

February 2021

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

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Assistant Director

Heather Hollandsworth

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



What Does Love Look Like?

By Kenneth Kovacs

In this issue we introduce our theme for the season of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17). Everything we're offering between now and Holy Week will invite us as a congregation to consider one question: what does love look like? In worship and in sermons, in Bible study, adult education conversations, church school projects and lessons, and mission we will take up this question and wrestle with it and allow it to shape and inform our lives. Jesus' determination to set his face toward Jerusalem, to face the cross and all that seeks to crucify and remove the presence of God in the world, this decision, in and of itself, is one of the most profound expressions of love. That's what love looks like. It's a love that suffers *for* and suffers *with* and suffers *in* the pain and suffering of God's people. When we look to Christ, we see the way of love and know what love is and can look like in our lives, in our families and communities, in the life and witness of the church.

And what we bear witness to is a love that accepts and forgives and, therefore, enables us to repent and turn our lives around, that heals, and redeems, and makes whole, that takes risks and makes sacrifices, that leads

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What Does Love Look Like?

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to truth and honesty, that welcomes and includes, a love that is creative and hopeful and imaginative, a love that liberates and frees us, a love that empowers us and calls us sends us to act in new ways, a love that reforms us, transfigures and transforms us.

And so, to cite the *Book of Common Worship*:

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love, and by meditating on God's word.*

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 January 13, 2021.

- The pastors and Session are considering how to recognize the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021. Suggestions include a prayer service, sounding of the carillon bells, posting on the church sign, and Facebook posts.
- Feedback on the trial Zoom worship service has been generally positive, so once-monthly Zoom worship will be planned. Comments to Ken or Dorothy are welcomed.
- An update on the Columbarium project was presented. The zoning application to Baltimore County was unofficially approved, and a 30-day appeal process is underway. The Columbarium Committee will begin the planning of the marketing and business aspects of the project, and the Trustees will be assisting by managing construction.
- The Finance Committee reported that thanks to the support of the congregation members and friends, the budget for 2020 closed with a surplus. Thanks be to God! Session approved a balanced budget for 2021 to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021. Investment Budget allocations for 2021 were also approved, and Session voted to recommend the pastors' 2021 Terms of Call to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.
- Session voted to approve a second application for a Payroll Protection Plan loan for the Child Care Center and the church. The first PPP loan to the Center and the church has been forgiven by the federal government.
- This year's Stewardship campaign resulted in an increase in pledged amount of 2.4% for 2021 versus 2020, the first increase in at least four years. Thanks go to those who have pledged for 2021, and pledges from those who have not yet pledged will be welcome. Visit the CPC website, www.catonsvillepres.org, to submit your pledge online, or mail it to the church office to the attention of the Pledge Secretary.
- The Christian Education Committee is planning two events for February; a youth-sponsored "Souper Bowl of Caring" canned food drop-off to benefit the Grace AME food pantry, replacing the usual Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon, and a special "What Does Love Look Like" event beginning on Valentine's Day.
- The Nominating Committee presented their proposed slate of officers for election at the Annual Meeting, and Session approved the slate for nomination. There are a few slots left to be filled, so if you are called by the Nominating Committee, consider stepping up to serve your church on a board or committee.

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

Lent 2021

SECOND SUNDAY ZOOM

February 14 and March 14

Starting in February, the second Sunday of the month worship will be via Zoom (and not on Facebook or YouTube). Our Zoom worship services after Christmas were well-received and many asked if we could worship this way again from time to time. It was great to see the faces of the congregation on the Zoom call. On February 14 and March 14, we will offer an informal worship experience. Join us at the regular time, 10:30 a.m. Look for the Zoom link.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Way of Love (February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25) at 10:30 a.m. (via Zoom).

Throughout the season of Lent we'll look at key passages in scripture that talk about the nature, meaning, and expression of love in the Christian life. Starting with 1 Corinthians 13, we'll explore the meaning of agape (selfless, other-oriented, sacrificial love) and how it relates to the other Greek words for love (philia, eros, and storge). We'll look at texts that speak to the love of God that continues to call us into being, the love of Christ that saves and redeems and makes whole, and the Spirit who embodies this love in human life and in relationships, in community. Led by Ken Kovacs.

GROWING IN GRACE: ADULT EDUCATION RETURNS AT 9:00 A.M. (VIA ZOOM)

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study (February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28)

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christians. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. In this study, Marjorie J. Thompson, author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness. Over these six weeks we'll explore these questions:

- Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this book is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness. Books will be available for purchase (\$11) in the church office (Tues-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or you can order directly from Amazon.com. (There is a Kindle version available for \$8.) Led by Ken Kovacs.

Ash Wednesday Worship

7 p.m. February 17 on zoom

We'll have five Presbyterian churches joining together for this year's service – CPC, Dickey Memorial, First & Franklin, Hope, and Hunting Ridge. We'll share music, prayer, scripture, and a meditation via Zoom. You are invited to have some materials available in your home for making the sign of the cross on your hand or forehead: dirt (from your yard, or a plant), cooled ashes from a fireplace, washable marker, or even perfume, lotion, or cooking oil. The Zoom link will go out a few days before the service.

What Does Love Look Like?

For a few weeks, it's going to look like valentines! The Christian Education committee is inviting the congregation to join in this visual project. Watch your mailbox around February 14th for a colored paper valentine. Then write or draw what you and your family want to share as you answer the question: What Does Love Look Like? Send it back to the church office at CPC anytime throughout Lent and we'll place it on our indoor/outdoor heart-shaped display for Easter.

Souperbowl of Caring

In lieu of the Souperbowl of Caring luncheon, the high school youth will host a curbside food drive. Bring your canned food, non perishable items, and toiletries to the Frederick Road parking lot on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Just pop your trunk and the students will grab your donations. All donations will go to Grace AME Food Pantry. Monetary donations can be made to Catonsville Presbyterian Church 1400 Frederick Road Catonsville Md 21228 or through this link <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/now>.

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 January 23, 2021	\$ 34,083
Expense as of January 23, 2021	\$-20,266
Total:	\$ 13,817

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](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

Santi School

By Susan Krehbiel

Nepal-based Santi School is now into its 15th year of operation. CPC has been involved with this school since its inception, providing monetary support through Christian Education Committee's cookie walks, Mission Fund Interest and Envision Funds. Working through the pandemic, and still reeling from the 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 people and damaged or destroyed hundreds of schools, Santi School retains its mission of promoting quality education in rural Nepal for girls and ethnic minorities.

Initially founded to build and repair schools, Santi School has shifted its focus to training teachers and emphasizing reading aloud to children. Enabled with CPC funding, on-site training was conducted at each school and one refresher training session was held at a central location for all 32 participants in the 2019-2020 school year. Santi School also has, and continues, to set up reading corners in each of the partner schools with bookshelves, tables, carpet, books, and book-making materials. The newest program on the horizon is to establish a publishing arm to supply classrooms with engaging, age-appropriate books they would otherwise lack. Plans for the first half of 2021 include publishing its first three titles, conducting socially-distanced teacher training sessions at 22 schools and providing a full book corner in 2 classrooms of each of those 22 schools.

Santi School carries out its mission with a volunteer U.S.-based board of directors and an implementing partner in Nepal, Kakshyalaya, that has its own board of directors and a small paid staff. A multi-phased approach is being implemented to build years-long relationships with each of the partner schools. Two links that may be of interest to CPC members are: Improve education for Nepali girls and minorities (original) <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/improve-education-for-nepali-girls-and-minorities/>

and Help us rebuild schools in Nepal (earthquake response): <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/rebuild-remote-schools-in-nepal/>

