

September 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/Assistant Director of Music

Wendy Johnston

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



Leaning Forward

By Dorothy Boulton and Kenneth Kovacs

As we lean into September, the start of a new school year, and the start of a new program year at CPC, we're grateful that life feels somewhat "normal." But we all know it's really a "new" normal as we continue to adjust and adapt to life as we emerge from the pandemic. At the end of August, Session approved new safety protocols which allow more flexibility moving forward. What will September be like?

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—INSIDE—

Growing in Grace: Join us in person at 9 a.m. in the library. Second & Fourth Sundays. See page 3.

Children, Youth and Families: Looking ahead to what we're planning: See page 4.

Earth Care Congregation: Join us for seasonal work in the gardens. See page 6.

Welcome Wendy Johnston: Organist/Assistant Director of Music. See page 7.

Leaning Forward

Continued from Page 1

Many committees and boards are now meeting in person in the church. Outside groups that met at the church pre-Covid, will be returning. The choir will be back in worship on a regular basis. Adult Education will resume on Sunday, September 11. Instead of weekly offerings, we're going to gather on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. See page 3 for the September offerings. We will host another new members' class on September 17. And we're also evaluating the Sunday morning schedule. If you haven't replied to the congregational survey that went out on August 23, we encourage you to do so. We need your thoughts. Here's the link: [Sunday Morning Schedule](#).

The one area of our ministry that has been seriously impacted by the pandemic is Christian education—and we are not alone in this. Dorothy has been meeting regularly with a group of Christian Educators who serve churches throughout the Presbytery, gathering to share ideas, resources, and support as each seeks to minister faithfully with their respective congregations. One of the common themes we are hearing—from churches of all sizes—is that as we plan for fall programs, there is no going back to “the way it used to be pre-Covid.” There are many reasons for this: families, especially those with young children, generally attend once per month; many with younger children feel that having multiple events on a Sunday morning (ex: church school followed by worship) is too long a time period for their families; sports schedules continue to impact Sunday morning ministries; not all people feel comfortable attending in person; many prefer to worship online either by live streaming or watching the recording of the service at a different time/day; and in addition, people are finding their ability to volunteer is constrained either by time or by energy. All this creates both challenges and opportunities for how we engage in Christian formation at CPC.

One of the good things to come from the past few years has been our creativity and experimentation with how we offer and participate in Christian Education (CE) ministries. We've provided at-home materials for families, met for events in the church woodlands and throughout the church grounds, shared videos, hosted online gatherings, and combined our church school classes into a multiage community that met concurrently with worship once per month.

As we head into the fall, we'd like to keep doing many of these! Multiage church school has been a great success, and our outdoor events are lively and joyful. We're looking to build on and build up some of our previous offerings: beginning on September 11th and on the following second Sundays childcare will be provided for young children during the worship service; youth groups for middle & high school youth will have a regular once-per-month schedule; multiage events are planned throughout the church seasons. One of our greater challenges—and again, an opportunity – will be discerning the best ways to provide consistent nurturing of disciples. We are asking, for example, “Is a Sunday morning church school/adult education hour meeting the needs of our congregation?” “Does the time frame that we have been using work for families of all sizes and ages?” Hence the need for the congregational surveys. If you haven't yet participated, please also link to our [second Volunteer Survey](#).

We are fortunate that our Christian Education team is working hard to help us all discover where God is leading us. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and feel welcome to lend your gifts and vision as part of our mutual promise to one another “to grow to love and serve Jesus Christ.” Your CE Team is Rev. Dorothy Boulton (staff support); Jenny Hutton (chair), Jeff Bolognese (Session elder), Mark Kennedy, Laura Parkhurst, Jodie Virago, Melissa Virago, Sarah Chame Martinez and Sharon Oaks. If you would like to join the team, there's a place for you. Come and join us as we grow into God's kin-dom together.

20TH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY, OCT. 9

October 1 marks Dorothy Boulton's twentieth anniversary at CPC. On Sunday, October 9, after worship, we're going to celebrate her ministry and honor her service. Look for details coming soon!

GROWING IN GRACE

Adult Education Opportunities

Led by Kenneth Kovacs

JOIN US IN PERSON AT 9 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY. SECOND & FOURTH SUNDAYS.

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

SEPTEMBER 11

In August, a major study was released on the value of social capital in shaping human life. Led by Raj Chetty of Harvard University, this report shows that social capital – the strength of our relationships and communities – plays an important role in outcomes ranging from income to health. Friendship is a key component of social capital. This week we'll discuss David Brooks' recent New York Times opinion piece on this study, "What Is It About Friendships That is So Powerful?". Coming out of the pandemic, we're rediscovering the value of relationships and friendships and being part of communities that bring joy and a greater sense of well-being. The Church has something to offer us here. After all, didn't Jesus call us his friends and showed us how to be a friend?

WHOLE, NOT PERFECT

SEPTEMBER 24

Many people struggle with perfectionism. "Perfectionism," Brené Brown explains, "is not the same thing as striving to be your best. Perfectionism is the belief that if we live perfect, look perfect, and act perfect, we can minimize or avoid the pain of blame, judgment, and shame. It's a shield. It's a twenty-ton shield that we lug around thinking it will protect us when, in fact, it's the thing that's really preventing us from flight." It doesn't help that we find Jesus saying, "Be perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). As we'll see, this is a poor translation. Jesus is calling us to something other than perfection, calling us to a better way.

YOUTH GROUP

SECOND SUNDAYS

We are excited to announce that we will resume in-person youth group gatherings at Catonsville Presbyterian Church. They will be the second Sunday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, and will be led by Laurie Parkhurst, Jenny Hutton, and Dorothy Boulton. All youth grades 6th through 12th are invited to attend.

The first gathering, however, will be Sunday, September 11 at 4 p.m. at the home of Joel and Jenny Hutton. We will start with a hike into Patapsco Park followed by a pizza party. Parents and friends are welcome. RSVP via email by September 8 to jenhutton2010@gmail.com.

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4

All ages are invited to an informal gathering in the pavilion from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. — hopefully the weather will cooperate this time. Feel welcome to bring a picnic supper. Come and spend some relaxing time with members of your church family — sit and chat, the playground is open, and lawn games & Pickleball are available (bring some more games to share if you've got 'em.) No rsvp needed.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

By Dorothy Boulton

We have changed the way we've engaged in Christian formation ministries the past three years. The great news is that we are continuing to adapt and experiment so that all ages of the church community can grow and develop and share in mutual nurture and care. As we head into September, this is what we're planning:

1. SUNDAY MORNING CHILD CARE

On the second Sunday of each month beginning on September 11, we will have a paid care giver plus an adult and youth volunteer providing care for infants and young children (through age 5) during worship. This will be available beginning at 10 a.m. and run through noon.

2. MULTIAGE CHURCH SCHOOL FOR K – GRADE 5

This was a great success this past year so we are continuing to offer it on the second Sunday of each month. Children will leave the sanctuary following the children's message at approx. 10:45 a.m. and share Bible stories, crafts, and activities through the end of the worship service.

3. YOUTH GROUPS

Again, on the second Sunday of the month, we are inviting grades 6 – 12, middle and high school youth, for fellowship, conversation, games, activities, and service. Please see the additional announcement on page 3. We'd also be happy to support parents who wish to host youth gatherings for grades 3 – 5, Lord's Little People. Send us word so we can help get you started.

4. YOUTH EDUCATION

Currently we're exploring which time and format will work best for middle and high school youth. Questions we're pondering include "Would a change of time in Sunday morning classes and/or worship promote greater inclusion?" "Would a different day/evening format create greater opportunities for participation?" Please feel welcome to share your input. We'd love to hear from you.

5. INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

We will host events and gatherings for families and for all ages throughout the program year. Watch for our Trick or Treat Trail on October 30, as well as Advent/Christmas crafts and caroling. We're happy to schedule other opportunities—share your dreams, ideas, and suggestions with us.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org or Christian Education Chair Jenny Hutton at jenhutton2010@gmail.com and Elder Jeff Bolognese at jabolognese@gmail.com.

SECOND SUNDAY DATES

Dates for second Sunday ministries in 2022

SEPTEMBER 11

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 13

DECEMBER 11

SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 4

Family Fun Day at 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11

Growing in Grace Adult Education: The Power of Friendship at 9 a.m.

Sunday Morning Child Care at 10 a.m.

Multiage church school for K - Grade 5 at 10:45 a.m.

Youth Group at 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 24

Growing in Grace Adult Education: Whole, Not Perfect at 9 a.m.

A MOMENT For Jenny Hutton's Prayer

On Saturday, August 6, our Dismantling Racism Committee hosted a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., joined by members of Grace AME and Christian Temple. As we returned to the bus after a full, emotional day in the museum, Jenny Hutton said to me something about needing to pray. I was going to offer to pray, but something in me held me back. And I'm glad that I did. After returning to Catonsville, Jenny wrote this email and shared this prayer with Nancy Henderson. Shared here with Jenny's permission. ~Ken Kovacs

I left the museum feeling an overwhelming need to pray. In fact, I thought we could all use a prayer and was compelled to stand up on the bus and do so, but I thought I might fumble for my words. I went home. Cried some more. And wrote this prayer:

Dear God,

I thank you for those that organized this trip today

I thank you for all the hearts and minds and hands that went into building this museum.

While my hurt feels wrung out with grief, I am grateful that, at last, the truth is starting to be told.

How are we ever going to become better if we don't face the sins of our ancestors, the atrocities, the sorrow?

How are we to do your will if we don't speak out against injustice?

I pray that the people of this country could see that the way to you is the truth, and anything else is away from you.

Please help me to be better, please help me to be the change I want to see in the world.

Amen.



EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

By Ron Gunderson

The Creation Care Team has worked for the past six seasons transforming existing gardens and creating new spaces to develop gardens and meadows with native plants and shrubs. A lot of the early, heavy-duty effort was done with a combination of volunteer work and the work of landscaper contractors. The contractors were funded with grants obtained from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Exelon Green Grant programs totaling over \$30K.

Most of the work over the past three seasons has been accomplished by a small enthusiastic group committed to the vision of creating special spaces around our church grounds. The result of these labors is the many gardens that we now enjoy as a congregation and share with the community around us. The grounds are a significant and successful outreach mission of the church.

We have beautiful gardens and grounds! Now we have a new challenge: maintaining the gardens, meadows, and woodland sacred spaces.

For this we are calling on the congregation to join us. We are asking you to take personal responsibility for caring for a garden space as part of your stewardship commitment to our church. Members of the Creation Care Team will work with you to define the scope of maintenance needed at present, but the space will be yours to nurture and develop. For those areas that are not adopted for care, it will likely be necessary to hire the services of landscape professionals.

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES MINIMAL TIME THE CORNER GARDENS AT THE PAVILION

Native plants and grasses needing minor weeding and seasonal replanting, as needed.

THE CHURCH SIGN GARDEN and the garden at the Beechwood corner. Native plants and grasses needing weeding and implanting, as needed.

THE STRIP OF GRASSES by the main parking lot sidewalk and the corner garden. Native grasses needing trimming and native plants and shrubs needing weeding.

THE TWO SMALL GARDENS by the Beechwood church steps. Shrubs and grasses needing weeding, the grasses need trimming, the Serviceberry trees need minor, appropriate trimming and care.

THE ENTRANCE GARDENS at the Church House. In need of creative esthetic annual planters/watering and control of the ground covers; Bonus gardens, beside the Church House and Garage, needs minor weeding, size control of perennial natives.

GARDEN AT THE SUMMIT Road entrance. Shade tolerant perennial native plants needing nurturing as they spread, minor weeding. Note, part of this garden was originally planted in 1898!

MODERATE TIME REQUIREMENT

THE LABYRINTH gardens and shrubs. Several varieties of sun/shade native plants and grasses needing weeding and seasonal size control, watering of the shrubs in dry times, control of weeds in the meditation space.

CALVIN RAIN-GARDEN. Native plants and shrubs in need of minor weeding, size control and trimming, and seasonal cleanup.

ONE OF THE SELECTED AREAS OF THE WOODLAND SANCTUARY GARDENS:

MAINTAIN AREA around the five benches.

MAINTAIN THE GRASS and flowers around the Big Stump play area.

MAINTAIN THE HILLCREST ES meadow garden. Native plants needing size control during the season and seasonal cleanup.

There will be opportunity to sign up at church for a garden space each Sunday in September or you may contact Ron Gunderson at cinron.md@gmail.com for more details.

Thank you!

WELCOME WENDY JOHNSTON

Organist/Assistant Director of Music

By Kenneth Kovacs

Wendy Johnston received her Master of Music in organ performance from Peabody Institute in 2022. Prior to Peabody, Wendy studied organ performance at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia; receiving a Bachelor of Music in organ performance in 2019. In addition, she holds a Bachelor of General Studies from Brigham Young University, graduating in 2013. During her studies at Peabody Institute, Wendy served as organ scholar and intern at Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore and has worked as a substitute organist for various denominations in the Baltimore area. She has directed children's singing groups, worked with adult choirs, and taught numerous piano students in her private piano studio. Wendy and her husband Steve live in Woodbine, Maryland and are the parents of three adult children as well as grandparents to three incredible boys. Wendy loves hiking, her vegetable garden and chocolate.



SESSION AND DEACONS

By Kenneth Kovacs

SESSION

MODERATOR: REV. KENNETH E. KOVACS

REV. DOROTHY BOULTON

CLERK: DAVID HUTTON

YEAR 2023

Deborah Davis
Alison Enokian
Keith Glennan
Melissa Lambdin
Dorothy Marshall

YEAR 2024

Mark Kennedy
Amy Oaks
Cynthia Schwanz
Stephanie Stevens
Cheryl Thurber

YEAR 2025

Jeffrey Bolognese
John Dittman
Mokube Ewane
William Henderson
Susan Jaeger

BOARD OF DEACONS

MODERATOR: TOM ENOKIAN

REV. DOROTHY L. BOULTON, *LIAISON*

YEAR 2023

Donna McAdoo-Bucher
Kevin Flis
Cindy Gunderson
David Stubbs
Charlotte Symms

YEAR 2024

Hollie Einolf
Maryann Johns
Jen Lockard
Kristen MacNeal
Kathy Shanley

YEAR 2025

Sharon Pound
Tom Enokian
Betsy Zink
Amadeus Guchhait
Lum Offutt

Women's Circle

Starting on September 12

By Brenda Logue

The Monday Morning Presbyterian Women's Circle (PW) will explore "the Sabbath" this year beginning on September 12 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Any woman available at that time is welcome to join us. After September the Circle meets the first Monday of the month with each gathering running approximately an hour and a half. The Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, is author of the study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Contact Brenda Logue for the Zoom link at naylogue@aol.com.

Concert for Ukraine

October 2

We are pleased to announce that a local pianist, Jung-Hoon Park, has offered to present a piano recital in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected and the proceeds will be donated to Ukraine relief efforts. The concert is open to the community and our congregation is invited to attend and support this generous effort!

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

■ Income as of Aug. 27, 2022	\$ 451,879
■ Expense as of Aug. 27, 2022	\$ -466,034
■ Total:	\$ - 14,155

The Messenger

Our Mission

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

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Twitter.com/catonsvillepres
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Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org

We Choose
Welcome

