wherever we find ourselves. Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Community Presbyterian Church has joined the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. As a Matthew 25 church since 2021, we define ourselves by our love for each other, our local community, and the greater community. In 2020-21 the Session worked to develop our Core Values. These Core Values, adopted by Session, define us as a Church: Honesty, Trust, Openness, Curiosity, Compassion and Grace.

Community Setting

CPC is in northeast Florida, in the City of Atlantic Beach, within the broader limits of the City of Jacksonville (Duval County), Florida. CPC is the church home of 425 members, plus additional attendees and guests, within the local “Jacksonville Beaches” community. Atlantic Beach, the original and permanent home of the church since its initial charter in 1937, is the northern of three small cities that comprise the 10+ mile long “Jacksonville Beaches”-- Atlantic, Neptune, and Jacksonville Beach -- along with Mayport Naval Station and the village of Mayport to the north, and Ponte Vedra Beach to the south. Atlantic Beach is 16 miles east of the metropolitan center of the City of Jacksonville – which, through consolidation, comprises the fifth largest city by area in the contiguous United States.

CPC is located three blocks from the beach on the Atlantic Ocean and a few minutes’ walk to the “Beaches Town Center”, at the heart of Atlantic and Neptune Beach. Town Center features many restaurants, shops, and hotels that are a popular destination for residents and vacationing tourists alike. The church’s 3.25-acre campus is located between the resort center of the north Jacksonville Beaches and the quieter residential streets of Atlantic Beach.

Atlantic Beach: <https://coab.us/>

Neptune Beach: <https://www.nbfl.gov/>

Jacksonville Beach:

<https://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/>



Locally, CPC reflects the very relaxed, informal, and diverse lifestyle of the Jacksonville Beaches. A forever home for its many residents that were born in Jacksonville, or a more recent home for its newer 'transplant' and US Navy residents, the Beaches promote an active lifestyle that appreciates and enjoys the beach and surf, arts and culture, traditional hard work, and community involvement. More broadly, CPC is also part of metropolitan Jacksonville, which features a growing urban environment of business, leading edge medical care, cultural arts, universities, professional sports (including the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars), proximity to Amelia Island and historic St. Augustine -- and all within a natural environment that is cherished for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, and all sorts of outdoor recreation. In summary, the community of CPC is both local and broad, laid-back beach and urban, and all amidst a particular culture of hospitality and pragmatic sensibility that is Southern yet also unique to north Florida. This is part of the story, and setting, of Community Presbyterian Church.

A Brief History of Community Presbyterian Church

The principal settlement of Atlantic Beach and the Beaches Community dates to 1900 when Henry Flagler built a branch of the Florida East Coast Railway to Atlantic Beach and constructed a 350-room summer resort hotel on the beach. The City of Atlantic Beach was incorporated in 1926.

The early origins of CPC date to 1932, when several Christian families initiated a non-denominational Sunday school for children in the home of Victoria Welch and an adult Sunday evening vesper service. In 1936, the Presbytery of Suwannee called into service the retired minister Dr. Edgar Way to help form a new church at the beach. Dr. Way visited and preached on Sundays. And, under his direction, the Beach Community Church was organized and chartered in 1937 with 29 members, as a Presbyterian Church, meeting in the Atlantic Beach City Hall. In 1938, with 77 members of the Church, two lots were purchased on Sherry Drive, establishing the present location of the church campus. The Sanctuary was built in 1940 (remaining as it is today, with subsequent renovations), and the first service was held there on September 29, 1940. Rev. Massey Mott Heltzel was the Church's first full time Pastor, from 1939-1942. The Jacksonville Beaches continued to evolve during this early war-time period, which included the initial construction of Mayport Naval Station located just north of Atlantic Beach.



The exterior of the Sanctuary in 1940 looked much as it does today: a modest one-story chapel with simple white façade that befits the local beach neighborhood. The Pastor's office was in a room at the rear of the sanctuary. Sunday School rooms and a kitchen were in what is now a portion of the narthex and rear pews.

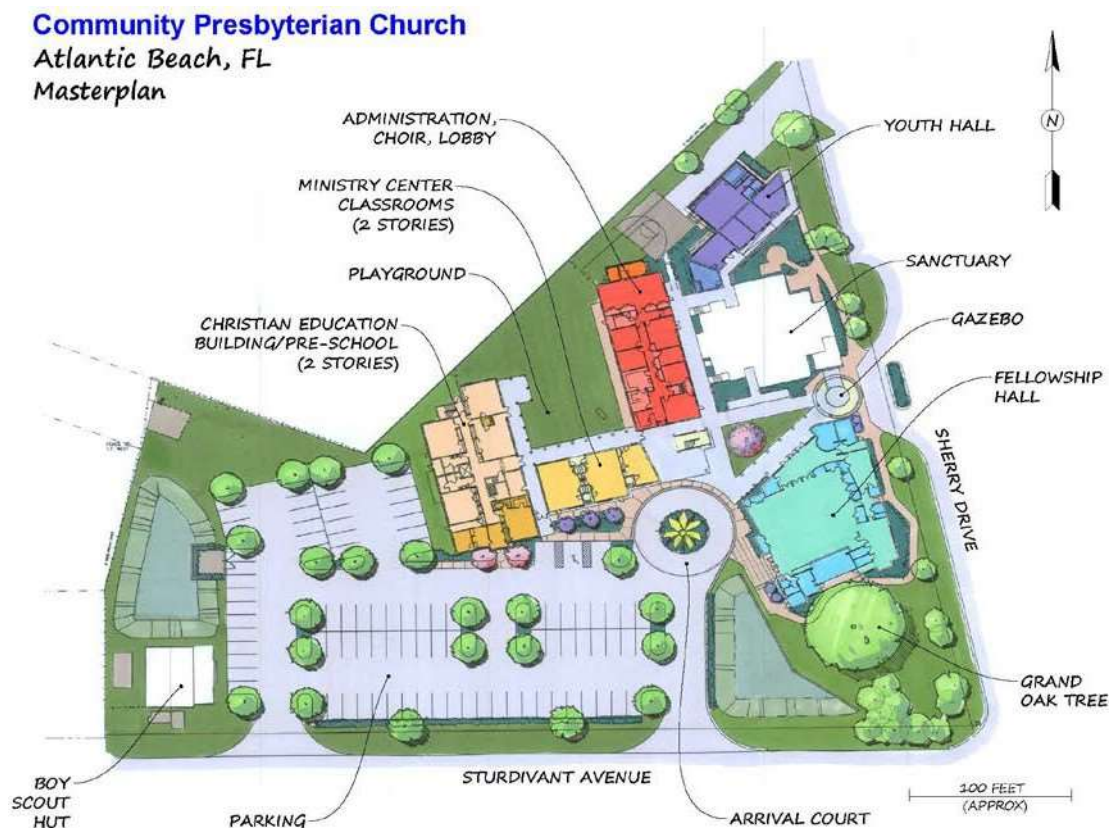
In May 1941, the name of the church was changed to Community Presbyterian Church. In 1942, the north wing was completed (which is now part of the expanded Youth Wing). In 1943, two adjoining lots were purchased. By 1945, membership was 160 persons representing 75 homes. Boy Scout Troop 37, chartered in 1937, had been adopted by the church and its meeting hut (c. 1940's) was constructed on the church campus, where it remains today. In 1948, the first kindergarten school was held at CPC, and by 1959 the Church assumed full responsibility of that school and hired three teachers.

By the late 1950s, an administrative office building and a fellowship hall were built (since renovated and replaced), and in 1967 the Sanctuary was expanded. In 1985, CPC moved to two Sunday morning worship services. In 1986, the first stained glass window among twenty, ultimately completed through 2006, was installed. In 1988, the Sanctuary was again expanded. In 1991, a two-story Education Building was constructed (with subsequent renovations in 2006-07). And, in 2002-03, the Sanctuary was again renovated, to its present condition. By 2005, the CPC membership included about 730 adults and 145 youth confirmands.

In 2005-2007, the entire CPC Church Campus was upgraded and renovated beyond the Sanctuary (which was previously upgraded in 2003). The works included the Administrative Offices, the Education Building, expansion of the Youth Wing, parking facilities, campus lawns, and construction of a new Fellowship Hall facility and a two-story Ministry Building that serves both the Pre-School and Church classrooms, for a total cost of \$4.5M. These campus-wide project improvements were paid off in full by the Church membership in 2017.

After traveling minister Dr. Way helped to found the church (1937-1939), and since 1939, CPC has had eight ministers. These Pastors have included Reverends M. M. Heltzel (1939-42), J. F. Clark (1942-46), H. S. Stout (1946-60), E. W. Albright (1961-66), W. C. Keller (1966-75), J. G. Waller (1975-1983), G. P. (Gabe) Goodman (1984-2018), and Melanie Marsh-Baum (2019-2022).

Facilities



CPC occupies approximately 3.25 acres on the NW corner of the intersection of Sherry Drive and Sturdivant Avenue in Atlantic Beach, Florida. The church campus has six buildings, a gazebo, a memorial garden and a playground on the premises.

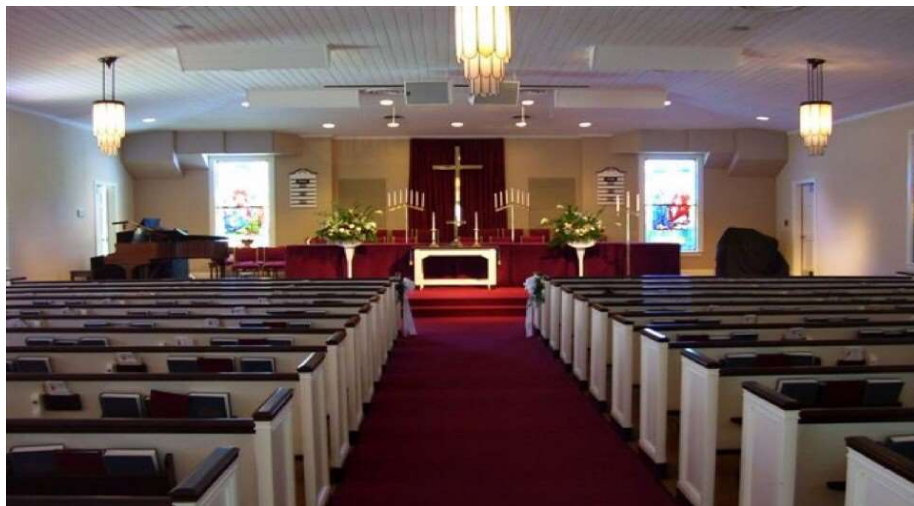
The six campus buildings include:

- The Sanctuary – Single story building approximately 4000 sq ft, which seats 350 people. It has a raised chancel area for the pulpit, choir, piano and organ. The Sanctuary is equipped with an audio-visual sound system. There are twenty stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. This building is off grade and is handicap accessible.
- The Fellowship Hall – Single story building comprised of approximately 6,300 sq ft and can seat up to 400 people. This building has a sound stage, audio visual sound system, multiple storage closets for tables and chairs, a parlor, five bathrooms, and a medium sized commercial kitchen equipped with a refrigerator, freezer, oven, warming oven, ice machine, pantry and several sinks. This building is used for Contemporary Worship Service, receptions, Wednesday Night dinners, funerals and other congregational events.
- The Youth Hall – Single story building housing the Youth Pastor's Office and 2500 sq ft of meeting area for youth with a small kitchenette and two bathrooms.
- The Administration Building – Single story building built in the 1950s and is approximately 4000 sq ft. This building houses offices for the Pastor, Music Director, Office Manager, Director of Christian Education, Accounting Manager, and has a conference room and choir room. There are four bathrooms in this building.
- The Education Building – Two story building comprising approximately 15,000 sq ft. This building is equipped with an elevator and houses an office for the Preschool Director, a reception area, a workroom, seven downstairs classrooms used primarily by CPPK and ten upstairs classrooms used for Sunday School, meeting rooms, and outside groups. There are nine bathrooms and two are equipped with a shower.
- The Boy Scout Hut – A wood frame single story building built as a clubhouse type of structure, mainly used by Boy Scout Troop 37. It is approximately 1,100 sq ft and has one bathroom.

All the CPC facilities and utilities were upgraded, renovated, or rebuilt through major construction projects completed between 2002 and 2008. These were generous improvements throughout the campus, however, buildings, equipment, utilities and more require constant maintenance. The biggest expected capital expense will be repairing or replacing the 20+ air conditioning units across the campus. A new roof was installed on the sanctuary in 2018, funded by a specific capital campaign. CPC has a well-lit parking lot with 100 spaces. The church owns a fifteen-passenger van and a box delivery truck. Community Presbyterian Church is unique in that the property is owned by the membership.



CPC Administration Building (left) and Fellowship Hall (right)



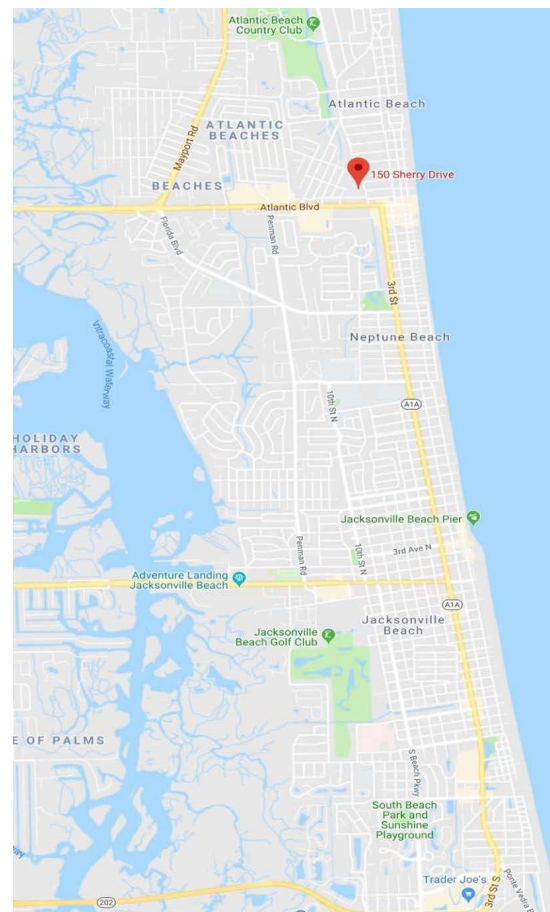
CPC's Sanctuary for traditional worship and other events

Community Demographics

CPC is in Atlantic Beach, Florida, which is part of the “Jacksonville Beaches” that includes Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Mayport, Mayport Naval Station, and the “West Beaches” just across the Intracoastal Waterway – which are all a part of the much broader City of Jacksonville. Jacksonville’s downtown center is located 16 miles west. The City of Jacksonville includes, through consolidation, all of Duval County. It has nearly 1 million residents, with about 56% Caucasian, 31% African American, 8% Hispanic, and 5% Asian by self-described origin. The majority membership and attendance of CPC is comprised of persons from the Jacksonville Beaches.

Locally, the population of the Cities of Atlantic, Neptune, and Jacksonville Beach (which each feature “home-rule” within the broader City of Jacksonville) is about 44,560 persons, equally divided between male and female. According to the statistics from the American Community Survey Data the Jacksonville Beaches:

- The median age is 44 years.
- About 53% are married.
- About 93% of the population is described as English speaking, and about 4% described as Spanish speaking.
- Residents identify themselves as approximately:
 - 85% White;
 - 6% Hispanic;
 - 4% Black;
 - 2% Asian; and
 - 3% Other
- Additionally, 7% defined themselves as two or more races.
- The approximate median household income was \$96,948.
- About 97% of Beaches residents 25 years and older have a high school diploma, over 33% have a bachelor’s degree, and over 22% have a graduate or professional degree.



The Beaches’ principal public high school, Duncan U. Fletcher High School, is located 1.3 miles south of CPC.

Naval Station Mayport is located four miles north of CPC. Total active duty at NS Mayport is 15,150 with approximately 32,000 family members. The Navy at Mayport covers 3,409 acres and is the third largest naval facility in the continental United States.

As oceanfront communities, the cost of living at the Beaches is a bit higher than most other inland areas of northeast Florida. The economy is driven by service industries such as hotels, motels, restaurants and bars. All in all, the Beaches are a socially minded, laid-back coastal community that enjoys a salt life by the ocean within the municipality of a much larger urban city.

Local Churches and Denominations. There are dozens of churches within and near the Jacksonville Beaches, predominantly Christian, ranging from small to large. Given the number of these churches, a list is not offered here. This report does not discern the percentage of the local populace that consider themselves allied with one faith or another, or of some other belief. Qualitatively, it can be reasonably stated that there is a broad base of faith beliefs within the Jacksonville Beaches community: traditional Christian, non-denominational Christian, and many others.

Community Perspectives

Broader community views of CPC are articulated by several leaders at the Beaches, as summarized below. Ellen Glasser, former Mayor of Atlantic Beach (and member of another church at the Beaches), considers CPC as “long being at the heart of Atlantic Beach and the Beaches, embracing the concept of a ‘neighborhood church’”. She describes the value of CPC to the community in terms of its facilities – including child-care, education and an open venue for community meetings and activities (e.g., AA, Rotary, Young Mothers, grief and wellness-support groups, displaced families, voting, public meetings & presentations) – but especially in terms of its members. Former Mayor Ellen Glasser notes that CPC is all about the spirit of its congregants and the work done outside of the church. She notes that “whereas many smaller churches operate within themselves, the members of CPC do not just attend worship on Sunday, they live their faith every day and bring their personal faith beyond the church, into and as part of, the community”.

Pastor Mike Blaker, former long-time leader of St. Andrews Lutheran Church by the Sea, describes CPC as “having an outgoing, friendly congregation whose members talk about the special place that CPC is for them”. Pastor Blaker admires CPC for its outstanding youth program and valuable service and active community involvement within the Beaches – especially Our Father’s Housewares [which provides furniture and household necessities for persons in need]. He notes that “CPC has a contemporary history of leadership; and that its tradition and identity is one that is bound with the broader populace and Interfaith Community of the Beaches, seeking to promote the overall Christian Community rather than solely the aims of its own church”. Pastor Blaker notes that the latter is increasingly rare and important, as churches compete for diminishing overall participation. And, he adds that “the success and health of CPC has benefited from, and shall require, pastoral leadership that is ‘participating ecumenically’ – following Christ’s call to make a difference in the broader community and the world.”

MISSION STATEMENT, VALUES AND THEOLOGY

Mission Statement: We are a family of faith, growing in Christ, worshipping, and serving with joy.

VALUES



Theology: Community Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of the St. Augustine Presbytery. Our foundation is rooted in the Reformation and the teachings of John Calvin. Known as the Reformed Tradition, our theology stresses the sovereignty of God, the authority of Scripture, justification by grace through faith, and the priesthood of all believers. Within the Reformed Tradition there can be a variety of expressions of one's faith and Community reflects that diversity of opinion, from conservative to liberal and everything in-between. As not all members of any one family believe all things in the same way, so this is true of our family of faith.

CPC STAFF

CPC employs a staff of full and part-time paid personnel who fulfill the following functions:

Pastor	Minister of Family Life	Director of Christian Education (p/t)
Choir Director (p/t)	Office Manager (p/t)	Accounting Manager (p/t)
Worship Band Leader (p/t)	Our Father's Housewares Driver/Assistant (p/t)	CPPK Director

ELECTED GOVERNING BODIES

CPC has three governing bodies elected by the congregation – Session, Deacons, and Trustees. Each year a nominating committee creates a list of candidates, confirms the candidates' willingness to serve, and then presents the candidates to the congregation for a vote. Elected members to the Session and Board of Deacons are ordained and installed to serve three-year terms, as do the Trustees.

Trustees:

The Board of Trustees is comprised of six members. The Trustees are charged with managing the investment portfolios of the General Trust and the Harvey Scholarship Fund. The Trustees also advise the Session concerning proper use of trust funds.

Deacons:

The CPC Board of Deacons is comprised of eighteen individuals. The primary focus for Deacons is to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. The ministries of the Deacons are summarized under the Church Ministries.

Session:

The Session at CPC is comprised of seventeen ruling Elders. The Pastor-Head of Staff serves as Moderator. The Minister of Community Life and Director of Christian Education are invited to attend Session meetings.

In addition to their Session responsibilities, every Elder on Session is assigned by the Moderator of Session to one of the church's 6 core committees resulting in at least two, but preferably three Elders on each Committee. This includes one Elder serving as chair of that assigned committee.

CORE COMMITTEES

CPC has six permanent (core) committees that are charged with running the primary missions and functions of the church. Each committee is chaired by a Session Elder with usually two additionally assigned Session members. The remainder of the committee is comprised of members of the congregation. The committees typically meet monthly.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee is charged with developing CPC's annual budget, monitoring expenditures, encouraging giving, and addressing special financial needs of the church. The Pastor is the staff representative to this committee.

Property Committee:

The Property Committee is charged with maintaining the church facilities and overseeing repairs and improvements. The Pastor is the staff representative to this committee.

Mission Committee:

The Mission Committee oversees the missions and outreach of the Church. Their charge includes current and future mission involvement, financial matters, volunteers, and ways to facilitate both within the church. The Minister of Family Life is the staff representative to this committee.

Christian Education Committee:

The Christian Education committee is charged with the ongoing nurture and Christian education of all ages. They accomplish this through a variety of programs, classes, and events. The youth program falls within the bounds of this committee as does oversight of the CPPK committee. The Director of Christian Education and Minister of Community Life help guide the work of this committee.

Worship and Music Committee:

The Worship and Music Committee has oversight for enriching the worship life of the congregation. This includes providing meaningful, joyful worship with music offerings for all generations, drama, special services and events, and the staffing/training necessary for implementation. The Pastor, Choir Director and Contemporary Worship Band Leader are all staff to this committee.

Personnel Committee:

The Personnel Committee works in partnership with the Pastor to provide guidance and input on personnel and human resource matters. The committee possesses the final decision-making authority while considering the opinions and recommendations of the Pastor. The committee is revising CPC's current benefits and evaluation processes to reflect a system that is clearly defined, measurable, user-friendly, and consistently executed in a manner that results in effective and actionable feedback and next steps.

MINISTRIES OF CPC

WORSHIP AND MUSIC PROGRAMS

CPC has a Contemporary Worship Service held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am and a Traditional Worship Service held in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. Special worship services include, but are not limited to Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve (4 services). Worship and Music components crossing many committee responsibilities include:

- Chancel Choir - CPC members praise God singing choral music as Anthems and Offertories and lead the congregation in the singing of Hymns during Traditional Sunday Worship services. The Choir also provides music for special services, cantatas, and events throughout the year.
- The Glory Ringers - The CPC Handbell Choir praises God by ringing Hymns and Anthems once each month for the Traditional Sunday Worship services.
- Contemporary Worship Band - Worships God with a multi-generational, multi-talented band; playing various instruments, with voice, in leading the Contemporary Service.
- A/V Team - Supports the worship experience with audio and video technology at both services.
- Fools For Christ - Church members and guests, of various ages, presenting God's Word through contemporary drama periodically offered as a regular worship or special service. The company focuses upon high quality production of modern, thought-provoking pieces.
- Greeters - Provide a warm welcome to members and visitors as they approach and enter all worship services.
- Ushers - Provide worshipers with necessary material (bulletins, listening devices, etc.), record attendance and weather conditions, and collect the offering. They also do a light clean-up of the sanctuary following each service.
- Church Mice - A group of CPC members who "reset" the Sanctuary on Monday mornings, by refilling the pew racks with prayer request forms, attendance folders, pencils, and anything else necessary for the worship service the following Sunday.
- Home Centered Communion - Elders and members of the Barnabas Ministry take communion to those physically unable to attend services. This program began October 8, 2018.
- Prayground – Dedicated spaces in the front of the Fellowship Hall (9:00) and the Sanctuary (11:00) for children to feel welcome and know they belong and can participate in worship. Quiet toys and coloring pages keep little hands busy.
- Children's Church - Children attending the Contemporary service have the opportunity to leave the service following the Children's Sermon to participate in special activities.

- Live-streaming - Both services (9:00 and 11:00) are available online.
- Communion - Elders and Deacons are available to prepare and serve the sacraments on the first Sunday of each month and other services as approved by Session.
- Special Programs - Through the year, special services are held for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and Thanksgiving.
- Maundy Thursday - Dinner and Worship Service/Cantata are held annually.
- Liturgists - Enlisted and trained to serve as needed for Sunday worship services.
- Nursery Staff - Provide care for babies and toddlers during the worship services and other special events.

MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRIES

As a community of Christian believers, CPC is called to be God's hands, feet, and heart in the world. We are dedicated to love our neighbor, feed God's sheep, and minister to the stranger. We also feel called that our community is not defined by our wooden walls or our island home, but as God calls us to see needs in the world. We work to minister to our congregation and our world to show our thanks for God's grace. Ways in which we minister include:

Local - financial/volunteer support

- Our Father's Housewares (OFH) - This is a furniture ministry that was started by a local gentleman in the 1990s. Since 1999 it has been run by church staff and volunteers with the physical assistance of one-to-two part-time employees that pick up and deliver donated furniture to persons in need. Volunteers take calls on weekdays to organize the supply with the demand. They get calls from church members and kind neighbors for pickups and work with local social workers and organizations to find people in need. Furniture is stored in local storage units and CPC owns a truck to use for transport. In the last few years, about 225 families have been aided annually.
- Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) - This is a Beaches organization whose mission is to provide emergency assistance and a path to economic stability for residents in need. This includes help with overdue rent/utilities and food insecurity (two pantry locations and a community garden). CPC was a founding member in 1985 and continues to support BEAM with financial and volunteer support in BEAM's food pantries and thrift store throughout the year. www.jaxbeam.org
- Family Promise - This is an interfaith hospitality network that provides temporary shelter, meals, hospitality, and case management for families experiencing homelessness. CPC is one of seventeen host churches in the Jacksonville network. We host one-three families overnight twice a year for seven days each. www.familypromisejax.org
- Cold Weather Shelter - CPC supports, with other churches at the Beaches, a comfortable place to sleep indoors and a warm meal to homeless adults in coordination with Mission House when the temperature drops near freezing in the winter months.
- Nights of Compassion - CPC recently started a program with the organizers of the Cold Weather Shelter to open our doors to the homeless community and give them hot meals and a safe night of rest. Our goal is to have multiple churches host a similar event so the homeless community has this opportunity once a month. CPC's current plans are to host this event quarterly.

- Thanksgiving dinners - Every year members of CPC, with the help of our Youth Groups, donate funds and purchase food to go in Thanksgiving baskets for about 40 local families in need.
- Mission House – Founded in 1997, this is a day facility for homeless adults at the Beaches that provides lunch and dinner, showers, clothing, counseling, and a medical clinic. CPC provides financial support and volunteers for a lunch and dinner every month. www.missionhousejax.org
- Lifecycles – A shared mission with another local church, this group refurbishes bicycles for the underserved population at the beaches in conjunction with Mission House counselors.
- Beaches Habitat - This nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry works at the Beaches to fulfill Habitat for Humanity's International Vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Members of CPC volunteer one Saturday a month to help with local builds. www.beacheshabitat.org
- Scouts - Troop 37 – Founded in 1937, this scout troop is sponsored by CPC and housed in 'the Scout Hut' on church property. The young people of the troop aid the church in a variety of ways throughout the year, and the Church also provides some financial support to them.
- Blue Bin Ministry - Each month CPC selects a local mission to collect requested items for. Some of the missions we support include Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, BEAM, Dial-a-Ride, and local lower-income elementary schools and nursing homes.

Local - financial support

- Dial-a-ride - This is a mission at the Beaches that CPC supports financially every year. It provides transportation to appointments for those in need. <https://beachescora.org/services/>

National

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - CPC provides financial support to PDA. Our Minister of Community Life, Robert McCrary, is a local PDA representative. CPC has organized mission trips to aid with recovery throughout our region.
- PCUSA offerings - CPC participates in the four special offerings throughout the year.

International

- Two-cents-a-meal - CPC has been an active donor (\$300 to \$400 per month) to this mission of the St. Augustine Presbytery for many years with a special offering on the second Sunday of each month. The donations go through our Presbytery to Jamaica and other Caribbean Island nations.



Delivering thanksgiving dinners



Serving meals at Mission House

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In keeping with our Church's mission statement and values of growing in the knowledge and love of Christ, Christian Education is highly valued at CPC. Vacation Bible School programs in the summer and during Christmas break are well attended by our church and preschool families. We currently hold one children's Sunday school class for preschool and elementary-aged students. Post-COVID we have had a smaller group and hope to build back to multiple classrooms in the future. Special youth programs like mission trips and retreats are well-attended, thanks in large part to the commitment of our long-time Minister of Community Life, and we hope to build a more active weekly youth program.

We are always looking for ways to reach out to all ages, reevaluate, and improve our programs. To that end we began using a new Confirmation curriculum (Big God Big Questions) that has greatly improved commitment, seriousness, and positive responses. We have held a series of classes about online safety and other contemporary technological issues that affect young parents, the elderly and everyone in between. In keeping with our core value of community, we have become faith partners with the school next door, Atlantic Beach Elementary.

Adult Sunday Classes

- Seeker's Class for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith.
- Mariner's adult Bible study.
- YoMoms gathering of women and mothers for study, spiritual growth, and support.

Adult Weekday Groups

- Wednesday morning men's prayer breakfast with the Pastor.
- Thursday morning women's Bible study for study, spiritual growth, and support.
- Thursday evening men's group for study, spiritual growth, and support.

Monthly Study, Fellowship, and/or Mission Groups

- Fancy Fingers - knitting, crocheting, or other handwork projects for mission.
- Christians In Action - monthly fellowship group meeting in homes.
- Partners In Faith - monthly fellowship group meeting in homes.
- Eve's Circle – monthly women's Bible study group meeting Tuesday nights at the church.

Children's Sunday Classes

- Sunday School (9:00) and is available for children to attend after the children's moment during the Contemporary worship service. The children's Sunday School curriculum is currently *Sparkhouse*.

Youth Sunday Groups

- Middle School Youth meet on Sunday mornings for study, fellowship, and discipleship with high energy fun.
- Senior High Youth can meet for small group discipleship and fellowship activities on Sunday afternoon.
- A confirmation series using *Big God Big Questions* curriculum is available each year.

Additional Christian Education Activities

- Advent and Lent events to create projects for families to learn about Christmas and Easter.
- Introduction to the Sacraments held annually to teach families the meaning of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) held each summer and the week after Christmas.
- Annual Family Retreat weekend of learning, fellowship, worship, bonding and fun. This Memorial Day retreat typically hosts fifty adults and children during a two-day/two-night camp retreat with many faith and community building activities. The retreat is held at Camp Montgomery, a camp owned by the St. Augustine Presbytery with cabins and a dining hall situated beside three beautiful spring-fed lakes.
- Women's Retreat weekend of rest, reflection, fun and fellowship in a sisterhood of faith. This retreat in early February typically hosts 15-20 women during a two-day/two-night retreat, also held at Camp Montgomery.
- Special Christmas Eve services planned for families with young children each year.
- Special classes and events planned as desired.



Youth Retreat at Camp Montgomery



Church Retreat at Camp Montgomery

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Community Presbyterian Church offers many programs for youth, ages 11-18. Youth involvement is a priority at CPC, as we are a family-oriented church. The Youth Groups and associated youth programs are led by CPC's Minister of Family Life. The church took a leap of faith hiring a full-time Youth Pastor (now called Minister of Family Life) in 2000. Our Minister of Family Life has exceeded expectations, expanding the church's youth program into an outreach to community youth.



High School Youth Group

The youth program provides a variety of outreach, mission and faith development activities during the year for students to engage and grow in their faith. Activities like the Lookout retreat are times for students to reflect and develop their personal connection with God.

The Youth Group and the ski trip enable students to build personal connections with each other in a positive setting. Volunteering to assist the ministries of the church, and in the community, help form a good Christian attitude in the students.



Middle School Youth Group

Youth programs available include:

- Middle School Youth Group - meets at 10:00 AM every Sunday morning for a time of discipleship, study, and active fellowship.
- Senior High Youth Group – have the opportunity to meet every Sunday evening for a time of active fellowship and discipleship.
- Summer Senior High Youth Trip – Senior high students alternate summer trips to the PCUSA Montreat Youth Conference in Black Mountain, North Carolina and The Door Mission Trip to Atlanta, Georgia, working with a variety of Atlanta-based missions. These youth also have an opportunity to attend Triennium.
- Fall Senior High Retreat to Mt. Lookout – A personal challenge and team building retreat allowing students to reflect and develop their personal connection with God, usually offered once during a senior high student's four years at CPC.

- Winter Ski Trips - For middle school, senior high, and college youth, allows a time of fun bonding and personal challenge within and between age groups.
- Volunteering at Vacation Bible School – CPC offers a week long VBS in the summer and a shorter version over Christmas break. Our middle school and senior high youth are of valuable assistance helping to shepherd groups, lead games, act in dramas and assist in crafts, Bible study, science and music.
- PDA Mission Trips – CPC’s Minister of Community Life often leads a multigenerational mission trip to a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance area over spring break or in the summer.
- Babysitting in the nursery - Senior high youth can assist in this important ministry.
- Contemporary Worship Band - Youth can play a key role in providing music and audio-visual technology assistance in this multi-generational band that leads worship at the 9:00 service.
- Worship Dramas – Youth are often recruited to the drama team at CPC.
- Youth Auction – A fun evening of silent and traditional auction with games that raises funds for our youth budget.
- Mystery Dinner Theater - A show put on by both youth and adults in the congregation to raise money for the youth program.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring – A middle school mission that coincides with the Super Bowl to raise money to assist two local ministries that provide food to those in need.
- Thanksgiving Baskets – Middle school youth compete in groups to collect and purchase food for the baskets. Senior high youth pack them to be delivered to a local food ministry the week before Thanksgiving each year.
- Our Fathers Housewares – Our church’s furniture and housewares ministry appreciate the help of senior high youth in the summer and occasionally on weekends to help with furniture delivery and/or organizing the warehouse.
- Lunch with Minister of Family Life during school – CPC’s Minister of Family Life will come to school to have lunch with any students who request it.
- Ushers at Sunday services – Families often usher together but individual youth are also invited to assist.
- Beach Clean Up – A middle school youth mission.
- Play Days - Fun youth trips (rollerblading, waterpark, tubing, beach day) are planned in summer and interspersed throughout the year to keep the programs lively.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN PREKINDERGARTEN (CPPK)

CPPK is a voluntary Prekindergarten provider. We are accredited by the Association of Christian Schools, Inc. and licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. We have a five-star rating from the Early Learning Coalition of Duval in their Guiding Stars Quality Rating System.

CPPK provides part day classes from 8:30 AM to 11:45 AM and wrap around care from 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM. The school is open August through May for children who are two, three, four and five years old by September 1st.

CPPK has a staff of a director, twelve teachers, and one administrative assistant. In the 2022-2023 school year the enrollment totaled 97 students. CPPK has two classes for each age level from 2 years to VPK which accepts 4 and 5-year-olds.



DEACON MINISTRIES

The ministries of the Deacons include:

- The Funeral Ministry involves initial contact made with the family by delivery of a breakfast basket. Day of funeral duties include setting up the parlor for the family, ushering, guestbook signing, lending support with the reception, and assisting with flower removal.
- The Inquirers class series, which Deacons host, providing a welcoming presence for those inquiring about membership in our Church. In addition, the Deacons provide support and encouragement to ensure new members feel their needs/questions are met.
- The Greeting Card Ministry provides written cards of encouragement or sympathy and are mailed to those with recent illnesses, who are grieving, or are home bound. Names are sourced from Sunday prayer requests, mentions in the Sunday bulletin as well as referrals from the church office personnel.
- The Barnabas Ministry, a visitation program for those who can no longer attend worship services at church, is overseen by the Deacons.
- Support Groups (Grief Support, Cancer Support, Caregiving Support class series) are also overseen by the Deacons and a church staff member.
- Two new programs include the Church Chariot Ministry, to transport residents from a subsidized senior living facility to and from worship service, and the Sunday Visitor Gift Bag, implemented to try to connect with new visitors and make them feel welcome.
- The Congregational Life Committee is a subcommittee of the deacons that oversees funeral/memorial service receptions and assists various committees in monthly fellowship events.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

CPC is on solid financial footing. The church is debt free after paying off a mortgage in 2017 incurred for a major expansion and updating of its facilities in 2007. Income regularly meets expenses, but operating cash reserves are never large. The church does not regularly conduct special fundraisers. However, the congregation always responds when the church is in need. In 2017, unanticipated repairs were necessary due to latent damage in the roofing structure of the sanctuary. The congregation responded by quickly raising over \$80,000, which exceeded the costs of the roof repairs and allowed the property committee to make additional repairs and maintenance.

Due to the recent property improvements and maintenance, it is not anticipated that a major capital campaign will be needed in the near future. Annual income for the past three years has been \$708,702, \$630,011, and \$654,073. CPC's expenses for those years were \$750,514, \$623,272, and \$592,032.

CPC also manages two trust funds through an elected board of trustees. One is a general trust that historically has provided income to the annual operations in the range of \$20,000-\$25,000 per year. The trust also serves to financially protect the church in the event of a catastrophic or other extraordinary event. As of March 31, 2023, the balance in the general trust was \$544,588.

The second trust is known as the Harvey Scholarship Fund. A special committee administers use of the trust, which is to provide college scholarships to youth members as well as general educational giving to community-based scholarship programs. As of March 31, 2023, the balance in the Harvey Scholarship trust was \$1,291,552.

PRIORITIES – LOOKING FORWARD

The following are some of the priority ministries and programs identified by the members of CPC:

- Christian Education – Identify Christian education and other programs, relevant to modern lifestyles, to rebuild the youth programs for all ages back to pre-COVID levels and start a young adult faith education program.
- Worship and Music – Build overall membership and increase weekly attendance in Sunday services. Continue to refine the style of the 9:00 Contemporary and 11:00 Traditional services. Treat the periodic combined/blended 10:00 service as an opportunity for something special. Avidly support our recently hired Choir Director and Contemporary Band Leader. Consistently reach out to bolster the number of participants in the chancel choir, as well as explore opportunities to involve children.
- Deacons – Provide the congregation with a better understanding of the role of Deacons. Work to increase home visitations. Develop a connection plan that puts visitors on a pathway to membership.
- Mission – Help church members match their talents with the church's various ministries. Work closely to align mission endeavors with Matthew 25 priorities. Solidify support to CPC's core commitments, including Our Father's Housewares, Family Promise, Mission House and others. Strengthen the invitation for youth to participate in our mission undertakings.
- Congregational Life – Increase fellowship participation through varied small groups and family events. Connect with young families and visitors to help increase membership.
- Personnel – Hire a part-time Youth Associate to help plan, develop and supervise the youth programs with the potential to lead to a full-time Youth Director position as the program grows. Recruit and maintain professional staff. This committee is transitioning to a system by which Personnel Committee matters can be addressed in partnership with the Pastor-Head of Staff, where the Personnel committee approves the final decision. This committee is revising CPC's current benefits and evaluation processes to reflect a system that is clearly defined, measurable, user-friendly, and consistently executed in a manner that results in effective and actionable feedback and next steps.
- Finance – While annual giving has been sufficient for the church to meet its expenditures, we would like to see growth in giving and fundraising to allow for expansion of CPC's missions, programs and staff.
- Property – Ongoing maintenance and cleaning of the buildings and grounds so our property is attractive to visitors, members and guests. Plan more church workdays throughout the year and ensure that there are tasks that include all skill levels. Perhaps the workdays could be targeted to focus on one area of the church at a time, such as the kitchen or all the closets. Follow through on the plan for on-site storage for Our Father's Housewares.