



Good News!

A Newsletter for Catoctin Presbyterian Church

Waterford, Virginia • www.catoctin.org • cpc@catoctin.org

From the Pastor's Desktop...

Greetings, Beloved in Christ! As we are making our way through Lent in preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter, we have been listening in worship to Jesus' predictions about his suffering on the way to the cross and grave. Perhaps it seems odd to focus on things like betrayal, abandonment, and doom to prepare for glory and power and eternal life, but that seems to be the way resurrection works. The good news has to be bad news before it can be good. As we have seen and will see in our sermon series, *Approaching the Cross*, in all Jesus' predictions he was very clear about how awful things were going to get, and he was equally clear that afterwards he would rise again. And so the bad news was that one of the Twelve betrayed him, all deserted him, the leaders of his religion arrested and beat him, the crowds turned against him, the governor handed him over to be crucified. Humans make awful choices and do awful things. They either actively sought to kill the Lord of Life or passively participated by doing nothing. But God is greater than human wickedness, active or passive. God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead, and that's the good news.

A year ago we were still imagining that we would get to open the church for our Easter celebration. How quaint of us! Little did we know how awful things were going to get, even though the experts kept saying the pandemic was likely to get awful. Now, with the vaccines rolling out and numbers coming down, there is some reason to hope. Still, with new variants of the virus and people a little too eager to drop their guard, things could get worse yet again. The pandemic has given us a lot of practice with bad news. We are continuing to struggle, not only against the virus, but also against competing interpretations of how bad it is and what we should or shouldn't do. And actively or passively, humans still make awful choices an awful lot of the time.

Even though we are getting better at how to be out in public with masks and handwashing and all, the session has decided, not unanimously, that we need to stay the course and keep the church building closed for the time being. We hope that as vaccination rates increase, with the coming of warmer weather, and if people keep being careful that we may be able to start opening a little by mid-May. No promises, just hope. We know that ultimately we will one day be able to return to the building, to see each other face to face, to pass the peace with good strong hugs, even to sing our praises to God together with full voice. We don't know when that day will be, but if we all do our part it may be soon.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our ongoing ministry. As you will see in this newsletter, we still have a lot going on. The Lord is at work, and so are we. And the bad news we face today will be redeemed by Christ in the end.

Grace and peace,

Holy Week at CPC



Join us in marking the high holy days this year! Through this year's Lenten season we are focusing on Jesus' passion predictions - that he would be betrayed, arrested, rejected, tortured, humiliated, and killed, but on the third day rise again. As Lent draws to a close we will retell and experience the story of his predictions fulfilled. Through worship and scripture we will learn once more that God's grace comes to us first as bad news before it is the great Good News. It's a hard pilgrimage, but it ends in joy and celebration!



March 27 -April 4 - Stations of the Cross and Easter Story Walk in the church yard

Stations of the Cross is a walking meditation on Jesus' journey to the cross and grave, and the Easter Story Walk is designed especially for kids as a way for them to learn about and celebrate God's victory over death by raising Jesus from the dead. For some extra fun, take a selfie to celebrate Easter at our photo booth, and pick up a craft kit for the children. Share your pics and experiences on social media.

March 28 - Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday - 11:00 a.m. worship service

Holy Week begins the Sunday before Easter when we mark Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem before the Passover when crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches like banners. Our Palm Sunday service begins there, then follows Jesus through the events of the week, including the Last Supper, his betrayal and arrest, and his being sentenced to death. It's a shocking and sobering story that demonstrates the lengths to which God in Christ was willing to go to love and save the world. The somber ending sets the stage for a joyful turnaround on Easter morning. Remember to bring the palm cross from your Lenten bag, or cut some fresh green branches from a shrub.

April 1 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. worship service with the sacrament of communion

When Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples during his last days, he knew that betrayal, suffering, and death was just around the corner. He trusted God to make sure that wouldn't be the end of the story. So he provided the disciples with a way of understanding and remembering the coming events, reinterpreting the Seder rituals to become what we know as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. We will mark those events with worship on Thursday evening of Holy Week, once more telling the story of why that night was different from all others and celebrating communion. If you got a Lenten bag it has prepared communion elements for you, or you can use your own bread and grape juice or wine.

April 2 - Good Friday - worship service (available at noon on YouTube and 7:00 p.m. on Zoom)

We call it Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified, not because it was humanity's best look, nor because it was a good day for Jesus. We call it "Good" because by his death Jesus opened the way for God to overthrow death itself and to provide us with a way out of our sin and brokenness. Recognizing how that sin and brokenness brought Jesus to the cross, we mark Good Friday as the most solemn day of the Christian year. With reverence and repenting, we will offer worship as we recall Jesus' seven last statements from the cross.

April 4 - Easter Sunday - 11:00 a.m. worship service

I've got some bad news and some good news. The bad news is Jesus was crucified because of our sin. The good news is that Christ is risen, indeed! The victory of God in Jesus Christ is the joy of Easter. Join us in our celebration and worship, declaring the Good News, and knowing we are set free.

Check Out the News!

Monthly Prayer Requests:

For those grieving loss of loved ones, and those near the end of their earthly journey, please remember:

Virginia P for her niece Vicki, Bill & Diana C's dear friend Teresa for her husband Ben. Peggy M whose sister Doris died and Kathy B whose sister Imy died.

We continue to pray for:

Lynne A's mom Kathleen, Pat S, Suzi M, Abbee C and her father, Ruth L, Patricia M, Cathy D, Julie W, Nancy G & Robert C, Connie M, Brenda & Richard H, Bruce & Jean Mc, Cathi & Bernie D, Joan & Bud E, and Kathy B.

Submitted by Joni Siker, Prayer and Care chair

Happy Birthday to Our CPC Family! March Birthdays

March 3 – Lynne Ast

March 4 – Mark Fletcher

March 5 – Margaret Larsen

March 5 – Abbee Cronin

March 11 – Peggy Miller

March 12 – Bruce McIntosh III

March 13 – Kelsey McIntosh

March 14 – Jacob Douthett

March 15 – Brent Butcher

March 22 – Kim Peacock

March 24 – Jonathan Woods

March 31 – Bruce McIntosh IV

March 31 – Richard Herndon

Outreach

Easter is quickly approaching, and the Outreach Committee has planned a few activities for the church body and neighboring community. We will have an **Easter story walk** set up for the kids along with a self-paced **Stations of the Cross experience** for the grownups. Be sure to snap a family picture at our **photo booth** and grab an **Easter craft kit** on the way out!

The Outreach Committee is also working to put together **welcome bags** for new families to the area or for new visitors to our church. These welcome bags will most likely contain apple butter, a pamphlet about our church, a meaningful postcard, and a letter from Pastor David. We are looking forward to spreading some cheer and extending a warm welcome to others!



Finally, be on the lookout for details regarding some future Outreach projects such as the renewal of our church farmers' market and annual yard sale, both of which will be planned and carried out alongside the Mission committee! We are aiming to launch these events at the end of the summer and beginning of fall. Begin to think about cleaning out those closets and prepping those gardens! If you have any questions about Outreach at CPC, or you are interested in participating in the work of this ministry, please contact Elder Logan McIntosh at logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org.



Sunday school for kids is continuing to take the form of recorded videos with song, dance, and more! And, currently, the focus is on our new program! Digging Into Foundations of Faith is a 2 Quarter program that lays the groundwork for what it means to be a Christian. Kids explore what the Bible reveals about who God is and how God sees us, how we fit in God's family, and how we live the Christian life. As kids understand core concepts of Christianity, they'll gain a solid framework for their own relationship with Jesus. If you are interested in learning more about this curriculum, [click here](#). Elder Logan McIntosh creates and shares these video lessons weekly via email and our Catoctin Church Family Facebook page. Thank you for sharing these with other children and families who may enjoy them!

Elder Leif Larsen also leads adult Sunday School lessons Sunday mornings at 10:00, just prior to the worship hour (see below). We encourage you to join him on our Zoom link! Don't forget to join Pastor David on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on our Zoom link for our Lenten Study on Growth through Pilgrimage.

If you have any questions about Christian Education at CPC, please contact Elder Logan McIntosh at logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org.

Adult Sunday School

If you are interested in joining the Adult Sunday School spring class, we are studying **The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians** by William Barclay. Please contact Leif Larsen at leif@rstarmail.com if you are interested. All are welcome!

Submitted by Leif Larsen, Adult Sunday School teacher

A Clothing Drive for People in Need.

As part of our Matthew 25 initiative to clothe the naked, our church is sponsoring a clothing drive for people in need of clothes, shoes, socks, belts, purses, blankets, etc. We are accepting clothes for all people--babies, young children, boys, girls, men, and women. Our free clothing event will be held this summer or fall, depending on COVID guidelines. The event will be held outside the church and the date is TBD. We plan to publicize the clothing give-away through relevant non-profits, such as LAWS, OARS, Mobile Hope, Tree of Life, and Loudoun Hunger Relief. In the meantime, please donate any clothing items that you no longer need. Donated items should be **clean and in good condition** (no tears, rips, or stains - no "junk for Jesus!"). If you wish to store your donations at the church rather than at home, there's space for boxes and bags in the fellowship hall by the bench near the storage area for chairs and tables. Thank you so much for supporting this important mission effort, particularly in a time of great economic need.

Submitted by the Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting donations for **One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday and Easter**. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the fund for Self-Development of People, which together provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please either mail check donations to the church or donate online to the fund. (Checks should be made payable to CPC, with One Great Hour of Sharing (or OGHS for short) in the memo line, and sent to P.O. Box 195, Waterford, VA, 20197.) We will collect these donations and then write one total check to the denominational fund.

Submitted by the Mission Committee

2021 Nominating Committee Elected

Thank you to Sue Douglas, Kristin Mazlum, Jim McIntosh, Bertha Tiffany, and Kirsten Woods for agreeing to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Sue and Kirsten were appointed by the session, and Kristin, Jim, and Bertha were elected by the congregation at a called meeting on Sunday, March 7. They will seek to discern God's call for members to serve on the session for the next term that starts in January 2022.

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship for middle school and high school is meeting regularly on Saturday evenings *in person* from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We're focusing on Bible study, games, and service projects. (With lower rates of COVID transmission in children and youth, we think the benefits outweigh the risks. Everyone is wearing masks, and we are watching the space between us.)

"WALK WITH US" VIRTUAL FITNESS EVENT

The graphic features a blue border and contains the following text and logos:

- Walk with Us* in cursive, **2021** in large blue block letters.
- 8 miles. 8 days.**
- Thousands of lives transformed.**
- April 17th - 24th, 2021**
- A line drawing of mountains with a small house and a blue hand icon.
- Text: "Thank you to our sponsors:"
- Sponsors and logos:
 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA**, Vienna, VA (Logo: 1867 with a dove)
 - CATOCTIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Waterford, VA (Logo: circular with cross)
 - Eastern Panhandle Anesthesia Associates**, Martinsburg, WV
 - Unity Presbyterian Church**, Denver, NC (Logo: U in a circle)
 - Belsley**, Framingham, MA (Logo: sun with 'Belsley')
 - McLean Smart Dental**, McLean, VA (Logo: tooth)

Join CPC mission partners, the **Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH)**, friends, and supporters for the "Walk with Us" Virtual Fitness Event **April 17 – 24, 2021**.

"In CCH's partner community, Lavanneau, we work with the local school to provide better quality education for young students. We also offer low-cost healthcare at our Primary Care and Rehab Clinics in Jacmel. When families in Lavanneau need to see a doctor, moms, dads, and children must take a motorcycle taxi or walk 8 miles from their home to the CCH Clinics in Jacmel. This April, we invite you to Walk with Us – joining in solidarity with our Haitian friends for a better tomorrow. Participants will **walk, run, swim, or bike 8 miles in 8 days** to raise awareness and funds for CCH's work in Haiti."

By walking, running, swimming or biking safely in your neighborhood, local park, or in your home, you can show your support and raise funds to help Haitian families. On Saturday, April 24th, CCH staff in Haiti will also make the 8 mile walk from Lavanneau to the CCH Clinic and we'll be posting live updates throughout their walk. You can virtually walk with them on April 24th, or do a little each day to complete your fitness challenge. CCH will be supporting you every step of the way.

Registration is open now at <https://www.cchaiti.org/events/virtual-fitness-event/>. (CPC is an event sponsor.)