

February 20, 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



Called to Love

By Kenneth Kovacs

Lent is a time of contemplation and preparation. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our total dependence on the grace of God. We acknowledge that we come from the earth, and are connected to it and sustained by it, and are thus called to be caretakers and stewards of it. We affirm God's creative Spirit that breathes us into being, and gives us life as part of God's good creation. We celebrate the love of God that holds us and surrounds us. Even when our mortal lives have ended, we are forever in God's care.

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Called to Love

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God is generous and gracious, and we are called to show forth God's faithful, steadfast love as disciples of Jesus Christ. We begin Lent with the sign of the cross—a cross made with dirt, or ashes, oil or even water—upon our heads or upon our hands and affirm our baptismal identity. We are beloved children of God; our lives belong to God. We enter into the life of Christ—Christ within us—and into this season with humility, with affirmation, and with joy. Friends: know yourselves to be claimed, forgiven, and empowered by a loving, just, and merciful God. *We invite you, 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. (Book of Common Worship)*



These words were used at our Ash Wednesday service with Dickey Memorial, First & Franklin, Hope, and Hunting Ridge. We were invited to affirm: *I am loved. I am called to love.* This is the good news of the gospel that needs to be *heard*—again and again—*discovered*—again and again—*embodied*—again and again—*expressed*—again and again. *You are loved. You are called to love.*

But what does love look like? As God's beloved people, this is the question for us as a congregation as we walk through the season of Lent—a worthy question for every season of our lives.

Lent 2021

SECOND SUNDAY ZOOM

March 14

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 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 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 John 3:1-21, 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.

What Does Love Look Like

By Dorothy Boulton

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Jenny Hutton, Mark Kennedy, and Zachary Nelson, there's a giant red heart on the church lawn. We're inviting the entire community to ponder "What Does Love Look Like?" during this season of Lent.

We've sent cardstock hearts to our congregation for you to draw or write your family's response (note: Sharpie markers work best.) Please send your heart to the church office and we'll incorporate them into our sign in time for Easter. (If you cannot send yours in, please email your response to Dorothy Boulton at dboulton@catonsvillepres.org and we'll write it for you.)



Resources

RESOURCES FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

By Debby Shumaker and Dorothy Boulton

During the 40 days plus Sundays between Ash Wednesday (February 17) and Easter (April 4), you may wish to use one or more of these resources:

- **Lent at Home in Community:** This six-session resource based on the Psalms was mailed home to church school families, but we are happy to email it to you upon request (dboulton@catonsvillepres.org.) This once-per-week devotion for use by individuals or with others within the same home invites us to enter the season through our senses, ex: Praying in Color, musical meditations, etc.
- **Presbyterian Outlook Lenten Devotional:** Dr. Roger Gench, interim editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, has written a thoughtful [daily devotional for these forty days](#). We'll be sending out the files weekly between now and Easter.
- For those who love to walk, here's a weekly option from the Scottish Bible Society called Wonder Walks at <https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/>. Download a map and take it with you when you go out for a walk. On each map is a reading from the Gospel of Mark, questions to think about, games to play, and ideas for prayer.

Black History Month Resources

- [Reading Rockets: Favorite Books for Black History Month](#) (Children's Resource)
- [This Day in History: Black History Month](#) The History Channel (Middle School to Adults)
- [MLK Jr.'s Daughter Dr. Bernice A. King reflects on her father's Legacy](#) News interview (Older Elementary to Adults)
- [Art of Activism Exhibition and Outdoor Banner Display](#) Maryland Hall (Online Viewing)
- [Bright Art Exhibition at the Creative Alliance](#) (Online Viewing)

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 February 3, 2021.

- The Session approved the request of the Deacons to extend the Prayer Partner Phone Line through the end of June 2021.
- CPC will be participating with other area congregations from Hope, Hunting Ridge, Dickey Memorial and First & Franklin Street Presbyterian Churches in the Ash Wednesday evening service on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that they will be mailing paper hearts to all church members as part of the “What Does Love Look Like” activity during Lent. Look for a further explanation of this activity elsewhere in The Messenger.
- The Finance Committee assisted the Child Care Council in applying for a new Payroll Protection Plan loan from the federal Small Business Administration, and the application was accepted. The loan will support the payroll requirements of the Child Care Center and the church, and may eventually be forgiven by the federal government.
- It was also noted that CPC members supported hunger causes during 2020 with approximately \$10,000 in donations over and above the budgeted amount. Thanks be to God for the generosity of our congregation!
- Session revisited the question of continuing online worship in lieu of in-person worship, and voted to extend the current policy through the end of April 2021. The policy will be considered again at the March Session meeting.
- The Columbarium Committee has proposed that sales of memorial pavers for the Columbarium patio be added to the scope of the Columbarium project. Session approved the request.
- At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 31, 2021, a question was raised by a member about whether the Dismantling Racism Committee should remain a subcommittee of the Peace & Justice Committee, or become a stand-alone committee. This will be decided after a discussion is held to determine the feelings of the Dismantling Racism Committee as a whole.

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

Creation Care News

By Ron Gunderson

Spring is around the corner and the many gardens of the church are slowly coming to life. The Creation Care Team is back in action. Our first goal will be clearing the winter debris and making way for spring growth. This can be done individually or in small groups.

Early spring ephemeral weeds are easy to recognize and easy to pull, usually the greenest plants growing with shallow roots! The returning garlic mustard particularly calls out for removal to make way for the native ground covers, soon to appear.

Please enjoy a walk into our woodland sanctuary, sit for a bit, enjoy the sights and smells of Spring! Should you be interested in helping the Creation Care Team make our church grounds more environmentally sound and esthetically pleasing, contact Ron Gunderson at cinron.md@gmail.com to learn more.

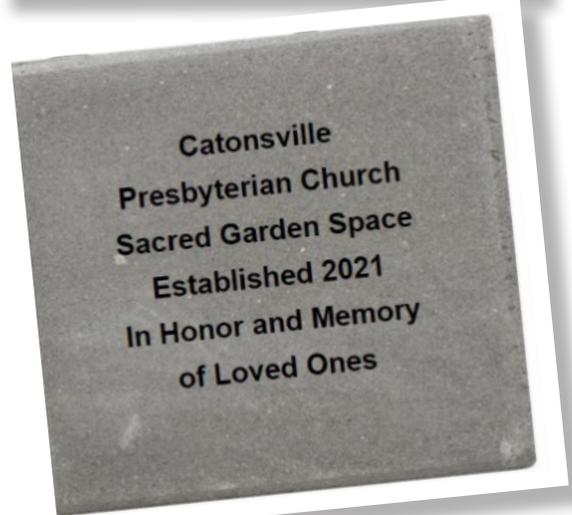
Remembering and Honoring Those We Love

By Jeanne Mueller

After years of hard work and planning, Catonsville Presbyterian Church has received zoning approval and is moving forward in building our Columbarium and creating its surrounding Sacred Garden Space. Both will be located across from the handicap ramp along Beechwood Ave. The Columbarium will provide 80 double niches for the cremated remains of CPC members and their extended family. The Sacred Garden Space will be in front of the Columbarium. This area will feature landscaping, benches, and ambient lighting creating a peaceful space for contemplation and remembering.

While not everyone will want to have cremated remains inurned in the columbarium, many will want to honor loved ones and remember those who are no longer with us. The congregation will be invited to participate in creating this Sacred Garden Space by purchasing engraved pavers. Details regarding paver purchase will be shared with the congregation in the coming weeks. Be thinking of those you wish to honor and remember!

Trustees under the expert guidance of Ron Gunderson, Bob Adams, and Joel Hutton will oversee the construction of the project. Ron has been busy designing the gardens surrounding this new space to complement the existing church gardens. A huge thank you to Greg Mayes for his role in designing the materials needed for the zoning process. Without his help we would not be where we are today. Questions and comments can be directed to any of the committee members: Debbie Anderson, Bob Shumaker, Ron Gunderson, David Hutton, Amy Oaks, Jeanne Mueller.



New Church Pavilion

Coming Spring 2021

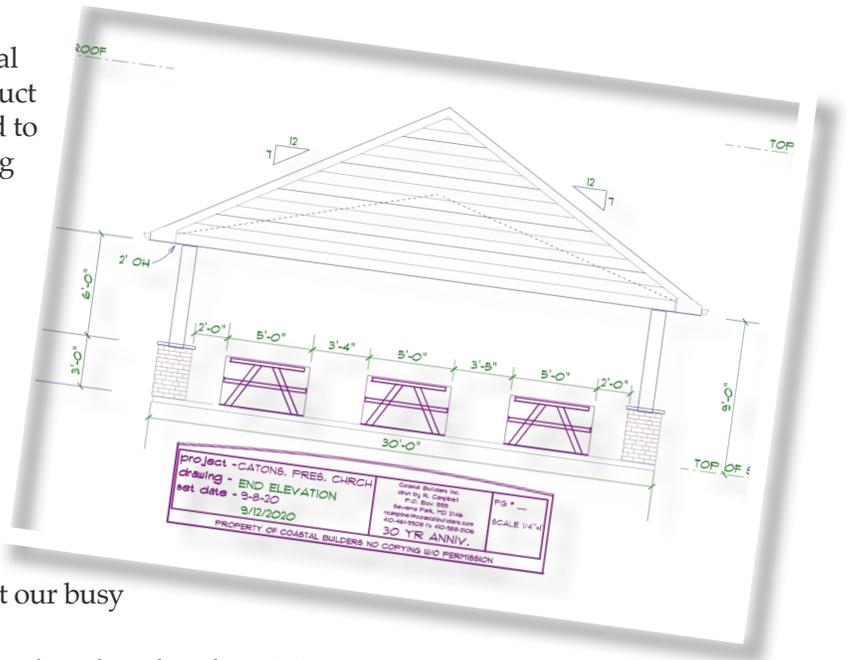
By Ron Gunderson

The Trustees will be working with Coastal Builders and their subcontractors to construct a church pavilion. Construction is expected to begin once the weather permits the pouring of the foundation!

It will be located in the yard behind the Church House, next to the labyrinth meditation space, with convenient access for all from the church driveway and the Child Care Center playground.

The pavilion will accommodate small group gatherings for worship and fellowship, as well as serve as an outdoor education space. It will be a wonderful addition to the church facilities in support of the many activities and programs at our busy church!

The pavilion will reflect the architecture of the other church buildings. It will have a gable roof supported by posts set in brick enclosed bases. It will have electrical outlets for auxiliary use, lighted ceiling fans. It will provide ample picnic table seating, including ADA seating, with alternative seating accommodated, as needed.



Dismantling Racism

By Nancy and Bill Henderson

It all started three years ago, after CPC Adult Education read and studied *Waking Up White And Finding Myself In the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. Several members of the study group said, we can't stop here and so the Dismantling Racism committee was formed as a sub-committee of Peace and Justice.

Since the committee's formation, we have led a book discussion on *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo, conducted By-stander Intervention Training hosted by Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, produced a 30-Day Dismantling Racism Challenge, and led a discussion group around the video "Segregated by Design." More is on tap for 2021, with a schedule of activities soon to be published.

February is Black History Month and we thought it would be educational to visit the history behind Black History Month. Follow this link to a short article titled ["This Is How February Became Black History Month."](#)

It is important to learn lesser known facts relevant to Black history. Here is a link to a short video entitled ["What is Juneteenth? Why we honor it!"](#) presented very clearly and succinctly by a child.

Scout Update

Celebrating the Long History of our Scouting Program

By Glenda K. Johnson

Chartered Organization Representative

Scout Sunday, an annual event that celebrates the long history of Scouting programs at CPC, was on February 14. Our Troop is now ready to begin its 109th year of Scouting on May 11 and has been chartered by CPC since its founding in 1911 by Rev. John Nesbitt, who was the first Scoutmaster. This was the first Troop in the whole area, even though the charter lapsed for one year while Rev. Nesbitt was serving as a chaplain in Europe during WWI. Richard Kiefer was the first Eagle Scout and was a dedicated leader and volunteer in all levels of the Scouting programs. Cub Pack 306 and Scout Troop 306 are most appreciative of the support and sponsorship provided by CPC. During a “more normal year” both groups would be more actively involved in the special day. Milan Unkle, Senior Patrol Leader, presented the “Minute for Scouting” during the service.

During 2020 and Covid-19 challenges, both groups completed a successful year and made use of technology to complete Scout programs. Five Eagle projects were completed (several had been approved and started before the Covid restrictions).

Congratulations to Eric Loewner: “Suit Up for Helping Up Mission.” Eric collected men’s suits and business attire at CPC and Salem Lutheran. He collected, sorted and donated 520 usable items. Cash donations were used for dry cleaning and the purchase of new socks and underwear for the men at the Mission. Andrew Swan built an area for prayer and worship for the combined churches of Holy Apostles and St. Stephen, which included a bench, landscaping, and a butterfly garden. Mat-

thew Ronnenburg completed a low-maintenance flower garden at the corner of Beechwood and Frederick Road planting 80 native plants and grasses in coordination with the Trustees. Jack Callahan conducted a six-week online education series about the U.S. flag, then collected and properly retired 390 collected flags. He worked with the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce and Dewey Loman to complete his project. Ryan Allen built a campsite for community use on the grounds of Samaritan Women’s Institute, which included landscaping the site for three camp pads, a firepit, and building a picnic table.

Thanks to the leaders for all the time they give for program planning, for outdoor activities, and for providing a Scouting program. CPC is one of only three Catonsville Churches which sponsor Scouting programs. Cub Scout leaders include Thomas Cherry (Cubmaster), Melissa Cherry (Cub Committee Chair), Eric Silva (Asst. Cubmaster), Aaron Ziva (Advancement Chair) and the Den leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and parents who have provided an active (virtual) program. On February 27, the annual Pinewood Derby will be streamed live from fellowship hall to all the families. Troop leaders include Jeff Scharf (Scoutmaster), Cynthia Jones (Committee Chair), Liz Medina (Advancement Chair), Dayne Loewner, Phil Unkle, Kevin Dingle, and all of the many volunteers within the Troop. On February 25, there will be a virtual “Court of Honor” to celebrate individual Scout achievements.

Sanctuary Easter Flowers

Each year we put seasonal flowers in the chancel to mark Easter Sunday and though things are different and we will not be together in the sanctuary, it will look like you remember it with lilies and tulips. To memorialize or honor someone, contribute electronically at <https://onrealm.org/CatonsvillePres/-/give/EasterFlowers>.

Be sure to tell us how you would like the name(s) listed for yourself as donor and your honoree. If you prefer, you can mail a donation to the church with the same information included. Donations in any amount are welcome. Questions can be directed to Susan Hutton at 410-719-6711 or dhutt@erols.com.

FIRN

By Megan Peercy

The non-profit FIRN, Inc., a recent recipient of an award from the Envision Fund, is recruiting (remote) volunteers from Catonsville Presbyterian for the implementation of their language services program enhancement project. With funding from Catonsville Presbyterian, FIRN was able to purchase software for interpretation services and is in the process of developing a new website.

If you would like to make a difference by assisting FIRN staff in piloting the software and/or reviewing and testing the new website, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you have any questions about this effort or would like to volunteer (from the comfort of your own home!) in this effort. Please contact Alicia Ardila, Language Connections Program Manager at Alicia.ardila@firnonline.org.

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 February 6, 2021	\$ 87,071
■ Expense as of February 6, 2021	\$ -59,864
■ Total:	\$ 27,207

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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Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

office@catonsvillepres.org



We Choose
Welcome

