

August 2, 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.

Organist

Christopher Keenan, 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



Be
Kind

By Kenneth Kovacs

As we shared in the last issue of [The Messenger](#), our Christian Education committee is offering an amazing resource called for children and families. The “Summer of Kindness” consists of six sessions to help us understand kindness better and embody it in our lives. Each session, tied to a Bible story, has four parts—Hear, Wonder, Pray, Play, Act. Themes include—Welcoming, Compassion, Caring, Thankful, Loving, and Kindness Can Be Hard.

While we often consider kindness as something we extend toward others, it’s also worth remembering that we can extend kindness toward ourselves. What we offer our neighbors can also be offered toward ourselves. To relate toward oneself this way isn’t selfish or wrong or even sinful. How we love and relate to ourselves is projected out into all of our relationships.

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Be Kind

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As we approach the middle of the summer, I hope and pray that during these challenging times after an enormously challenging year. I hope that you will carve out some time for yourself and remember to be kind toward yourself. How are you caring for your body, soul, and spirit? Are you taking enough time to rest? Are you listening to your body, your soul, your spirit? Are you honoring your body, your soul, your spirit? In what ways are you being kind to yourself? Where do you need to be kind(er) to yourself?

These are not self-indulgent questions. These are essential, life-giving questions and will take on greater meaning as we (try to) emerge out from under the pandemic. Kindness, love, grace, compassion, whatever will contribute toward healing, wholeness, and wellness need to be(come) the order of the day.

We've all been through some form of trauma this year, whether it's trauma with a capital "T" or small "t", whether directly or indirectly, it's still trauma. Our awareness of the trauma we've encountered will

only become stronger as gradually take off our masks and [allow ourselves to exhale](#) and look back upon what we've just experienced together in a nation that where 600,000 people have died, and then add and multiply the number of people directly impacted by each loss. It's almost too much to take in. Delayed grief from the past year is starting to emerge, including here in this congregation. That's why it's important to be compassionate toward ourselves and one another, to be kind. Mental health issues are increasing at a dramatic rate throughout the United States and it's difficult to find a therapist or counselor, especially a therapist or counselor who takes your insurance; many have waitlists.

One of my favorite mantras is this proverb. For a time, it was widely attributed to Plato or Philo of Alexandria. The actual source is probably the Free Church of Scotland minister Ian Maclaren (1850-1907). It goes like this: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Everyone you meet—including the "you" meet in the mirror every morning.

Backpacks for Success

In our community, there are many underprivileged students who don't have resources to obtain the suitable school supplies for class. Given the tools such as backpacks, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, rulers, etc. leaves a child packed with success. All backpacks, school supplies, and monetary donations will be distributed through Grace AME. The general cost of a full backpack is \$30. Please visit the link <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/> to submit a donation. Purchased items can be placed in the designated box on the front porch of the church through Sunday, August 7. Please consider giving, thank you!

Supplies Needed:

- Backpack Book Bag
- Pencils
- Paper
- Notebooks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pencil Box
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighter



Christian Education News

Children in Worship

We're so glad to see people's (masked) faces in worship on Sunday. It's been especially lovely to have children of all ages in the sanctuary. We hope that families have been enjoying the books and the paper/crayons/markers available at the entrance. You have noticed, we're sure, that we are not providing nursery/child care at this time. We are waiting until such time as it is safe for children to gather together in close quarters. However, please know that we are delighted that children are here and that they are always welcome in worship as beloved children of God and members of Christ's family. We trust that the congregation will feel comfortable with squirms and whispers and questions as we join together. If you wish to console a crying child, you are free to wander out front on the church steps; the service is also broadcast into fellowship hall. A reminder that there is a diaper changing table in the single-use rest room just outside the kitchen. You are welcome to take your child out to the playground before, during and after worship; enter through the child care classroom on the first floor near the child care entrance (be sure to prop the door open so you can get back in.) We would truly appreciate your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions as we seek a new way forward during this still-active pandemic. Please contact Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org or Christian Education chair Jodie Virago at jvirago@gmail.com. Thank you for your patience and your grace.

GODSPELL at Toby's Dinner Theater

August 29 at 5 p.m.

We're heading to Toby's Dinner Theatre on Sunday, August 29 for the 5 p.m. show. If you are a senior high youth and would like to attend, please contact Dorothy Boulton as soon as possible so we can ensure enough seats. So far we've reserved ten but would love to include you. Contact Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org to reserve your seat today.

Getting Ready for Fall

Christian Formation Family Survey

As we enter a new phase of our life here at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, we're seeking ways to grow in faith as a church family that are safe, helpful, supportive, and that work best for the time we're in. In order to assess needs, hopes, and challenges, we'd like to hear from you. Our Christian Education Team is in the process of creating a survey so that you can share what is important to your family. As we discern this together, we'd like for you to think about *what you wish your child/youth/family to know about God... about the church. What is it you truly value about being a disciple of Jesus Christ? What faith rituals/traditions/practices are most important to your family? How can the church help you grow and love and serve?*

We know that we are not going back to "things as they were" but are heading into the future that God has planned for us. Thank you for being such grace-filled partners on the journey. We trust in God's faithfulness as we walk together.

Feed My People

A big thanks to all who donated to the July food collections, they were very successful. The next food collection is on Friday, August 12 at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, and Saturday, August 13 at the Knights of Columbus. All non-perishable items and toiletries are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help collect food contact Jenny Hutton at jenhutton2010@gmail.com

Chef Paolino continues to collect for the "Meat Madness" campaign to supply food to the Westside Mens Shelter and My Brothers Keeper. Donations can be made through Catonsville Presbyterian Church or directly to Chef Paolino. The Deacons will continue through August to collect school supplies for children in need in the bin on the Beechwood steps. Stay tuned for another "Fill this Truck" event in the fall.

Our New Pavilion

The pavilion, situated in the yard behind the Church House and Meditation Labyrinth, is moving along nicely! It will accommodate small group gatherings for worship and fellowship, as well as serve as an outdoor education space. The pavilion is designed to reflect the architecture of the other church buildings and once completed will include electrical outlets and lights. It will be a wonderful addition to the church facilities in support of the many activities and programs to come!



In memoriam

We share the sad news that Jerry Hinderer died on Monday, July 19, 2021. He was 96. Jerry joined Catonsville Presbyterian Church on May 19, 2002.

The family will be gathering for a private funeral service. Please keep Jerry's daughters Darcy and Donna in your prayers.

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 July 24, 2021	\$ 418,176
■ Expense as of July 24, 2021	\$ -419,685
■ Total:	\$ -1,509

The Messenger

Next Messenger Deadline

To include articles in the next Messenger email Lisa Roca, Communications Consultant and Editor, at lroca@catonsvillepres.org by Monday, August 16.

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

[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

