

October 1, 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 Office Manager

Ashley Graham



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Holding the World Together

By Kenneth Kovacs

World Communion (originally World Wide Communion) Sunday is October 3. First adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936, churches in other denominations were later invited to join us. It wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.

continued on page 2 ↪

—INSIDE—

Learning to Pray: Join the congregation-wide discussion of James Martin, S.J.'s latest book starting in October. See *page 3*.

Dismantling Racism Committee: Updates and new initiatives. See *pages 4 and 5*.

Christian Education News: Special events and childcare notes. *Page 6*.

CPC is Becoming: A Stephen Ministries Congregation. See *page 7*.

Holding the World Together

Continued from Page 1

The idea originated with Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. It grew out of the work of the Stewardship Division (or Committee) at Shadyside. They had a dream of bringing churches together in a service of Christian unity, to lift up the global Church, to remember that by virtue of our baptism we are connected to a worldwide community, one congregation connected to every other congregation, united in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930).

The vision gradually caught on in the denomination and with our ecumenical partners. Ecumenism only emerged after the First World War as churches struggled to respond to the devastating humanitarian (and theological!) crisis brought on by the war. Dr. Kerr's son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr (who was pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore), shares, "The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World

War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Today, organized by the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed. It is fitting that on this Sunday we will receive one of the Special Offerings of the PCUSA. Through the [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#), congregations are encouraged to address the anxiety and discord prevalent in this broken and hurting world. Together, we make a difference. Let us gather around the Lord's table and entrust our lives to the One who holds the world together, giving generously to the work and witness of Christ through the life of the Church.

FALL MISSION NEWS

By Glenda K. Johnson, for the Mission Committee

Thanks for your support in helping fund the Church World Service Hygiene Kit Project. Our goal is to provide 200 of these kits as one of our fall projects. Each kit contains a hand towel, a wash cloth, bar of soap, a toothbrush, nail clippers, a wide toothed comb, and ten standard bandaids. Materials for these kits were ordered and have arrived at CPC, so we plan to provide enough funding to complete the kits. Any additional funds will be sent to Church World Service (CWS) for this same program. **KIT ASSEMBLY DAY** is scheduled for the morning of October 16. Watch for the location and time—it may be done in the Pavilion, unless we are able to use Fellowship Hall. We will definitely need volunteers to help us complete this project, so please **SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 16**.

THE NEXT FOOD COLLECTIONS to benefit the Grace AME food pantry will be held on Friday, October 8, and Friday, November 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the small parking lot off of Frederick road. All non-perishable food items, Thanksgiving food items, and toiletries will be accepted.

LEARNING TO PRAY: A Conversation

By Kenneth Kovacs

We've had a strong response to our upcoming congregation-wide study of James Martin's *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* (HarperOne, 2021). We've sold nearly fifty copies of the book so far. (Eighteen were purchased in about two minutes on the first day of sales). The online price at Amazon is around \$20, but we are selling it for \$10 (the difference comped by the Adult Education Committee budget). Books will be on sale on Sunday, October 3, as well as during the week in the Church House (Tues-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Martin is a Jesuit priest, writer, and commentator often seen on CNN or heard on NPR. *Learning to Pray*, his latest book, has received praise from many corners of the contemporary Church, both Roman Catholic and Protestant and from across the theological spectrum. Richard Rohr called it, "A brilliant introduction to prayer."

Here's how we're going to approach this study. We are not going to move through the book chapter by chapter. Neither are we going to have reading assignments. Instead, you are invited to start reading through the book at your own pace. Then, join in the conversation in a way that works for you. There will be opportunities to meet on Sunday and Thursday mornings and on Tuesday evenings throughout October and November October and November (and probably into December). Feel free to attend once or many times or every time. Dorothy Boulton and I will facilitate the conversations. What matters most is that we gather to discuss what we're reading. We'll reflect on the importance of prayer, the obstacles to cultivating an active and meaningful prayer life and explore the many ways one can pray. Our time together will be structured around your thoughts, impressions, and questions. For example: What are you learning about prayer? Is it easy or difficult for you to pray? What are you learning about yourself? What resonates with you? What do you find difficult or troubling about prayer? What would you like to learn more about? How is your relationship with God shaped by prayer?

This is an opportunity for us to engage in an honest conversation around something essential to the life of faith and yet so incredibly difficult for many—probably most. In the opening chapter, Martin lists ten reasons believers don't pray. We can easily recognize ourselves in his list. And I'm sure we can come with more. We need to remember that no one is an expert prayer (including your pastors). We are always novices in the school of prayer. And that's okay. We can learn together.

Here are the days and times we have set up for October and November. Zoom links will be shared before each session.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00 A.M.

(outdoors at CPC or via Zoom)

October 10, 24 and November 7, 21

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7 P.M.

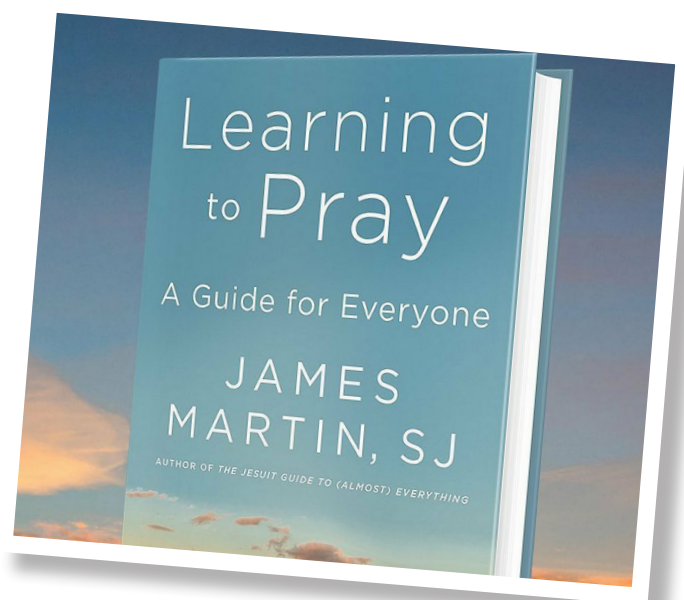
(via Zoom)

October 5, 19 and November 2, 16, 30

THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 A.M.

(outdoors at CPC or via Zoom)

October 7, 21 and November 4, 18



DISMANTLING RACISM COMMITTEE

Updates and New Initiatives

By Nancy Henderson

Approximately four years ago, the co-moderators of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recommended that all congregations read and discuss the book, *Waking Up White and finding myself in the story of race*, by Debby Irving. That year, Catonsville Presbyterian used the book and discussion as a Lenten study. Many of the participants, after that four week adult education program, felt that the conversation needed to continue and grow to action. They felt that they could not ignore the systemic racism in this country and formed the Dismantling Racism Committee. The committee has grown and evolved over the past four years to a very vibrant, productive, inclusive, growing group that meets monthly. We have partnered with members of Grace AME Church and are opening our doors to more faith based organizations in the Catonsville area around the subject of dismantling racism.

Over the past two or so years, the committee has been particularly active in educational and outreach initiatives to engage the local community in understanding systemic racism and its effects on us as individuals, our local community, and the nation as a whole. Those activities have included:

- Compiled a [30 day challenge](#) for social justice, offered to CPC members, other local churches, national organizations, and family and friends around the country.
- Sponsored an implicit bias training—open to the community.
- Lead book discussions on [So you Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo.
- Hosted Bystander Intervention training—open to the community.
- Tour and discussion of the travelling exhibit, “Undesigning the Redline.”
- Viewed and discussed videos including the documentary, “[Free the Vote](#),” produced by the ACLU of Maryland, “[Segregated by Design](#),” “[Asian Americans Battling Bias: Continuing Crisis](#)” by CBS News—open to the community.
- “All God’s Children are Welcome” initiative to distribute books with diverse characters and topics around diversity and inclusion to schools, and nonprofit organizations throughout the Catonsville area.

ALL GOD’S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME INITIATIVE

Six months ago a sub committee of the Dismantling Racism Committee was formed, entitled “All God’s Children Are Welcome.” The mission of this sub committee is to research and purchase books that promote acceptance of all people and feature multicultural main characters or are written by authors of color. These books are then donated to non profit

[continued on page 5](#) ↪



organizations to enhance their libraries and expose the children to literature that reflects their culture and represents them. As of August 20th, over 85 books have been purchased and donated to 7 non profit organizations: 2 public schools, Catonsville Elementary School and Catonsville High School, The House of Ruth Shelter for Women and Children, Grace AME Church, Catonsville Presbyterian Church, The Catonsville Presbyterian Church Family Child Care Center and The Children's Home of Catonsville. We are presently in conversation with The McKim Community Center in the City, to purchase books for their after school program.

“ALL GOD’S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME” BOOK DISTRIBUTION

While our committee is taking steps to dismantle racism, we recognize that we have a long way to go if we are going to experience true, positive racial change in ourselves, our community, and our country. If dismantling racism is something that you too feel is paramount for a just, equal society, please consider joining us. If you would like to learn more about the committee and/or have your name added to our email list, so you can read about upcoming events and what actions we are taking, contact Jeff Bolognese at jbolognese@gmail.com or Vickie Lord at lord.victoria@gmail.com.



SESSION MEETING Highlights from September

By David Hutton

Your Session continues to meet monthly and is using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the Session meeting on September 8, 2021.

- The Finance Committee reported that finances are stable for this time of the year, with a budget deficit occurring due to slowing of congregational giving over the summer while expenses continue. Members are reminded to bring their pledges and contributions up to date now that the summer months are ending.
- The computer that controls the church's carillon needs to be replaced, and the expenditure was approved using funds from the Ebersole and Tharp bequests.
- The Christian Education committee is planning for fall children and youth activities month-by-month, with emphasis on outdoor activities while the weather permits. Multi-age church school will meet outdoors on Sunday mornings. A survey of families with children is being evaluated.
- Session received a report from the Pandemic Task Force recommending some updates to restrictions on church use, including continuing the mask mandate, no choir practice or choir singing in worship, and limiting attendance for memorial services and concerts.
- Associate Pastor Dorothy Boulton reported that the Stephen Ministries leadership team of Charre Symms, Reid Spearman and herself have begun training to lead this new ministry at CPC.

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 easier than ever 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!

Christian Education News

By Dorothy Boulton

MultiAge Church School

K–5th graders will meet in the pavilion on Sunday, October 10 and 24 for a time of learning and sharing with the second of our *Follow Jesus* themed gatherings. They will leave worship after the children's message and be outdoors through the close of the service (approx. 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.) Parents can pick up their child/ren outside in the pavilion. Please be sure to give your cell phone number so you can be reached during the service if necessary. You can send it to dboulton@catonsvillepres.org ahead of time so we can have it on file.

Nursery/Child Care During Worship

The Christian Education team is looking for a coordinator for organizing toys for young children in fellowship hall (setting out/sanitizing/storage). There has also been an excellent suggestion regarding parents taking turns with supervision for young children in the playground—a coordinator is needed to help explore this option. Please contact dboulton@catonsvillepres.org or Jodie Virago, chair, jvirago@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Third Grade Bibles will be presented during worship on Sunday, October 10. Contact the church at office at office@catonsvillepres.org or 410-747-6180 with your third graders first/middle/last name by October 4. Please let us also know if you are comfortable being in the sanctuary; we can present the Bible outside on the church steps or make arrangements to bring it to your home.

Youth Gathering: Sunday, October 17

Due to the Morning of Mission on October 2, we will not have our Sunday afternoon youth gathering on October 3. Middle and high school youth will meet next on Sunday, October 17 in the pavilion from 4:30–6 p.m. for snacks, games, discussion and conversation. (Note: those high school students who have pre-registered to see the production of *Godspell* will meet at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia at 5 p.m. Be sure to bring proof of vaccination, masks, and \$20.)

Trick or Treat Trail: Sunday, October 31

Halloween is on a Sunday and we're offering an outdoor event for CPC children after worship that morning. Beginning at 11:45 a.m., (till 12:30 p.m.), volunteers will be placed throughout the CPC woodlands and children, escorted by their parents, may trick or treat at the 12 stations. A sign-up genius is listed below and will be sent out for volunteers on the CPC Friends and Family facebook page. Costumes encouraged! For additional information please contact Laura Parkhurst at parkhurst.le@gmail.com. Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4AA8AD2DA13-trickortreat to volunteer.

Creation Care News

By Ron Gunderson

The Creation Care Team has had a busy summer and now enjoying the beautiful results of our labor! Please enjoy a walk into our woodland sanctuary, sit for a bit, enjoy the sights and smells of late autumn! Lots of native bees and the butterflies are starting to show up in greater numbers and variety.

Watch for announcements on the church's Facebook page and by email for opportunities to help with autumn gardening tasks. Focus will be not only on woodlands projects but also working in gardens at the labyrinth, pavilion, and columbarium! We will also be renewing the play yard areas around the new pavilion and the labyrinth area. Lots of projects, big and small! If you are interested in helping the Creation Care Team make our church grounds more environmentally sound and esthetically pleasing email Ron Gunderson at cinron.md@gmail.com.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary

By Michelle Hepner

This year Catonsville Presbyterian Church Family Child Care Center (CPCFCCC) is celebrating their 40th anniversary. The childcare opened in 1981 with just a few children and some Church member volunteers. Its mission was to provide quality care for families in the Catonsville and surrounding areas. Today, CPCFCCC is still providing excellent care and has recently received the Maryland Excel's highest rating. It is currently licensed for over 150 children ranging in age from 2-9 years old and employs over 25 staff members who are committed to providing children with not only high-quality child care, but also solid early education foundation.

Please join us October 7 as we celebrate this auspicious occasion from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in the new Catonsville Presbyterian Church pavilion. Pet a few farm animals, grab a slice of cake and a cup of cider, and enjoy a special take home gift. There will be craft tables set up for the children and a visit from some special characters. All are welcome!



CPC IS BECOMING A Stephen Ministries Church

By Charre Symms

Over the last few months, you may have seen or heard about the possibility of starting Stephen Ministries at Catonsville Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the support of our pastors, deacons, Session, and congregational members, that is now becoming a reality. In August, it was approved by Session and CPC joined the Stephen Ministries organization. CPC is full of caring people and this program provides opportunities to bring some of that care to those in need and strengthen our church community.

Stephen Ministries is a well-established program operating in over 13,000 churches throughout the world to provide one-on-one distinctively Christian caring to people who are hurting. Stephen Leaders are equipped to provide training, support, and supervision to Stephen Ministers, also called "Care Givers." Stephen Ministers are lay persons who are called to this service and undergo intensive training. A Care Receiver is an individual in the congregation or community who is going through a crisis or life difficulty and is matched by a pastor and/or Stephen Leader with a Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week.

On September 13, Dorothy Boulton, Reid Spearman, and Charre Symms began the training to become Stephen Leaders. The training for our Stephen Leaders will be finished in mid-October. Although we have joined the organization and are training leaders, in order to "become" a Stephen Ministries Church, we need a group of caring people to be trained as Stephen Ministers. We plan to begin training for our first group of Stephen Ministers in early 2022. Thanks for your prayers and support for this opportunity to strengthen our Christian care-giving. If you would like more information about Stephen Ministries, please feel free to contact me, Charre Symms, at 530-219-5810, or csymms@sbcglobal.net. I also encourage you to visit the website www.StephenMinistries.org.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

Income as of
September 25, 2021 \$ 526,680

Expense as of
September 25, 2021 \$ -546,265

Total \$ -19,585

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

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

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

www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

Catonsville Concerts at 3

By Leslie Lindeman

Catonsville Concerts at 3 is entering its 23rd season and we are happy to be back, performing live in the sanctuary! Our first concert of the season is at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 17 and will feature Andrew Balio (trumpet) and Bruce Bengtson (organ). This duo recently teamed up to record a remarkable CD of Bach works and will be playing from that program for our series. Andrew is a renowned principal orchestral player, and Principal Trumpet in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Bruce is an organ recitalist and clinician well-known in the U.S. and abroad.

In order to ensure the continued safety of our concert guest and performers, we kindly ask your assistance in the following ways. (1) We will be limited to a single entrance, using the tower door at the foot of the steeple. This entrance is ADA accessible. (2) Seating in the sanctuary will be limited in an effort to maintain social distancing. (3) All audience members will be asked to wear a mask at all times inside the building. (4) All audience members will be asked to provide proof of vaccination as they enter the building. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you!

All Catonsville Concerts at 3 are free and open to the public, no tickets required. For a detailed schedule, visit Catonsville Concerts at 3 at <https://catonsvilleconcerts.org>. Through the website, you can also find our Facebook page, join the mailing list, and donate to this special organization.

DECEMBER 12, 2021: Heart of Maryland Barbershop Chorus, holiday themed concert

MARCH 13, 2022: Ken and Brad Kolodner Quartet, acoustic roots music

APRIL 24, 2022: Trio Confero, chamber music for clarinet, cello, and piano

