



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Revlections”

October 2018

In a matter of hours, there may or may not be a new justice on the Supreme Court. By the time you read this, the vote will be over. But the carnage left in its wake won't be. As a survivor of a sexual assault, this process set off my inner scar tissue that I thought was long buried in old therapy sessions. Now I've been reminded how profoundly deep those wounds truly are. Like many forms of cancer, they go into remission until something triggers them anew.

For any of you who carry this baggage in silence, I get it. I feel it. I pray that in the not so distant future, all of us will reclaim our personal power and overcome the ghosts of our pasts. Again. So, in that spirit, I want to share a brief article with you from one of our UCC pastors at the Center for Progressive Renewal, Rev. Cameron Trimble.

*“IN THE FACE OF AN ANGRY MAN”

by Cameron Trimble

**Used with permission*

On Sunday night of last week I was in New York with a group of women organized by [Rev. Kaji Dousa](#) of [Park Avenue Christian Church](#), standing on the steps of City Hall in Foley Square protesting the process our elected officials are enabling around the appointment of Brett Kavanaugh. Present were high school students from the school that Dr. Christine Blasey Ford attended, lots of women from the community and a few faith leaders. As we were standing there in front of three news crews who were recording our speakers, an angry man came up and started screaming at us. He lobbed all of the predictable slurs one uses to demean women – “You're all a bunch of whores,” “You hate men,” “Women are always right; men are always wrong.” On and on and on...

Our hearts were breaking for these young students who were experiencing this; he was relentless, and it seemed there was no line of decency he wasn't willing to cross. Then he saw three of us in clergy collars and took out after us. I remember thinking, *"Bring it, brother. I've been up against people like you before."* We were staring him down, ready to form a wall of protection. If pushed, we would be warriors.

continued

And then, in the most beautiful moment of grace, Rev. Kaji Dousa began to sing. Her voice, crystal clear in tone and tear-jerking in power, rose above his shouts. She sang and sang and sang us through that hate-filled moment. She did that...by herself...as the rest of us stood around her with our candles holding vigil for Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and for ourselves.

The man turned around – silenced – and left.

These are hard days for many of us. It feels like the world needs a new kind of leadership from us, one that requires we dig deep in our resolve and act with courage we're not sure we have. Some of us are taking to the streets; others are writing, organizing, preaching, listening, witnessing, singing, painting...our taking a stand matters even on the days when we fear our own futility.

Keep the faith, friends. You are not alone. A tribe of us are in this with you, Every. Single. Step. And let's stay on the lookout for people who can sing us through. Their songs silence oppression and restore our souls.

The pain of separated children from their parents continue. While we've been immersed in the political battle, hundreds of kids were moved into a tent version of prison camps in the desert region of Texas. Mass shootings have continued and more innocent people and police officers have been killed.

The Carolinas have been devastated and thousands of people have lost their homes and livelihoods. The death toll of earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia is staggering. Unless you live with the Hallmark movies 24 hours a day, it's just too much.

For us. Not God. The God of All has known each loss, held each soul, and wept. And in the next moments, God began calling us to respond with compassion, generosity, courage and determination to help our neighbors in the immediate crises and long-term recoveries.

It's a real temptation to turn all of this off and live in the perfect universe of the Hallmark Movie Channel and get a head start on Christmas lite. But we shouldn't and if our discipleship means anything in real time, real world terms, we can't. Let me say it again and again in my Texas football voice. **We will make it through these long days and nights together, held and strengthened by the God of All Times and Places.**

No one promised us easy times and conflict free lives. No one promised us the complete absence of pain and loss. No one promised us instantaneous justice when we experience trauma. The promise has always been wrapped within God's presence, grace, forgiveness, and healing. How we accept or reject that life-long restoration is up to us.

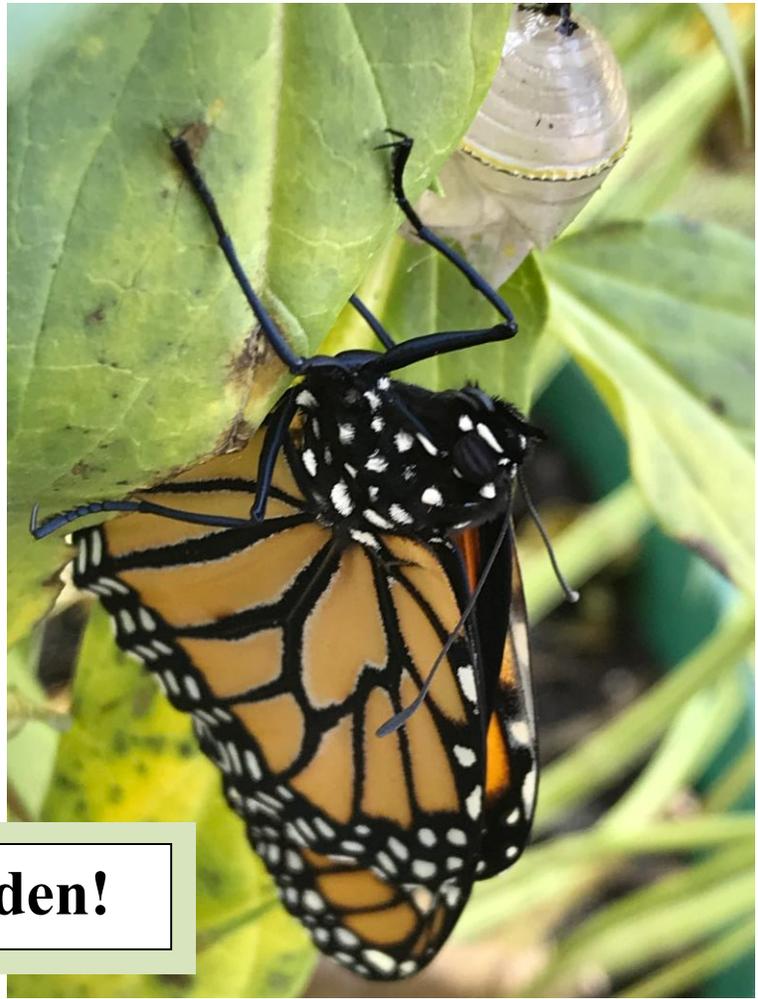
At different points in my own life, I've done both. Restoration can come in the midst of long-term devastation, but you, like I've done, may need to walk with a professional to get there. Don't stay in isolation and silence...please...

Rev Bev

Catonsville Emergency Assistance: Donating Food and Non-Perishables

Peanut butter and canned meals are the greatest needs right now.

Catonsville Emergency Assistance relies on contributions of food—perishable, non-perishable, and frozen food—as well as dry goods/hygiene products such as toilet paper, toiletries, and paper towels. When possible, low-sodium food and lower sugar cereals are preferred. Food should not be more than a year old. Food can be dropped off at church for delivery to CEA. There is a basket in the sanctuary.



From Rev Bev's Garden!

October Birthdays

01 – Debra Paton
05 – Alex Garner
16 – Kristin Thomas

02 – Dee Luco
11 – Kenneth Briers
19 – Lavina Pfefferkorn

03 – Tim Schatz
13 – Libby Walter
23 – Hayley Schreiner



Upcoming Events

Global Café Bible Study – resumes this Fall

Committee Inputs for the 2019 Budget – were due October 1 to the Financial Resources committee. If interested in being a financial officer in 2019, please contact Larry Dunham.

Annual Fall Meeting of the Chesapeake Association – Saturday, October 6, 10:30 until 3:00, registration begins at 10am. Zion UCC Perry Hall.

Financial Resources Committee – will meet after church on Sunday, October 7 to begin the 2019 budget process

CROP Walk – Sunday, October 7 at St. John UCC/Grace Church. Registration at 1:15, Walk begins at 2:00. 5K or 1K www.crophungerwalk.org/catonsvillemd

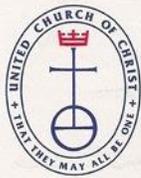
Consistory – October 21

Budget Forum – October 28

Annual Yard Sale – Saturday, November 3 – Fall is here. Start gathering your donations!

Consistory – November 11

Special Meeting of the CAC – Saturday, November 17 – more details to come



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Catonsville, MD 21228-4231

Lectionary Readings

(Day-Date; First Reading; Psalm; Second Reading; Gospel)

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 7, 2018

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – October 14, 2018

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – October 21, 2018

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost – October 28, 2018

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOME-BOUND MEMBERS:

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Joyce Stanton, continuing chemotherapy; Jill, Bell's Palsy.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Bryan Holley's brother; Rev. Maeba Jonas' mother, Susan, cancer recurrence and chemotherapy; Sue and Steve DiPaula's extended family; Central Atlantic Conference; residents and staff of Earl's Place; Kim Turner, treatment for brain cancer.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Baltimore gun violence; local flood victims; Dreamers facing uncertain futures and all undocumented residents; refugee families in Baltimore County; first responders in NC, SC, VA, and MD; hurricane Florence and recovery; safety of law enforcement and first responders.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

South Carolina police shooting victims; Indonesia; victims of sexual assault; California and western states wildfires; Reverend Michael Joseph and Peace Commission in Columbia; Reunification of immigrant and refugee kids with their families; Guatemala; Puerto Rico; teachers; Southern and Midwest storm and flood victims; Syria; all UCC disaster relief projects; prayers for our country; families fearful of deportation; all U.S. military deployed and stateside; refugees seeking safety and compassionate care; North and South Korea.