



Good News!

A Newsletter for Catoctin Presbyterian Church

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

Here is the fall 2023 newsletter for our church family. There is timely information about upcoming events, so please take a look!

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I guess I shouldn't be surprised when I sit down to write to you and the world is in an uproar. I mean, the world is always in an uproar. Sometimes it seems worse than others, though. Maybe it's the start of the war between Israel and Gaza, with the shocking terrorist attacks by Hamas at the start and the brutal bombing in response by Israel. Maybe it's that this war opening reminds us that Ukraine and Russia are still at war, though many people seem to have forgotten. Maybe it's the mass shooting in Maine, taking its place among all the other mass shootings, with devastating loss of life and injuries, fracturing more families in another American town. Maybe it's that no one even seems to have the heart to go through the well-rehearsed arguments about gun violence again in its wake. Maybe it's the astounding dysfunction of the U.S. Congress. Maybe it's the fear-mongering attack ads leading up to the next election. Maybe it's the natural disasters, or the prejudice, or the weather, or the economy, or the economic disparity, or the anger, or the grief, or the vitriol, or the loss of civility, or

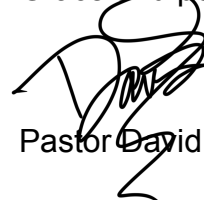
STOP!! Whoa!! Ssshhh. If you're like me, it is that easy to get caught in the swirl of bad news that pummels us from day to day. When that happens, I need to stop for a minute and get a grip.

We are making our way through Paul's letter to the Philippians in worship this month (October). He was writing from prison to a congregation that was feeling the backlash and oppression of their community in response to their newfound faith in Christ Jesus. I bet they were all feeling the swirl and bitterness of a world in uproar, and much closer than many of us feel it. In chapter 4, though, Paul wrote:

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ... Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

The world is always in an uproar, but God is at work in the heart of it. We may feel like goodness is being swamped by evil, but Christ said the powers of hell won't prevail against the Church. When we feel overwhelmed, it's time to stop and return to the Word, the Christ. In Christ, God overwhelms the swirl with unimaginable peace. The Word brings order out of chaos, and the Word remains in perfect peace, even within the chaos. Breath. Pray. Find Christ in that still place in your soul, and you will not be swept away. Then together, in Christ, we bear witness to something greater in life than fear.

Grace and peace!



Pastor David

Christian Education

We are excited that **children's Sunday School** has now resumed for the fall season! Currently, participants are learning all about fifty of the top Bible stories for children! Each lesson focuses on the big idea, the Bible story, an opening game, and an object lesson or craft which meaningfully captures the essence of the lesson for the day. We would love for your child(ren) to participate in the lessons weekly during the worship service, after the passing of the peace. Children's Sunday school is for anyone in preschool through fifth grade.

Upcoming Dates

- Children's Sunday School has begun
- Adult Sunday School begins Sunday, October 29
- Midweek studies begin Wednesday, November 1



Adult Sunday School will begin **Sunday, October 29 at 9:45 AM** in the fellowship hall. Classes and discussions will be facilitated by Janet Brown. During the first six weeks, we will explore dimensions of what it means to have enough through the parables of Jesus and other biblical references using the PCUSA study, *"Enough: God's Blessings in Abundance"*. You can learn more about this curriculum [here](#).

Beginning **Wednesday, November 1**, Pastor David will lead and facilitate a **four-week evening study** where we will seek to strengthen our faith, hope, love and witness to Jesus Christ by learning how to follow Jesus more consistently and regularly throughout our daily lives.

If you are interested in a participant copy of either curriculum, please reach out to cpc@catocotin.org. All are welcome! Join us!

Outreach

Thank you to everyone who supported our Catocotin Presbyterian farmers market and food truck Friday events throughout the summer months. **We greatly appreciate your support**, and we are already in the process of planning next year's market. We have certainly come a long way over the last few years and the market has grown tremendously. This year was very successful, and we had many repeat customers who really looked forward to the variety of goods that were available from week to week.



Our next **"Soup Sunday"** luncheon will take place on **Sunday, November 12 at 12:00PM** in the fellowship hall. If you have not attended our "Second Sunday, Soup Sunday" events, we encourage you to do so. And we also encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor! Our fellow farmers market vendors have been invited, and we look forward to thanking them for being with us throughout the farmers market season.

Board game day will directly follow the luncheon. So bring a favorite board game or card game and enjoy the afternoon with one another while learning a new game!

(cont'd...)

Future outreach events may include, but are not limited to, hands-on missional activities at our church in partnership with the mission committee, quarterly pancake breakfasts, a winter parents' night out event, a community flower garden project and labyrinth, the hosting of lecture series or seminars, and kids' after school club style gatherings.

Do you have a passion for outreach? Or would you like to dedicate your time and talents to the work of this ministry? Contact Logan.McIntosh@catoctin.org or join a meeting! The Outreach Committee meets the final Sunday of each month at 10:00AM in the church library.

PWOC Fundraiser

PWOC (Presbyterian Women of Catoctin) continues to host a fundraiser with Rada Cutlery for their charity work. If you wish to purchase an item online, here's the link: bit.ly/pwocfundraiser

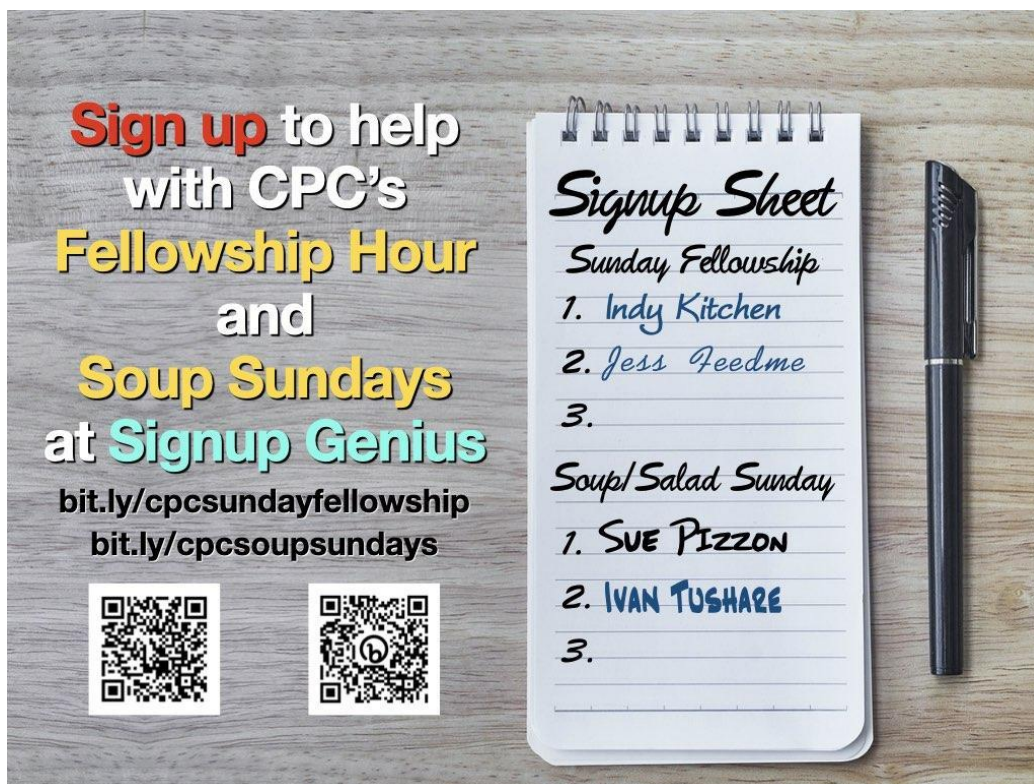


Shop our Catalog





Fellowship Hour!

We are continuing to enjoy weekly Fellowship Hour together immediately following the worship service. If you wish to sign up for a week to bring refreshments, we are keeping it simple and asking that you provide just TWO snacks—a sweet, salty, or healthy, and a beverage, as well as make the coffee. Elder Pam Siek, Care of Congregation chair, sends out a quarterly SignUp Genius, so pick a week that works for you, and sign up if you wish to provide refreshments! Either store-bought or homemade items are appreciated! Keep it simple, as it's the fellowship that counts.



**Sign up to help
with CPC's
Fellowship Hour
and
Soup Sundays
at Signup Genius**

bit.ly/cpcsundayfellowship
bit.ly/cpcsoupsundays

Signup Sheet

Sunday Fellowship

1. *Indy Kitchen*
2. *Jess Feedme*
- 3.

Soup/Salad Sunday

1. **SUE PIZZON**
2. **IVAN TUSHARE**
- 3.

Here's the link to sign up for fellowship hour: bit.ly/cpcsundayfellowship

Brew & Bible

Join us for faith, froth, fun, & fellowship!

Enjoy a cold beverage and discussion of religious and spiritual questions with old and new friends

**Fourth Sundays, 1:00 p.m.
Barnhouse Brewery in Lucketts**

Questions? Contact Logan.McIntosh@catocctin.org

**Next:
Nov. 26**

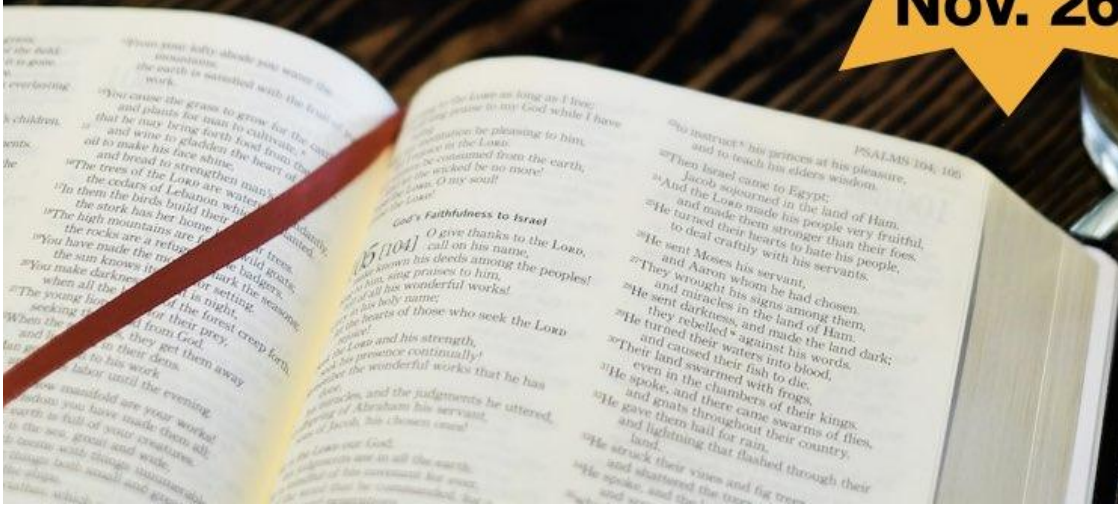
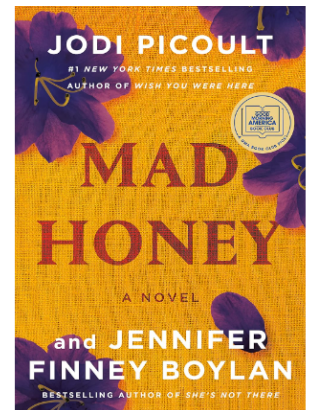


Photo by Josh Applegate on Unsp

Brew & Bible is both a fellowship activity and an outreach opportunity as we get out into the world and talk about our faith!

Book Club

All are welcome to join our CPC Book Club, an informal group which meets the first Thursday of each month from September through June. It is a great way to have good reading experiences, fellowship, and fun. If you want to read ahead, we'll be reading *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. Our next meeting is on November 2nd.



Mission

CPC is called to feed the hungry. Feeding the hungry is close to our hearts and was singled out by Jesus in the parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25).

CPC has a big heart for mission projects that help “the least of these.” That’s great because we have three initiatives planned and underway for November and December.

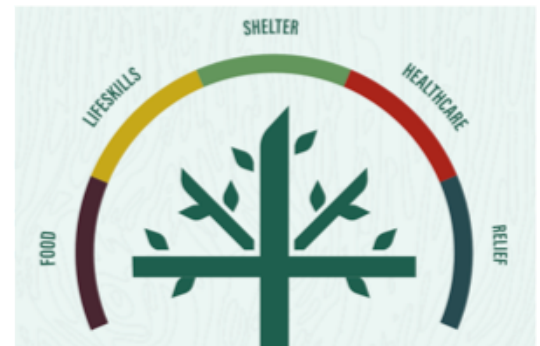
- **Donating Hygiene Kits on an Interfaith Day of Service** for [Loudoun Hunger Relief](#), **Sunday, November 19**, sponsored by Loudoun Interfaith Bridges and Faith Leaders. Volunteers will pack hygiene kits for needy individuals that contain a bar of body soap, shampoo, conditioner, laundry pods, sanitary pads (no tampons), lip balm, hand sanitizer, lotion, and toothpaste/toothbrush. We will collect these items at CPC for this special project. There will be opportunities to sign up for donations, volunteer to pack the hygiene bags, or BOTH! Stay tuned - a Sign-up Genius will be coming your way soon.



- The [Community Coalition for Haiti](#) is returning to CPC on **December 3 and 10** for an in-person alternative giving market called “[Gifts for Good](#).” Examples of alternative presents you can give to Haitians on behalf of a friend, family member, or yourself include a health exam for a Haitian, a handwashing station for a family, or hygiene kits for girls. There are many possibilities because the need is so great. Plus, CCH is offering a special Haitian art option specifically for folks who purchase at the in-person market at CPC. They will also bring beautiful, hand-made star ornaments from Haitian artists to accompany the gift cards that describe your Gifts for Good.



- Learn more about [Tree of Life Ministries](#) on **Sunday, November 5**, when Susannah Lee, Regional Director for Purcellville, visits CPC to discuss Tree of Life’s ministries, which include shelter, food, lifeskills, healthcare, and relief. CPC has recently become a supporting member of Tree of Life. Susannah will be here to provide an overview of this faith-based non-profit and describe possible mission projects CPC could become involved with, including serving hot meals to families in need, and sponsoring clothing or food drives.



UPDATE: We recently received an email update on the 10,000+ meals we packaged for [Rise Against Hunger](#) in September. Those meals have been shipped to Madagascar! According to the email:

“Madagascar, an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa, is home to over 28 million people. The nation faces high rates of poverty, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. Especially in the southern part of the country, low access to education, water scarcity and frequent natural disasters cause severe food insecurity. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes Madagascar as having an “alarming” level of hunger.

“To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in Madagascar face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early childhood development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger’s Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education. Read more about the impact your meals are making by [checking out this story](#) on the Rise Against Hunger blog!”

Thank you for your help and support with this important project!

Thank you!

To everyone who helped us with apple butter making, selling, and church tours during the Waterford Fair!

(Especially these two!)



DEI at CPC

What is DEI? It stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Last year the session adopted a statement about our intention to be a more inclusive congregation, to expand our sense of diversity, and to share the benefits of membership and leadership more consciously with those who have historically found themselves on the margins. We believe we are called to this work because our theology requires it. We believe that all humans are made in the Image of God, so all manner of humans should be included in the life, ministry, and leadership of the church. By the way, "Image of God" in Latin is "*IMAGO DEI*," so it's like diversity, equity, and inclusion are built in!

The short form of our DEI statement is, "In Christ, by the Spirit, we delight in all people." The long form goes into much more detail about what that means practically. We encourage you to have a look at the whole document, and we welcome your feedback. You can find it at our website, <http://www.catocin.org/about/our-dei-statement/>.



Monthly Prayer Requests

Please keep the following CPC family and friends in your prayers.

If you have new prayers or an update on any of these folks, let us know at prayers@catocin.org.

• AS OF OCTOBER 2023 •

All in our church family grieving for lost loved ones, All our senior saints, Virginia P, Patricia S, Robert C, Connie M, Nancy G, Julie W, Cathy D, Angélica H, Jerry D, Drew B, Phil C, Nick, Harry D, Cheri G, Pr. Scott B, Melissa Q, Andrew B, Claire C, Mary H, Alberto, Elliott, Edward, Ron L, Christine K, Anne W, Nicole, Rev. Marty M, Teresa, Twins Levi & Noah, Julie R, Larry, Diane, Jo Ann B, Frank, and his wife, Brenda, Kathy B, Sean W, Dave and Ed, Jay P, Jean Mc, Peggy M, Amy & John M-M and family, Carl W, Jenna K, Mike & Ashley, Richard F, Nancy T, Gail K, Friends & family of Susie, Bombing in Ankara, Turkey, War in Israel/Palestine

Stay Tuned!

Our next quarterly newsletter will be published in December. Look forward to receiving weekly church emails with announcements and committee updates to keep everyone informed about the life of the church! Grace and Peace!