

July 17, 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 Peercy

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



Summer Outdoor Vespers

By Ken Kovacs

While it's still not safe for us to gather in the sanctuary for worship, there's a great desire to be together as a community. We're going to take advantage of the summer weather and the fact that our Woodland Sanctuary is in full bloom and offer an outdoor vesper service on Wednesday, July 22. (Another one is planned for August 18.). This service is not a substitute for Sunday worship and will not be recorded. If you feel comfortable coming, please join us. Here's what you need to know.

The service will take place in The Meadow in the Woodland Sanctuary. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and follow the path leading from either Summit Avenue or the Frederick Road parking lot. Ushers will be available to help direct you to the location. We'll gather on July 22 between 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. and the service will last about thirty minutes.

- There will be no access to church buildings or to restrooms.
- Bring bug spray.

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Summer Outdoor Vespers

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- No touch service. No bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, or folding chairs will be provided.
- No contact between unrelated congregants;
- Minimum of six feet physical distancing and mask required outside cars.

PLEASE do NOT come if any items below apply:

- If you and/or others in your home are immuno-compromised;
- If you and/or others in your home have flu-like or cold symptoms;

- If you and/or others in your home have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks;
- If you and/or others in your home are unwilling to wear a mask and to observe social distancing at the service;
- If you and/or others in your home have concerns or worries about risks to your health or well-being - or for any other compelling reasons.

Then stay safe at home! and—Join us for online worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube.

Session Meeting Highlights

Following are highlights from the July 1, 2020 Session meeting.

Session welcomed newly-elected Ruling Elder Melissa Lambdin to the meeting, and completed the first part of her ordination with the Ordination Questions from the Book of Order. Melissa joins Debbie Davis and Dottie Marshall as newly elected members of Session.

The Finance Committee reported that online contributions have continued steadily since the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to go to online worship, but income is still lagging expenses for the year to date, leaving us with a manageable deficit in the Operating Budget. Members are urged to use online giving or EFT (electronic funds transfer) to keep their pledges up to date while we are worshipping online. See the church website www.catonsvillepres.org for details on EFT and online giving.

Session applauded the CPC youth members who helped to organize and participate in the recent march for social justice in Catonsville. The march and rally attracted several hundred peaceful participants.

The Child Care Center has partially reopened for their Summer Camp session, and the operation has been successful so far, at 50% capacity.

The Envision Board presented its report to Session, recommending approval of seven projects totaling \$111,880 in the latest funding cycle. The

award recipients will be announced during worship in late July or early August. The balance of \$48,120 in available Envision funding will be considered for another round of awards with a September 1, 2020 application deadline.

Session considered reopening the church building for worship services after the current July 31 deadline. However, in view of the continuing health threat of the COVID-19 coronavirus, it was decided to continue with the building closures and online worship through September 30, 2020.

The Catonsville Concerts at 3 Board of Directors requested permission to conduct the upcoming season's seven concerts online, should it not be possible to present them live and in person. The concerts would be pre-recorded in the CPC sanctuary, much as our current worship services are recorded, and broadcast online at the usual time of 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoons. Session approved the request.

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

2020 Envision Fund Awards

By Tracy Lantz, Envision Fund Board Member

This marks the sixth year that Catonsville Presbyterian Church has awarded grants from the Envision Fund to serve as seed money for projects that enrich our world locally, nationally, and internationally. Our board evaluates projects for funding in the categories of Development, Mission, Peace and Justice Advocacy as well as Capital Improvements. This year we made a few changes due to the pandemic. For the first time we added a June 1st application cycle since projects identified in late February could differ from what these organizations need in response to our challenging times. Additionally, we will accept applications again on September 1st of this year as we will be able to award just over \$48,000 this fall.

Over the years these project have touched thousands of lives across the globe. Internationally we have supported projects in Nepal, Haiti, Tanzania, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Locally we've supported projects within our church community, Catonsville and surrounding areas. The board continues to be extremely thankful for the generosity of Robert Riley, whose bequest established the Envision Fund. I've been humbled to serve on this board since its inception and appreciate the work of all those who have served as well as the support of the Session, Finance Committee and our church staff. We have chosen to support 7 proposals this spring and summer while awarding \$111,695.

IMA COVID Isolation Ward, IMA World

(International Mission and Development; \$30,185, full funding). IMA will use this funding to create a free standing COVID-19 Isolation Ward for Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo in response to the urgent needs of new patients. Prior to the pandemic a hotel adjacent to the hospital was purchased. This funding will assist with turning this building into a functioning isolation ward capable of holding and treating COVID-19 patients with an initial capacity of 24 beds and with the final capacity after the award to hold and treat up to 100 patients per month. Additional donors have been secured for this project including the local Ministry of Health, Heal Africa and Church of the Brethren.

Santi School Publishing

The Santi School, (International Development, Mission, Peace and Justice Advocacy; \$10,000, partial funding): The Santi School of Ramche, Nepal will self-publish children's books as a complement to the mission of its teacher training program. Local cultural stories will be important topics. The project encourages children and their families to pursue book creation as an activity that is free within a largely disadvantaged ethnic minority community. The project will: (1) conduct writer's workshops for teachers to brainstorm creative ideas around children's books, (2) employ a local illustrator, (3) publish five titles, 250 copies each during each of the two years of the project, and (4) host a book launch event through a local cultural festival.

Workforce Development Project for Human Trafficking Survivors

HopeWorks of Howard County (Mission, Development, Peace and Justice Advocacy; \$3,500, full funding): HopeWorks will develop a pilot project specifically tailored to human trafficking survivors to whom they provide direct crisis intervention services. This workforce development project will provide human trafficking survivors specific coaching on skills needed to successfully secure employment while building self-esteem, confidence and sense of self-worth. A group of their clients will be given three 2-hour trainings sessions at their main office. The sessions include self-assertion and personality strength, resume, cover letter writing and interview skills.

CEA-Neighbor Helping Neighbors Be Safe

Catonsville Emergency Assistance (Mission, Local Capital Improvement: \$20,000, full funding): The safety of CEA's clients and workers entering and exiting the building is of great importance. CEA will construct accessible ramps at the front and rear entrances to their building to allow safe access for clients, supporters and staff. The front ramp will be designed to better accommodate those clients using walkers, oxygen tanks, canes, crutches and electric scooters. MTA will also drop off at the front ramp. The rear ramp will allow better and easier delivery of food supplies into the building.

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Strength to Love II

Intersection of Change (Mission, Peace and Justice Advocacy, Local Capital Improvement; \$20,000, full funding): Strength to Love II is an urban farm in the west Baltimore communities of Sandtown-Winchester and Upton. At this time of social distancing and the challenge of food distribution in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, this support will help strengthen a program offering healthy food sources and work opportunities. This funding will be used to complete the construction of a greenhouse and other landscaping maintenance. The farm includes greenhouses totaling 1.5 acres that produce organically grown produce for local food consumption and employment and workforce development to ex-offenders.

Interfaith Creation Care Network

Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake (Mission, Development; \$6,500, partial funding): IPC will develop an online user-interactive map displaying the locations of all congregations involved in the Interfaith Creation Care Network (CPC is an important member) with details of each congregation's activities with a point and click. IPC is a growing organization and this project represents an expansion of the work it has been doing for more than six years to engage and equip organizations and congregations. The addition of a user-interactive map cataloging all the engaged congregations' activities would provide a permanent display of Creation Care purpose and values for institutions of faith. After the webpage map is created, stories will be collected from 30-40 congregations by the end of 2020.

Community Connector Electronic Sign

Knox Presbyterian Church (Local Capital Improvement; \$21,695 full funding): Knox Presbyterian at the corner of Preston and Eden Streets in Baltimore will use this funding to install an electronic billboard to promote weekly message topics, activities and programs being held at the church as well as other opportunities that would benefit the members of the community. There are many current needs for messaging services and connections to the community at large during this difficult time. While flyers are often distributed, announcements made in churches and organizational meetings, and information may be printed in newspapers or newsletter, local residents are often not aware of the many ways that they can get information, participate in events or take advantage of the many opportunities being offered.

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 July 15, 2020: \$ 349,729
- Expense as of July 15,, 2020: \$-369,296
- Total: \$ -19,568

Life in Community

It is with deep sadness that we share that Ellen Tharp passed away on July 3, 2020 at the age of 100.

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/catonsvillepres

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Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose
Welcome

