

February 2022

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

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

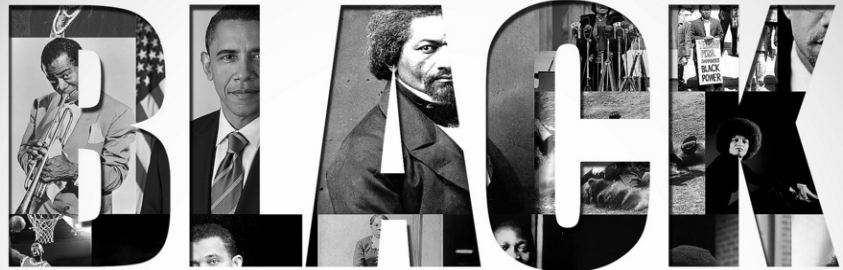
Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

**Child Care Center Office
Manager**

Ashley Graham



30 Day Challenge

By Jeff Bolognese

February, as you all know, is Black History Month. We in the Dismantling Racism Committee have come up with a way for all of us to use that month to gain a better understanding of the challenges posed by racism in our society and to learn what we can do about it.

Many of you may have participated in our "30 Day Challenge" over a year ago. For this February we've put together a "Black History Month

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30 Day Challenge

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Challenge.” For each day in February use the attached calendar to participate in a simple, easily accessible activity to learn more about important issues and concepts like systemic racism, unconscious bias, microaggressions, and intersectionality. These activities are typically either reading an article or watching a video and most take less than ½ hour to complete.

We invite you to participate in the Black History Month Challenge and to share this calendar and what you learn over the month with friends and

family. We think this is an excellent opportunity to educate ourselves, empower others, and act to dismantle racism.

If you have any questions about the “Challenge” or the Dismantling Racism Committee in general, please feel free to contact me at jabolognese@gmail.com. We hope you’ll join us in taking on the challenge of racism.

February Calendar Challenge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Watch the video "Systemic Racism Explained"	2 Listen to an NPR Story on "What Systemic Racism Means And The Way It Harms Communities"	3 Listen to this WBUR story, "We Understand Implicit Bias, Now What?"	4 Watch the TEDTalk, "What Does My Headscarf Mean to You"	5 Watch the TEDTalk, "How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them"
6 Listen to the poem "I Didn't Tell You" by Norma Johnson	7 Watch "A Conversation on Race" A series of short films about identity in America.	8 Watch Neil Degrasse Tyson discuss being Black in Science	9 Watch "Kids on Race: The Hidden Picture"	10 Read article "6 Things White Kids Say About Race That Parents Should Call Out Now"	11 Watch Bryan Stevenson's discussion, "We can't recover from this history until we deal with it"	12 Watch the Netflix documentary "13th"
13 Read the CNN article on how to respond to microaggressions	14 Watch the YouTube video "Ask Yourself"	15 Watch the video "Racism and the Church - Where do we go from here?"	16 Read the poem "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou	17 Read the essay, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh	18 Read the article, "The New Voter Suppression"	19 Learn more about fighting Voter Suppression
20 Listen to the last New York Times op-ed written by John Lewis	21 Watch the documentary "The Eye of the Storm"	22 Watch the on-line PBS series, "What I hear When you Say."	23 Read the article, "What white Americans can learn about racism from the coronavirus"	24 Read the article, "I Will Not Stand Silent"	25 Watch the TEDTalk "The urgency of intersectionality" by Kimberlé Crenshaw	26 Watch the PBS video on the march across the Edmund Pettis Bridge
27 Learn about organizations working for systemic change	28 Join or support organizations that you're passionate about					

The Dismantling Racism Committee of Catonsville Presbyterian, Grace AME, and Christian Temple churches challenges you to use Black History Month to learn more about the negative impact of systemic racism and what you can do to affect change. Each day of the month take on the simple action listed in the calendar to educate yourself, empower others, and act to dismantle racism. Visit <https://catonsvillepres.org> to learn more.

ADULT EDUCATION FEBRUARY 22

The Santi School Project

By Chris Heun

CPC has been a strong supporter of The Santi School Project in Nepal since 2007. Founder Chris Heun will address the Adult Ed program on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7 p.m. to discuss the charity's latest work, including publishing its first three original children's books in Nepali. Many of us know Santi School as a single school, but in fact over the years it has grown to repair schools, train hundreds of teachers, and spread the philosophy of reading aloud to children.

MORE ABOUT THE BOOKS

For several years, Santi School and its partner organization in Nepal have run teacher training programs that focus on the value of children's literature as a literacy teaching tool. But there is a lack of quality children's books in Nepal; there simply were not enough titles to distribute.

The three books Santi School has published are culturally relevant and appropriate, depict rural settings and characters, and include expressions and details that reflect life in the countryside. All of the books are written, illustrated and published locally by Nepali authors and artists.

Vibrant illustrations bring to life the stories that teachers created during training workshops. These books will captivate young readers during both classroom read-aloud sessions guided by teachers and in the free time students enjoy at the reading corners Santi School has provided to dozens of schools over the years.



SESSION MEETING

Highlights from January

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 January 19, 2022.

- The Session received a report from the Nominating Committee with nominees for church officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, which will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2022, following worship.
- The Personnel Committee recommended that an offer of employment be made to Regine Bonhomme for the position of Office Administrator at 20 hours per week. Session voted to approve the recommendation and the offer will be made.
- The Finance Committee reported on the financial results for 2021 and the recommended operating budget for 2022:
 - 2021 ended with a budget surplus of \$16,830, which will be carried over into 2022. Particularly noteworthy were the gift of \$10,000 from the Child Care Center, and the fact that online giving for 2021 totaled approximately \$100,000 which was a significant increase over previous years.
 - The 2022 budget was approved with a 4% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the staff, and nominal increases in other accounts. Session approved a balanced budget for 2022.
 - The Pastors' Terms of Call were prepared with the 4% COLA, and Session voted to send them to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.
 - The Investment Accounts generated approximately \$220,000 for disbursement in 2022, with \$30,000 carryover from 2021, giving a total of \$250,000 available for a combination of Envision Board grants, Mission & Advocacy awards, Buildings & Grounds expenditures and Ministry Expansion.
- Session considered the proposal from the Trustees to dissolve the separate Board of Trustees and absorb the functions and responsibilities of the Trustees into a Building & Grounds Committee of Session. A revision to the CPC Bylaws was drafted to enable the change. Session voted to approve sending the proposal and the Bylaws revision to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

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!

AFGHAN SUMMIT

February 6, 2022

By Susan Krehbiel

We welcome all to attend the Afghan Summit hosted by United Nations Association – National Area Chapter and Luminus Network for New Americans. At this summit, attendees will get an introduction to inclusion and Afghan cultural competency, as well as hear firsthand about the current and future needs of recently arrived Afghans in Maryland.

Attendees will leave with specific ways in which they and their networks can help recent Afghans arrivals in Maryland. This event will be held virtually on February 6 from 4-6 p.m. [Register today for the Afghan Summit](#)

WELCOMING THE REFUGEE

Good Neighbor Program on February 7

By Susan Krehbiel

The Presbytery of Baltimore is happy to host Eva Ng'ongolo-Simon, the new Volunteer Coordinator at Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, for this special program. LSS has opened a brand new resettlement office in Arbutus, MD as an extension of their long history of refugee resettlement in Maryland, DC and Virginia.

The Good Neighbor Program is designed with faith communities and civic groups in mind. Learn how you can help welcome refugees into the Baltimore area, and how to match the gifts of a Good Neighbor Team with the aspirations and gifts of newly arrived refugees. Imagine being among their first friends, helping them find their footing in a new country and to achieve their goals for a brighter future. Feel free to share this invitation with other faith communities. Keep those in our congregation and community who are ill in your prayers. Take care and stay safe. This event will be held virtually on Monday, February 7 at 7 p.m. [Register today for the Refugee Good Neighbor Program.](#)

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

Education News

By Dorothy Boulton

With the impact of the Omicron variant still being felt in our church and community, we are not currently able to put things on our Christian Formation ministry calendar for the month of February. However, please stay tuned for these coming options and events:

Confirmation/Commissioning

We'll have an organizing/information meeting, possibly by zoom, to plan for this ministry for youth in grades 9 and up. It is hoped that we can have six–seven sessions together in the spring.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Save the dates of July 23 – 27, 2022 for this always-exciting and formative event in Indianapolis, IN. Our Presbytery organizes transportation, plus there's financial discounts available. This event is awesome!

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2 – We'll be offering in-person and at-home resources to help you and your family grow in faith during this holy season.

STEPHEN MINISTRY and Self-Reliance

By Reid Spearman

Self-reliance is a bedrock value of American society. University of Pennsylvania Professor Jeffrey Edward Green describes self-reliance as “a specific form of individualism committed to human equality and a non-antagonistic relationship to society.” All this sounds great. Of course we’re committed to human equality, and who wants to be involved with or responsible for conflict? What happens, though, if we become too self-reliant?

An excess of self-reliance can lead to disconnection from those around us. We acknowledge that others have problems, but we assume they will exercise their self-reliance to deal with those problems. As a result, we may not reach out to those in need. It may not occur to us to ask, or we may feel it’s none of our business.

Stephen Ministry recognizes that people can’t always depend solely on themselves to provide the help they need to live as fully and richly as God intended. The Apostle Paul exhorted Christians to “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2, NRSV). When self-reliance isn’t enough, Stephen Leaders and our Pastors will connect those in need to a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers will be there to share the burden.

Your Stephen Leaders have been reaching out to see who God may be calling to this ministry of connection and compassion. We have decided to extend the application phase through March to give everyone sufficient time to reflect and decide. Please call on any of us with questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you, and to helping all of us share the love and care of the community of Christ.

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org

Reid Spearman at speareid@gmail.com

Charre Symms at csymms@sbcglobal.net

COFFEE WITH A Pastor

The months can be dreary in the new year and there’s great comfort to be found in a warm and caring conversation. If you’d like to contact a pastor, please feel welcome to call Dorothy or Ken at the church office (410-747-6180). We’re here for you. And don’t forget – we have a Deacons’ prayer line; choose the option when you call the church number; a deacon will contact you to offer a prayer and share a word of kindness.

ENVISION BOARD Update

GRANT DEADLINE March 1, 2022

The Envision Board would like to remind the congregation of the upcoming grant application deadline of Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The Envision Fund awards grants for Development, Service in Community, and Social Justice Advocacy. Projects may serve the Catonsville Presbyterian Church (internal), Local, National, and/or International communities. External applicants must have a church-based sponsor, and internal applicants must follow a submission process with Committees of the church. For internal applicants, if you are interested in submitting an application for funding, please ensure you are working with the applicable Committee that best aligns with your project.

Applications, Proposal Criteria, Sponsorship Forms and contact information may be found at <https://catonsvillepres.org/envision-fund/>. For any questions and/or to be connected to a Committee who may provide appropriate sponsorship, please contact envision_fund@catonsvillepres.org.

TWO FUNDED PROJECTS

The Envision Board would like to share with you from time to time reports on some of the projects that the grants have funded. Here are two.

The Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is a Maryland based organization whose mission is to engage faith congregations to be caretakers of our shared watershed. CPC is a member. The Envision Board awarded this organization \$6,500 to aid in the development of a new website. With these funds, they created a new web page which display locations of engaged congregations. Among other things, the new website also provides forms for collecting stories about projects that congregations have completed, such as our own native plant garden. If you look at their website, you will see our church and a picture of the garden which can help other congregations commit to projects that care for our environment as part of the Chesapeake watershed.

We have a long relationship the **Santi School in Nepal** and its teacher training projects. In 2020 the school was awarded a grant of \$10,000 to kick start their children's literature publishing arm. Despite the challenges of Covid, they have 3 books in progress. The authors are participants in the Santi School Teacher Training workshops. The books have been written in Nepali with culturally appropriate Nepali settings and characters. They will be illustrated and published locally. One is titled, "Bees". It was developed by 5 primary teachers and is inspired by beehives located at two of the schools.

Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Our Financial Resources

Doing God's Work

Income as of
January 22, 2022 \$ 52,360

Expense as of
January 22 2022 \$ -22,213

Total \$ 30,147

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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(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

WORSHIP ONLINE through February 2022

Due to the high number of covid cases in Maryland, Session has made the decision to move worship to *online only* through February 2022. While we won't be gathering in person, we will certainly trust the Spirit to unite our hearts and minds as we worship together to the glory of God.

Please watch for the e-newsletter which is published at the end of each week. A copy of the Order of Worship is always included, as well as information about how to access the service online. Thank you for your compassion for one another during this time. Please keep those in our congregation and community who are ill in your prayers. Take care and stay safe.

ASH WEDNESDAY March 2, 2022

We will gather with the congregations of Dickey Memorial, Hope, and Hunting Ridge for our Ash Wednesday service this year. CPC will host the service. Details to follow. Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent.

