

April 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

### Administrative Assistant

Regine Bonhomme

### Sexton

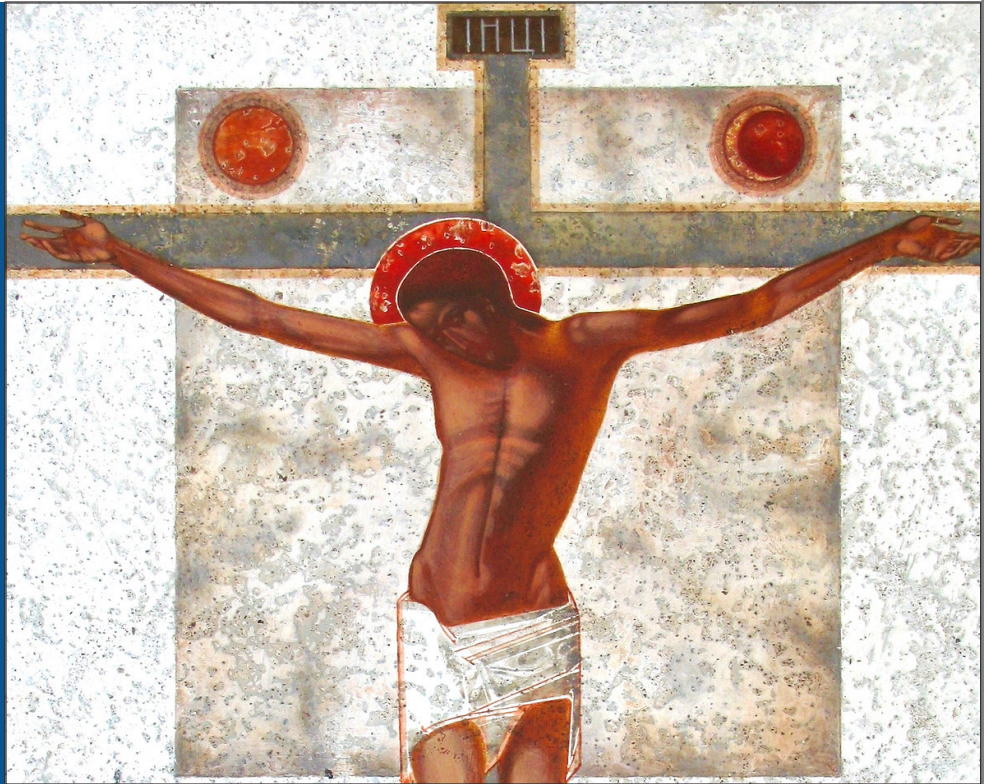
Bernard Lawson

### Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

### Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Credit: Crucifixion by contemporary sacred artist Ivanka Demchuk from Kiev, Ukraine.  
<https://en.ivankademchuk.com/>

## Holy Week and Easter

By Kenneth Kovacs

For the first time in two years, we will be back in the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter services. Thanks be to God! We are grateful that the COVID positivity rate in Maryland continues to decline, hovering around 1.5%. As a result, Session has relaxed the COVID restrictions. Beginning Sunday, April 3, masks are optional, there are no capacity limits for rooms in the main church building, and food and drink are allowed, provided the Maryland COVID positivity testing rate remains at 1.5% or lower.

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# Holy Week and Easter

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## HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR WORSHIP DURING THIS HOLY SEASON:

### PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 10

Our children will lead the way in a procession of psalms. And we welcome to the pulpit my good friend Roy Howard. Roy is a professional leadership coach and Dean of The Academy of Artful Leadership. Before transitioning to coaching in 2020, for 18 years Roy was the pastor of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. Roy has also served as the Book Editor for *The Presbyterian Outlook*. I'm grateful for Roy's wisdom and support when I was planning to walk the Camino back in 2016. He recently wrote a beautiful reflection piece On Pilgrimage for *Presbyterians Today*. Read the reflection piece at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0322-pilgrimage/>.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 14 AT 7:30 P.M.

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" (Jn. 13:34). On Maundy Thursday — from the Latin, *mandatum*, meaning "mandate."—we reflect upon Jesus's final words for his disciples. We will gather for the Lord's Supper (in the sanctuary) and continue with a service of Tenebrae (darkness) as we listen to the Passion of our Lord according to John's Gospel.

### GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 15 AT 6:00 P.M.

We will gather outdoors—either round the labyrinth or the pavilion—for a contemplative service of music and readings considering the meaning of Christ's crucifixion.

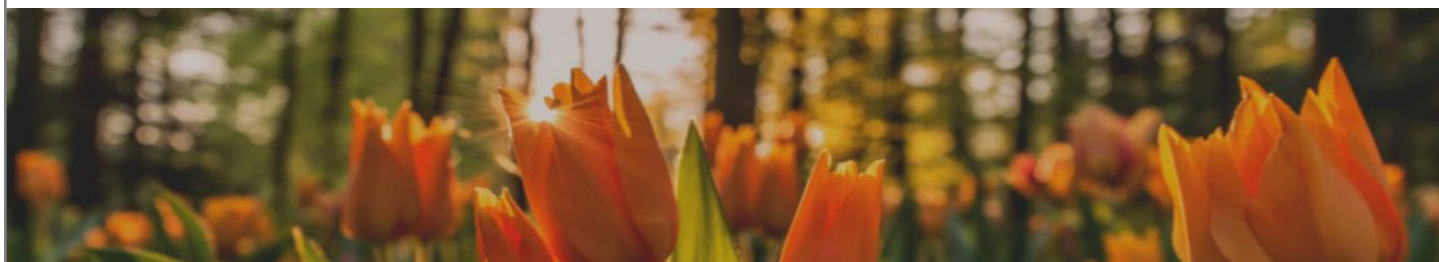
### RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 17 EASTER SUNDAY

Join us for a Festival Service of Praise as we give thanks for God's gift of new life. Our text for the morning will be John's account of the resurrection, the only Gospel that tells us that Jesus was buried in a garden. Mary Magdalene confused Jesus, at first, with the gardener—this is not an insignificant theological detail for John. And we will gather at the Lord's Table and encounter Christ's real presence in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup. *Christ is risen!*

*"Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise."*

—Brian Wren



# THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE WAR

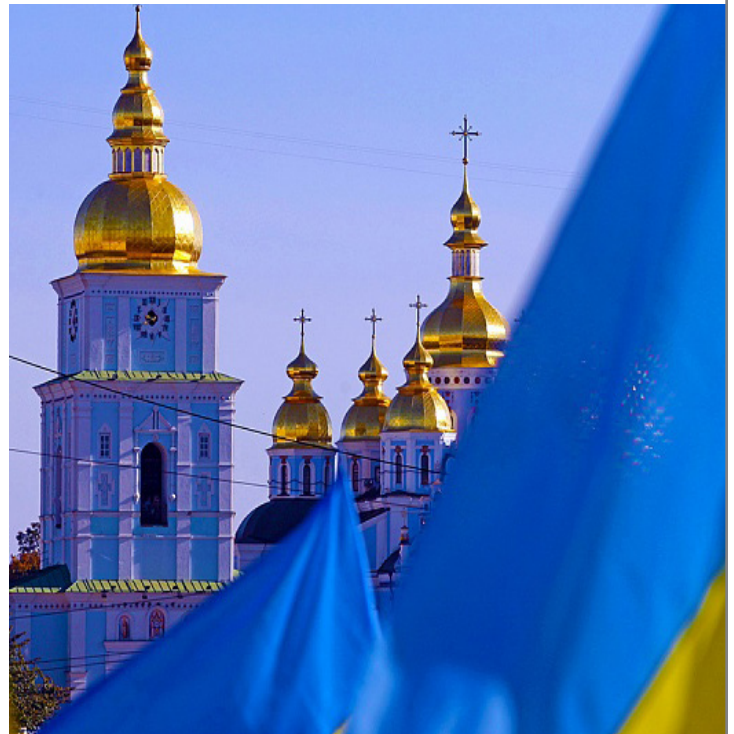
## A Crisis of Orthodoxy

Adult Education on Sunday, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.

By Kenneth Kovacs

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 is a historic threat to people of the Orthodox Christian tradition. More troubling still for Orthodox believers, the senior hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church has refused to acknowledge this invasion, issuing instead vague statements about the necessity for peace in light of “events” and “hostilities” in Ukraine, while emphasizing the fraternal nature of the Ukrainian and Russian peoples as part of “Holy Rus’,” blaming the hostilities on the evil “West,” and even directing their communities to pray in ways that actively encourage hostility.

On March 13, 2022, in response to the Russian Orthodox Church support of the war, leaders of the Orthodox tradition released an extremely significant statement – **A Declaration on the “Russian World” (*Russkii Mir*) Teaching** – which is being compared with the Declaration of Barmen (1934), the Confessing Church’s denunciation of National Socialism in Germany. Join us for a discussion of this statement on Sunday, April 24 in the library at 9:00 a.m. You can view the statement at <https://publicorthodoxy.org/page/2/>. The religious dimension of the war hasn’t received the attention that it deserves.



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## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through PDA is providing emergency relief to those fleeing violence in Ukraine. Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc.

To support, give at [www.pcusa.org/ukraine22](http://www.pcusa.org/ukraine22).



# LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Adult Education on April 3 and 10 at 9:00 a.m.

By Kenneth Kovacs

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.

Our guide through the season of Lent will be Jill J. Duffield, pastor and former editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Duffield draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. Join us for a discussion on Sunday, April 3 and 10 in the library at 9:00 a.m.

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## LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

A DEVOTION  
THROUGH  
TEN OBJECTS



## REMEMBERING

### Lee Van Koten

The seafarer on the left told a BISC ship visitor last summer how much he appreciated volunteer Leland Van Koten's late-night efforts years earlier, resulting in the seafarer's reunion with family members living in Maryland. After many years of Monday and Friday evening shifts, Lee retired from ship visiting, while still serving on BISC's board and keeping his church, Catonsville Presbyterian, connected with port ministry. Lee died in December, and he will be sadly missed.



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

By Dorothy Boulton

## SUNDAY APRIL 10 AT 10:25 AM PALM PROCESSIONAL

At last, we are able to shout “Hosanna!” as we walk together through the aisles of the sanctuary. Children and youth will meet in fellowship hall at 10:25 a.m. where we’ll distribute the palms. (Parents are invited to accompany very young children.) We’ll process together and then return to our seats for the start of the service.

## SUNDAY APRIL 10 MULTIAGE CHURCH SCHOOL

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will leave following the children’s message to share stories and activities for Holy Week/Easter.

## SUNDAY APRIL 24 AT 11:45 AM YOUTH EVENT

Middle and high school youth will meet Jenny Hutton and Laura Parkhurst right after worship at 11:45 a.m. to hang the birdhouses in the woodlands, plus other outdoor activities, including lunch.



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR APRIL 10 AND APRIL 17

We’re planning to host fellowship hour after worship on Sunday, April 10 and Easter Sunday, April 17. Thank you so much to our coordinator, Alison Enokian, for helping us to gather together. Looking ahead, we will be inviting volunteers to help with this ministry of hospitality. “Many hands” make this an enjoyable and meaningful task — plus it’s a great way to meet other members! Watch for further details on how you can sign up to participate.

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE

The Scouting for Food Drive during March was very successful! The Scout Troop collected 452 lbs. of non-perishable items and the Cub Scout Pack collected 1105 lbs. of food. Having the decorated truck in the CPC parking lot made it convenient for CPC members and community friends to drop off items throughout the day. All donations from both groups were delivered to CEA. They were extremely grateful for these donations. Thank you to all who helped make this drive a huge success.

# EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

By Ron Gunderson

In 2015, Catonsville Presbyterian Church formed the Creation Care Team with the encouragement and support of the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. Soon after, we began a series of projects to establish our church grounds as an example of sustainable garden management.

In 2016 we applied for certification as an Earth Care Congregation under a special program of PC(USA) to recognize congregations working in grounds, worship, and education to promote environmental stewardship. We have been re-certified each year since our original certification!

Our projects are transforming our wonderful church grounds into spaces for worship, meditation, learning, and fun. We have planted over 140 native trees, created several native meadow areas, and planted of hundreds pollinator

attractor plants. We have created several new gardens and replanted old ones. The project of reclaiming and restoring our lovely woodlands sanctuary area is a cornerstone of our efforts!

Our work is a continuing process in celebration of the beauty and wonder of Creation! Interested in being a part of the Creation Care Team? Please contact Ron Gunderson at [cinron.md@gmail.com](mailto:cinron.md@gmail.com).



# SESSION MEETING Highlights from March

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 March 9, 2022.

- The Finance Committee reported the theft of a computer from the church office. Measures are being taken to restore the lost data and an audit of financial systems is planned. For the Operating Budget in the year to-date, a budget surplus continues due to the pre-payment of annual pledges by some members.
- The Envision Board presented a draft of changes to the Envision Guidelines as a result of recommendations from the Envision Task Force last year. Session voted to approve the changes.
- With the continued reductions in the COVID reporting metrics for the state of Maryland, Session is requesting that the Opening Up Task Force consider further relaxing of COVID restrictions in the church buildings. It is hoped that masks can be made optional when the testing positivity rate drops below 1%, however, congregational singing is still a concern.

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!

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## Catonsville Presbyterian Teddy Bears

By Kathy Shanley

Prior to the pandemic, you may have noticed the occasional teddy bear sitting up front in worship. And you may have wondered, "What's up with that?!" So, here's the story...

"Once upon a time", one of our members approached the deacons with an idea from her sister's church, for a "Bear Ministry." It works like this: a cute, cuddly teddy bear joins us for a worship service, where it becomes an "active" participant (through the help of a "bear sitter"), soaking up the love of God and from the congregation. After worship, it receives a tag which reads:

*"This bear worshipped with us at Catonsville Presbyterian. It has heard scripture, prayers, songs, and sermons. It has been loved by our congregation, and now comes to you with our blessings. It brings prayers of love, peace, and joy today and always."*

Then, the bear is ready for a person (child or adult) who may be experiencing illness or a life crisis. So, if you know someone who may benefit from one of these very special bears, simply let any deacon or pastor know. If you happen to see any bears in worship, be sure to greet them warmly--they'll be carrying your love out into the world!

# Catonsville Presbyterian Church

## Our Financial Resources

### Doing God's Work

Income as of	
March 26, 2022	\$ 159,879
Expense as of	
March 26, 2022	\$ -150,220
Total	\$ 9,659

## 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://Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb)  
[Twitter.com/catonsvillepres](https://Twitter.com/catonsvillepres)  
[www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres](https://www.instagram.com/catonsvillepres)  
 Church Office Hours:  
 Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.  
[office@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



### March 2-April 17, 2022

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 —

- + Through your congregation
- + Donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give



-or-

