



# Good News!

## A Newsletter for Catoctin Presbyterian Church

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Beloved in Christ,

Welcome to the late-autumn 2022 newsletter! There is timely information and news of our church happenings, so take a look!

As we are rolling through the Fall, and the holidays are fast upon us, it is a good time to do a little reflecting on the meaning of the holidays in our life and practice of faith in Christ.

### **Being Thankful**

We have received so many blessings from the hand of God! On the good days and even on our worst days, we know that God's love never fails, that our salvation is sure in Jesus Christ, that we have been given the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us. If there are any blessings of providence, health, personal connection, or opportunity, then especially on the feast days, let us recognize God as the source of all good gifts and be truly grateful.

### **Having Hope**

We are moving into the season of Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas and a season for focusing on our expectations of God's saving activity through Christ in our own time and in the future. We live in a time of tumult, division, and uncertainty, but in Christ we have hope for peace, love, faith, and grace. Let us join in worship and study during Advent so we may be strengthened in this hope.

### **Giving in Faith**

Of course it is the season of giving, too. While commercials will clamor for us to buy their "perfect gifts" for someone on our list, we can all be more thoughtful, intentional, and faithful in our giving than that. As Christians, our generosity is a response to God's generosity, our stewardship is a response to God's grace. May these be our guides as we seek together to extend God's kingdom by serving those in need.

Grace and peace!

## Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service

Our weekly Wednesday prayer service on November 23rd at 6:00 pm (in person and on Zoom at [bit.ly/cpczoomworship](https://bit.ly/cpczoomworship)) will focus on giving thanks. We will offer liturgy, music, prayers of the people, and a celebration of our gratitude for God's bounty throughout 2022.



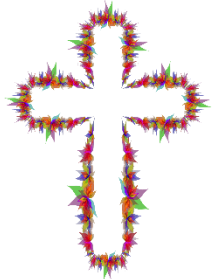
## Thanksgiving Bags

CPC donated 26 bags of food to Loudoun Hunger Relief! Thank you to those who donated to feed the hungry during this Thanksgiving holiday.

We are Extending God's Kingdom by Serving Those in Need!

## Christian Education

We are happy to have Sunday School back in session for both children and adults. Adult Sunday School with Elder Leif Larsen takes place in the Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM, and those participating are studying the book of Hebrews. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School during the worship hour just after the passing of the peace. Currently, we are using a curriculum entitled *Digging into the Heart of God*, and you can find more information about the scope and sequence [here](#). Each week, we have a good balance of Bible study, crafts, games, and/or hands-on object lessons in place for kids to relate and connect to the lesson of the day!



Looking ahead, we are once again planning a four-session **Advent study** for adults simply titled "**Hope**" beginning Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. We hope that you will be able to join us, either in person or on [Zoom](#).

As 2023 approaches, the Christian Education committee is planning opportunities for spiritual growth and the discovery of Christ through topics such as diversity, inclusion, and specific and relevant themes in Matthew 25. If you have any questions about Christian Education at Catoclin Presbyterian Church, please contact Elder Logan McIntosh at [logan.mcintosh@catoclin.org](mailto:logan.mcintosh@catoclin.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

## Outreach

Thank you to everyone who has supported our latest outreach activities and events! Our summer farmer's market was a huge success, and we will be looking for ways to capitalize on what went well as we begin planning for the 2023 market early next year. We also have some great ideas for expanding the market and we are certainly open to your suggestions and feedback.



In October, we held our first Brew & Bible event at Barnhouse Brewery, and we had a great turnout. As we host future get-togethers, we hope that you will consider bringing along your family and friends. We also held a movie night in October which featured a showing of the movie, *The Shack*. Everyone enjoyed each other's company, the movie, and, of course, the snacks! On Sunday, November 13, we held a game day in the Fellowship Hall at 4:30 PM! Participants brought favorite card games and board games to share with CPC friends and enjoyed pizza, salad, & drinks for dinner!

We have exciting outreach ideas on the table for 2023, of which we shared at our potluck luncheon at the end of October. If you have any questions about the work we are doing, or will be doing within the ministry of Outreach, please contact Elder Logan McIntosh at [logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org](mailto:logan.mcintosh@catoctin.org). We would love for you to be included in our future conversations!

## Stop Gun Violence

On Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, the worship liturgy and sermon examined how the Christian Church can and does respond to the gun violence epidemic in the United States. God is unequivocal: Thou Shall Not Kill. The PCUSA denomination has actively advocated an end to gun violence for many years. Now, it is our job to figure out to what and how we are called to help stop this senseless disregard of God's commandment.

In support of the worship service, the mission committee provided orange wristbands and lapel ribbons saying, "Stop Gun Violence." (Orange is often the color used by groups working to stop gun violence). After the service, baskets with ribbons and bands were placed in the narthex and fellowship hall. Feel welcome to drop by and take some.

The Mission Committee has also authorized a \$250 donation from CPC to [Moms Demand Action](#) and \$250 to the [Brady Campaign](#). Both of these non-profits have been tireless advocates of stopping gun violence.

## Apple Butter

Thank you to all who supported the apple butter fundraiser this season. It was an awesome weekend of sunshine and plenty of shoppers! We have **sold out** of our entire apple butter stock for this year! The Apple Butter Committee would like to send great big hugs to all who shared their time to volunteer this year. It was truly appreciated!

## 2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign

The annual stewardship campaign to support 2023 Catoclin ministries is well underway. Our theme - "A New Life Together" - reflects on our history through the pandemic and strong promise for our future. [We met over lunch](#) on Stewardship Sunday, October 30 – a wonderful moment and the first time for post-service fellowship since the pandemic began. Your thoughts and ideas on how to move the church forward were essential and continue to be valued during our Every Member Visits. Thank you!

As we look forward to 2023, there are realities which will impact the budget. Inflation remains a national challenge. Session anticipates a budget shortfall as several families are moving out of the region. Yet the church commitment to our ministries - whether in weekly service or community outreach and support - continues. Every pledge of resources and time is essential. Thank you for taking the time to consider your role to help Catoclin in *A New Life Together*.



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## Holiday Happenings

**November 25** - Advent decorating of the church at 10:00 am

**November 27-December 15** - PWOC Used Coat Drive for children and adults; PWOC Warming Tree for Holiday Coalition (hats, gloves, scarves for children and adults)

**December 18 @ 8:30 am** Men's Holiday Breakfast. All men and boys of the church are invited!

**December 18 @ 12:15 pm** Women's Christmas Luncheon (sponsored by PWOC). All women and girls of the church are invited!

**December 18** - Blue Christmas service - streaming

**December 24 @ 5:00 pm** - Christmas Eve candlelight outdoor service (or inside if weather is bad)

**December 25 @ 11:00 am** - Streaming worship service; No in-person worship service

## From Our Mission Ministry

Here are some local opportunities to support those in need this holiday season:

**The Arc** - The Arc's goal is to provide a lifetime of opportunities for people with disabilities while advocating for, educating, serving, and supporting those individuals and their families. We're providing for four adult men. CPC is committed to providing gifts for ten individuals. The link to sign up to donate is <https://tinyurl.com/2s2682zp>. We are expecting to have this link available before Thanksgiving.

**Gifts should be UNWRAPPED and LABELED by organization and/or individual (as indicated by sign up). Please bring your donations by Wednesday, December 7th and leave them in the designated space in the fellowship hall.**

**Holiday Coalition** - The CPC Mission Ministry has decided to support "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" with a monetary donation. If you would like to contribute, here is the information to do that:

**Help for Others  
P.O Box 651102  
Sterling, VA 20165**

If you'd like to volunteer to help in the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" project, here is a link to sign up for a shift:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eabae2ba31-2022>