



Good News!

A Newsletter for Catoclin Presbyterian Church

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

Attached, please find the summer 2022 newsletter. There is timely information about upcoming events, so please take a look! And take part in the life of the Church as you are called and able to do.

Beloved in Christ,

It's summer time! The old song from *Porgy and Bess* says the living should be easy. In some ways it is - program schedules (around CPC anyway) are lighter and freer, vacations can make ordinary burdens lighter and freer, summer clothing is lighter and freer. Oh, but when we look at the state of the world, the living seems to have taken no notice of ease. We are confronted with heinous acts of violence almost daily: the July 4th massacre in Highland Park is the most recent to grab headlines. War in Ukraine grinds on, causing immense human suffering and global economic upheaval, while wars and rumors of wars burn perpetually (if often unnoticed here) around the world. Two years after the death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests, little has changed in our nation's racial relationships or in our policing, as we hear about Jayland Walker, shot more than 60 times at a traffic stop in Akron, Ohio. Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, while applauded by many, appear to open the door to interstate legal chaos and the removal of long-held rights and protections for many more, and open the Court to accusations of following a political agenda. The Commission on the January 6 insurrection continues to lay out deeply disturbing evidence of plans to undo our democratic process, and responses continue to demonstrate the deep divide in our political life and leadership. We've had more people in our congregation get COVID in the last three months than in the preceding two years (Everyone is okay, but come on!). And gas is \$4.79 a gallon. Add your own items to the list. People everywhere seem to be anxious, angry, or afraid. The living ain't easy.

But God is good, whether the days are good or evil. Jesus Christ, our merciful Savior, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Holy Spirit helps us, even when we don't know what to pray. Our lives are held in God's hands. We are not called to Christ for soft lives of ease, but to trust in his providence and grace, and to proclaim in word and deed what God has shown us is good: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Let's take these summer days as a time to recharge and renew our faith, sinking our roots deep into Christ, and then, like a farmers market, to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit at work in us, extending God's kingdom by serving those in need.

Grace and peace!

Pastor David Douthett



Outreach

We have been busy within the outreach ministry this year. Supplies have been ordered in an effort to create additional CPC welcome bags. Handing these bags out has been a wonderful way to greet our visitors. Each bag contains a personalized prayer journal, a letter from Pastor David, and a jar of our famous and delicious apple butter. Additionally, in the spring, we hosted what we called “Free Tutoring Tuesdays” at the church. A few volunteers made themselves available each week to tutor a number of elementary-aged students in preparation for the state standardized testing. Participants and visitors were certainly very appreciative of our efforts, and this is something we would like to revisit in the future.

As we head into the summer months, we can now look forward to our Farmers’ Market! This was quite a success last year and we are aiming to continue where we left off, beginning even earlier than we did last summer due to the level of interest from our community! This year, our Farmers’ Market will begin on Friday, July 8, from 4:00-6:00 p.m, and will run every Friday thereafter through September. If you are interested in selling your produce and/or goods at the market, please visit the link bit.ly/cpcfarmersmarket or contact Elder Logan McIntosh at logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org. If you are willing and able to assist with the Farmers’ Market, please sign up by visiting bit.ly/cpcfarmmarkethelp. Proceeds from the market will help support the ministries of our church along with our mission partners.



Stay tuned for more news about what the outreach team is organizing at CPC and follow our Catoclin Church Family Facebook page for updates!

Christian Education

Sunday school for adults and children concluded in June, but we look forward to resuming classes in September. Elementary-aged children focused on the curriculum titled, “Digging into Foundations of Faith”. This program lays the groundwork for what it means to be a Christian. For more information about the curriculum we covered, [click here](#). During the season of Lent, adults participated in a Lenten study titled “An Acceptable Fast”. This curriculum was purchased from the PCUSA store. We began each session by locating biblical verses in their original context and then we explored a key Lenten theme related to the text. Themes included: voice gratitude, taking the long view, choosing well, accepting responsibility, welcoming the future, and trusting God in times of conflict. It was a time to reflect and learn amongst our brothers and sisters in Christ. And, as we approached Easter, we once again had our Stations of the Cross walk available for adults along with the Easter story walk for kids. Looking ahead, it is our goal to organize small group book studies according to our work as a Matthew 25 church, finding purpose and meaning through God’s Will in our life. We will be in communication as further decisions are made and as we prayerfully consider texts and resources. If you have any questions about Christian Education at CPC, please contact Elders Logan McIntosh or Leif Larsen at logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org or leif.larsen@catoctin.org.

Need Assistance? Let Us Know!

If you find yourself needing some help, whether with errands, loneliness, finances, or prayers, we will do our best to help you! Call our helpline at 571-293-6543.



Care of Congregation

The Care of Congregation committee has started a new meals program for our church shut-ins and elderly members. We will be distributing these meals as we have them available from our new freezer in the storage room in the basement. These meals are intended to give a much-needed break from preparing a hot meal for some of our elderly. Each meal will be approximately 2 servings and will be fully cooked. They will just need to be microwaved until hot.

These should be tasty meals as our CPC chefs are cooking and we all know how delicious our potluck dinners are! If you would be interested in helping with this venture, you can pick up freezer containers in the church kitchen, cook a couple extra meals every so often, write what the meal is and the date on top of the containers, and put them in the church freezer. From there they will be distributed by Pastor David and the Prayer and Care team as needed.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

We collected donations for **One Great Hour of Sharing** on Palm Sunday and Easter in the amount of \$250.00. 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. Presbyterian Mission wishes to thank our congregation for its gracious and faithful support.

Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine

Our candlelight vigil to support Ukraine was held on June 12th. The observance included music led by Jeff Bean, 60s-style folk singing, prayers, silence, and candle-lighting in support of the millions of innocent victims. Live streaming was provided by Logan McIntosh if you wish to [watch the service](#). Donations in the amount of \$300.00 were sent to World Central Kitchen, a relief organization started by Jose Andres whose team is involved in food relief efforts around the world. World Central Kitchen has been serving a million meals each day in Ukraine. If you wish to contribute and/or to learn more about the organization, go to <https://wck.org>



Congratulations to our Graduates!

We celebrated our recent graduates on June 5th during worship. Graduating from college are Ella Erikson (JMU), Sara Forbes (VT), and Hudson Vetter (W&M). Graduating from high school are Haley Andres, Robert Brenneman, Brooke Pierce, and Abbee Rihs. Each received a personalized devotional book for graduates. We wish all of you the best in this exciting new chapter in your life! May Christ be with you.



Inquirer's Class for New Members

We are a congregation growing in faith, hope, love, and witness to Jesus Christ, and extending God's Kingdom by serving those in need.



If you are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), CPC, or in becoming a new member, Pastor David is leading an Inquirer's Class on the following dates: Sundays, July 17, 24, and 31, at 1:30 p.m. at the church and on Zoom.

You can take the class just for information if you want, but if you are interested in membership you need to take the Inquirer's Class. (The Inquirer's Class is scheduled a couple times a year.)

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2022 Mission Trip?

Several folks have asked about the mission trip to Kentucky that was scheduled for June. Thank you so much for keeping the mission trip in your thoughts and prayers! We regretfully postponed the trip until next year because of concerns about high levels of omicron and the need to keep our travelers safe. Although Covid is always a wild card when making long-term plans, we have high hopes for a successful mission trip next year. For those who like to plan ahead, we anticipate going to Kentucky or some other location in Appalachia in mid-June 2023. We hope you will join us for our trip in 2023. To learn more about the mission trip or our other mission projects, contact Elder Connie Moore at connie.moore@catoctin.org.

Need Someone to Talk to?

If you have questions about your faith journey, about the church, about your life, or about the state of the world and what God is up to, or any other such thing, Pastor David would be glad to help you sort things out, with a listening ear, an open heart, and love of prayer. Contact him at pastor@catoctin.org or 571-293-6543.