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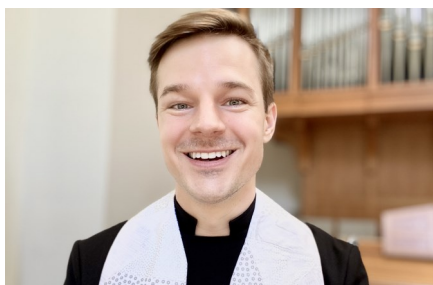
## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Pastor Billy Kluttz

Hello,

I am so proud to serve a church like Govans that actively engages with its community and neighbors. If you have a heart for connecting with the community and working alongside your neighbors, there are lots of ways for you to get involved here at Govans.

One of those ways is through our fast-growing Conversation Corps team. Each month, Conversation Corps members engage in one-on-one conversations with church and community members. The team then meets once a quarter to share what we are learning about our church and community's strengths and needs, and how we can better respond as a



congregation. If God is calling you to help with this important work, I hope you will send me an email or give me a call so that we can get you on this amazing team.

But Govans' Conversation Corps is hardly the only way we are making meaningful relationships with the Govans neighborhood and with one another. Govans' Racial Justice Ministry, choir and band, earth care ministry, youth and young families program, Soul Kitchen, community podcast, preschool outreach, and so much more are all doing the vital, communal work that Jesus calls us to do. However you're feeling called to be part of that work, I hope that you

...continued on p. 3

## Govans Celebrates Juneteenth

Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, & Emancipation Day – Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

Join us for an afternoon of song and spoken word as Keith Snipes leads us on a journey celebrating the long road to freedom, connecting historical & contemporary realities in American life. Live on Zoom.

### JUNETEENTH

**Saturday,  
June 19,  
2021**  
2pm EST

With  
**Keith  
Snipes**

# Church Calendar

## June

2 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 2 - Personnel Committee, 6pm  
 2 - Earth Care Committee, 7pm  
 6 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 6 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 9 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 12 - Youth Canoe and Scoop Day, 9am-noon  
 13 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 13 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup (Youth and Young Families Night), 4:30pm  
 14 - Finance Committee, 7pm  
 15- Session Meeting, 6:30pm  
 16 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 19 - Juneteenth Celebration, 2pm  
 20 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 20 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 21 - Facilities Committee, 6:30  
 23 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 27 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 27 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 30 - Online Bible Study, noon

## July

4 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 4 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 7 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 7 - Personnel Committee, 7pm  
 11 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 11 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 12 - Finance Committee, 7pm  
 14 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 18 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 18 - Youth and Young Families Trash Pickup, 3:30 pm  
 18 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 19 - Facilities Committee, 6:30pm  
 20 - Session Meeting, 6:30pm  
 21 - Online Bible Study, noon  
 25 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10am  
 25 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30pm  
 28 - Online Bible Study, noon

## Returning to In-Person Worship:

We are now taking reservations for members and friends to attend in person worship on Sunday morning. For now, we allow a maximum of 15 people. Beginning Sunday, June 13th a total of 20 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during Sunday worship. Beginning Sunday, July 11th a total of 30 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary during Sunday worship.

To sign up for an open spot, call (410-435-9188) or email Andy Wilson ([wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org)) in the Church Office. He will need the following information:

1. Your name.
2. Your phone number and/or email address
3. The Sundays you would like to attend in-person between now and June 6th.

On Friday of each week, Andy will notify you by email or phone if you will be able to attend in-person that week. Please note: You will not have a reservation until Andy confirms it with you on

## Pastoral Ponderings, continued from cover page.

will take the opportunity this summer to try something new or recommit to a beloved ministry in new ways. If you're not sure which ministry is right for you, or have an idea for a new ministry that you would like to start, give me an email or a call and I'll be happy to help you discern and connect with the right leaders in our congregation.

This newsletter issue is a joint summer issue for the months of both June and July. Accordingly, don't miss opportunities for you to be in ministry and grow as a disciple of Jesus over the next two months. We'll look forward to sending new updates in August's edition.

Last month, we celebrated the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As we continue to celebrate the Spirit's presence among us (and leading us to go beyond the walls of our congregation to be with our neighbors), I leave you with these wise (and humorous) words from Anne Lamott's book, Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith: "We see the Spirit made visible when people are kind to one another, especially when it's a really busy person like you, taking care of a needy, annoying, neurotic person, like you." May it be so for all of us.

Peace,  
Pastor Billy

### Church Staff

**Rev. Tom Harris**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Billy Kluttz**, Associate Pastor  
**Lea Gilmore**,  
Minister for Racial Justice & Music  
Director, 1st Service  
**Mary Hamlin-Spencer**  
Music Director, 2nd Service  
**Rev. Jenny Williams**  
Ministry Associate for  
Congregational Care  
**Pam Wallace**, Office Manager  
**Andy Wilson**, Administrative Asst.  
**Sylvia Usher**  
Sexton  
**Pam Ferguson**,  
Director of Preschool  
**Gwen Lloyd**, Program Director,  
Senior Network  
**Govans Presbyterian Church**  
5828 York Road Baltimore, Maryland  
21212  
410-435-9188  
[www.govanspres.org](http://www.govanspres.org)

### Youth and Young Families Events:

- Saturday, June 12: Canoe and Scoop Day with Young Families 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (must RSVP beforehand)
- Sunday, June 13: Youth and Young Families at Soul Kitchen (must RSVP beforehand) - 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- Friday, June 25: Youth Group at 6:15 pm outside at church
- Sunday, July 18: Young Families Trash Pick Up Day @ Govans - 3:30-4:30 pm
- Monday, August 2 to Friday, August 6 - Day Camp at Woodberry Crossing
- Sunday, August 15: Youth and Young Families at Soul Kitchen (must RSVP beforehand) - 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm



*The deadline for submissions  
for the August 2021  
newsletter is July 15, 2021.  
Please send to Andy Wilson  
([wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org)) or  
call the church office.*



Follow Govans on

Instagram

@govanschurch



## JUNE MISSION OFFERING: ST. ANDREW'S REFUGEE SERVICES

2020 was an incredibly challenging year for St. Andrew's and the StARS ministry. As for many all over the globe, COVID 19 has impacted us here in Egypt in countless ways. Last March, due to the pandemic and the uncertainties around things such as emergency medical care, my husband Steve and I were evacuated by the ELCA to the USA. After many months away we were finally granted permission to return in early September. Despite being far from congregation members and the church, I was able to support the congregation and ministries like many pastors found themselves doing--through Zoom and a daily newsletter. We worshipped together every week on You Tube and gathered in Zoom coffee hours. Like most congregations we "pivoted" in ways that were unexpected, and yet somehow this time has managed to bring us closer together as well.

Our six refugee led partner congregations faced many difficult challenges this past year as well. To stem the tide of COVID infections, for seven months churches and mosques across Egypt were closed per order of the Egyptian Government. Without a safe place to worship, several of our partner congregations took to small gatherings in homes or



COVID infection continues to be significant in many of the congregations with high numbers of individuals ill, but lacking access to medical care or the ability to get tested. Last summer the English-speaking congregation gathered emergency funds to share with

pastors who saw their small salaries drying up due to the absence of tithes and community members unable to pay rent. This year since February our congregations have been meeting in person in a smaller capacity and with limited schedules. We continue to walk alongside as many people as we can in these days as we are experiencing what is being called a "third wave" of COVID here in Egypt.



Pastor Christie Manisto & her husband, Steve



Children at StARS

finding outdoor spaces to gather off site. Due to restrictions, these gatherings were not safe and so most church members simply stayed home. Some of the churches utilized Facebook and other electronic means of sharing in worship but, as the Pastors shared with me over the summer, access to internet was (and remains to be) a challenge for most congregation members.

The StARS Ministry has been nothing short of amazing this past year facing the challenges that COVID brought. As director Chris Eades recently wrote in his letter for the StARS annual report:

*"In common with many others, we did not see the pandemic coming, but StARS quickly realized that it would be crucial for us to remain open, to offset the service closures of UNHCR and international organizations so that we could continue to respond in-person to emergency need, and to raise and reallocate resources to cash grants and other forms of direct assistance so that we could soften some of the harshest impacts on displaced people. In these two goals we have been successful but we must acknowledge that we have been unable to prevent the widespread proliferation of extreme poverty, suffering, and desperation among displaced communities in Egypt. Only with systemic change, the recognition of refugee and migrant rights, and a reduction in conflict and inequality can be hope to*

...continued on next page.



## ChurchWorks:

Govans Session met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 for their regular meeting. We reviewed the quarterly financial reports with Pam Wallace and approved a proposal to repair the window alcove plaster, masonry, and flashing in the front of the sanctuary.

We also approved the continuation of a single worship service through Easter of 2022. Technological and COVID-19 concerns led us to continue with a single worship service as we have thus far during the pandemic. We will continue to enjoy the talented musical leadership of Mary Hamlin-Spencer and Lea Gilmore, the Govans quartet and choir, and the Govans band in Sunday services with an equal representation and continued diversity of musical styles. We will revisit the desirability of a single service after Easter of next year.

We also approved increasing the maximum number of worship participants in the sanctuary to fifteen beginning this Sunday. The previously approved COVID-19 guidelines will allow for twenty worship participants in the sanctuary on June 13. Please contact the church office to request an in-person spot for an upcoming service.

Finally, we approved the examination of McKenna Traynham for ordination as a ruling elder. She will be ordained on Sunday, June 6, 2021.

If you have questions about any of these items or would like to discuss any area of the church's ministry, please speak with a member of the session, or Pastor Billy.

## CHURCH WORKS

News from the Session

### June Mission Offering - StARS- continued from previous page

*fundamentally alter the situation of the displaced. More now than ever, it is essential that StARS offers immediate and effective responses that improve lives, while working for long-term change, human rights, and the transfer of power and leadership to the displaced."*

StARS has been heroic in their efforts to continue to provide emergency food, housing, cash grants, legal and education support as well as psycho-social support and a sense of welcome even amidst this time of pandemic. They have been, and continue to be a major source of assistance including acting as a distribution hub for emergency food and hygiene boxes and a continued advocate for refugees in Egypt. Their staff has literally put their bodies on the front line during this crisis to make sure access to services never stops. As a church and community, we applaud and support them in their amazing work.



Children eating lunch at StARS

Overall, the staff and community members of St. Andrews and StARS continue to weather this time with resilience and strength, and I am personally inspired each day by all who enter our gates. We are so grateful for the prayers and support of congregations like Govans, longstanding partners in ministry who have faithfully provided care, support, and prayers. Please know that we are praying for your church and ministry as well. If you have any questions or would like to

know more about what has been happening do not hesitate to reach out to us. Pastor Christie would also be happy to "visit" you via zoom or through a recorded message if that is something that you would like.

In peace, Pastor Christie Manisto St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo/StARS.

**\*\*All donations marked Mission Offering during the month of June will be donated to StARS\*\***

## WHAT'S GOING ON @ GOVANS?

WOODBERRY CROSSING &  
GOVANS, KNOX, &  
ROLAND PARK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

### *Best Birds Ever Summer Day Camp*

Enjoy farm animals, hiking,  
swimming, crafts, stories, and  
more at our summer day camp.

*August 2 to 6  
10:00 am to 2:30 pm daily  
Woodberry Crossing  
925 Stablersville Road  
Parkton, Maryland*

There is no cost to attend, but registration is  
limited. Email [billy@govanspres.org](mailto:billy@govanspres.org) to learn  
more and register.

## GOVANS

### YOUNG FAMILIES LITTER CLEAN-UP DAYS

SUNDAYS - 3:30 TO 4:30 PM  
MAY 23, JULY 18, &  
SEPTEMBER 5

FAMILIES WITH KIDS 1 TO 18 ARE  
WELCOME. FACE MASKS REQUIRED.  
EMAIL [BILLY@GOVANSPRES.ORG](mailto:billy@govanspres.org)  
FOR MORE INFO.

**GOVANS**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Want to join the...

### Labryinth Weeding Team

Contact Jane Wilson  
([jane.ellen.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:jane.ellen.wilson@gmail.com))  
for more info. Work will start  
in the next few weeks.

## Govans 101

Every First Sunday  
Following Worship

Whether you are interested in becoming a  
member, getting more involved, or just learning  
more about the church, you're invited to a  
monthly conversation hosted by Govans'  
pastors. We'll talk about our ministries, what it  
means to be Presbyterian, our governance and  
theology, and, most importantly, how you can  
be a part of it all.

Questions? Email [tom@govanspres.org](mailto:tom@govanspres.org) or  
[billy@govanspres.org](mailto:billy@govanspres.org).

## BELIEVE IN BALTIMORE PODCAST

### Believe in Baltimore Finishes Season One with Conversations about Addiction and Literacy

This month, Govans community-based podcast, Believe in Baltimore, finishes its first season! In episode seven, we welcome **Precious Frailing of Glenwood Life Counseling Center** to share about addiction and recovery and their work in our neighborhood. Together, we discuss the story of Queen Vashti and its connection to modern stories of recovery. In episode eight, **Tony Wheatley of TGQ Cutz** shares about his work as a barber, mentor, and literacy promoter in our neighborhood; we had lots of fun reading the story of Sampson and Delilah from a barber's perspective!



Find those episodes and all of season one on the podcast website, [anchor.fm/believeinbaltimore](https://anchor.fm/believeinbaltimore).



**Drop off  
shoe  
donations at  
the church  
office.**

**May 13-June 18  
Monday-Friday  
9am-5pm**



**Baltimore Safe Haven**

**Govans  
Conversation  
Corps**

We're connecting the congregation and community through monthly one-on-one conversations. To learn more (and sign-up to be a conversation convener), email [billy@govanspres.org](mailto:billy@govanspres.org).



## JULY MISSION OFFERING: SENIOR NETWORK OF NORTH BALTIMORE

The Senior Network of North Baltimore (SNNB) is a non-profit senior center located in a building attached to Govans. SNNB has been a part of the north Baltimore community for many years, and works in partnership with Govans. The center engages more than 500 older adults annually.

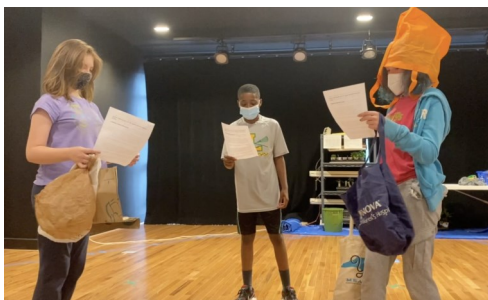


*SNNB Director, Gwen Lloyd*

A program of GEDCO, the center has a long history of serving seniors in the Baltimore area. Referrals to outside resources always are available at the network, especially for legal services, housing, in-home care, food pantries, financial assistance, eldercare locators, health agencies, and transportation. The diversity of our center is evident in the activities we provide; there is something for everyone. Programs are enhanced by our partnerships with other organizations including Johns Hopkins Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, the AARP, the MTA, and the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks.



**\*\*All donations marked Mission Offering during the month of July will be donated to the SNNB\*\***



### Govans Youth Promote Plastic Bag Ban



The Baltimore City Plastic Bag Ban will go into effect on July 9, 2021. On July 9, all stores in Baltimore will be required to charge customers \$.05 per plastic bag used. To promote awareness of the bag ban and encourage our neighbors to use reusable bags instead of disposable bags, Govans youth have created two public service announcement videos highlighting the new policy and the importance of reusable bags. We will share the videos throughout the summer during Sunday morning worship.





# Summer Stories Sermon Series

the bible according to  
children's books  
sundays @ ten am  
may 16 - august 22  
facebook live



- **June 6** *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love - Genesis 37: 1-11 - Billy Kluttz
- **June 13** *I Am Perfectly Designed* by Karamo Brown - Psalm 139: 13-18 - Lea Gilmore
- **June 20** *God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu - Revelation 21:1-5 - Rev. Jody Morris
- **June 27** - *My Rainbow* by DeShanna Neal - Judges 13-16 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 4** "The Story of Ruth" from *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Desmond Tutu - Ruth 1-4 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 11** *Be Kind* by Pat Miller - Ephesians 4: 31-32a - Elder Carolyn Anewich
- **July 18** "God Saves Daniel" from *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Desmond Tutu - Daniel 6 - Billy Kluttz
- **July 25** TBA - Lea Gilmore preaching
- **August 1** *Drawn Together* by Minh Le and Dan Santat - Genesis 11:1 - Rev. David Harris
- **August 8** *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor, Too* by Jennifer Grant - Mark 12:28-34 - Wendy Smith
- **August 15** - *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld - James 1:17-21 - Billy Kluttz
- **August 22** *Thank You, Omu!* By Oge Mora - James 2:14-17 - Adam Allen



## YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 2, 2021



Pastor Billy and Kaylyn in the Sanctuary



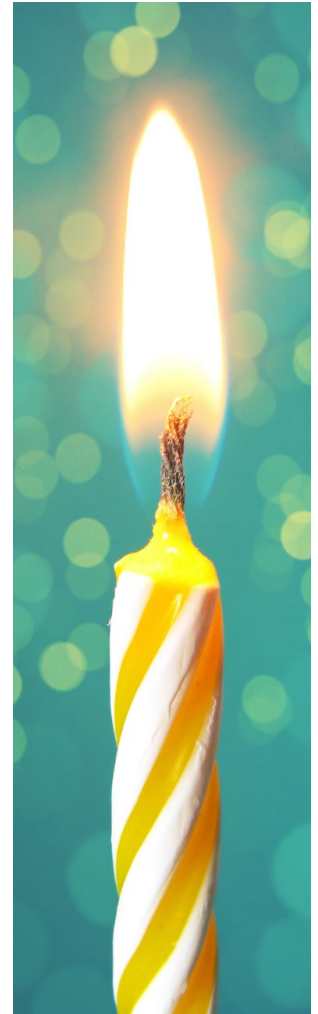
Govans Youth Group painting the banner for Youth Sunday

## June Birthdays

2 - Laura Kittel  
2 - Beth Goldsby-Allen  
3 - Joan Riffert  
4 - Oscar Harris  
5 - Joe Gover  
5 - Gavin Green  
6 - Henry Peck  
9 - John Sutherland  
10 - Carl Brown  
12 - Becky Dunlop  
15 - Rowan Clay-Robison  
17 - Edith Sziburies  
18 - Billy Kluttz  
21 - Sita Smith  
23 - Kenneth Greene  
23 - Nicholas Bellamy-Mills  
23 - Frederick Dombrowski  
24 - Leslie Grant  
24 - Coleman and Lucas Bryant  
26 - Kaye Gooch  
28 - Bonnie Lewis  
29 - Kai Gibbons

## July Birthdays

1 - Deb Dalton  
1 - Sheelagh Allston  
3 - John Morrel  
8 - Jay Forbes  
9 - Linda Bluth  
11 - Marylouise Bowman  
13 - Megan Miller  
14 - Amy Hardin  
15 - Ralph Kuncel  
15 - Cyntice Bellamy  
16 - Don Romano  
18 - Robert Stewart  
20 - Barbara Harris  
25 - Ken Lewis  
26 - Alex Short  
26 - Charles Corson  
28 - Alice Read  
30 - Ellie MacDougall  
30 - Emma Dudley  
31 - Doug Storey  
31 - Ben Hobbs



# Wednesday Online Bible Study

12:00 noon on Zoom  
with Knox and Govans Presbyterian Churches

ZOOM LINK WILL BE IN THE WEEKLY EMAIL - SUBSCRIBE AT [WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG](http://WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG)



## SUPPORTING GOVANS THROUGH TAX-ADVANTAGED GIVING

Good news for Senior Citizens! If you are at least 72 years old and must make a Required Minimum Distribution from your tax-deferred IRA accounts, you may be able to take advantage of another provision of the Congressionally-approved SECURE Act. A Qualified Charitable Distribution is a direct transfer of assets from an IRA to Govans, which can provide you with additional benefits.

First, if made properly the amount will be treated as a reduction of your Required Minimum Distribution, up to total contributions in a year of \$100,000. The effect would be to reduce your ordinary income, which could decrease income taxes. It could also reduce income-based surcharges on such things as Medicare Parts B and D.

Second, if you use the standard deduction to calculate your taxes, and are unable to itemize charitable contributions, using Qualified Charitable Distributions can give you the ability to get some benefit from such contributions. For example, it is a great way to cover your annual pledge to Govans.

Other options to contribute to Govans continue to include legacy gifts from your estate or trust. Of course, you may make regular cash donations, or of appreciated securities. Often these are matched by employers, so please check that possibility. There may be different, but significant, tax advantages to these methods. This may seem complicated, and, admittedly, these paragraphs do not provide everything you need to know. Therefore, it is important to consult your tax advisor, financial consultant or IRA custodian for complete details about making a Qualified

Charitable Distribution transfer.

You may also contact Govans Finance Committee member Fred Gaede with general questions, although it must be noted that neither Fred nor any member of the Committee is qualified to provide professional advice. You can reach Fred at 410-252-6595, or by email [fgaede@comcast.net](mailto:fgaede@comcast.net)



The Govans Finance Committee thanks you for your attention!

P.S. Your tax advisor or IRA custodian will want to know that Govans Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS Group Ruling No. 1617.





5828 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
410-435-9188  
[www.govanspres.org](http://www.govanspres.org)

*"Govans Presbyterian Church is a theologically progressive community  
empowering people to make the world better."*

**Govans Presybyterian Church  
*celebrates***

**JUNETEENTH**

**Saturday, June 19, 2021**

**2pm EST**

*With*

**Keith Snipes**

5828 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212

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Join us for an afternoon of song and spoken word as Keith Snipes leads us on a journey celebrating the long road to freedom, connecting historical and contemporary realities in American life.

Please email Lea Gilmore for the Zoom link and/or more information: [lea@govanspres.org](mailto:lea@govanspres.org)