

November 14, 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.

### Interim Organist

Jason Kissel, 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 Promise of Living

By Kenneth Kovacs

In this strange and demanding time, as we contend with unresolved tensions from the presidential election and a pandemic that is out of control, we're beginning to look toward Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas, toward a holiday season the likes of which we have never seen before. In this time of so much sadness, fear, and worry, it's important to ground ourselves, to root ourselves in giving thanks, in being grateful for what we do have, to count our blessings and be thankful.

I'm reminded of the stirring finale of Aaron Copland's 1954 opera, *The Tender Land*, set in rural 1930s America. It's become a stand-alone piece known as *The Promise of Living*. When Catonsville celebrated its bicentennial several years ago, we had an interfaith service at CPC and this was the anthem chosen for the occasion. Here is a beautiful and moving recording of *The Promise of Living*, arranged by John Williams, with accompanying images. May these words, written by Erik Johns, comfort us, ground us, inspire us, and give us hope for the living of these days. View the recording at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLM\\_YTnmLto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLM_YTnmLto).

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# The Promise of Living

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*The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving  
is born of our loving our friends and our labor.*

*The promise of growing with faith and with knowing  
is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor.*

*For many a year we've known these fields  
and known all the work that makes them yield.  
Are you ready to lend a hand?  
We'll bring in the harvest, the blessings of harvest.*

*We plant each row with seeds of grain,  
and Providence sends us the sun and the rain.  
By lending a hand, by lending an arm,  
bring out from the farm,  
bring out the blessings of harvest.  
Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain.  
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain.*

*Come join us in thanking the Lord for his blessing.  
O let us be joyful. O let us be grateful to the Lord for his blessing.*

*The promise of ending in right understanding  
is peace in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor.*

*O let us sing our song, and let our song be heard.  
Let's sing our song with our hearts, and find a promise in that song.  
The promise of living.  
The promise of growing.  
The promise of ending is labor and sharing our loving.*

# Christmas Eve

Family Worship Preparation  
Starts Now

Yes, you are invited to be part of our 4 pm Christmas Eve worship service! The only thing is we need to record music and plan photographs ahead of time.

## Music

Dorothy will send out an email to church families asking for youth musicians to be part of our prelude and worship music. You can either record at home, or we'll set up a time for you to come over to the sanctuary one evening. (Stay tuned for the possibility of putting together a virtual music video for a Christmas carol or two!)

## Photographs

We're assembling pictures to accompany the telling of the Christmas story. Watch your email for an opportunity to sign up. You can either take these photos at home, or we'll have costumes available during the drive-thru dates on November 22 and 28 from 12 pm to 2pm, if you'd like to have the photos taken at the church. Please feel free to contact Dorothy Boulton at [dboulton@catonsvillepres.org](mailto:dboulton@catonsvillepres.org) with any questions.

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## MCKIM Christmas Gifts

Ordinarily we bring in new, unwrapped Christmas gifts for the McKim Community Center's holiday party and place them under the tree in the sanctuary. This year, we are supporting our mission partner's ministry with children and youth in two ways:

### One: Bring a New, Unwrapped Gift

Bring an appropriate gift for a child (age 4 and up) to one of our drive-thru dates on November 22 and November 28, both from 12 pm to 2 pm at the 1400 Frederick Road entrance. Excellent gift choices are board games, sports equipment, and craft kits.

### Two: Give Online

[Give online via our CPC portal](#) (located on the website) between November 25 and December 9 and indicating McKim as your donation choice. We'll send those funds directly to McKim so they can purchase the toys in time for the party. Thank you for helping our neighbors in East Baltimore have a happy holiday.

# 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 Session meeting on November 4, 2020.

- Session approved a proposal from the Deacons to establish a Prayer Line, where members could phone in and leave a message with prayer requests. A Deacon will return the call, and offer a prayer with the member.
- The Finance Committee reports that the church finances are in a good position for this time of year, with active online giving, support of special offerings, and controlled expenses, leading to an expectation of a balanced budget by year's end. Appreciation is expressed to the congregation for their continued financial support of our ministry.
- A New Members Orientation class for those interested in joining CPC is being planned for November 19 via Zoom. Watch the eNews for meeting details.
- The annual Stewardship campaign is underway, with letters and pledge cards being mailed out. Members are urged to make their pledges,

either by mailing in their pledge card or by [pledging online using the pledge form](#) on the CPC website.

■ The Child Care Council Co-Chairs gave a presentation to Session on the current financial condition of the Child Care Center, which has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Center is currently operating at a deficit due to reduced enrollment, and Session is contemplating potential actions to help support the Center. This will be a concern as long as the pandemic continues to cause restricted operations.

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

**PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE**  
**PRESBYTERY LIGHTS**  
An Advent Luminaria Devotional

**Themes to decorate your bag**

- Hope - Nov 29th
- Peace - Dec 6th
- Joy - Dec 13th
- Love - Dec 20th
- Christ - Dec 25th

**STARTING ON NOVEMBER 29TH AND THROUGH THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT**

## PRESBYTERY LIGHTS

All churches in the Baltimore Presbytery are invited to participate in this unique Advent devotional beginning Sunday, November 29. The only supplies needed are a battery-operated candle, a white paper bag, and the devotional readings/prayers. CPC will send the readings/prayers in an online document as we get closer, but we want to be sure you have plenty of time to pick up a candle

*Candle and bag pickup starting Wednesday, November 18*

1. Drive-thru: Friendly Christian Education Committee members will be stationed at the 1400 Frederick Road steps on Sunday, November 22 and Saturday, November 28 from 12 pm to 2 pm. Drive on up and we'll place them in your car.
2. Church Office: Material will be available in the office, Tuesday thru Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm.
3. Distribution Sites: We are establishing local sites (Charlestown, Wade Avenue in Catonsville, and Columbia/Ellicott City) for pick-up. We'll have these set by next week.

# Trick or Treat Trail

We had an amazing time at our first-ever Trick or Treat Trail on Halloween morning. Families gathered for lots of physically-distanced activities including games, crafts, and more in our glorious woodlands. Many thanks to all who participated and for all the spirited volunteers.



## Stewardship 2021 Pledge

Join us in making a 2021 financial pledge to invest in our shared congregational life and ministries.

Please register your commitment by filling out the online pledge form, <https://catonsvillepres.org/stewardship-2021-pledge/>, or by mailing your pledge card to the church, attention of the Pledge Secretary by November 22, 2020.

Commitment Sunday  
November 22, 2020

*Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift.*  
—2 Corinthians 9:15

Watch for our special edition  
*Advent/Christmas* at CPC on  
November 20, 2020

## 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)



We Choose  
Welcome

