

Subject: News from Christ Congregational Church, UCC

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ENews Notes for May 2011



ENews Notes

From the Senior Minister:

Do you remember what it's like to show up to church as a visitor? These remarks are adapted from the writings of The Rev. Christopher Moore, First United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA. I thought they might alert us to ways we might offer hospitality to others.

Hello, I am a Newcomer to Your Church...

You cannot know the reason why I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In either case, I am here. And there are some things you can do to help me. Won't you please . . . ?

Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the

May 13, 2011

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Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church during the first few moments I am in your building. This first impression will probably stay with me a long time.

Help me find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.

Speak to me during the coffee hour. I know you want to see your friends and settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for the stranger in your midst.

Tell me good things about your church, your ministers, and staff. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for God.

Notice me ... even if I am not a "family." I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager, or an older person.

Talk to me again the second week and when I come back, and the third and fourth. Please don't feel you have done your duty by me just because you made a point of greeting me the first week I was here.

Invite me to become part of some church group. I need more than worship on Sunday. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.

If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back the second Sunday, the third and maybe forever. I will worship with you, and I may join your choir; take a class; participate in your ministries; teach Sunday school; mentor children; give sacrificially, or work in your mission projects and in so doing, I will find my own life immeasurably enriched.

. . . Things to ponder as we offer a ministry of hospitality as a church family. See you in Church!

Pastor Matt Braddock

Musical Note: The Finances Behind CCC's Choral Music

As we look forward to the Chancel Choir Concert on June 12th, the Music Committee would like to give you a peek behind the curtain and share the financial reality involved in providing a rich, meaningful choral program at CCC.

Did you know that when the choir sings a new piece of music on Sunday morning, that new music costs us between \$70 and \$100? Let's break that number down. A single piece of choral music costs an average of \$2.00 to \$2.50 for each member of the choir. Given that we have about 35 regular choir members, we order between 35 and 40 copies of a new anthem. Because we have built an ample music library over the years, we don't sing new music every Sunday and frequently sing music from that library.

Did you know that our larger choral works for Easter and Christmas cost substantially more? An excellent case in point is the cost for the 2010 Christmas music. The printed choral music for *The Magnificent* of John Rutter cost \$495.00, and remains in our marvelous library for future choirs to sing and enjoy. However, we then needed to rent the orchestral scores for all of the instrumental musicians. The rental fee for the orchestral music was \$300.00, which we don't get to keep! This means that we invested \$795.00 just for the printed choral and instrumental music for our Christmas Music Sunday worship services. In addition, we pay honorariums for guest orchestral players who "fill in the gaps" in our own CCC orchestra.

Did you know that some of the titles of the major works in our music library have served the choirs of this church for well over 50 years? We have some music, like our scores for Handel's *Messiah*, that are literally falling apart from years of being well used. Some copies cannot be taped together anymore! We must consider the cost of replacing these scores if we want to continue to hear the joyous sounds of the *Hallelujah Chorus* and other choral favorites throughout the year at CCC. Replacing the music for a major work like the *Messiah* will cost around \$500.00.

As you experience the richness, depth, and diversity of the Chancel Choir's touching musical offerings, considers augmenting your pledge to the Unified Budget which makes CCC's choral music program possible. ***Music Connects Us to God...***

Fair Trade Program

CCC's own Fair Trade Coffee Project, which brings the congregation organic fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate at prices below retail, has had a banner year. Between August 2010 and March 2011, approximately \$3,500 worth of produce was sold to the congregation for private use; \$314 worth of coffee and tea was provided free of charge to the Board of Church Life and other CCC organizations; \$156 of coffee and tea was donated to the Shepherd's Table; \$65 worth of chocolate was provided as free samples at the Taste of Ministry and other events; and several books and magazines were purchased for the Environment library (2nd floor, next to the church library).

If anyone has any desire to know more about what "fair trade" is, information is available at the Fair Trade Sale the second Sunday of every month. We did not have the sale last Sunday because of Mother's Day; it was postponed to this Sunday.

Stewardship Report as of May 9, 2011

158 pledges \$605,616.20 received. 50 pledges yet expected.

Are you one of these? Expect a phone call soon!

There are pledge cards in the information packet mailed to you, and in the pew racks, or on the web site.

Place them in the offering plate or the box in the office.

Trustees are now preparing the Church's budget. Thanks

Trustees are now preparing the Church's budget. Thanks.
Marilyn Meyer, Board of Stewardship

Senior Group

We have planned a movie event for the afternoon of May 25th, commencing with a bagged lunch at noon in the conference room. The movie will begin at approximately 1:00 pm in the meeting room. We are planning to show "The King's Speech" on this occasion. Don't miss it!

Townhall Meeting

There will be a Townhall Meeting held on Sunday May 22, 2011, after the 10:30 AM service of worship in the Social Hall. Coffee hour will occur at 10 AM on May 22nd, to honor Church School Teachers and Youth Leaders, for the past year in the first floor atrium. Agenda for the Townhall meeting will include: Update from the Retreat House Task Force, Budget Hearing with the Board of Trustees, and announcements of important dates this summer and early fall. Committee meetings and Camp parent meeting will follow the Townhall meeting. Please join us in the Social hall for the last Townhall meeting of the 2010-2011 year.

CCC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Congregational Church/UCC will be held on Sunday, June 5th, following the 10:00 service. Additional information and agenda items will follow. According to the CCC Constitution, the new fiscal year starts at the conclusion of the meeting for all church boards and committees. All boards and committees are asked to identify their 2011-2012 chairs and co-chairs. All new members of boards, proposed by the nomination committee at the annual meeting and voted on by the congregation, will be "in office" as of June 5th 2011. Please update your board & committee membership rosters. Please email groups in early June and send an updated list of chairs & co chairs to the church office and Tom Gustafson. Thank you for your ongoing work and ministries at CCC.

Senior High Years

This past Sunday evening, the Senior High Youth Group looked back on our year together and reflected on the many activities that we conducted. This reflection provides the foundation for early planning for next year. Our group conducted a variety of service projects, including:

- Conducting a bake sale to raise money toward purchasing a share in the church
- Selling handicrafts from SERRV to raise money to support the youth mission trip

- Participating in the Super Bowl of Caring to help combat hunger by donating to Shepherd's Table

We also collected donations from the youth to add to the money that we made in the bake sale toward purchasing a share in the church. We thank the members of the congregation and community who gave generously in support of these projects.

In addition, we participated in several other fun and educational activities, including:

- Trip to New York City and participation in Night Watch at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- New Windsor Retreat where we worked at SERRV packaging some of the handicrafts that we sold in December and studied our faith
- Church overnight lock-in where we baked Christmas cookies, played games, prepared for the bake sale, explored the church, and watched a movie
- Began remodeling the Sr. High room to make it more inclusive to current youth participants
- Explored the role that hospitality plays in our faith, why it is important to us as Christians, and how we practice hospitality at CCC and in the broader community
- Discussed stewardship and the role that each of us plays in keeping the church alive through the contributions of our time, talent, and treasure
- Worshipping together in the youth services on Sunday evenings with Kristin, Richard, Nae, and Pastor Matt

Of course, this list does not include the countless hours of fun, fellowship, and food. All in all, we had a very good year and are looking forward to an even better year in 2011 and 2012!

Memorial Day Weekend

If you are new to CCC, or haven't been to the Retreat House you are especially welcomed during the Memorial Day weekend. This is CCC's annual Memorial Day weekend retreat for newcomers, new members, and potential new campers to get acquainted. Come enjoy the hills, the fields, the Cacapon River and the fresh West Virginia air just 2-1/2 hours from CCC. This event is sponsored by the Board of Outreach & Engagement. Watch *News Notes*, the bulletin, and the bulletin board outside the church office for details.

Beach Weekend

CCC's annual beach weekend will be held Friday August 26 - Sunday August 28. Don't miss out on a fun-filled weekend with other CCC friends and families at the Christian Church Conference Center in beautiful, relaxing, Bethany Beach, Delaware - reasonable rates, just two short blocks from the ocean. The cost for the entire weekend, including five meals is approximately \$118 per adult, \$55 for ages 5-15 and free for children under age 5. There is

a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office. Come and enjoy, long walks on the beach, rocking chairs on the porch, delicious meals, conversation, fun, and fellowship. For

further information, call Susan Gray at [301-593-5454](tel:301-593-5454).

Installation of Kristen C. Curlee

United Church of Christ and Bethel UCC, cordially invites your presence and prayers for the Installation of Kristen Casmey Curlee, as Senior Pastor to the congregation. On June 5, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at Bethel UCC-Arlington, VA. With an Installation Council gathering at 3:00 p.m., for all delegates and a reception immediately following.

Clergy who wish to robe and process should arrive one-half hour prior to the service to robe, pray, and prepare for the processional. Red or rainbow stoles encouraged!

Directions and Location Instructions:

Address: 4347 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203-2904
Phone: [\(703\) 528-0937](tel:703-528-0937)
Website:
www.betheluccva.org

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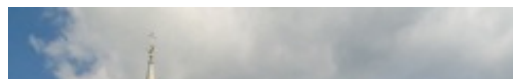


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ENews Notes





April 2011

In This Issue

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From the Pastor

"Put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you"
Colossians 3:5, NLT

My observation is that the typical Christian response to one's spiritual development can be quite casual. Some people have an attitude that says, "If I grow, that's fine. If I don't want to change, that's fine too. Either way, it's MY choice." On the human side of the equation it's easy to view spiritual growth as optional. On heaven's side of the equation, faith maturity is not optional. It is essential. That's why God is relentless in helping us understand the areas of our lives that need change. The author of Colossians says get rid of whatever belongs to your earthly nature: immorality, impurity, lust, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, lying (see Colossians 3:5-9).

Remember, the author of this epistle is writing to Christians. These are people who claim to know God. But there's a looming danger that they won't mature into strong followers of Christ. It's part of our human nature to walk the path of least resistance. It doesn't really take much to spark areas of personal weakness into a raging flame.

For instance: Once I saw someone almost crash into another car at an intersection. Both people were driving carelessly. Angry words were hurled. Each driver's pride would not allow either one to admit fault. And no, I was not one of the drivers. But what happens when it is me or you? Maybe you lay on the horn. You immediately conclude that the other car deliberately chose to cut you off as a massive plot to annoy you and ruin an already miserable day. You tell the passengers in your car what an idiot the other driver is. Why? Because someone was inconsiderate? Because maybe someone didn't see you there? Yet in a matter of seconds you have displayed rage, malice, slander, anger.

It's one thing when situations like these are isolated occurrences. It's quite another when patterns of anger or abuse take up residence in your lifestyle. Here, Scripture is uncompromising on our choice: Either we put worldly practices to death or they tear us apart. Every Christian has the responsibility before God to investigate the roots of whatever behavioral patterns are defeating him or her. It's better to do that than to have them eventually destroy you.

As we approach Holy Week, we have an opportunity to examine our lives. This is our chance to grow in spiritual maturity. I encourage us all to take some time to pray, meditate, read Scripture, and find sacred places to be still. Life is too precious, too sacred, and too important to let these opportunities pass by.

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Actors Needed
Sing Unto the Lord
Scholarship
Creating a Legacy
Storytelling

By the way, if you ever see me go spiritually stagnant, I hope you remind me that life can be better. I hope you will love me enough to challenge me to keep growing. I will do the same for you.

Onward,
Pastor Matt Braddock

-

A Word of Thanks from Pastor Matt

A thousand thanks, a thousand thanks, a thousand thanks to you, the members, staff and friends of CCC who have gone out of your way to welcome me to Silver Spring and to CCC. I am so grateful for the many meals, get-togethers, resources, and hospitality you have shared with me.

I am still learning my way here, eagerly awaiting the arrival of my family in July. I appreciate your continued patience, kindness, and eagerness to do God's work together.

Gratefully yours,
Pastor Matt Braddock

Just One More Day of Simplicity

You are cordially invited to join the CCC community for the Lenten Musical Offering in the sanctuary of the church next Wednesday. The concert will last for 30-40 minutes and immediately followed by a simple, but delicious home-made soup and bread luncheon prepared by our senior adults. Lunch is complimentary and served in the conference room on the second floor. All are invited and welcome. A free-will offering is accepted in order that we might offer these outstanding musicians an honorarium. Your gracious generosity has sustained this event for four years running. If you have any questions, please contact Nae Pearson, at [301-585-8010, ext. 224](tel:301-585-8010) or email Nae at Holymusic@aol.com We have experienced new attendance records this year and have been eating from 4 to 5 crock-pots of outrageously delicious soup each week! Thanks to Ruth Haigh, Nancy Kosinki (who supplies our bread) Neville and Audrey Platt, and Paul and Betsy Thomas for your wonderful hospitality each week at the luncheons.

Wednesday, April 20---Molly Stier, piano

Retreat House

Save the Date for Wild, Wonderful West Virginia! CCC's annual Memorial Day weekend retreat for newcomers, new members, and potential new campers to get acquainted with the Retreat House in Yellow Springs, WV is

sponsored by the Board of Outreach & Engagement. Watch *News Notes*, the bulletin, and the bulletin board outside the church office for details.

Recital

Thanks for your attendance and generosity on Sunday, March 27 at the Vocal Recital of Audrey Tornblom, soprano; Katherine Sanford, mezzo-soprano; with Joy Schreier on the piano. Our free will offering for our fabulous musicians was a total of \$675.00. Over 110 people attended this outstanding musical celebration and our thanks to Claudia and Audrey Tornblom and to the music committee for a truly gourmet reception that followed. Hope you got to try the chocolate-covered grapes created by our own Jeanne Young!

CCC Chancel Choir Choral Concert

Save the Date! Sunday, June 12---CCC Chancel Choir Choral Concert---4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary---CCC's own Chancel Choir has selected their choral favorites to offer to their best audience ever---YOU! Delight in classical repertoire as well as spirituals and some wonderful surprises as the choir celebrates the conclusion of another wonderful choir season. We would love to sing to a "packed-house!" The Chancel Choir of CCC has sung in all regions of the world with choirs from all over the world; but they want to offer their thanks to you, the supportive members and friends of CCC, for your steadfast and gracious support of them each and every week. They will offer a full-length concert featuring such favorites as Randall Thompson's "Alleluia;" Handel's "Sing Unto God;" Moses Hogan's arrangement of "Walk Together Children;" and a stunningly beautiful rendition of "Shenandoah" These titles are just a small sampling of the banquet of choral music that will be offered in CCC's sanctuary. This concert is free (no price for admission!) and open to the public, and a free-will offering will be collected at the concert! Start inviting your friends now! A reception will follow the concert!

A Concert

You are invited to sing in or attend a concert featuring if you are interested in singing this magnificent choral masterpiece. *The German Requiem* of Johannes Brahms. Members of the choirs of Marvin Memorial and Woodside United Methodist Churches, along with Hughes UMC, The Takoma Park Singers and many members of the CCC Chancel Choir will be joining together to sing the Brahms' *Requiem* on Good Friday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Woodside United Methodist Church, 8900 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Nae Pearson will serve as guest conductor for the concert. For those CCC singers who love to come together to sing for a single concert with a limited number of rehearsals and time commitment, here is an excellent opportunity to share your musical gifts in this event! Rehearsal and performance schedules are available through the CCC Music

Ministry office. Vocal scores are available through the CCC music library. Please contact Nae Pearson at [301-585-8010, ext 244](tel:301-585-8010) or email Nae at Holymusic@aol.com

Actors Needed

Children's Musical Needs Actors! The Chapel Choir (k-5th grade) are working really hard on ***Under God's Sea in 3-D***, a musical about God's wonderful creation and our need to be good stewards of all of the earth (especially the part that we don't always see--under the sea!) The musical will be presented at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 8, (Mother's Day!) There are parts in the musical for singers and soloists, actors, stage-hands, costume planners, and all sorts of fabulous sea creatures! The choir rehearsals are in full swing and occur weekly on Sundays, immediately following worship (11:45 until 12:15) in the choir room. It's not too late to join the "drama team" or the choir for this production. We currently have several acting roles that have not yet been assigned. These roles do not have to be memorized as all speaking parts will use the musical book for reading! At the choir rehearsals, there are snacks available each week in the choir room so you can send your children right upstairs! Listening CD's are available for all of the songs, and song-sheets with words are distributed so that even our youngest can begin to memorize the words to the songs! If you would like to help in any way, or if you have any questions, contact Nae Pearson, Director of Music, at [301-585-8010, ext 224](tel:301-585-8010); or email Nae at Holymusic@aol.com. Hope to see you---under God's sea!

Singing unto the Lord a New Song!

One of the most common ways that a sacred/religious community shares its traditions is through the participation in and use of music. Young children learn about their faith through the expression of the arts and music. Children learn that their musical gifts and talents are welcome and important contributions to the vitality of our worship celebrations. Anyone who has had the privilege of attending CCC's 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service knows that there is nothing more exciting than to see our children singing, playing and acting out the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. In 2010 we had over 20 young people in the intergenerational orchestra that evening. Another wonderful occasion is the children's musical, which has become an annual worship celebration on Mother's Day, and it is a fun and meaningful tradition that we would like to maintain.

Common elements of the Christian faith are taught to children most commonly in the use of the hymns and songs of the church. Children at CCC are encouraged to share their gifts and talents through their inclusion and participation in worship. Children proclaim their rightful place as spiritually valuable and valued members in the community. We learn about our faith through the eyes and ears and hands of children as they sing new songs to the Lord! Part of the unified budget each year is allotted for the support and continuation of these vital ministries of creativity and artistic expression with our children. New music is purchased each year so that the children may sing in church once a month. Current orchestral arrangements of hymns and other carols are needed for the intergenerational orchestra, and a full-length children's musical continues to offer opportunities for

intergenerational ministry.

Children are often able to bring about transformation in a faith community more than any other group. The children's choir at CCC provides a place where children may experience the joy and comfort of participating in a musical group with acceptance and welcome, no matter what their individual talents and gifts may be. Individual instrumental pieces by children and youth during services provide a warm and safe haven in which to share their talents. God is everywhere. Children, and indeed many adults, experience the presence of God through all their senses. The joyful noise and rhythms of sacred music help children become aware and share their growing understanding of the Holy Spirit. The music ministry affirms the role that children play in our community and is an invaluable tool for teaching children about music when other institutions are no longer placing a strong emphasis on music and the arts. Christ Congregational Church has long been known for its excellent teaching and music ministry to the children of our community. Upcoming Music Ministry Events, with details to follow, include: *Under God's Sea in 3D* is this year's musical production *Explore the Arts!* Summer Music and Arts Camp, led by Michelle Esposito and Nae Pearson.

THE RUTH RICHARDSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Richardson Scholarship was established in honor of Mrs. Ruth Richardson, a founding member of Christ Congregational Church and a teacher who maintained a lifelong interest in making higher education available to all students who wished to pursue their studies in the field of education.

The scholarship will be awarded at the end of the spring semester to an applicant who:

- Has completed 2 years or more of college or university study
- Has shown an interest in pursuing a career in a human service profession (with priority given to those in the education field)
- Is a member of Christ Congregational Church or whose parent(s) are members

The Ruth Richardson Scholarship Committee, in determining the recipient of the award, will take into consideration: the sincerity of intent; grade point average; volunteer experiences; and in-service training (work-related experience). Applications are due by Sunday, May 1, 2011 and may be mailed to the church office, Attention: Ruth Richardson Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from the church office or the church website at www.cccsilverspring.org.

Creating a Legacy at CCC: The Marian K. Tate Fellowship

Marian Tate was born and raised in Washington D.C. Shortly after she received a bachelor of divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1938, a newspaper article about the Rev. John McClelland coming to Silver

Spring to start a new congregational church caught her interest. She arranged to meet with him and attended the first organizational meetings of the church. That was the beginning of Marian's life-long devotion to CCC.

The Reverend (Mrs.) Marian Tate became a charter member of Christ Congregational Church, served as CCC's first Director of Christian Education, and after retiring from that position in 1972, stayed on to serve another 12 years as an assistant minister focusing on senior adults ministry and outreach. Before her death at age 91 in 1995, Marian faithfully served CCC for over 50 years.

And Marian Tate's legacy lives on today at CCC, at least in two very unique ways. Many members and visitors to the church recognize her name from the informal Art Gallery on the first floor hallway, affectionately known as "Tate Gallery," where works of local artists are exhibited. Marian was an accomplished artist herself and facilitated creation of art classes and other fine arts programs at CCC during her tenure. After her death, CCC designated a space devoted to art and named it the "Tate Gallery."

Less well-known, perhaps, is the legacy Marian herself created – the Marian Tate Fellowship. In her will Marian left a substantial portion of her estate to CCC and directed that the funds be invested in mutual funds operated by an arm of the United Church of Christ and that the earnings on those funds be given to CCC each year for use in our operating budget. This was a large bequest – \$222,600, and it annually provides what our budget labels a "Permanent Pledge" to CCC. In the current fiscal year it is anticipated that Marian's "Permanent Pledge" will provide \$8,000 in income for CCC's operating budget, and cumulatively her bequest has generated over \$129,000 in income for CCC's ministry. Moreover, the principal of Marian's gift has now grown to more than \$366,000 (including \$18,000 donated by Esther Hoover, who had joined the Tate Fellowship), and the income from the invested principal will continue to help CCC thrive as long as CCC exists.

Marian hoped that others would join her legacy and to that end worked with the church to create the "Marian K. Tate Fellowship." Membership in the Fellowship is open to all who intend to make a planned gift to CCC, by bequest or otherwise, and are willing to have it subject to the same restrictions as Marian's bequest, *i.e.*, the principal to be invested and managed by the United Church Funds and the income to be provided to CCC's operating budget each year. This can be accomplished either by completing an application to join the Marian K. Tate Fellowship (available from the Planned Giving Committee) or by designating in the gift instrument the "Marian K. Tate Permanent Fund, Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ" as the recipient. Some members and friends of CCC (like Esther Hoover) have already done exactly that, and the legacy Marian created lives on.

If you are interested in learning more about being a part of this legacy, please contact the CCC Planned Giving Committee.

Civil Rights Storytelling Event

As part of CCC's living out our Becoming an Anti-Racist, Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural Church covenant, on February 13, the CCC Anti-Racism Journey Leadership Team and the Board for Social Witness hosted an open mike storytelling event. CCC members had lunch and shared their civil rights era experiences for almost 2 hours.

Alberta French, Nancy French Barber, Dave and Toko Ackerman, Carl Brandt, Tina Lincoln, Doris

Raber, Chuck Mason, Nancy Kosinski, Sue Bratten, Steve and Doris Jordan, Eleanor Waldrop, Jane von Maltzahn, Mary Beth Mason, and Anne Weissenborn shared their fascinating stories with the group of about 30. Jim Henkleman-Bahn moderated and Ashley Simmons of the Gandhi Brigade was the videographer.

The anti-racism journey is so important to who we are and who we want to be at CCC. Learning about our past is a critical step in that journey. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success through their generous sharing and support.

We plan to continue the discussions later this year by looking at the issues we're facing today - especially those faced by youth and people of other faiths.

Holly Brooks, CCC Anti-Racism Journey Leadership Team

Contact Information

Leonor Rivera
Executive Assistant

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