

September 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



Where We Are

By Ken Kovacs

Ordinarily, the September issue of the Messenger highlights all the things we have planned as we kickoff a new program year. But as you know these are not ordinary times. Sadly, we are not where we thought we would be with regard to the pandemic. The Delta variant is sweeping through the country. The infection rate in Maryland is now above 5%. We thought that by September we would be back in the building for church school and adult education. But we are clearly not there.

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Where We Are

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We are grateful that we've been able to have in-person worship for the months of July and August. Attendance has ranged from 28 to 65 worshippers. Most weeks we've had visitors join us. Our Pandemic Task Force has been meeting over the summer and we will meet again on September 7 in advance of the September 8 Session meeting. It is our hope that we can continue with worship in the sanctuary but if the numbers continue to rise, we might—that is, might—have to revisit this. This means we are trying to plan while at the same time anticipating Plan B. We are building the plane as we're flying it, as it were.

That said, let me highlight what's coming up this month: Worship on **SEPTEMBER 5** (Labor Day weekend) will be at 9:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 12 worship will move to 10:30 a.m. The service on this morning will mark the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11. Our new pavilion will be available for use in early September. And so we are tentatively planning for worship on this morning to be outdoors in the new pavilion, which will include a liturgy of dedication. The service will be recorded and shared with the congregation.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SEPTEMBER 12
Before worship as part of our 9-11 recognition, the Mission Committee will host a special offering via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Guests from both IMA World Health and PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) will talk about the global impact of the COVID-19 virus and share how these agencies have been engaged in the relief effort. *See page 3 for more details.*

Dorothy Boulton provides an overview of what we have planned for our **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**. We are striving to be adaptive and flexible with our programming. Now is a good time to try some new things. *See page 6 for more details.*

Apart from September 12, adult education on Sundays will be placed on hold for a while. But we are exploring other options. We're going to have a **CONGREGATION-WIDE DISCUSSION** of James Martin's fabulous new book on prayer. Books will be available for sale starting September 12. We will be scheduling multiple opportunities in October and November for you to join in the conversation—during the week (days and evenings) and weekends. *See page 4 for details.*

OUR CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP continues to meet on Monday evenings via Zoom, now at a new time. *See page 5 for details.*

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will resume on October 7 (or possibly on September 30).

Finally, returning to worship plans, we're hoping to have a **JOINT WORSHIP** experience with Knox Presbyterian Church on September 26. For the past five months, we have had conversations about developing a partnership between our two congregations. This service will either be via Zoom or in-person (at either Knox, in downtown Baltimore, or at CPC). Watch for details.

With a deep breath, we venture into another program year. We are not where we thought we would be, but this is where we are. Nevertheless, the Spirit continues to lead us and hold us. And so we can live with grace and compassion and patience, serving the Lord with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love”—lots of love.

ADULT EDUCATION

Faithful Work during a Global Pandemic

By Susan Krehbiel

On September 12 we welcome IMA World Health and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to speak about their work overseas, how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the communities they serve, and how their work has adapted because of it. Join us at 9 a.m. via Zoom to learn how these two partners keep focused on their mission and their partners while responding to the global pandemic. The Zoom link for the Adult Ed will be sent out via email along with the worship information. CPC has been a regular contributor to both IMA and PDA for their work internationally.

IMA WORLD HEALTH partners with hospitals and other healthcare service deliverers to strengthen their health systems so they are able to provide quality care to patients. In Tanzania, IMA provided the pediatric cancer ward at Muhimbili National Hospital with a new state of the art bio-safety cabinet which has increased the safety and accuracy of mixing the correct dosage of chemotherapy medication needed for each patient. Due to Covid-19, however, supplying chemotherapy medicines became a challenge due to disruptions in the supply chain worldwide. IMA was able to help the hospital obtain an adequate supply of chemotherapy medicines as well as other essential medicines that were urgently needed to addressing childhood cancer. This year, the CPC Envision Board gave a grant to IMA to expand the capacity at Ilam Hospital in Nepal with medical equipment for their ICU, allowing them to better treat COVID-19 patients and others in respiratory distress.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. PDA pulled \$2.7 million from reserves to seed the COVID-19 ongoing response in the United States and internationally. These are funds that have been given by donors to PDA's general fund over the years. From these funds, PDA disbursed 87 grants last year totaling \$926,528.22 in 56 countries. Many of these grants supported WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects, which are critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19, in addition to addressing emergency and ongoing food insecurity. Additionally, some partners launched education and communication initiatives to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in remote communities.

PLEASE JOIN US AT 9 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 12 and there will still be time for you to get to worship! Photographs below left to right *PDA – BIRDS (BharAti Integrated Rural Development Society), a grassroots organization in India, distributes food and other items. IMA – pharmacist using chemotherapy machine.*



GROWING IN GRACE

Adult Education Opportunities

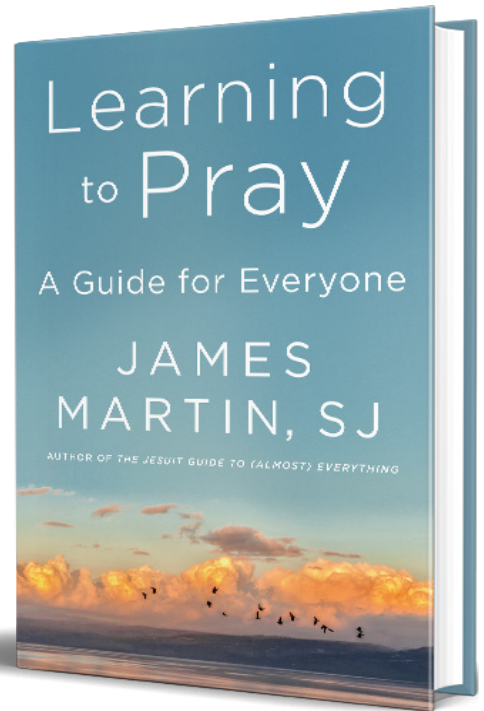
By Ken Kovacs

Many folks desire to deepen their prayer life. Many want to pray but don't know where to begin. If this is you, then join the congregation-wide discussion of James Martin's latest book *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* (HarperOne, 2021). This helpful new book explains what prayer is, what to expect from praying, how to do it, and how it can transform us when we make it a regular practice in our lives.

Here is a helpful summary of the book: "A trusted guide walking beside us as we navigate our unique spiritual paths, Martin lays out the different styles and traditions of prayer throughout Christian history and invites us to experiment and discover which works best to feed our soul and build intimacy with our Creator. Father Martin makes clear there is not one secret formula for praying. But like any relationship, each person can discover the best style for building an intimate relationship with God, regardless of religion or denomination. Prayer, he teaches us, is open and accessible to anyone willing to open their heart."

Starting September 12, books will be available on Sundays after worship or during Church House office hours during the week. The cost of the book is \$10. (The Adult Education Committee is covering half the cost of each book.) It's available on Amazon.com at \$19.20 or on Kindle for \$14.99.

We invite you to start reading and then join us for conversation at different times throughout October and November. We will have both day and evening options throughout the week. Most of these gatherings will be via Zoom, some will be outdoors in the pavilion (weather permitting).



Fall Mission Committee Project

By Mission Committee Members

The Mission Committee invites you to participate in a Fall Kit Project to support Church World Service (CWS). The Personal Care Kits are needed for people forced to leave their homes unexpectedly by natural disasters, resettlement, war, or other emergencies. The cost for each Fall Kit is \$15. The contents of each kit include one hand towel, washcloth, comb, nail clippers, bar of soap, toothbrush, and ten standard bandaids. The contents will be put into a quart sized ziplock bag.

Dates to donate as sponsors are on September 12, 19, 26, and October 5. Gifts may be made online and checks or cash sent to the Office, or through special pew envelopes. Our assembly date for the kits is scheduled on October 16.

Items will be preordered by the Mission Committee for the assembly event in October. More details will follow in the meantime—mark your calendars so you can help support this kit event. Our generosity will serve many people and will be a blessing to those who receive them.

MONDAY MEDITATION “This is It”

By Brenda Logue

“I just can’t stay focused!” This confession or frustration is often expressed when someone is invited to “just try” the Contemplative Prayer/Meditation group at church. Perhaps this person would discover a valuable “practice” by just dropping in some Monday evening at [OUR NEWTIME 7 PM](#). There is no pressure here, little talking, and lots of silence.

If circumstances were different (no Covid-19) we might well be meeting in the France Room on Monday evenings. Since this is not the case, the Contemplative Prayer Group has been sitting regularly for Zoom Meditation. Dr. Josh Semiatin facilitates the weekly 40-minute practice. On average, a half-dozen individuals participate each Monday. Recently a new participant remarked that after several sessions she was beginning to experience a difference in focus. She was less distracted. She was able to keep her mind on “the present” while gently sweeping other thoughts like planning, complaining, evaluating off to the background. “This is it”—to encounter the present—your body, your emotion, the environment—without criticism. This is the essence of the practice.

Catholic Sister Elaine MacInnes, also a meditation teacher, stated in a 2017 article that after a person has been involved in meditation for a while “the inner garbage just melts [away] . . . It’s been helpful to many, many people . . . It’s not an easy practice . . . but people stick to it because it works for them.”

Curious? For more information or to secure the Zoom link for the Church’s Contemplative Prayer/Meditation practice on Monday evenings at [OUR NEWTIME 7 PM](#), contact Brenda Logue at naylogue@aol.com.

Volunteer Opportunity

By Bob Cooper

Tricia and I first volunteered at the First Fruits Farm in northern Baltimore County at the beginning of July and have been back several times since. The Farm is “a non-profit, Christian Ministry dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food for the hungry through volunteer service and community partnerships.”

So far we have helped harvest broccoli, zucchini, green beans, tomatoes and corn. This is a great volunteer opportunity for church groups, scout groups and just individuals looking to help feed God’s people. In addition to helping provide food, it is also interesting for us suburban folks and city slickers to see first hand how a farm operates and how our food is grown. There is a great sense of fellowship among the volunteers and it’s just a beautiful, peaceful setting to do some good work. More information can be found at www.firstfruitsfarm.org.



Christian Education News

By Dorothy Boulton

We're evaluating the results of our survey which went out to families via email in late August and will be adapting and adjusting our ministries as best we can, health-protocols permitting. We want to help every person grow in faith, whether gathered together as a church family or in your own home. Needless to say, things are looking a little different this year and plans will change and adjust as we go along. We appreciate your patience, your suggestions, your love, and your grace.

Offerings for the Month of September

Multi-Age Church School

On Sunday, September 18, Kindergarteners through fifth graders will leave the morning worship service to attend an outdoor gathering in our new pavilion (approx. 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.) Weather-permitting, we'll finish our time together in the playground. Parents will pick up their children outside in the playground or in the pavilion. At this time, we plan to offer this in October on Sunday, October 10 and Sunday, October 24.

Youth Gatherings in the Pavilion

Our first meeting for middle through senior high school will be on Sunday, September 19, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. There'll be time for games, snack, Bible study, and small-group conversation. This will be a welcoming and supportive community, a safe space for stressful times. October dates are tentatively scheduled for Sundays, October 3 and 17. (We may change the October 3 date due to volunteering with The Center on October 2.)

Faithful Families

This awesome resource is ideal for starting faith practices at home. We provided copies of this several years ago and would like to make it available again for families with children ages two through five. (If you have older children and didn't receive one previously, please let us know. We'll make sure you get a copy too.) If you would like one, please contact Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org in the church office so we can get one in the mail to you.

Youth Service Day at The Center in Baltimore City

A reminder that this event is for middle school and high school on Saturday, October 2. It's a morning event, 9 a.m. – Noon, plus travel time on either side. Details will be sent home mid-month.

GODSPELL

We've rescheduled our senior high youth trip to Toby's to see Godspell for Sunday evening, 5 p.m., October 17. If you haven't signed up and want to attend, contact dboulton@catonsvillepres.org for details including vaccination requirements.

Child Care During Worship

For safety reasons we are not currently providing child care on Sunday mornings but fellowship hall is available for families to use. The service can be heard in the room, plus there's plenty of space for active children. The Christian Education Team is looking for some parents of younger children who will help us stock it with some age-appropriate toys and develop protocols for sanitizing and storage. Please contact Dorothy Boulton or Jodie Virago, chair, at jvirago@gmail.com if you'd like to help with this ministry.

COLUMBARIUM and Sacred Space Garden

By David Hutton

Our dream for a Columbarium and Sacred Space Garden from six years ago is becoming a reality and being cemented into permanency at Catonsville Presbyterian Church. Through the hard and persistent work of a church committee, overcoming many hurdles with Baltimore County Zoning, Baltimore County Forest Conservation requirements, and getting over and around the pandemic slow down of many necessary organizations, we have broken ground and are moving ahead! The niche cabinets have arrived and were put in place and brickwork begins soon.

Engraved pavers for the Sacred Space Garden have been ordered and are expected to arrive in September. At that time, the pavers and garden plantings will be added. If you missed the paver purchase initially, additional orders will be placed several times a year. Simply send your order form and check to the office.

Be sure to stop by and see our progress. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled after completion, FAQ will be posted on the church website regarding purchase of niches, and contracts for purchasing niches will be available in the near future. All committee members worked diligently but a very special thanks goes to Ron Gunderson who gave an immeasurable amount of time and energy overseeing this project. Thank you, Ron! For more information and updates visit www.catonsvillepres.org/columbarium-and-sacred-space-garden/.

Called to Connect

By Dorothy Boulton

During the first week of August, youth from CPC and nearby Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church gathered in our woodlands each evening for “Called to Connect: 2021 Montreat Youth Conference.” It was a fantastic event — new friends, fun games, meaningful conversations, fellowship around a meal. We’re grateful for all who participated and look forward to keeping connected!



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

Income as of August 28, 2021
\$ 485,043

Expense as of August 28, 2021
\$ -486,407

Total \$ -1,364

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

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

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

WORSHIP Services

“Come in your faith, come in your doubt.” Catonsville Presbyterian Church invites all to worship with us and experience our community of faith. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you will be welcomed here.

SUNDAY MORNING: Worship moves to 10:30 a.m. on September 12. Join us for worship either in person or using one of our many online options. Visit www.catonsvillepres.org to learn more.

ONLINE WORSHIP: For those who choose to worship online, worship is livestreamed on both Catonsville Presbyterian's public Facebook page and YouTube channel. You may also follow the service via Zoom. The link for the Zoom meeting is sent out each week in our email newsletter. Recordings of the service may also be viewed on either Facebook or YouTube afterward. To aid you in following the service online, the Order of Worship is posted each week on the home page and is also sent out in our email newsletter.

PAST SERMONS: In addition to joining us Sundays either, in person or online, you can read, watch or listen to past sermons at www.catonsvillepres.org/sermons/

GATHERINGS: Visit our website to view our calendar and sign up for our weekly eNews at www.catonsvillepres.org/monthly-newsletter/. Our weekly e-newsletter gives you the Sunday worship service preview, latest announcements, and upcoming events and activities at our church.

