

September 4, 2020

CHURCH STAFF

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A New Thing

By Kenneth Kovacs

As you might have guessed, it won't be a conventional Kick-off Sunday this year at CPC. The entire fall is going to look different for us, as well as Advent and Christmas. In fact, it will be unconventional, like so much in our lives in these challenging days. On a positive note, though, this season of unconventionality is challenging us, even inspiring us as church to be adaptive, to try new things, take some risks, "think outside the box," and clarify our sense of mission and purpose. "I am doing a new thing," says the LORD, "now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19).

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A New Thing

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Kickoff Sunday is September 13. Worship time returns to 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Our Christian Education Committee has come up with creative ways to engage our youth and families (see page 4). We will celebrate a significant birthday—shhh...it's a surprise (see page 4). And we will welcome our interim organist (see page 6).

Our next Outdoors Vespers Service will be on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Join us in The Meadow for music and prayer.

Starting September 20, our adult education offerings will move from Sunday mornings to Sunday evenings at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The first class will be "Apocalyptic Times" led by yours truly. Look for details in the next Messenger and online. And there will be other opportunities for study and discussion.

Session recently revisited the current in-person worship and church use policy, in effect through the end of September. We took time to discuss all of our options, listened to informed epidemiologists, considered what other churches of comparable size in the Presbytery are doing, and assessed the needs of the congregation. Session voted to extend the current policy through the rest of 2020. (We'll determine in early December what our next steps will be.) We all felt that this is the wise, caring, and compassionate choice for us to make.

We will be expanding the production capability of our online worship recordings (see page 3). And plans are underway for special services on World Communion Sunday (Oct. 4), All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 1), as well as Advent and Christmas Eve. There's a certain sadness when we consider how much will be different this year, but we are also excited about trying some new things.

Finally, as we move into this new season, I invite you to meditate, reflect, and pray over these verses from Romans 12. This text will shape our life together—our worship and service—as a congregation between now and Advent. May it shape and inform all that we do:

"Let love be genuine; abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another... Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:9-17, 21).



Session Meeting Highlights

The coronavirus pandemic has not stopped the work of the church! Your Session has been meeting more frequently lately, and using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on September 2, 2020.

■ The Finance Committee reported that online contributions have continued steadily since the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to go to online worship, but income is still lagging expenses for the year to date, leaving us with a manageable deficit in the Operating Budget. Members are urged to use online giving or EFT (electronic funds transfer) to keep their pledges up to date while we are worshipping online. See the church website www.catonsvillepres.org for details on EFT and online giving.

■ The Trustees have proposed a pavilion for the church grounds, located behind the church house, to permit outdoor worship, meetings, and use by church and community groups. The pavilion will hold approximately 60 persons, and will have movable tables and chairs to allow flexibility in usage. Session approved the project, and completion during 2021 is planned.

■ The Child Care Center has had a successful Summer Camp session at partial capacity and is getting ready to begin the fall session, again at reduced capacity. Session noted that the Child Care Center is not affected by the Governor's phase-in recovery plan.

■ Session again considered reopening the church building for worship services after the current September 30 deadline. However, in view of the continuing health threat of the COVID-19 coronavirus, it was decided to continue with the building closures and online

worship through December 31, 2020. Church groups wishing to meet outdoors on church property may do so, but must be masked and observe social distancing guidelines.

■ Session reviewed the responses from the online communion service conducted on Pentecost Sunday in May, and the comments were favorable, so communion services are planned for World Communion Sunday on October 4, 2020, All Saints Sunday on November 1, 2020, and the first Sunday in Advent on November 29, 2020. Watch for announcements in the Messenger and eNews.

■ Keith Glennan presented a proposal to invest in additional video recording equipment to improve our video quality and reliability for Sunday worship and the Concert Series. The new equipment will allow simultaneous streaming on Facebook and YouTube platforms.

■ New committee assignments were made for Session members for the 2020-2021 program year, and they will appear elsewhere in this Messenger and on the church website.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. 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

Food Collection Continues

By Bob Cooper, A Rainbow Over CPC

After about a 15-minute downpour during the Friday food collection last week, we were treated to a beautiful rainbow (see page 2). It was also quite a treat to have a lot of donations. Weekly collections will continue at least until the end of September. Tricia and I have been able to manage things with some help from a couple of the Deacons, but if anyone wants to help, or just stop by for a social distance chat, please bring a lawn chair and stop by. Please keep the donations coming. You can drop off your donations on Fridays from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at CPC near the Frederick Road entrance. Or drop off donations on Saturday mornings 8–10 a.m. at Knights of Columbus at 1010 Frederick Road. Please donate if you “can” and help spread the word.

Christian Education for Fall 2020

By Dorothy Boulton, Connection, Support, and Nurture

No surprise: Kickoff Sunday is different this year. Due to our unusual circumstances, we're not doing "church as usual" this fall. Sure, we'll miss the energy and excitement of gathering together but that doesn't mean we stop being a church family. Especially in the next few months, the Christian Education Committee is looking for ways that we can CONNECT, ways that we can SUPPORT one another, and new ways to provide NURTURE for one another.

Debby Shumaker wrote in the previous newsletter that we'll be hosting a few Zoom gatherings for families once the school routine is in place, finding out from you how we can best connect, support and nurture our CPC congregation. Jenny Hutton is coordinating some youth Zoom groups around this theme as well, and plans are being made for afternoon on-site gatherings for middle and high school students on Sunday, September 27.

Mark Your Calendar

One event to put on your calendar is on Kickoff Sunday, Sept 13. We're going to be honoring a beloved member of our congregation with a Drive-By Birthday Celebration. This will be in the afternoon, around 4:30 p.m., after the Ravens game (see below).

We're looking forward to this event because we can CONNECT with and SUPPORT one another in a safe and fun way. Details will be sent via email.

We are wishing you a safe and successful back-to-school, and please know that we are praying for you and thinking of you and holding you in God's light and love.

George Ellers Turns 100

Early September



On Monday, September 14, George Ellers will celebrate his 100th birthday! His family will host a gathering at his home on Sunday, September 13, in the afternoon. And we, his church family, will also have an opportunity to celebrate his amazing life and give thanks to God for George's love and friendship. It's really unfortunate that we won't be able to be together for worship or gather in fellowship hall for cake, but we can still make the day memorable.

- We're going to honor George during worship on September 13, 2020.
- Later that afternoon, we will have a birthday parade drive-by past his house on Delrey Avenue, Catonsville, at 4:45 p.m. This will be a surprise. Feel free to bring signs, posters, balloons, anything festive. We'll line up at 4:30 p.m. Details to follow.
- Share your personal birthday wishes with George. We've set up a Flipgrid page, making it easy to record a short video message using your computer or cell phone: <https://flipgrid.com/2fc0c90b>.

Happy Birthday, George!

Face Mask Program Details

By Glenda K. Johnson

The clock is ticking and the [Face Mask Challenge program](#) is ongoing. This Mission Committee program supports LWR (Lutheran World Relief) to provide face masks to accompany an early fall shipment of personal care kits.

We have all seen photographs and news details on the explosion at the port of Beirut, in Lebanon. LWR-IMA has sent its first team of workers to help in organizing the distribution of food, quilts and personal care kits to those who have lost their homes and all they own. We have also heard that there are containers of additional LWR-IMA supplies in a warehouse at the port, which isn't yet accessible. Urgent supplies were airlifted to Beirut. Emergency funding and supplies are being requested from many sources.

We are grateful to all of you who can provide mask donations before the end of this campaign. It's not too late to join in on this project. Please remember to pack the masks into ziplock bags of 25. If it's less than 25, put a note in the bag. Learn more on our website at <https://catonsvillepres.org/news/face-mask-challenge/>.

Collection Information

- Sunday, September 6, (11 a.m.-12 p.m.) at CPC, in the small lot off of Frederick Road. Mission Committee members will collect masks.
- Sunday, September 12, (8 a.m.-10 a.m.) at Knights of Columbus. Peggy Carr will collect.
- Sunday, September 20, (12-1 p.m.) at CPC, in the small lot off of Frederick Road. Mission Committee members will collect.
- All of the donations will be delivered to the LWR-IMA in New Windsor prior to October 1, 2020.



Latest Sermons

Watch on our Website, Facebook or YouTube

Both the text and video recording of every sermon are posted on our website each week. You can read, watch, or download the transcript. Listening for God's Word in scripture and in sermon is at the heart of our worship experience each week. Watch sermons now at <https://catonsvillepres.org/sermons/>.

Welcome Interim Organist Dr. Jason Kissel

By Kenneth Kovacs

We are all still grieving the loss of Doug Heist back in July. His death has hit us very hard. The sanctuary organ has been silent for most of July and August. Session has started the search for a new organist, which will take some time.

In the meantime, we welcome as our interim organist, my good friend Dr. Jason Kissel. Dr. Kissel is the Minister of Music and Organist at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland.



Jason has served in musical leadership positions at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA and New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, New Wilmington, PA. He received degrees in sacred music and organ performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University (DMA), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (MM) and Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA (BM).

Jason knew and respected Doug Heist and was saddened by his death. When he learned that we will be looking for an interim, and because we record our services on Saturday mornings while First & Franklin records on Sundays, Jason was eager to help us out. His first Sunday is September 13. Jason has also agreed to help in the search process for a new organist.

Many thanks to Lum Offutt and Stephanie Stevens for their worship leadership at the piano throughout July and August. CPC is blessed to have members—like you—happy to share their talents and gifts in the life of the church. We are truly grateful!

UMBC Connection

By Susan Krehbiel

This month the Mission Committee learned of a new opportunity for us to connect with the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). We have donated \$500 from CPC Mission Funds to UMBC Retriever Essentials at <https://retrieveressentials.umbc.edu/>.

Since 2016, the UMBC campus ministry has been operating a community-sponsored food pantry on campus as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminating food insecurity so students can succeed academically. Despite the fact that students are not on campus during the pandemic, the need has increased dramatically. Retriever Essentials receives most of its donations

from collection boxes and departmental collections that are now barren. Meanwhile, they are now assisting some of the contractual workers at UMBC in addition to students. Thanks to campus-wide support, students are able to pick up pre-made bags of non-perishables at the campus police station during the pandemic. The long term goal is to have a permanent space on campus where not only non-perishables are distributed, but an “Essential Space” that has refrigeration, food prep area, and other resources for students living on the edge. A space has been identified and plans are underway for raising funds to renovate it.

The Concert Series Goes Virtual

By David Hutton

Our Concert Series, Catonsville Concerts at 3, is entering its 22nd season by going virtual with at least the first three concerts of the season, in October, November, and January. We will be using the Facebook platform, similar to the church worship services, so if you have been "attending" worship, you should have no trouble "attending" our concerts! Instructions for accessing the concerts will be sent out by email before each concert and will also be included in the eNews" emails sent out each week.

The remaining concerts in the season will either be virtual or live and in-person, depending on the health situation and the status of the church building at the time. This will be announced via email to make sure that everyone has the most up-to-date information.

First Three Concerts

- October 11, 2020: DUO Stephanie and Saar, a piano four hands duo, familiar to our concert goers.
- November 15, 2020: Stefan Scaggiari, world-renowned classical and jazz pianist.
- January 10, 2021: Strata Trio, classical and contemporary works on violin, clarinet, and piano.

Help End Homelessness with Chili

By Vickie Lord

CPC is participating in Bridges' Chili and Challenge, which is the virtual version of the annual Chili Cook Off. Your support provides critical funds for Bridges to continue serving homeless and low-income households. The winners of the Chili and Challenge will be announced during the Virtual Chili and Challenge Watch Party at 1 p.m., Sunday, September 13, 2020.

Help us win the Golden Ladle award by visiting bit.ly/cpc4bridges to make a donation to our virtual tip jar and to purchase chili and alcoholic beverages from [The Periodic Table restaurant](#) in Columbia. The congregation that raises the most money for Bridges by September 11 will win the Chili and Challenge!

Ways to Participate

There are two ways you can help our congregation win! First, you can make a donation to our virtual Tip Jar. Second, [you can purchase chili meals](#) for you and your loved ones to enjoy on Sunday, September 13, while we tune in for the Virtual Chili and Challenge Watch Party. A portion of each ticket will be donated to Bridges and increase our virtual tip jar.

The Virtual Chili and Challenge Watch Party will start at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2020. We hope you can tune-in to this 30-minute event as we hear from a client of Bridges and local dignitaries, celebrate Bridges' 30th Anniversary, and see who wins the Golden Ladle award! Plus, Bridges' board and staff will be present during the Watch Party to chat with us! If you're picking up meals or busy at 1 p.m., don't worry, Bridges will stick around until 4:30 p.m.

You can also [support Bridges' Virtual Auction](#) between Sunday, September 6, and Wednesday, September 13. This virtual auction includes 40 amazing gift baskets and all auction proceeds support Bridges. The first 30 people to register for the auction will win a free appetizer to Texas Roadhouse.

Join us in supporting real change. Many residents in Howard County experience homelessness or do not have stable housing. We can help these families and individuals by support Bridges to Housing Stability. Let's have some fun and make a difference by participating in Bridges' Chili and Challenge! Virtual Event to Support Bridges to Housing Stability. In addition, the Mission Committee will match donations up to \$500 for the drive!

Church News

Worship time returns to 10:30 a.m. on September 13, 2020, as we continue our service together online. We would love to have you join us.

In addition we continue to provide the Sunday Order of Worship and latest updates in our eNews mailed out weekly to members and friends.

Our next Outdoors Vespers Service will be on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Join us in The Meadow for music and prayer.

Words of Gratitude

From Maureen Parkhurst

Maureen Parkhurst, a member of Catonsville Presbyterian Church for more than 35 years, was recently in the hospital and wanted to send a thank you letter to all who sent cards, prayers, and well wishes.

"Dear Church Friends,

As many of you know I was in the hospital at the beginning of August. I was admitted to Hopkins with symptoms presenting as a stroke. Fortunately I did not have a stroke. I am feeling much better now and I want to thank all of you for your cards and prayers."

Online Giving

Support Our Ministries

Catonsville Presbyterian Church accepts online giving through our website at <https://catonsvillepres.org/support-us/>. You can give directly to the CPC General Fund, support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, or contribute to special offerings throughout the year. We accept gifts either from your credit/debit card or directly from a bank account. You can also text GiveCPC to 73256, which will bring you to the link.

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.

Doing God's Work

- Actual Income as of Sept. 3, 2020: \$451,904
- Actual Expense as of Sept. 3, 2020: \$-470,887
- Total: \$ -18,983

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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Catonsville, MD 21228

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www.catonsvillepres.org

[Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb](https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb)

[Twitter.com/catonsvillepres](https://twitter.com/catonsvillepres)

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose
Welcome

