



# Good News!

## A Newsletter for Catoctin Presbyterian Church

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Beloved in Christ,

Here is the Spring 2024 newsletter. There is timely information about upcoming events, so please take a look!

During this year's season of Lent, in preparation for the commemoration of Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, we have approached our discipleship together from two directions. In worship, we have been exploring Jesus' passion predictions and what they revealed about how he thought about his own life and death in the hope of the resurrection. The themes we have found (or will find) are Trust, Humility, Prophecy, Purpose, and Witness. In our Wednesday night study, we have been holding courageous conversations about hot-button issues, sharing our own experiences and holding each other in love. We've tackled (or will tackle) the big ones – politics, poverty and classism, sexism, race and racism, and heterosexism – and we have remained friends.

Both of these tracks point us toward the power of God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord and the power of Christ's resurrection to transform our lives and the world. Fear is a driving factor in much of our social discourse these days. Some of it is reasonable, as there are scary things going on in the world. Some of it is provoked by forces that want to divide us, intimidate us, and keep us from exerting the collective power of loving hearts and minds, seeking to work for God's justice. That was the Roman intention behind crucifixion in Jesus' day, and it is still an effective deterrent to people's faith, strength, and unity.

In Christ's resurrection from the dead, God crushed the power of death! God's perfect love casts out fear! The Risen Christ calls us to live courageously, taking risks to trust in him, to follow him, and to act together in his name to break oppression and lift up those who are suffering. To do such things, we must be grounded in the root of our being in the love, mercy, and grace of Christ, for ourselves and for all humanity.

I hope you will join us for Holy Week observances, including our worship services for Palm/Passion Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, as well as our ongoing Wednesday study, all of which are in person and online. Whatever you do, rejoice in the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and peace!



## Outreach Opportunities!

**Farmer's Market vendors needed!** Talk to any outreach committee member (Logan, Janet, Julie, Debbie) if you or anyone you know might be interested. And please share our vendor interest form [bit.ly/cpcfarmersmarket](http://bit.ly/cpcfarmersmarket).

**Farmer's Market planning help needed!** Let Logan know if you want to join the Farmer's Market subcommittee which will meet later this month (lmcintoshx2@verizon.net).



**Our Easter story walk, photo booth, and take-home kid's craft kits will be on the lawn again this year from March 23-31.**



**The Annual CPC Egg hunt is happening on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 10:30AM.** Everyone is welcome! Come a little early at 10AM if you want to help hide the eggs for the kids. Join us in the fellowship hall Saturday, March 30, at 3PM, to stuff 100 (or maybe 200?) Easter eggs with candy. We'll provide the candy!



## Some handy links to Sign Ups



<http://bit.ly/cpcsoupsundays>



<http://bit.ly/cpcSundayfellowship>

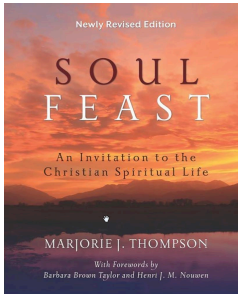


<https://bit.ly/AppleButter2024>

## Christian Education

### Courageous Community Conversations

Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for our Courageous Community Conversations small group conversations. Those who have attended have really enjoyed the opportunity to share their thoughts about important topics and issues in a friendly, safe environment.



### Adult Sunday School

The Illuminating Lent class with Janet Brown will continue through Palm Sunday. This takes place each week before the service from 9:45-10:45 in the parlor. The next study will focus on the book, *Soul Feast*.

Children's Sunday School for all ages Pre-K through 5th grade takes place during the worship service each week, after the passing of the peace at 11:15 am.



## Other News



### A Report from the Treasurer

2024 is off to a great start with the CPC budget. As of February 29, 2024, budgeted income is **\$33,366** and expenses are **\$30,887**. Additionally, generous souls contributed **\$250** at the CPC Souper Bowl Sunday of Caring to support our mission partner Loudoun Hunger Relief.



### Directory Corrections

- Darryl Dawson (Friends) name spelling correction
- Roger Knoell's (Friends) email is bouncing back.

### Congregational Meeting



Session has called a Congregational Meeting for April 21st following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a recommendation to change the CPC Bylaws so that the number of ruling elders is reduced from eight to six with even classes of two.

## Catoctin Clubs & Fellowship Opportunities!

We are excited to announce that **CPC will now be offering clubs**, providing opportunities for members and friends of CPC to engage in various activities.



- **What kind of clubs?** You may have seen a new poster in the Fellowship Hall. Currently, fellow members are interested in starting a Walking, Fabric & Yarn, and Star Gazing & Astronomy club.
- **What if I have an idea of my own?** Awesome! Grab a marker and let us know what interests you by adding it to the poster board in the Fellowship Hall.
- **When will the clubs meet?** Each group can decide what works for them. Weekly? Monthly? Day, evening? Or any time that works for the group.
- **Where will the clubs meet?** Locations will vary. For example, Walking Club will meet according to the group's preferences and may change regularly. CPC's well established Book Club meets at various members' and friends' homes. The Fellowship Hall is often available, but check with the Pastor for availability as you make a plan to get started.
- **What if there are only 2 people interested in my idea?** Two's a club! But we encourage the club members to let the congregation know when you'll be meeting and to bring a friend, too, if they like.
- **Who is going to run the club?** Much like Book Club, the clubs will be self-governing (No session members or committee chairs required). If it's your idea, go ahead and put your name as an initial contact to see who else is interested. After you have other interested parties you'll make decisions together that don't require a committee style format.
- **Are these clubs supposed to be religious or churchy?** CPC offers a variety of Bible Studies and Sunday School throughout the year, as well as PWOC and Brew & Bible monthly, as well. If you haven't attended, we welcome and encourage you to try those (see the announcements and calendar for current offerings). Have your own idea for a Prayer or Discipleship Club? We'd love to hear about that!
- **What other clubs could we do?** Great question! What interests you? What have we done in the past that you miss? Here's a few ideas to get you started:
- Cooking...Baking..., Games (cards/board games), Winery Visits, Movie Matinees/Nights (remember movie theaters?!), Crafts (general or specific) Sports (watching, playing?).
- **Why should I join a club?** Have you stayed for Soup Sunday or stirred apple butter at the Fair or the McIntosh home? Do you look forward to Book Club every month? Being involved in activities with our church family and friends creates connection and supportive relationships, while offering a space for spiritual growth and shared values. It's a wonderful way to extend God's Kingdom to those in our church and beyond.

**Have a question?** This idea was discussed at the Session Retreat, so Pastor David can point you in the right direction. Joni Siker is happy to help get you started, too.

## Mission Committee



The mission committee has approved a motion to sponsor **Rise Against Hunger** at the \$6,200 level (15,000 meals). This

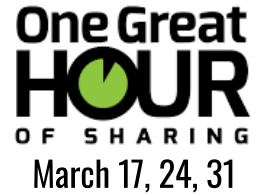
opportunity is a church-wide one with all hands needed! The date is set for September 21, 2024 (7:30-11:30 AM) in the fellowship hall. Here's the link to sign up to help or to donate. <https://bit.ly/49yIX0I>

We plan to host a community meal at **Tree of Life** in Purcellville once a quarter, as part of Tree of Life's weekly meal program. These hot meals feed approximately 70 people.



Committee members observed a meal being served in February as a way to anticipate what is needed and how to prepare. We have not yet set dates with TOL, but there will be more information to come!

**One Great Hour of Sharing** supports three programs - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - and all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Our CPC Mission Ministry has authorized the Treasurer to donate \$500 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Envelopes and flyers with more information for this designated special offering can be found next to both offering plates in the sanctuary as well as on the table inside the fellowship hall main door. This special offering will be collected March 17, 24, and 31.



And here's a friendly reminder to periodically refill our **Food Blessings Box**. People routinely stop by and take donated items, so this is filling a real need in the community, in addition to our blue box donations to Loudoun Hunger Relief.

### Birthdays This Quarter (April - June)

#### April Birthdays

Tina Necciai	4/1
Kristin Mazlum	4/3
Ginger Lucas	4/10
Jim McIntosh	4/11
Mila Jenkins	4/13
Christine Knoell	4/14
Russ Mehl	4/14
Kathy Barron	4/15
Ben McIntosh	4/15
Suzie Moore	4/25
Liam Butcher	4/30

#### May Birthdays

Nate McMahon	5/6
Jacob Rihs	5/9
Diana Horne	5/13
Abbie Rihs	5/13
Ella Erickson	5/21
Jack Newton	5/23
Chase Siek	5/27

#### June Birthdays

Brian Hardy	6/1
Brooke Pierce	6/2
Kate Forbes	6/10
Priscilla Mehl	6/10
Erik Neccai	6/12
Ernie Smith	6/14
Chad Siek	6/20
Darryl Dawson	6/21
Robert Carr	6/22
Molly Douthett	6/22
Leif Larsen	6/22



## Spring Calendar

**Sundays** - Adult Sunday School, 10:00AM, Worship/Children's Sunday School 11:00AM  
**1st/3rd Sundays** - Choir Practice, 12:15PM  
**2nd Sundays** - Soup Sunday  
**4th Sundays** - Brew and Bible, 1:00PM

### Regular Committee Meetings

- **Mission** - 3rd Sunday, bimonthly 12:30PM
- **Prayer and Care** - 3rd Sunday, bimonthly, 12:15PM
- **Outreach** - 1st Tuesdays, 6:30PM
- **Ops** - 2nd Tuesdays, 5:00PM
- **Worship** - 3rd Tuesdays, 6:00PM
- **Session** - 2nd/4th Thursdays, 6:30PM
- **PWOC** - 3rd Thursdays, 10:00AM
- **CE** - 3rd Thursdays, 6:30PM

### Events

- **March 20, 27** - Lenten Study: Courageous Community 6:30 PM
- **March 21** - PWOC, 10:00AM
- **March 24** - Palm Sunday
- **March 29** - Good Friday Service, 7:00PM
- **March 30** - Egg Stuffing, 3:00PM
- **March 31** - Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30AM
- **March 31** - Easter Communion Service, 11:00AM
- **April 1-15** - Pastor David's Vacation
- **April 4** - Book Club, 7:00PM
- **April 13** - Church Cleanup, 9:00AM-12:00PM
- **April 21** - Congregational Meeting
- **May 2** - Book Club, 7:00PM
- **June 1** - Apple Butter Making, 7:30-4:30

### Stay Tuned...

Our next quarterly newsletter will be published in June. 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!