

Summer 2022

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.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Administrative Assistant

Regine Bonhomme

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



A New Thing

By Kenneth Kovacs

The Greek word *apocalypsis* means “revelation.” It refers to an unveiling or uncovering. Think of a stage in a theatre with its curtain closed as you wait for the performance to start. When the show begins, the curtain is drawn back unveiling the set for the play—a set that’s been there all along, but you just couldn’t see it. That act of opening up is an *apocalypse*. Something is revealed or disclosed.

continued on page 2 ➔

—INSIDE—

August Activities: Join us this summer.
See page 2.

Session Highlights: July meeting notes.
See page 3.

Benefit Concert for Ukraine Relief: Save
the date for October 2. See page 3.

Birdies for Bridges: Golf tournament on
September 23. See page 4.

A New Thing

Continued from Page 1

It could have been there all along, but we forgot about it, or it can be the unveiling of something radically new and different. Unfortunately, the words “apocalypse” and “apocalyptic” have become synonyms for end-of-the-world scenarios. As the New Testament uses the word, an apocalypse could entail some kind of ending, but an ending is never an end in itself; it’s an ending or giving up of something to welcome something new, to discover something new, to enter something new.

We could say the pandemic (that is, our experience of it) over the past two years has been nothing short of apocalyptic, that is, “revealing” much about ourselves as individuals, as people, as a nation, revealing much about the nature of the church, the work of Christ in the world. It’s been a clarifying experience, allowing us to perceive what we could not (would not?) see before, to say what is and is not true for us, to say what matters and does not matter. As a result, we have a better sense of how we want to spend our time and energy, and resources and how we don’t.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it’s clear that we have learned—and are still learning much—as a church. We embraced adaptive change when we moved to online worship and continued with hybrid worship. We have learned how to be the church outside the walls of the sanctuary. We have engaged in meaningful, effective ministry without being tied to a building. When we returned to in-person worship, when we returned to the building, we knew we wouldn’t be returning to life as “normal.” We have all been changed by the events of these past years. We are different. And the church is different and will be different. Church life is differentiated by who and what we were before and after COVID—BC and AC. We are slowly entering a “new normal” or perhaps better, something entirely “new,” something never before seen by us. We must be conscious of this and resist the pull or push to want to return to “normalcy,” especially if there’s the temptation to bypass or deny the events of the past years and what we have learned and experienced. Now is the time for us to do a new thing, to be open to the new things that the Spirit is opening in us and the new things God desires to come to life through us.

One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 43:19. God says through the prophet, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” As we move through summer and begin thinking about the fall at CPC, let us be open to the new thing that God is doing for us, in us, through us, for the sake of God’s people, and the world.

EARTH CARE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

The Creation Care Team of Catonsville Presbyterian Church has coordinated with the Center for the Presbytery to plan a Woodland Workday. The event will be on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will host the youth group from Dickeyville Memorial and our youth are all invited to participate! Any adults interested are also welcome for this day of fellowship and caring for our earth. Please bring a bag lunch.

BUS TRIP SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

The Dismantling Racism Committee of Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Grace AME Church and Christian Temple, is sponsoring a bus trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Saturday, August 6, 2022. The bus will depart Catonsville Presbyterian Church at 9:15 a.m., arriving in Washington, D.C., for museum entry at 10:45 a.m. We will board the bus for the return trip home at 4:30 p.m., arriving back at Catonsville Presbyterian Church by 6 p.m. To join the wait list contact Nancy Henderson via email at henderrath1@verizon.net.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

By David Hutton

The Session is a body of fifteen members, elected by the Congregation and ordained as ruling elders, who provide leadership for our congregation. Following are highlights from the Session meetings on July 27, 2022.

- The Deacons suggested that we have a church picnic in September and the Session agreed, suggesting that the meat servings could be catered, and the rest of the meal be provided by members as a potluck to simplify preparation. Watch for announcements in the Messenger and eNews.
- The Finance Committee reported that our operating budget is close to breaking even, which is a very good sign at this point in the summer. Members are encouraged to maintain their pledges during the summer months. The investment accounts continue to suffer with the down markets but are expected to recover with the robust economy.
- The Christian Education team is working with parents/children/youth to discover and shape the most appropriate formats and resources for faith formation ministries this fall.
- The new Facility Use Policy is being evaluated as applications continue, and some revisions are being considered. Watch the Messenger for updates.

Session recognizes the need to continually communicate with our membership, and we welcome your suggestions for communication exchange. Session member contact information is listed in the Church Directory, so it is easy to communicate directly with your church leaders. 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!

Benefit Concert for Ukraine Relief

We are pleased to announce that a local pianist, Jung-Hoon Park, has offered to present a piano recital in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected and the proceeds will be donated to Ukraine relief efforts. The concert is open to the community and our congregation is invited to attend and support this generous effort!

Birdies for Bridges Golf on September 23

Join for an upcoming golf tournament to support Bridges to Housing Stability, a Howard County based nonprofit organization focused on solving homelessness and housing instability. Donation will support Birdies for Bridges a golf tournament to benefit the organization. The golf tournament is on Friday, September 23, 2022 at the Timbers of Troy in Elkridge, Maryland. More information on how to become involved with the event is available at www.birdease.com/bridges2hs.

Bridges' mission is to provide a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing and advocacy. Bridges provides affordable housing and supportive services that include employment assistance, financial assistance, and community referrals.

Life in Community

Congratulations to Mokube and Loraine Ewane. Efah Ngoewane was born July 1, 2022.

We are sad to share that Jared Melrath died on July 12, 2022. Prayers for his wife Melanie and daughter Grace.

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

■ Income as of July 23, 2022	\$ 400,415
■ Expense as of July 23, 2022	\$ -395,689
■ Total:	\$ 4,726

The Messenger Our Mission

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

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We Choose
Welcome

