

March 2020

CHURCH STAFF

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Associate Pastor

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Sunday Sextons

Cecilie Nilsen

Paige Percy

Sunday Child Care Providers

Roberta Harris

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Image: Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

On a Tree

By Ken Kovacs

Until his death in 2018, James H. Cone was the Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was the author of seminal works in the fields of theology and race, such as *A Black Theology of Liberation* (1970) and *God of the Oppressed* (1975). Before his arrival in 1969, Union had not accepted a black student to its doctoral program since its founding in 1836. During his career at Union, Cone supervised

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"On a Tree"

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more than forty doctoral students. It's difficult to measure the enormous reach of Cone's scholarship and his influence upon the witness of the church as a whole. He was the founder of an entire school of thought, Black liberation theology.

Several years ago, in National Capital Presbytery, Dorothy and I had the privilege of listening to Cone speak about writing his book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (Orbis Books, 2013). Cone shared that this was his most important and, perhaps, most personal work. In this provocative and moving text, the image or symbol of the cross as a tree ("They put him to death by hanging him on a tree" Acts 10:39) is placed alongside the image or symbol of the lynching tree. This juxtaposition allows one to mutually inform, define, and even illumine the other. "The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. ... Both the cross and the lynching tree represent the worst in human beings and at the same time a thirst for life that refuses to let the worst determine our final meaning."

I often return to Cone's text around this time each year as we begin to reflect again on the meaning of the cross. Sometimes, the church talks too glibly about Jesus' suffering on the cross. We sentimentalize the symbol. We assume too much by claiming we know what the cross means or that we know what God was doing in and

through the death of Jesus Christ. "The gospel of Jesus is not a rational concept," Cone suggests, "to be explained in a theory of salvation, but a story about God's presence in Jesus' solidarity with the oppressed, which led to his death on the cross. What is redemptive is the faith that God snatches victory out of defeat, life out of death, and hope out of despair." The cross was and remains a powerful symbol that reveals God's radical, even subversive grace; it both judges the depths of human sin and proclaims God's redemptive love that makes whole all that is broken within us and within the world. "The cross is a paradoxical religious symbol," Cone says, "because it inverts the world's value system with the news that hope comes by way of defeat, that suffering and death do not have the last word, that the last shall be first and the first last."

Without being sentimental about it, on Sunday mornings, as well on Thursday mornings, through the season of Lent, we will turn again to the meaning of the cross for our times. Paul tells us, "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to [God's] self (2 Cor. 5:19), and so we have been given the responsibility of both conveying this message and embodying it in our lives. It's a ministry, a way of life, that bears witness to the power of reconciliation. And so, what does this really mean for us today? ✝

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Sign and Sacrifice led by Ken Kovacs

The Thursday Morning Bible Study group will take up something new this Lent. Our text will be *The Sign and The Sacrifice: The Meaning of the Cross and Resurrection* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016), by Rowan Williams, former archbishop of Canterbury and one of the leading theologians of our day. We will be looking at key passages in scripture that bear witness to the Jesus' death and resurrection. We'll explore what these events meant to Jesus' followers in the early years and what they can say to us today. Join us for some serious theological engagement. The books will be available for sale and cost \$9. We begin the study on February 27, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., in the library.

Growing in Grace

Adult Education Opportunities

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the library. Childcare is provided.

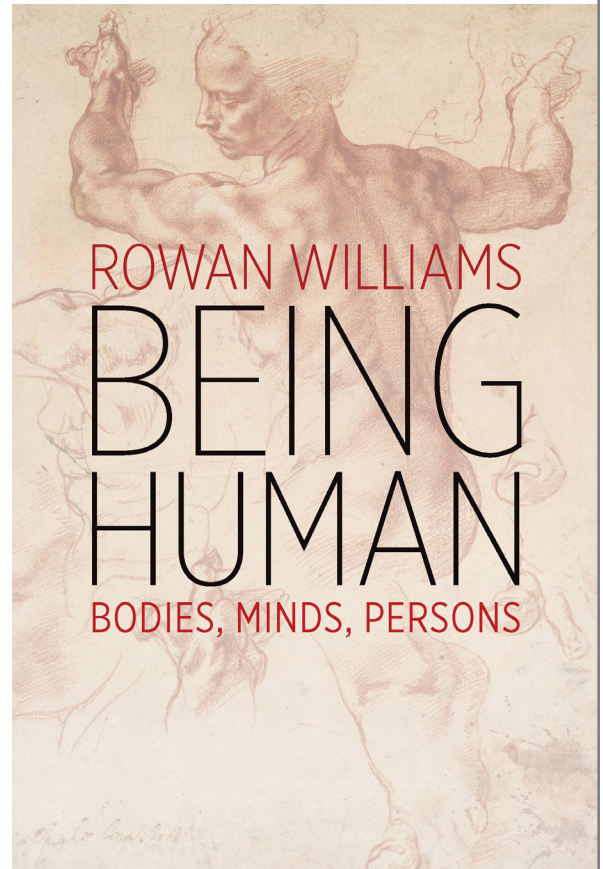
Being Human

Led by Ken Kovacs

On Sunday mornings in Lent we will take up the short, but thought-provoking book *Being Human: Minds, Bodies, Persons* (Eerdmans, 2018), by Rowan Williams, former archbishop of Canterbury and one of the leading theologians of our age.

- What is consciousness?
- Is the mind a machine?
- What makes each of us a person?
- How do our bodies relate to our minds?

These might not sound like Lenten themes, but they are directly related to how we consider Jesus' humanity and the meaning of his life, death, and resurrection. In this deeply engaging exploration of what it means to be human, Rowan Williams addresses these frequently-asked questions with lucid meditations that draw from findings in neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and literature. Books available for sale on March 1. Cost: \$10.



Addressing Hunger and Homelessness

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

The Catonsville Presbyterian Mission Committee invites you to join us for a forum on Addressing Hunger and Homelessness on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Catonsville Presbyterian is fortunate to be connected to several different local organizations and ministries in Baltimore and Howard Counties who are on the front line of serving people who face hunger and homelessness. By bringing them together we hope to learn more about their services, their approach to addressing hunger and homelessness and to enter into a dialogue. How are we doing as a community? What are the different approaches to ending hunger and homelessness and how we can be part of the solution(s)? For more information feel free to contact Susan Krehbiel at susankr79@gmail.com or look for updates in the bulletin and e-news.

Winter Scenes from Our Church

Senior high youth Cecilie and Will set up the tables for the Souper Bowl luncheon which raised more than \$800 for our monthly meals at the West Side Shelter. Paige is setting out the luncheon desserts. Aidan gives a "thumbs up" to the chicken noodle soup. Annika works on peacemaking activities in preparation for the Lent Event. Assembled paper cranes are displayed throughout the sanctuary.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Youth and Mission News

Church School Mission

We're highlighting our role as Peacemakers as we participate in our Lenten One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Please pick up a "fish-bank" from the Christian Education table located in the education wing, or in the back of the sanctuary, along with an activity and sharing calendar. Peacemakers help others by making sure everyone has enough to eat, everyone has clean water to drink, and everyone has a safe place to live. Let's celebrate our calling to be Peacemakers as we learn and share. Our banks will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 5 and Easter, April 12.

Church School Second Sunday

Our church school ministry for ages 4-7 will meet on Sunday, March 8. Children will go to the Dragons room with Ms. Cathy and Ms. Donna following the children's message. Parents may pick them up there after worship.

Each Sunday, there is childcare and social time for this age group in the Hoppers Room from 9 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. with Ms. Roberta. It's a relaxed and friendly time for play, fellowship, and sharing a Bible story.

Welcome

Our New Sunday Morning Provider

Welcome to Roberta Harris, our new Sunday morning childcare provider. We're delighted to welcome Ms. Roberta to our caring ministry. She has more than 18 years as an Early Childhood Education professional and is incredibly friendly, supportive, nurturing and kind.

Youth Events

Sunday, March 1

Middle School will meet at Catonsville Presbyterian from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for games and conversation. Please eat dinner first. Senior High are invited to Laurie White's house located at 112 Forest Drive, Catonsville, for a relaxed evening of dinner and conversation. Please kindly respond to Laurie at thewhites@brickkhouse112.com or 410-747-0317 to attend the event.

Senior High Mission, Service, Learning Trip

Our ninth through twelfth graders will be traveling to Philadelphia, June 28-July 3, with "A Common Youth Initiative," a collaboration of Broad Street Ministry (Presbyterian Church U.S.A. organization), and The Common Place. During this week we'll immerse ourselves in justice, diving deep into evils of racism, poverty, and mass incarceration. Engaging in service work throughout the city, having daily dialogue at work sites, small discussion groups and worship, participants will "develop a rich theological, social, and academic understanding of justice while recognizing ways in which Holy Scripture calls for justice and love for all."

To participate please see Dorothy Boulton, or the youth bulletin board, for a registration form. A check made out to CPC for \$150, noting "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo should be turned in. Registration began February 2. We'll participate in some fundraising activities in the next few months to keep the cost below \$300. Scholarships will be made available so that no youth will be prevented from attending due to lack of funds. Sign up soon—we're excited to get started. For more details, go to www.broadstreetministry.org, radical hospitality, community engagement, a common youth initiative.

Inauguration of PAX Women's Center

In 2016, Catonsville Presbyterian Church sent \$28,000 from the Envision Fund to support renovations of the PAX Women's Center, a part of IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We also began an annual contribution to support the work of PCUSA Mission Co-worker Dr. Sthreshley. In February we received these photos from Dr. Serge Makolo, the Director of IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital celebrating the rededication of the Pax Women's Center. This is just one of many ways that we have supported IMCK through the years.



Answering God's Call to Environmental Justice

By Alex Hall

Climate change can be a difficult subject to wrestle with. It threatens to have a profound negative impact on all of God's creation, and yet our society often seems incapable of weaning ourselves off of the fossil fuels that are driving it. Of particular concern is the disproportionate effect on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children, and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases.

In 2018, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church-USA recognized that our mandate to care for God's creation extends beyond being good stewards as individuals, and calls us to advocate for policy changes at the national and international level that will promote a transition to sustainable sources of energy. Fortunately, we are not alone in this struggle. People all across the political spectrum are recognizing the urgency of the situation and the need to work toward solutions.

Citizens' Climate Lobby, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, is a non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to building the political will for climate-change solutions. It promotes a carbon fee and dividend approach, which is recognized by PC-(USA) as an effective and socially just way of accelerating the transition to a clean-energy economy.

Come join us on April 26 for an Earth Day edition of Adult Education, with guest speaker Cliff Strawich of CCL, where we'll discuss:

- The potential impact of climate change and why we must act now.
- Individual actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint.
- CCL's solution to fight climate change, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.
- How we as individuals and as a church can find our voices and advocate for climate justice.

Life in Community

On February 23, we shared in the baptism of Elianna White Maze, daughter of Michelle White.

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the death of two members of the congregation:

Ross Childs died on January 30. There was a Service of Witness to the Resurrection on February 4. Please keep his wife, Mary, and their family in your prayers.

Mike Santa Rita died on February 22. He was 45. There will be a Service of Witness to the Resurrection on March 7. Please keep his wife, Johanna, and their daughters Beatrice and Charlotte in your prayers.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome our new members to Catonsville Presbyterian Church! Introductions to the church were on February 26. From left to right in the photograph members include Kevin Johnston, Chuck Field, Melissa Field and Michelle White.



Looking Ahead

Catonsville Concerts at 3

March 22 at 3 p.m.

Together, Andrew Balio (trumpet) and Bruce Bengtson (organ) recently recorded some of Bach's greatest works and will be playing from that program for our series. Andrew is a renowned principal orchestral player and Principal Trumpet in the BSO, and Bruce is an organ recitalist and clinician well-known in the U.S. and abroad.

Lent for Families of all Sizes

February 26—April 11

The 40 days, plus six Sundays, before Easter are a time of intentional growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. We offer a number of resources to help

you and your family during this season including books for our youngest Presbyterians, OGHS materials, and worship and education resources. Please watch the Life in the Community section in the Sunday worship bulletin and on social media for updates and information.

Poetry and the Christian Life

March 31 at 7 p.m.

Join us on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 p.m. for the next poetry discussion on the chosen poem *Monet Refuses the Operation* by Lisel Mueller. Read it slowly, ponder it, reflect on it, let it speak to you, even pray it. Then join us on a March evening at the church.

Concert Series Awarded Grant

On Sunday, February 16, the Women's Giving Circle awarded Catonsville Concerts at 3 a grant. Their grant makes it possible to increase our concert schedule to seven performances a year, and helps to stabilize us financially. Attendees in the photograph include, seated in front, Jackie Grace and Rebecca Barshick of the CWGC Grants Committee, and David Hutton and Dottie Marshall of CC@3, and standing, Leslie Lindeman and John Genoa of CC@3.

The Catonsville Women's Giving Circle is a philanthropic organization of local women who have a strong, positive, collective impact on the greater Catonsville area by providing funding to charitable organizations and programs that strengthen our community. This year Catonsville Women's Giving Circle is awarding more than \$24,000 in grants to local organizations that serve the community in a variety of ways. Catonsville Concerts at 3 does not receive direct financial support from Catonsville Presbyterian Church, and depends on grants and donations from members and our audiences. To learn more on Catonsville Concerts at 3 visit www.catonsvilleconcerts.org.



Scouts Update

By Glenda K. Johnson, Chartered Organization Representative

Scout families enjoyed participating in the various Scout Family events in February, which included Scout Sunday. It was a very busy weekend with the Scout Family Dinner and Court of Honor held the evening before Scout Sunday. New boy leaders were introduced at the dinner—Jack Callahan is the new Senior Patrol Leader. James Bayne was honored as the Scout of the Year.

Cub Scouts enjoyed a fun-filled morning of excitement on February 22 as their hand-carved and hand-painted cars were raced during the annual Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall. Awards were presented at the end of the event.

On March 12, there is a meeting for Cub Scouts who plan to join a Troop to attend an actual meeting at Catonsville Presbyterian. During that time, the Cub parents will meet with some of the leaders to know more about the Troop and Boy Scout activities. During the final weekend in March, the Troop has planned a joint camping trip for these older Cub Scouts to attend. If you are interested in joining the Scout program, please contact Jeff Scharf, Scoutmaster, at jscharf306@gmail.com.



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Boy Scout Memorial Fund Plaque

The Memorial Fund was created in 1985 after the unexpected deaths of two long time Troop 306 leaders. Funds were sent to the Troop by their family and friends in appreciation of their service to Scouting at Catonsville Presbyterian. The Troop Committee, with advice and input from their families, decided to create a separate fund to provide resources to Scouts who needed financial assistance to attend summer camp. The fund also provides youth with the recognition of dedicated service by deceased members of the Troop Committee or Troop leaders. A Memorial Plaque contains the names of former leaders and committee members since its inception. The fund accepts donations from former Troop members, families and friends of the deceased, and others who support the outdoor Scouting program. We've never had to turn away a Scout from attending summer camp. Scholarship assistance is strictly confidential between the Scoutmaster and the family requesting assistance. A new updated plaque was recently purchased and presented at the Scout Family Dinner in February. There are quite a few familiar Catonsville Presbyterian names on the plaque. Thanks for all of the support of Scouting at Catonsville Presbyterian Church.

Donations were recently accepted to honor and thank Mike McDonal for his 10 years of service as our Troop Committee Chairman. Upon his "retirement" from Troop 306, Mike requested this type gift instead of a personal one. Our thanks and appreciation are extended to him for his leadership and service to Scouting.

Session Meeting Highlights

The Session is a body of fifteen members, elected by the congregation and ordained as ruling elders, who provide leadership for our congregation. Following are highlights of the regular monthly Session meeting on February 5, 2020.

- The Session meeting was led by Associate Pastor Dorothy Boulton, as our usual Moderator, Ken Kovacs, was at the Jung Institute in Zurich Switzerland taking examinations for practice certification.
- The Finance Committee reported that the year is off to a good start, with a budget surplus at the end of January.
- Session discussed the question raised at the Annual Meeting about the monthly church school class for the 4 to 7 year-old-children during worship. This question will be the subject of continuing study by the Christian Education Committee.
- Session approved the Mission Committee's request to send \$2,000 remaining from the Puerto Rico trip funds to Camp Guacio, where our work trip participants stayed while in Puerto Rico.
- Session also approved the Mission Committee's request to send \$3,000 in GRACE Mission Funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for

ongoing recovery work in Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

- Session approved naming Cynthia Schwanz as the Session representative on the Nominating Committee, and requested that they present a slate of nominees for the 2020 Nominating Committee at a special meeting of the congregation called for the purpose of electing the nominees on Sunday, February 23, 2020. The Nominating Committee so elected will develop a slate of church officer nominees for a congregational meeting to be called for late March, 2020.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. Session member contact information is listed in the Church Directory, so it is easy to communicate directly with your church leaders. Take a few minutes to send a message to a Session member, the pastors, or the church office, and let us know what you think. We want to hear from you! — David Hutton, Clerk of Session

Our Financial Resources

We rely on everyone to support what God is doing through this congregation. The vitality of this ministry is secured by God's grace and funded by the faithfulness and commitment of God's people. We are counting on the ongoing generosity of our members and friends. Thank you! —Keith Glennan, Finance Committee

Actual income as of February 15, 2020:	\$ 85,926
Actual expense as of February 15, 2020:	\$-79,894
Total:	\$ 6,032

Catonsville Presbyterian Calendar

EVERY WEEK

SUNDAYS

8:40 a.m. Youth Choir, Grades 3 and up, Music Rm
9 a.m. Church School, Grade 3-High School
9 a.m. Child Care and Social Time, Infants-Grade 2
9 a.m. Adult Education, Library
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

MONDAYS

7-9 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall
8-10 p.m. Scottish Dancers, Gym

TUESDAYS

9-11 a.m. Al-Anon, France Room
10 a.m. Needles Group, Library
7-9 p.m. Charm City Dancers, Gym
7-9:30 p.m. Martial Arts, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS

7 p.m. Cub Scouts, Gym, SR, RS Rooms

THURSDAYS

5:30-6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Library
6:45-7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Upper Music Room
7-9:30 p.m. Kung Fu, Fellowship Hall
7:35-9 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room
7:30-9 p.m. Boy Scouts

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

SUNDAY, March 1, **First Sunday of Lent**

2-5 p.m. Balt Classical Guitar Society Open Stage, Sanctuary/FH/Kitchen

MONDAY, March 2

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. PW Monday Circle, France RM

TUESDAY, March 3

7 p.m. Concert Board, Library

WEDNESDAY, March 4

7 p.m. Session, Library

THURSDAY, March 5

7-9 p.m. Boy Scout Com, Library

SATURDAY, March 7

10:30 a.m. Memorial Service for Michael Santa Rita
1-4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, March 8, **Second Sunday of Lent**

9 a.m. Adult Education, Library
10:30 a.m. Worship: Baptism of McComas Bender, Sanctuary

MONDAY, March 9

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation, France Rm

WEDNESDAY, March 11

7 p.m. Child Care Council, Conf Rm
7:30 p.m. Trustees, Library

THURSDAY, March 12

7-9 p.m. Boy Scouts – Adult Mtg, Library
7-9 p.m. Cub Scout Com, France Rm

SUNDAY, March 15, **Third Sunday of Lent**

3-5 p.m. COLA Hospitality Team, Conf Rm

WEDNESDAY, March 18

2 p.m. Com on Prep for Ministry, Library
6:15 p.m. Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group, France Rm
7 p.m. Envision Board, Conf Rm
7-8:30 p.m. Addressing Hunger and Homelessness

SATURDAY, March 21

1-4 p.m. Tai Chi, Gym

SUNDAY, March 22, **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

3 p.m. Concert by A Balio & B Bengstom, Sanctuary & Reception, FH

MONDAY, March 23

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation, France Rm

TUESDAY, March 24

7:30 p.m. Worship Com, Conf Rm

WEDNESDAY, March 25

7-9 p.m. Deacons, Conf Rm

THURSDAY, March 26

7:30-9 p.m. Dismantling Racism Group, Library

SUNDAY, March 29, **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

MONDAY, March 30

6 p.m. Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation, France Rm

TUESDAY, March 31

7 p.m. Poetry Discussion

Sermons at CPC

Listen for the Word of God

Now, both the text and audio recording of the sermon will be up on our website each week. You can read, listen, or download the file to listen at another time. Visit www.catonsvillepres.org/sermons to read or listen to Catonsville Presbyterian Church sermons.

Next Messenger

Deadline March 15, 2020

Send your content for inclusion in the *Messenger* to Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor Lisa Roca at lroca@catonsvillepres.org.

THE Messenger

Our Mission

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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www.catonsvillepres.org
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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

Child Care Center

(P) 410-747-4581, (F) 410-744-5168
www.cpcfccc.org



We Choose
Welcome

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