

March 12, 2021

## Church Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Kenneth E. Kovacs, Ph.D.

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Dorothy L. Boulton, M.Div.

### Director of Music

Greg Knauf, D.M.A.

### Interim Organist

Jason Kissel, D.M.A.

### Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

### Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

### Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

### Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

### Sexton

Bernard Lawson

### Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

### Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

### Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



## One Year Later

By Kenneth Kovacs

One year ago this weekend we suspended in-person worship and closed down the church building (except for the Child Care Center, recovery support groups, and the counseling center) to “reduce the curve” and help stop the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The global pandemic had arrived in the United States. Almost overnight, everything was rescheduled, postponed, canceled, or moved to an online platform, such as Zoom. Life changed quickly and it felt as if the world, itself, had come off its axis. Fear and anxiety started to rise as we self-isolated ourselves to care for family, friends, and ourselves. On March 15 we had our first makeshift prayer service from the sanctuary, which Susan Krehbiel recorded live on her iPhone.

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# One Year Later

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It was only going to be for two weeks, but then it extended to a month, then three months, and another three months and...here we are one year later. And what a year it has been. Facing enormous challenges, we've had to be creative, adaptive, and look for silver linings in an otherwise terrifying situation. It's been exhausting. And the grief, sadness, and sorrow that we've experienced, both directly and indirectly—there are no words. No one has been left untouched. In our congregation over the year, we lost three members to COVID and we have many members who have lost family and friends, and we've had many more church members that have tested positive for COVID and recovered with little or no lasting symptoms.

This Sunday in worship (March 14, Second Sunday Zoom) we're going to mark the one-year anniversary of the pandemic's emergence in our lives. We invite you to have a candle available to light during the service. We will remember those we have lost. We will remember and honor those that have died throughout the country. We'll honor and give thanks for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers who were and remain at the front lines in this battle. We will give thanks for science—the fact that we have not one but three highly effective vaccines available in just under a year and that now ten percent of the country has now been vaccinated is nothing short of a miracle. The fight isn't over, of course. There could be challenging days ahead

if the spread of the virus variants gets out ahead of the vaccination rate and if people start letting their guard down and stop wearing masks. But hopefully, thankfully, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

During Lent we have been reflecting upon and exploring the question: what does love look like? Rooted and grounded in love, the Session, at the March meeting, voted to extend our current worship and building use policy through the end of June. We know that people are eager to get back into the sanctuary, to be together, but we feel that the time is not quite right. We're almost there. Now that the weather is improving, we will be planning additional outdoor worship experiences (not as a substitute for Sunday worship) and other activities on the church grounds (maintaining safety protocols).

Dorothy Boulton and I are truly grateful for the ways the congregation has demonstrated the love and kindness of Christ throughout this past year. We're thankful for the wise guidance of our Pandemic Task Force, as well as for the strong, faithful, adaptive leadership of the Session as we navigated uncharted waters. We have learned and are learning much about ourselves as a community of faith during this crisis, and these learnings will no doubt shape the future ministry of CPC in profound and potentially transforming ways. (Cover image: COVID-19 Memorial, Washington, D.C.)

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## Be in the Moment

By Brenda Logue

As the Lenten season continues, you are invited to drop in and experience Contemplative Prayer/Meditation at CPC Monday evenings at 6 p.m. There are no reading assignments. Just come and be open to what takes place in the 40-minute practice. Psychologist Josh Semiatin guides the participants through focused exercises on the breath, on polishing awareness of the present moment, and on the gentle, non-judgmental handling of emerging thoughts. The group concludes with a practice of loving kindness in which each person directs compassionate thoughts to oneself and to other beings, loved ones, strangers, enemies and humanity. Here is the link to 40 minutes of peaceful meditation every Monday at 6 p.m.: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5740973697>. Password is 1234. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Brenda Logue or Barbara Rice.

# Holy Week Worship Services

## PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 28 at 10:30 a.m. (via Facebook and YouTube)

Join us for music, a message, and a time for prayer. "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." We remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and set his face toward the cross.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

April 1 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

On this night before his crucifixion, Jesus drew together his closest friends around a table to prepared them for the drama to come. Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.... As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 13:34; 15:9).

## GOOD FRIDAY

April 2 Outdoor Vespers Service at 6 p.m. (on the Church Grounds)

A reflective, contemplative service as we consider the suffering and death of Christ. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

## RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/ EASTER SUNDAY

April 4 at 10:30 a.m. (via Facebook and YouTube)

We gather in the Spirit to celebrate the power of God's undying love. "He is not here; for he has been raised, just as he said. Come, see the place...." (Matthew 28:6).

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# Learning and Growing Ministries

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Way of Love (March 18 and 25) at 10:30 a.m. (via Zoom).

Throughout the season of Lent we have looked at key passages in scripture that talk about the nature, meaning, and expression of love in the Christian life. Starting with John 3:1-21, we explored the meaning of agape (selfless, other-oriented, sacrificial love) and how it relates to the other Greek words for love (*philia*, *eros*, and *storge*). We look at texts that speak to the love of God that continues to call us into being, the love of Christ that saves and redeems and makes whole, and the Spirit who embodies this love in human life and in relationships, in community. Led by Ken Kovacs.

## ADULT EDUCATION: FORGIVENESS

A Lenten Study at 9 a.m. (VIA ZOOM) (MARCH 14, 21, 28)

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christians. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. In this study, Marjorie J. Thompson, author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness. Led by Ken Kovacs, over the weeks we'll explore these questions:

- Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

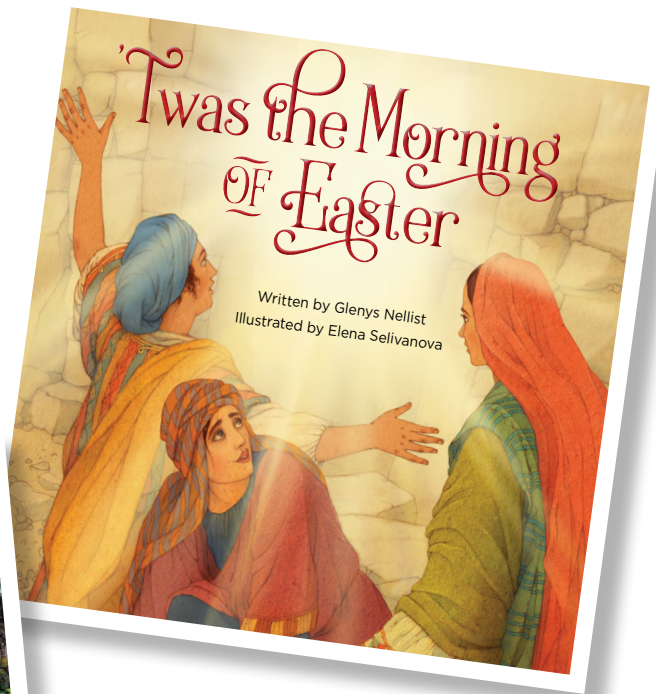


# Easter in the Woodlands

Saturday, March 27th from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

We'll share the story of Holy Week with child-friendly activities and feature an Easter walk through the woodlands on Saturday, March 27 1–2:30 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, March 28).

Glenys Nellist's beautiful book, *'Twas the Morning of Easter*, will be shared at the stations along the trail. Suitable for families and households of all ages. For the safety of all, please be prepared to be masked and distanced. Sponsored by the Christian Education team.



## Dismantling Racism

Free the Vote on Monday, March 22nd at 7 p.m.

Join the Dismantling Racism Committee in viewing and discussing the documentary *Free the Vote* on Monday, March 22nd from 7–8:30 p.m.

The United States is one of the only democratic nations that strips voting rights from felons, both while incarcerated and, in many states, even after. This disproportionately disenfranchises Black Americans in the criminal justice system. *Free the Vote* is a documentary that explores the racist roots that led to this current system, and the injustice and inequity of denying the right to vote to millions of people who are incarcerated. This story is told by people who were formerly incar-

cerated, scholars, politicians and advocates.

They discuss their experiences and the importance of every voice, particularly the marginalized, being heard. This new documentary by the ACLU of Maryland focuses on stories of directly impacted people of Maryland.

To participate, please register online here: <https://catonsvillepres.org/event/viewing-and-discussion-of-video-free-the-vote/>

You may view the two minute trailer here: <https://youtu.be/3cdbsYFkdII>

# Deacons' Corner

By Jenny Hutton

## Food Ministry

Our casserole campaign with Dimitri's ended on December 31, 2020. Donations were received for 800 casseroles! At this time, there are about 200 casseroles to be prepared and delivered to the West Side Shelter. Those casseroles will be distributed every other week over the next two months. Thank you to Bill and Nancy Henderson for regularly delivering casseroles!

We are still collecting donations of non-perishable food in bins located inside the front door at Chef Paulino's and outside, behind the white tent at State Fare restaurant. Volunteers are checking the bins regularly and delivering the donated food to Catonsville Emergency Assistance and the food pantry at Grace AME Church. The donations have been light, so please continue to advertise these food collection bins. The need is truly great.

The Catonsville Can Ministry has developed "Meat Madness." Chef Paulino's will be purchasing meat and cheeses, volunteers will slice and prepare deli platters, and these will be delivered to the Westside Men's Shelter and My Brother's Keeper. If you would like to donate to this cause, make a \$15 check payable to Chef Paulino, 726 Frederick Rd. Catonsville, Md 21228

## Clothing Ministry

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the winter clothing drive for the Westside Men's Emergency Shelter in Catonsville! In December and January, we collected 141 clothing items and \$775! Through your generosity and in coordination with Lazarus Caucus, we were able to provide hats, gloves, long underwear, and coats for the shelter's clients.

## Prayer Partner Ministry

We have developed a ministry to support those who are seeking partnership through prayer. As we soon enter a second year of a global pandemic, it is understandable that there are those stricken with grief, disconnection, or added stress. As a result we want everyone in our congregation to know that you are not alone. For that reason we have opened up the Prayer Partner Line to provide a Deacon to pray together with you in one spirit. For those feeling compelled to use this service, please call the church at 410-747-6180, follow the prompts to the Prayer Line, and please be sure to press the # key so we receive your message. A Deacon will then call you back for prayer. God bless you all!

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## Scout Update

By Glenda K. Johnson, Chartered Organization Representative

Troop 306 is participating in this month's annual Scouting for Food campaign. The congregation, as well as friends, family and neighbors are invited to donate nonperishable food donations and personal hygiene items which will be donated to CEA. The goal is to collect 500 pounds of these items by March 25, 2021. Scouts will meet in the outdoor grassy areas near the large parking lot on March 18 and March 25, 6-7:30 PM. This project is a great way to help our neighbors in the Catonsville community. Scouts will gladly accept your donations of nonperishable food items or personal hygiene items on either of these two dates during their meeting times. If you want to see a list of the most needed items, please go to [www.catonsvillehelp.org/donating-food-and-other-non-perishables/](http://www.catonsvillehelp.org/donating-food-and-other-non-perishables/). Thank you in advance for your donations.

# Sacred Space Garden

By Jeanne Mueller

## Purchasing Engraved Pavers

In the February 20 edition of the Messenger we highlighted the Sacred Space Garden and Columbarium and introduced the option to purchase an engraved paver. Here are the details. Pavers will be available to order from March 1 thru May 15. This will ensure that the construction company will have these pavers ready to be used in the construction process which will begin summer 2021. After May 15, 2021 additional paver orders for the Sacred Space Garden will be welcomed, encouraged, and added periodically as needed. At that time, it will necessitate removing plain pavers and inserting the new ones. So, if you know now you want pavers, please order by May 15, 2021 so they may be included in the original design.

The pavers are 8-by-8-inch gray concrete that can be engraved with up to 6 lines of writing (20 characters per line counting spaces). The actual writing on the pavers should reflect the grace and dignity of the Sacred Space Garden. Paver text will be reviewed and approved prior to engraving.

## Sacred Space Garden Paver Order Form

You can fill out the form below or you can layout your own paver to visualize how it will look by visiting Polar Engraving at [www.polarengraving.com](http://www.polarengraving.com) and selecting Services then choose Virtual Brick Creator. Select 8 by 8, text only (no logo), brick color number 7 gray, any font. You will no longer be able to add letters when you reach the maximum number of 20 spaces and letters on each line. All the garden pavers will be printed using Optima font but this is not an option when you try to visualize your paver on the website.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pavers \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Engraving (Please make sure everything is correctly printed, shows capital and lower-case letters, and does not exceed 20 letters and spaces per line. You do not need to use all 6 lines.)

Line 1:

Line 2:

Line 3:

Line 4:

Line 5:

Line 6:

Cost for paver, engraving, and shipping is \$125 per paver. Please mail your completed form and check (marked CPC Paver) to the Catonsville Presbyterian Church, 1400 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228. If you need additional help or have questions regarding ordering the pavers or paver layout contact Jeanne Mueller at 410-840-8045 or [jeannemueller@comcast.net](mailto:jeannemueller@comcast.net).





## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

12138-21-103

### February 17-April 4, 2020

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Donate at <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/give/OGHS>
- + Text "GiveCPC OGHS" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

### IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit [pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs).



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Presbyterian Mission**

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings. The four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

# Sanctuary Easter Flowers

Each year we put seasonal flowers in the chancel to mark Easter Sunday and though things are different and we will not be together in the sanctuary, it will look like you remember it with lilies and tulips. To memorialize or honor someone, contribute electronically at <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/EasterFlowers>.

Be sure to tell us how you would like the name(s) listed for yourself as donor and your honoree. If you prefer, you can mail a donation to the church with the same information included. Donations in any amount are welcome. Questions can be directed to Susan Hutton at 410-719-6711 or [dhutt@erols.com](mailto:dhutt@erols.com).

## AWE Thank You

In December the Mission Committee sent a \$1,000 to Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE) for rental assistance. They sent us a handmade thank you note with these words:

Dear Catonsville Presbyterian Community,

We are so grateful and so encouraged by your generous commitment to the AWE community, especially this year!

Thank you for choosing to ensure safe, stable shelter for asylum seeking families. Worries about rent and housing are some of the most common we see. – thank you for joyfully meeting this need and upholding the dignity of these families. Your partnership means so much to us and we look forward to all that is ahead in 2021!



## 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

■ Income as of March 6, 2021	\$ 139,069
■ Expense as of March 6, 2021	\$ -119,242
■ Total:	\$ 19,827

## 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

1400 Frederick Road

Catonsville, MD 21228

(P) 410-747-6180, (F) 410-747-7263

[www.catonsvillepres.org](http://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](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)



We Choose  
Welcome

