



Good News!

A Newsletter for Catoctin Presbyterian Church

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

Welcome to the December 2023 newsletter. There is lots of timely information about upcoming events, so please take a look!

Beloved in Christ,

The season of Advent is upon us! This is the time for preparation for the feast of Christmas. Besides decorating and shopping for gifts, we prepare spiritually by reflecting on the promises of God for our redemption. We ponder the mystery of God-With-Us in Jesus Christ. We imagine what the implications are for our society and world if the promises and mystery are true, and we act on our hope to make this life more like the kingdom of God.



This year, as you will read in this newsletter, we have a variety of mission opportunities where we can share with our neighbors in need, both locally and globally. We have fellowship opportunities where we can enjoy each other's company, generally with food involved! We have Bible study on Wednesdays and Sunday school on Sunday mornings where we will focus on how the gospel writers thought about the nativity and appearing of Jesus Christ and on the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Our worship life together for Advent will also focus on the "four Gospel homes." We'll have special music during our worship services, too, as well as time for quiet reflection. For those who are grieving or otherwise feeling down this time of year, we will again offer a Blue Christmas service, which will be a virtual service you can experience "on demand" after it is released on December 17. And of course, we will hold our Christmas Eve candlelight worship service in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. on December 24. This will be the third year we've done the service at the earlier hour that has proved to be pretty popular.

In all these things, I hope and pray that you will take time to experience the promises and power of God who loves us eternally and unconditionally, and who came to us, who comes to us every day, who is coming to set all things right at last, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace and peace!



Holiday Happenings at CPC

November 26-December 10 - PWOC New and gently used (clean) Coat Drive for children and adults; PWOC Warming Tree for Holiday Coalition (new hats, gloves, scarves); Gift cards collection (grocery & general merchandise) for Holiday Coalition

December 3 @ 11:00 am - Worship service for the First Sunday in Advent with Communion; Community Coalition for Haiti Alternative Gift Market after worship

December 10 following worship - Soup Sunday; Community Coalition for Haiti Alternative Gift Market

December 17 @ 8:30 am - Men's Christmas Breakfast (potluck)

@ 12:15 pm - Women's Christmas Luncheon (potluck; sponsored by PWOC)

@ 7:00 pm - Virtual Blue Christmas Service available online

December 24 @ 11:00 am - Worship service for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

@ 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the sanctuary

December 26-31 - Pastor David's vacation leave



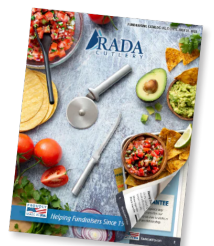
Blue Christmas Service

On Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m., we will host a virtual Blue Christmas worship service for those who are having a hard time this season, from grief, depression, weariness, or whatever else might bring your heart down. We'll offer the recognition, solace, and hope that comes with Jesus' Incarnation. Find it at catoctin.org/watch-live or our YouTube channel

PWOC Fundraiser

Presbyterian Women of Catoctin (PWOC) is hosting a fundraiser with **Rada Cutlery** for their charity work. Look for some Christmas gift ideas! If you wish to purchase an item online, here's the link: bit.ly/pwocfundraiser. Contact Kathy Barron or Sue Douglas for more information.

Shop our Catalog



Fellowship Hour!



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

bit.ly/cpcsundayfellowship
bit.ly/cpcsoupsundays



Image by Julietromeur for Pixabay

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 (bit.ly/cpcsundayfellowship), and there is also a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board, 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.

2nd Sunday Soup Sunday

Join us for lunch after the worship service on Sunday, December 10, and on every 2nd Sunday of the month! This is a combination fellowship and outreach, as we invite the neighborhood in to enjoy a free meal with us. So invite a friend!

If you want to make some soup to share or provide bread, dessert, or drinks, sign up at our Signup Genius page, bit.ly/cpcsoupsundays or contact Pam Siek to let her know.



2nd Sunday, Soup Sunday Lunch

**Sunday, Dec. 10
@ noon**

**It's free for our church family
and the whole community.**

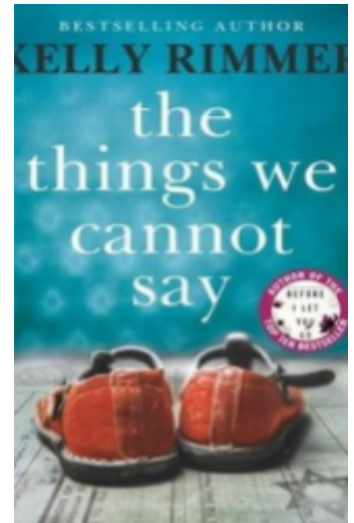
**Plan to join us
and invite a friend!**

*No preaching or teaching,
Just food and friends.*

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. Our next meeting is on December 7th at 7:00 PM at the home of Courtney Andres. Please bring an appetizer to share, and a children's book to be donated to LAWS.

If you want to read ahead for January 4th, our next book is *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer.



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Mission



The Community Coalition for Haiti is returning to CPC on **December 3 and December 10** with 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, training for teachers, 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*.

The Catoctin Presbyterian Church mission team is collecting **\$25 grocery or general merchandise gift cards for the Holiday Coalition**. The collection box is in the Fellowship Hall by the **PWOC Warming Tree**.

The Warming Tree is where we are collecting new hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for the Holiday Coalition. There is also a **Coat Drive collection box** for new or gently used (clean) coats and jackets for all sizes and all ages.



Warming Tree and Coat Drive

November 26 - December 10

- New or gently used coats;
- New hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens
- Grocery/general gift cards

Drop off in Fellowship Hall

December 10th is the last day for donating the gift and grocery cards, coats, and warming tree items. Thank you so much for your support!

Gift Giving



In the spirit of giving this Christmas season, if you wish to contribute towards monetary gifts for Pastor David and Molly, and for Don and Mark, there are two Christmas cards in Sue Douglas's mailbox in the hall at the church, one for each of them, in which you can place your cash gifts.

You can also mail in a check written to CPC, with your intentions written in the memo line. Send to P.O. Box 195, Waterford, VA 20197 Attention: Russ Mehl, Treasurer.

We will present the Christmas gifts to David and Don following our Christmas Eve service. Thank you.

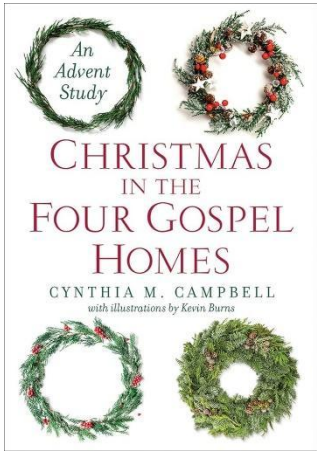
Submitted by Sue Douglas, Clerk of Session

Stewardship

Thank you to the congregation for your generous financial stewardship. It reflects the theological mindset that recognizes that all we have and all we are comes from God, that the salvation of our souls comes from Christ Jesus, that our motivation to do good and to be better flows from the Holy Spirit. As a church, we responded in gratitude for all God has entrusted to us and done for us by joyfully returning a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to the work of the church, caring for our neighbors, the earth, and all God's creatures. The generous giving of our faithful members and friends allows us to continue the story of our congregation's faithful work and ministry.



Christian Education



Our Advent study, "**Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes**," began on **Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m.** at the church and on [Zoom](#). The study, and our Advent season sermons, will be based on Cynthia Campbell's book that explores how the four gospel writers dealt with the birth of Jesus, and how that can inform our holiday observances, too.

The book is available and on sale at the [PC\(USA\) store](#) and also for [popular e-readers](#) for those who are interested. If you were unable to attend the first session, no worries! We will be meeting **each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. through Wednesday, December 20**. And you don't have to read the book to participate (although it helps, of course).

Additionally, the **adult Sunday School** class will be focusing on a series titled "**Illuminating Advent**", which was published by PC(USA). You can preview a sample of the curriculum [here](#). The adult Sunday School class meets in the fellowship hall each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Outreach

We had a fantastic turnout at last month's **Second Sunday, Soup Sunday event!** Thank you to those who invited their friends and neighbors! Our next Soup Sunday luncheon will be held on *Sunday, December 10*, after the worship service. As a reminder, there's no preaching or teaching, just food and fellowship! And it's free!

**SECOND SUNDAY,
SOUP SUNDAY!**



The Outreach Committee is organizing a **Parents Night Out** evening for **Friday, December 8 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.** If you know anyone who may be interested, direct them to the link bit.ly/cpc-parentsnightout as soon as possible.

Pre-registration is required for all children PreK-5th grade.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:00PM-9:00PM

Drop Off
Your Child(ren) Ages
PreK-5th Grade
**Safe & Friendly
Environment!**

Games!
Snacks!

Crafts!
Stories!

FUN!

Whether you need to get some holiday shopping done or you just want the evening to yourselves, this will be your opportunity! Spots are limited so hurry up and register today!

REGISTER NOW!

bit.ly/cpc-parentsnightout

Contact Us
www.catoctin.org 571-293-6543
cpc@catoctin.org



Monthly Prayer Requests

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

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



• As of November 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 early spring 2024! Look forward to receiving weekly church emails with announcements and committee updates to keep everyone informed about the life of the church! (If you need to be added to the weekly email list or wish to be removed, just contact Pastor David at pastor@catoctin.org and let him know.)



Merry Christmas!

Peace on earth! Good will to all!