

September 18, 2020

## 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.

### Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

### Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

### Administrative Assistant

Shirley Winters

### Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

### Sexton

Bernard Lawson

### Sunday Sextons

Cecilie Nilsen

Paige Peercy

### Sunday Child Care Provider

Roberta Harris

### Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

### Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

### Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



## The Christian Life

By Kenneth Kovacs

*Let love be genuine.*

*Abhor what is evil.*

*Hold fast to what is good.*

*Love one another with mutual affection.*

*Outdo one another in showing honor.*

*Do not lag in zeal.*

*Be ardent in spirit.*

*Serve the Lord.*

*Rejoice in hope.*

*Be patient in suffering.*

*Persevere in prayer.*

*Contribute to the needs of the saints.*

*Extend hospitality to strangers.*

These are Paul's guidelines for the small, fledgling church in Rome (Romans 12:9-13). These standards were counter-cultural, radical, and bold in Paul's time. And they're just as counter-cultural, radical, and bold in ours. They're a beautiful description of what a Christian life looks like. Not, might look like, but can and must look like. Paul isn't being aspirational. He knows full well what lurks in the human heart,

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# The Christian Life

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but he also, knows what is possible for the follower of Christ when the Holy Spirit works in us and through us and abides among us in the church.

The Spirit enlarges the heart, creates new capacities in us, and releases something dormant that allows us to live this “still more excellent way” (1 Cor. 12:31), as Paul said. It’s a way that does not come to us naturally. It’s difficult. It’s challenging. It goes against the norms and expectations of society, especially a society such as ours: where love is often difficult to come by and superficial; where evil is tolerated or ignored; where people are quick to humiliate and shame, judge and condemn, instead of honor, value, and respect one another; where jealousy and competition rob the soul of joy; where choices and decisions serve our narrow

self-interests instead of the Lord; where cynicism, skepticism, and fear sap our ability to trust; where selfishness restricts our ability to be generous; where the other is other-ized, often demonized; where strangers elicit suspicion and the thought of being hospitable sounds quaint.

In your prayer life, as you continue to persevere in prayer, as you, as we suffer with and for our neighbors, suffer in and through these challenging times, where is the Spirit calling you—calling us—into a fuller and deeper and wider demonstration of the Christian life? Where do you—where do we as a church—need to grow, grow up and grow into the mature body of Christ? I would love to hear what’s stirring in your soul.

## Giving Statements

By Keith Glennan

Thank you all for your continued support of Catonsville Presbyterian Church’s ministry as we continue to discern God’s call for ministry in this pandemic time. For those who give money to CPC, we would like to offer you the opportunity to receive your giving statements electronically (via email). This will save us postage, and you will get them a bit sooner. The statements are all generated out of our Church Management System, Realm, so it’s really easy to do.

If you are interested, please email to Jadie Mayes, pledge secretary, at [jmayes@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:jmayes@catonsvillepres.org). Make sure you tell us if you’d like the email to go to any address other than the one you are emailing from. We will update your record, and you will get your next statement in October via email. If you want to keep receiving your statement via postal mail, you don’t need to do anything.

## Christian Education for Fall 2020

By Debby Shumaker

In an effort to connect, support, and nurture our CPC families as we head into fall, the Christian Education Committee is hosting two Zoom gatherings for you to choose from on Thursday, September 24, from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., or, on Sunday, September 27, from 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. We will also send out a Google survey shortly afterwards in case you can’t make the meeting or have thoughts to add. Mark your calendars and join us. Your voices are important!

This will be a time, a way for us to truly listen to you and explore together unconventional paths to grow our faiths; a way for us to truly listen to you so we can provide for you and your families’ needs. Please come join us as we venture down this new faith practice road and turn our challenges into gifts!

# Growing in Grace

Adult Education—Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. via Zoom

## SEPTEMBER 20

### Apocalyptic Times?

It's a word we often hear nowadays. Are these apocalyptic times? It depends upon how we define the word "apocalyptic" or "apocalypse." If we mean a cataclysmic "end of the world"—God only knows (we certainly hope not). If we follow the New Testament use of these words, meaning "revelation" or "unveiling," then probably yes.

The pandemic, natural disasters, the effects of climate change, social unrest, and deep political divisions in the country are, together, unveiling many things that were previously hidden or unknown. It's a time of illumination. Unsettling, to be sure, but also potentially hopeful.

Ken Kovacs will explore the etymology of these words and raise the question: What are we discovering, both individually and collectively, about ourselves, our values, our communities, the structure of society, the nature of the church, and the substance of our faith during these apocalyptic times?

## SEPTEMBER 27

### Culture Care: Mending to Make New – A Conversation with Makoto Fujimura

In this interview, hosted by The Trinity Forum, Mako talks about the Japanese artistic tradition of Kintsugi, which prioritizes beholding broken pieces of pottery before repairing them to create something new. He helps us consider how this season of breaking, and the repair that will be required in its aftermath, is part of a beautiful journey rather than something to be discarded or disguised, and how we can work to mend the fractures of our time to prepare the soil of culture for the next generation. We'll watch the interview together and allow time for discussion.



## Youth Group Invite

By Jenny Hutton

The Youth Groups are invited to a socially distanced Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 27, 2020, at the backyard of the church house. Middle school students timeframe is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., and high school students from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

# World Communion Sunday

By Susan Krehbiel

This World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020, we will have three special guest preachers from among our mission partners, literally bringing the world into our worship through their reflections:

Jennifer Bentzel from IMA World Health/LWR, an ecumenical partner providing humanitarian relief and development internationally.

Dr. Serge Makolo, IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital and Presbyterian Elder in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Wilmari Vargas, El Guacio Camp in Puerto Rico, a PCUSA camp that hosts disaster recovery volunteers (including CPC volunteers in 2019).

Even as we feel scattered and apart, on this World Communion Sunday we will celebrate the ties that bind us together in One Spirit and One Faith.

## Face Mask

By Glenda Johnson

Face Mask campaign ends. Final collection day is on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Please bring your last donations to the small parking lot at CPC from noon to 1 p.m. for drop off. For questions contact Glenda K. Johnson, with the Mission Committee, at [gtassoc@verizon.net](mailto:gtassoc@verizon.net).

## Table Field Grocery

The pandemic has hit church members Paul and Rebecca Dongarra particularly hard, essentially crippling their catering business. As a result, they have started [tablefieldgrocery.com](http://tablefieldgrocery.com) a sustainable grocery delivery service offering local organic produce, pastured meats/wild seafood, locally made baked and dry goods.

Paul said, "During this hardship, I wanted to reinforce lessons learned at CPC. Yes we are having a hard go at it, but so are many others." Because of this, they make a donation to the Maryland Food Bank with every delivery. To date, they've fed approximately 5,000 people, with a goal to expand this mission to feed 1,200 people weekly. Please keep them in your prayers for them in this important mission as they struggle to regain their lost catering livelihood. Visit <https://tablefieldgrocery.com> to learn more.

## 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.

### Doing God's Work

■ Income as of	\$ 474,478
■ Expense as of	\$-490,204
■ Total:	\$ -15,726

## Life in Community

It is with deep sadness that we share the loss of long-time CPC church member Shirley Ebersole, mother, wife, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who died on September 3.

## 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://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](mailto:office@catonsvillepres.org)

