

January 2023

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/Assistant Director of Music

Wendy Johnston, M.M.

Communications Consultant and Messenger Editor

Lisa Roca

Mission Coordinator

Kristy Herring

Membership Secretary

Peggy Carr

Bookkeeper

Virginia Daiger

Sexton

Bernard Lawson

Child Care Center Director

Michelle Hepner

Child Care Center Office Manager

Ashley Graham



Now the Work Begins

By Kenneth Kovacs

As we make our way through Christmastide, approach the threshold of a new year, and set our sights on the star of Epiphany, Howard's Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas" is worth our (re)consideration and contemplation. Thurman (1899-1981) was a gifted theologian, mystic, professor, and civil rights leader. He was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s spiritual mentor and confidant, and helped King develop a theological ground for his civil rights work. Thurman is perhaps best known for this work *Jesus and the Disinherited*, written in 1949.

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NOW THE WORK BEGINS

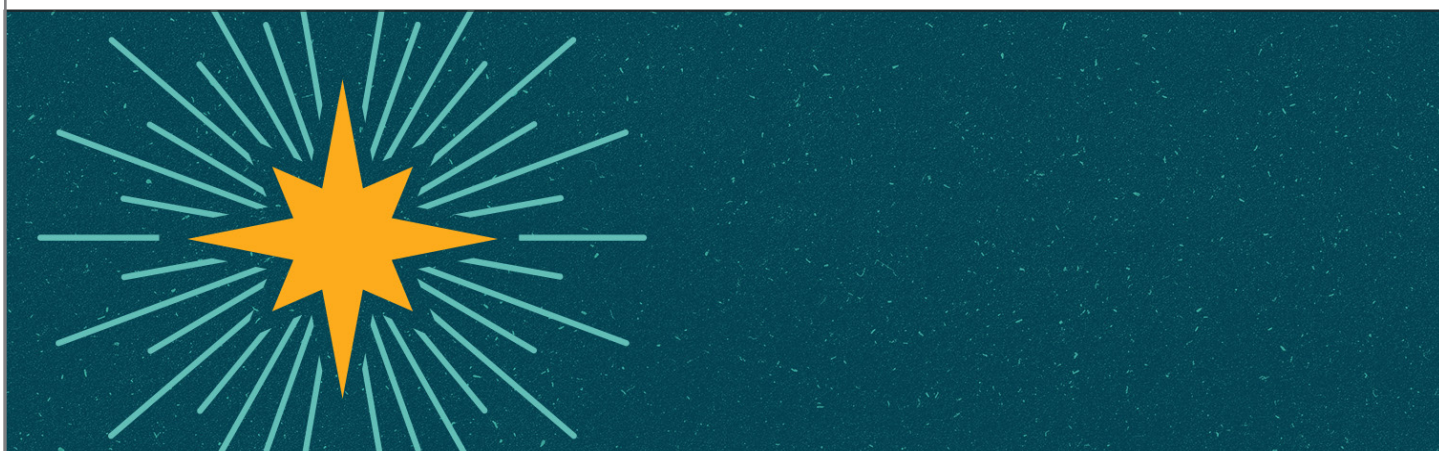
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From *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* (Friends United Press, 1985):

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

On January 1, the Second Sunday in Christmas, we will be nourished for the work at hand as we gather around the table of the Lord and share in Communion. This will also be our Epiphany Sunday. And we will be giving out Star Words again this year. What will be your word to guide you through 2023? We anticipate that there won't be a lot of people in worship on January 1. But fear not, you can receive your Star Word the following week. We can also mail you one. Just send us an email.

May the year ahead be full of new epiphanies for you!



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Returns on January 12

By Kenneth Kovacs

Our weekly Bible study returns on Thursday, January 12. Join us – in person in the library or online – at 10:30 a.m. We finish up at noon. For the past several months, we've been studying the weekly lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. In the new year, I hope to return to an in-depth study of a particular book. We've been meeting since 1999, believe it or not, and we've covered a good portion of the Bible. So, what's next? We might return to a book that we studied before, early on: Exodus. Stay tuned for more details.

GROWING IN GRACE

Adult Education Opportunities in January

Join us in person at 9 a.m. in the France Room.

Dismantling Racism (January 8)

Join us for a discussion with the Dismantling Racism Committee to review past activities of that group, current initiatives, and plans for future activities. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the sorts of offerings you would like to see from the committee to help inform the congregation about how racism shows up in our country, our communities, and ourselves and what actions we can take to be part of dismantling racism wherever it appears. Conversation led by Jeff Bolognese.

In Every Adult, A Child (January 22)

"In every adult there lurks a child," C.G. Jung wrote, "who requires unceasing care, attention, and even education." We each carry a child within us. Not just the memory of childhood, but a living psychic reality who often feels bewildered and confused, ignored and neglected, lost and alone. Happy and carefree and playful, to be sure, but also anxious and sad. A child who lives behind a fortress or a castle or maybe a child forced to live, like Harry Potter, in a cupboard under the stairs. What if Jesus is calling us to wrap our arms around that child, to welcome him/her back into our lives, to talk to her, listen to him, learn from him, comfort her, make space for him? How do we cultivate a relationship with the child within? Led by Ken Kovacs.

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 meeting on December 7, 2022.

- In his Pastor's Report, Dr. Kovacs noted that attendance has been increasing in worship and in Adult Education and Thursday Morning Bible Study.
- The Dismantling Racism Committee reported that it will be co-sponsoring an "Artists 4 ERA" (<https://artists4era.org/>) art show and reception to be held at the Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse (10 St. Timothy Lane, Catonsville) from Feb 27 through March 5, 2023. The Dismantling Racism Committee will be present during the March 3 evening reception to showcase the work of the Committee.
- The Finance Committee reported that the operating budget deficit has been reduced to approximately \$7,000 and a balanced budget can be expected by the end of the year if members fulfill their pledges. The budgeting process for 2023 is underway, so committee chairs and others responsible for budget accounts should submit their 2023 budget requests to the Finance Committee as soon as possible. Baltimore Presbytery announced that the COLA for 2023 will be 4.5%, which will have a significant impact on our 2023 budget.
- The Personnel Committee recommended a candidate for the position of Communications and Office Manager, including a resumé and references. After a review of this information, Session voted to offer the position to Michael Cuppett, effective January 3, 2023.
- Session voted to call the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 22, 2023, immediately following worship.

YOUTH CORNER

By Jennifer Hutton

The youth have been busy this advent season. At our November youth group gathering, they made birthday cards for the men at the Westside Shelter. On December 11 our youth group shared a meal together to celebrate advent and then had fun making a holiday craft ornament.

Stay tuned for some family fun events happening in January and February, possibly duckpin bowling or ice skating. And on February 12, our high school and middle school youth will be serving lunch after worship for our Souperbowl of Caring to fund our food ministry at the Westside Men's Shelter.

The next class of students we would like to highlight is our freshman class, which is the largest with 10 students! Here are some of our 9th graders:

Jessica Johns attends Mount De Sales High School. She plays soccer and lacrosse. This summer she spent her vacation with her family in Puerto Rico.

Beto Chame Maxwell attends Woodlawn High School and is in the Early College Magnet program. His hobbies are

Band, Guitar, Harry Potter, Gaming, and Mythology. Beto has a Birthday Trip planned to NYC to see The Cursed Child on Broadway in February.

Rhys Peercy attends Catonsville High School. His interests are playing soccer, hanging with friends, and fantasy football. Rhys was surprised with a fun holiday trip!

Jamie Fitzsimmons attends Catonsville High School. His interests, and hobbies are skateboarding, biking, playing soccer, running, fishing, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. Jamie just finished up his first high school Cross Country season and is now running for the Catonsville Indoor Track and Field Team. He also plays for an indoor soccer team.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

By Dorothy Boulton

SECOND SUNDAY IS JANUARY 8

On the second Sunday of the month, January 8, we are offering childcare during worship for infants through age five in the Owls Room from 10 am to noon. Multiage church school for kindergarten through fifth grade meets right after the children's message through the end of the service, in the Giraffes Room. Both are on the second floor of the education wing, down the hall from the sanctuary. Middle school and high school youth have Cocoa and Conversations in the upstairs youth rooms from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 am. Youth group for middle and high school meets in the evening. Currently scheduled for 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Watch your email for any changes – we're watching the temperatures for outdoor ice skating.

YOUTH CORNER



COCOA AND CAROLS

On December 18, 2022 members and friends enjoyed singing songs of the season accompanied by a holiday brass ensemble. The group enjoyed a cups of hot chocolate provided by our youth group.



SCOUT NEWS

By Glenda K. Johnson

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE TREE SALES

Thanks for your support of the Troop 306 annual tree sale. Cub Scout Pack 306 also thanks you for your support of their homemade "treats" which were sold on three weekends. This fund raiser for the scout pack was very popular and successful, so we hope you enjoy your fresh tree and some tasty treats during the holiday.

SEAFARERS' CHRISTMAS BAGS

By Brenda Logue

With great cooperation from the CPC congregation, the Mission Committee was able to deliver 66 Christmas bags to the Baltimore Seafarers Center on December 7, 2022. This number exceeded the committee's goal of 60 gifts. In addition, Adrienne Knight of Knox Presbyterian Church contributed ten more bags from her congregation.

The Seafarers Center is overseen by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Its Treasurer and Board Member, John Thompson remarked that the Christmas collection had become quite an ecumenical undertaking, with offerings from Lutherans, Catholics, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. For CPC this project originated with Lee Van Koten, who passed away shortly after last year's mission effort.

This year many CPC members generously donated to the Christmas bags and cheerfully helped assemble the bounty during the Advent Gathering, December 4. The one-gallon bags held many items including a warm hat, scarf, Bible, writing materials, Sudoku book, handwarmers, and toiletries. The remainder of the funds we donated, \$2,000 after expenses, was sent to the Center for continued support of those individuals who make their living for their families on the cargo ships of the world. Deep gratitude for the participation of the CPC Congregation in this Mission work!



Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, December 11, Charlie and Mimi Birch joined CPC by Reaffirming of Faith. They are no strangers to us, as they have been involved in the life of the church for several years, both online and in person. Welcome to this ministry!



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 Dec. 24, 2022	\$ 727,775
■ Expense as of Dec. 24, 2022	\$ -729,463
■ Total:	\$ -1,688

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

