

May 22, 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.

Organist

Douglas Heist, 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 Percy

Sunday Child Care Providers

Roberta Harris

Child Care Center Director

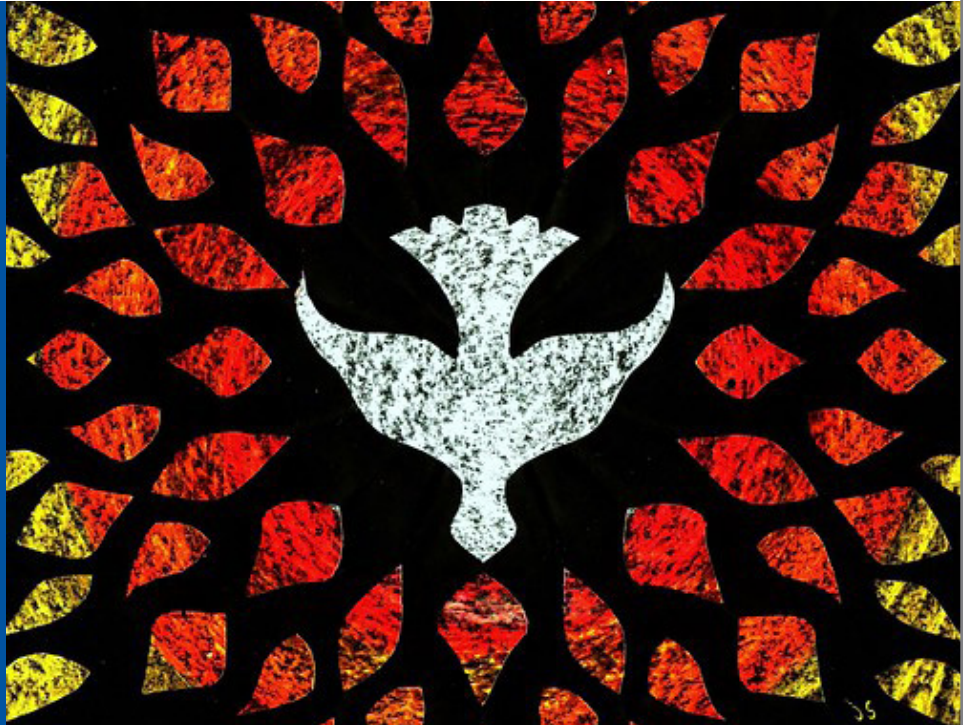
Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



The Giver and Renewer of Life

By Ken Kovacs

I love this description of the Holy Spirit, from the Brief Statement of Faith (1983):

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,

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The Giver and Renewer of Life

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to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Book of Confessions, PCUSA)

As we approach **Pentecost Sunday** (May 31), we give thanks to God for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit who equips and enables us to be Christ's people in the world. Worship on this Sunday will include special music and—for the first time for CPC—"digital" Communion. (Be sure to have some bread and juice or wine available to partake at home.) The Spirit continually creates and forms and holds us together as the body of Christ, even when we're apart. Come, Holy Spirit! Come!

Thank You CE Volunteers

By Dorothy Boulton

Although we had an early closure to our onsite Christian Education and Youth Ministries, we nevertheless want to give a full on thank you to all of our faithful and loving volunteers who show God's care to our CPC families, helping all to know and follow Jesus Christ.

Please join me in expressing our deep appreciation to:

Church School Teachers

Donna Dittman and Cathy Lutz (ages 4–Second grade); Sara Burriesci, Connie Renner, Jodie and Melissa Virago, Anne Colantoni and Jane Kennedy (Third–Fifth grades); Debbie and Mark Davis (Middle School); Rob Burriesci and Susan Jaeger (High School).

Youth Leaders

Jenny Hutton and Laurie White

Christian Education Committee

Debby Shumaker (chair), Sara Burriesci, Mark Kennedy, Sharon Oaks, Laura Parkhurst, Barbara Rice, Jodie Virago and Melissa Virago.

Music/Choir Leaders

Doug Heist and Greg Knauf

Sunday Morning Child Care Volunteers

Sarah Chame Martinez, Jennifer Coker, Erin Flis, Will Gunderson, Betsy Hall, Vickie Lord, Cecilie Nilsen, Cole Percy and Rhys Percy.

We are also grateful for the incredible outpouring of support and creativity from so many in our church community who gave of their time and talents in a multitude of Christian formation ministries throughout the year. What a joy it has been, what a joy it is, to serve and love God together.

Session Meeting Highlights

The coronavirus pandemic has not stopped the work of the church! Your Session has been meeting more frequently lately, and using Zoom to meet online in view of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Following are highlights from the May 6, 2020 Session meeting.

- Session voted to authorize an application to the Small Business Association Payroll Protection Program for a loan to support staff payrolls for the church and the Child Care Center, and the application was approved. To the extent that the funds are used for payroll, the loan will be forgiven and does not need to be repaid.
- The date for the special Congregational Meeting to elect church officers was Sunday, May 17, 2020, at 11:30 am via Zoom. Session approved the slate of officers for the election.
- The General Assembly of the PC(USA), which was to have been held in Baltimore, MD in June, will now be held as a series of online meetings on June 19, 26, and 27, 2020.
- The Finance Committee reported that contributions are lagging for the year to date, leaving us with a deficit in the Operating Budget. This will be offset by the SBA-PPP loan funds expected to be received.
- The Mission Committee reported that we have continued to support Grace AME church

with food and other support for the homeless in the community. The Committee is looking for additional ways to promote the engagement and consciousness of our congregation in order to meet the needs of those experiencing hunger and homelessness.

- Session evaluated our worship experience so far via the online platform, and the responses from the congregation have been positive. In addition to good member “attendance,” we have had large numbers of non-members participating in our worship services, as well. Session voted to schedule communion during the Pentecost Sunday worship service on May 31, 2020. This will be our first online communion service.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. 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!—David Hutton, Clerk of Session

You're Cordially Invited to a Birthday Party!

By Debby Shumaker, C.E. Committee Chair

When: Pentecost, May 31
Where: Anywhere Chalk Meets the Pavement
Why: To Celebrate the Church's Birthday

Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church? It is called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church.

The symbols of Pentecost are wind, fire and a dove, but C.E. Committee invites you this Pentecost to make chalk drawings of birthday cakes / candles or write Happy Birthday, Church, from your family. We'll have a chalk collection set out on the front porch of Catonsville Presbyterian Church for anyone who wants to come by and use them. Take a photo of your creation and email it to dboulton@catonsvillepres.org or upload your picture directly to the CPC Family and Friends Facebook page. We'd love to see how the gift of the Holy Spirit spreads the Good News throughout our neighborhoods, throughout the world, and throughout the ages.

Envision Deadline

June 1

Friendly reminder

We postponed Envision Fund grant selections for our original March 1 application cycle due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new June 1 deadline is fast approaching. If you or somebody you know is responding to God's call to service in new and innovative ways, please visit our website www.catonsvillepres.org/envision-fund/ for more information on selection criteria and instructions on how to apply.

Poetry

and the Christian Life

Join us for an online poetry discussion on Tuesday, June 9, at 3 p.m. for the chosen poem *At Thomas Merton's Grave* by Spencer Reece. Read it slowly, ponder it, reflect on it, and let it speak to you. Then join Ann Quinn for an online Zoom discussion.

At Thomas Merton's Grave By Spencer Reece

We can never be with loss too long.
Behind the warped door that sticks,
the wood thrush calls to the monks,
pausing upon the stone crucifix,
singing: "I am marvelous alone!"
Thrash, thrash goes the hayfield:
rows of marrow and bone undone.
The horizon's flashing fastens tight,
sealing the blue hills with vermilion.
Moss dyes a squirrel's skull green.
The cemetery expands its borders—
little milky crosses grow like teeth.
How kind time is, altering space
so nothing stays wrong; and light,
more new light, always arrives.

A Service of Lament Hope, and Healing

Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

This will be a Facebook Live event from our sanctuary. Join us at: <https://www.facebook.com/catonsvillepresb/>. A time of music, reflection, silence, and prayer.

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

- Actual Income as of May 23, 2020: \$ 262,079
- Actual Expense as of May 23, 2020: \$-278,673
- Total: \$ -16,594

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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www.catonsvillepres.org
Facebook.com/catonsvillepresb
Twitter.com/catonsvillepres

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose
Welcome

