



# Community of Christ

**Chesapeake Bay Mission Center**

**From Jeff Naylor, Mission Center President**  
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## **IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY COMES...**

This week, the eyes of the world were trained on Brussels, Belgium, the latest world capital to be rocked by explosions and murderous violence. At times like this, we may feel fearful and helpless. Such feelings may turn to anger as our basic human instincts to fight kick in. Indeed, we've seen these reactions among world leaders to this very situation.

This week, a popular sportscaster, Craig Sager, announced his third fight with Leukemia since 2012. His doctors have told him he has 3-6 months to live. Many of us have had family members or close friends that have been in Mr. Sager's shoes, and our reactions to his story--most likely--reflect those experiences as well as our personal connection to his work.

This week, Community of Christ leaders completed the sobering task of cutting millions of dollars out of church operating budgets. Because operating budgets are largely comprised of personnel salaries, the savings must be reached by eliminating employment positions with the church. Many dedicated employees and ministers will experience the disillusionment, confidence-shaking, and uncertainty of job loss, while those remaining under employment will be asked to contribute in greater ways than ever before. Members wonder aloud what this means to the future of the denomination they love so much. (See *World Church Announcements* for additional details).

This week, some 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ arrived in Jerusalem to the accolades of palm-waving, cloak-laying "common folk", hailing him as their Messiah. By this Thursday--Maundy Thursday--Christ teaches his disciples how to lead through service to others, even as we experience the melancholy that Christ, himself, expressed in his prayers in Gethsemane, Tomorrow, we prepare ourselves for the overwhelming grief, sadness, and sense of loss of Good Friday as Christ is brutally tortured and crucified at Calvary. But we ALSO know that, in the midst of the tragedy that is Christ's crucifixion, God is not done yet. The Easter miracle that greets us this Sunday morning reminds us that, with God, all things are possible. We celebrate the triumph of life over death, of good over evil, of peace over war, of hope over hopelessness, of wholeness over brokenness.

It is in this spirit of hope that we look toward our social, political, religious and personal challenges; in the midst of tragedy--large and small--we cannot predict what will happen. However, we know that the God of Easter Sunday rises to meet us and walk with us into a future full of promise and possibilities. May we have the courage to let go of our preconceived notions and let the Spirit breathe.

Until next week,

Jeff Naylor, president

Chesapeake Bay Mission Center

An Easter Greeting from Community of Christ prophet/president Steve Veazey. [Click Here](#)



## **CBMC MISSION CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Youth Hunger Challenge - May 14-15***

Calling all youth to join the Hunger Challenge, May 14-15 at the Springfield congregation. Make a donation to the CBMC Hunger Challenge, benefitting Outreach International, by clicking the link [Here](#). Contact Sarah Steinberg ([ssteinberg@cofchrist.org](mailto:ssteinberg@cofchrist.org)) with questions.

### ***Junior/Junior High Camp DATE CHANGE***

The date for Junior/Junior High Camp has changed. Staff will report to Camp Shenandoah Springs on July 9th for training and set up, while camp itself will run July 10-16. Please make this change and be ready to join us for a great summer camp! Questions – contact Sarah Steinberg ([ssteinberg@cofchrist.org](mailto:ssteinberg@cofchrist.org))

### ***SPECTACULAR Plans are Underway***

Leaders from the Chesapeake Bay, Mid-Atlantic, and New England Mission Center have been meeting to put together plans for this year's North Atlantic SPEC delegation. Details forthcoming soon! All youth who have completed grades 9-12 this year are eligible to attend. Learn more about SPEC on the [church's website](#) or contact Sarah Steinberg ([ssteinberg@cofchrist.org](mailto:ssteinberg@cofchrist.org)).

### ***Mark your Calendars – Spring CBMC Conference***

Plan to join in this Spring's Mission Center Conference at the Washington, DC congregation on Saturday, April 23. We will conduct the business of the Mission Center while we also celebrate Earth Day, discuss World Conference legislation so members of the mission center can prepare our delegates to represent CBMC, and share news about some exciting opportunities for ministry in the Mission Center. We will begin at 10am and plan to be finished no later than 430pm; an agenda will be forthcoming.

### ***Ecumenical Advocacy Days - April 15-18, 2016***

2016 Ecumenical Advocacy Days theme is [Lift Every Voice! - Racism, Class & Power](#). Be a force for change! Learn more about issues of injustice to communities of color and immigrants, voter suppression, and economic exploitation. Community of Christ has participated in this ecumenical event for several years. Last year, 22 Community of Christ members joined with 1000 other Christian advocates of all denominations, a number that grows each year. For more information [click here](#) or contact Cindy Abbott, Community of Christ EAD coordinator at [717-495-0292](tel:717-495-0292) or [cmcobb@aol.com](mailto:cmcobb@aol.com) for more information about our Community of Christ group.

DC-area residents: If you live near Crystal City or can transport attendees to/from a Metro station and would be willing to have one or more attendees stay in your home, please contact Cindy or Florence Gubanc ([fgubanc@gmail.com](mailto:fgubanc@gmail.com)).

### ***March and April Ministry***

Look for Sarah Steinberg at Dundalk (worship/preaching ministry), Laurel (worship/preaching ministry), and Washington D.C. (Mission Center Conference).. Look for Jeff Naylor at Dundalk (worship ministry) and Washington D.C. (preaching and Mission Center Conference),

*Have a congregational activity you want to share with the CBMC? Have any photos from a recent event? Email those to [jnaylor@cofchrist.org](mailto:jnaylor@cofchrist.org), and we'll work to spread your good news throughout the area!*

## **WORLD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***World Church Response to Financial Situation***

There are numerous updates to provide you on the Church's financial situation:

### ***Employee Notifications***

Church employees will learn of their employment status with the Church next week. Please keep church leaders and the dedicated employees of the church in your prayers as painfully-important decisions are made.



### ***Inspiring generosity***

Listen to Community of Christ prophet/president Steve Veazey and Council of Twelve president Linda Booth as they [share their testimonies](#) of how the church's difficult financial situation, as well as how the grassroots effort to increase income that has released a growing spirit of generosity throughout the church.

### ***A humbling response***

Members of the church have responded to an effort inspired by other members asking "What would it take" in increased contributions to avoid additional staff layoffs in response to the church's current financial difficulties.

Read [here](#) about how church member generosity from around the world has made additional resources available to support the mission of the church.

### ***President's Address April 3***

Join sisters and brothers around the world for the April 3 President's Address, starting at 7:00 p.m. ET, followed by a live Q&A and the latest financial update.

Explore paragraphs 16-18 of the [2013 words of counsel](#) that President Steve Veazey describes as emphasizing "the intrinsic relationships of spirituality, discipleship, and mission."

Send your questions about these paragraphs to [AskSteveVeazey@CofChrist.org](mailto:AskSteveVeazey@CofChrist.org) or post to social media with #AskSteveVeazey. Steve will answer as many questions as possible during the live Q&A.

### ***LIVE STREAM TESTING AVAILABLE APRIL 1-2***

Since the last President's Address, the church's web hosting capabilities have been upgraded to better accommodate the high traffic experienced during live webcasts.

A live stream will be available for testing between 2:00 p.m. ET on Friday, April 1 and 11:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, April 2. Please access this [LINK](#) to test the connection.