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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

Very soon you will be receiving the 2022 Stewardship Mailing. It will include:

- A 2022 Financial Pledge Card
- A 2022 Volunteer Pledge Card
- A reminder of the pledge you made for 2021
- A letter describing the past year and looking forward to the next
- A picture page showing some of the great ministry we have done this year.

Please take time to read through the material carefully and prayerfully reflecting on how you are being called to support our ministry in 2022. We will have a Commitment Sunday on



October 31, but you are encouraged to complete and return your pledge cards as soon as possible.

As we look forward to 2022, we continue to focus our attention on ministry to youth and young families,

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NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINNING OCTOBER 10!

Worship at
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Join us in-person or on Zoom or Facebook Live.

There will be a combined worship service on the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Options will take place between the services or after the combined service on the first Sundays.



October Calendar

3 - Online and In-Person Worship, 10:00 a.m.
3 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
4 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
5 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
6 - Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.
8 - Church Book Club, 10:00 a.m.
10 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
10 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
11 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
11 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
12 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
16 - The Color of Food Discussion, 2:00 p.m.
17 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
17 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
18 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
18 - Facilities Committee, 6:30 p.m.
19 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
19 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
23 - The Color of Food Discussion, 2:00 p.m.
24 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
24 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.
25 - Music Monday, 7:00 p.m.
26 - Racial Justice Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
29 - Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
30 - The Color of Food Discussion, 2:00 p.m.
30 - Trunk or Treat, 3:30 p.m.
31 - Online and In-Person Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
31 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30 p.m.

October Birthdays

1 - Circe Trevant
3 - Christine Isteero
4 - Katherine Stanka
4 - Marc Ceanfaglione
5 - Charles Forbes
5 - Adam Allen
6 - Dani Herfel
10 - Ayden Allston
11 - Xavier Fuller
11 - Lynn Featherston
14 - Evelyn Koehler
14 - Susan Andrews
15 - Karen Ceanfaglione
15 - Richard Ketner
15 - Edie Bryant
24 - Claire Wilson
26 - Thomas Moore
28 - Heather Bruce



Sunday School for Kids & Youth

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
ON THE PLAYGROUND



Believe in Baltimore Updates:

This month, Govans' community podcast, Believe in Baltimore, returns for its second season. Here's what to listen for in October:

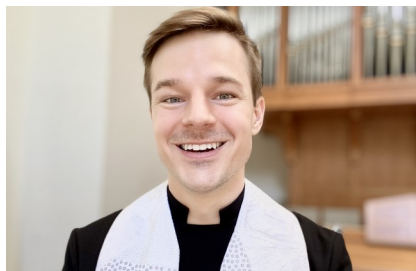
- **Episode One: Bernarda Kwaw and Victoria Jennings** - Govans Elementary School Principal and Vice Principal discuss teaching during the pandemic and how we can all support local learners and educators. Lea Gilmore and Pastor Billy host this conversation.
- **Episode Two: Govans Racial Justice Ministry** - Pastors Tom and Billy discuss the work of Govans' Racial Justice Ministry with some of the ministry leaders, Lea Gilmore, Keith Snipes, and Julie McDill.
- **Episode Three: Joyce J. Scott** - Lea Gilmore and Pastor Billy discuss art, activism, and beauty with renowned Baltimore artist, Joyce J. Scott.

For all of this season's episodes, as well as season one, visit www.govanspres.org/podcasts. Please rate and review the podcast to help us reach new listeners. Email billy@govanspres.org if you have ideas for an upcoming podcast.

Letter from Pastor Billy

Hello Govans,

I have loved seeing more of you in person this fall. I am also loving the opportunity to cheer and clap for our amazing Govans youth as they play games and perform (don't forget to email me with game and performance dates for your family). I



am grateful for the return of Sunday school and youth group. I am excited for the new ways our Conversation Corps is engaging the community. I cannot believe that it is already time for me to start writing this year's Christmas pageant (more on that next month).

This month, we'll have our October youth group for youth grades 3-12 on Friday, October 29 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the church and then we'll have our all-church Trunk or Treat celebration for our community on Saturday, October 30 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Please plan to decorate your trunk and hand out treats! We need lots of trunks!

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Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Sunday, October 3- Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground at 11:05 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 5 - Breakfast to Go for Parents in the Parking Lot - 7:30 am to 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, October 10- Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground at 10:05 a.m.
- October Youth Servant Leader Council Meeting - Date TBD
- Sunday, October 17- Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground at 10:05 a.m.
- Sunday, October 17- Young Families Night at Soul Kitchen
- Tuesday, October 19 - Preschool Chapel Services with Pastor Billy
- Sunday, October 24- Intergenerational Sunday school on the playground at 10:05 a.m.
- Friday, October 29 - October Youth Group at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30 - Trunk or Treat at 3:30 p.m. (everyone is invited)

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Billy Klutz, 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



THE HERALD & BELLRINGER

The deadline for
submissions for the
November 2021
newsletter is October 20,
2021. Please send to
Andy Wilson
(wilson@govanspres.org)
or call the church office.

Call 410-220-4959
to hear our latest sermon



What's Going On @ Govans?

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Racial Justice Ministry

The Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America

Lawrence T. Brown, author
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
October 5–November 9, Live on Zoom
Email Andy Wilson (wilson@govanspres.org) to register and to purchase a copy of the book.
For further details, please contact Lea Gilmore, Minister for Racial Justice (lea@govanspres.org).

THE BLACK BUTTERFLY
THE HARMFUL POLITICS OF RACE AND SPACE IN AMERICA
LAWRENCE T. BROWN

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Knox Presbyterian Church

Online Bible Study

with Knox and Govans Presbyterian Churches
Wednesdays at 12:00 noon on Zoom
Everyone is welcome!

ZOOM LINK WILL BE IN THE WEEKLY EMAIL - SUBSCRIBE AT
WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Youth and Young Families

Family Hike at Oregon Ridge Park

Saturday, November 6
11:00 a.m.

We will hike the Loggers Trail (approx. 2 miles) at Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville starting at 11:00 a.m. We'll park and gather near the Nature Center to begin the hike. All families with children ages 1 to 18 are welcome. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Youth and Young Families

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 30
3:30 p.m. (in the church parking lot)

Go trick-or-treating in your favorite costume, play games, and vote in our best costume and trunk decoration contest. Face masks are required for all unvaccinated participants three years of age and older. Email Pastor Billy (billy@govanspres.org) for more information. Everyone is welcome!



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | MUSIC MONDAYS


October 4 - Govans Gospel Choir!

October 11 - Open Office Hours with Lea Gilmore

October 18 - Paul Creighton - Live from Scotland

October 25 - Bob Lucas

Every Monday in October at 7:00 p.m. All Events will take place on Zoom. Email lea@govanspres.org for more info.
www.govanspres.org



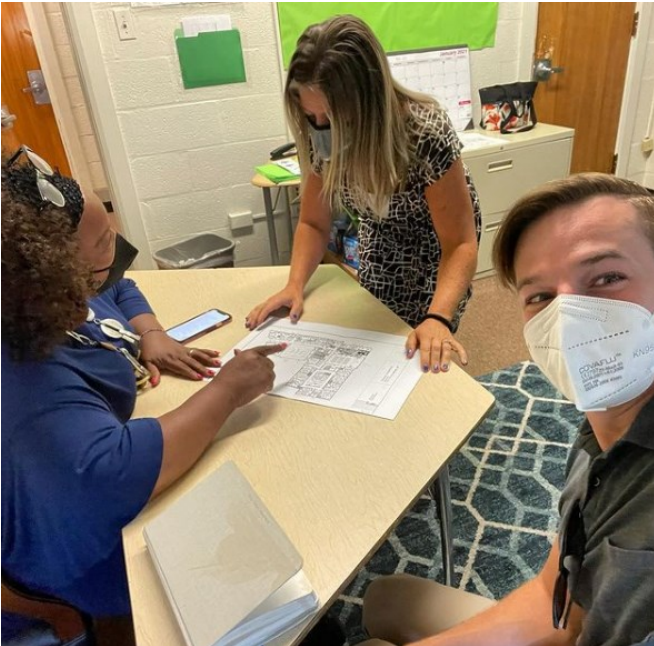
Intergenerational Mission Trip to Taizé and the World Council of Churches

Information Sessions
Sunday, October 3 - 3:00 pm to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 5 - 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m.

Govans is considering a possible intergenerational mission trip to visit the ecumenical Christian community in Taizé, France and The World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland from June 20-28, 2022 (those dates may shift slightly). If we have enough interest, Pastor Billy will lead this trip. He will lead two informational sessions for Govans members and friends to learn more, ask questions, and express their interest in traveling to Switzerland and France for classes on modern Christian mission and charity work, worship, spiritual direction, and relationship building with Christians from across the world. Both information sessions will take place online:

Govans members, families, and friends are welcome to attend. Members of all ages are welcome on the trip, but members ages 30 and below will receive priority for available spaces and scholarships. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.





Above, Lea Gilmore and Billy Kluttz discuss a community children's choir with Vice Principal Victoria Jennings of Govans Elementary School. The community choir for kids will begin on October 7.



Above, first choir practice of the fall! Email mary@govanspres.org if you'd like to learn more about joining the choir and singing at Govans!



Above, Govans young families played board games on the Peace Terrace on September 25.



Above, Bonnie Thomson and Sylvia Usher work to make sandbags for Strength to Love farm, located in Sandtown. Govans bagged one ton of sand! Thanks to everyone who came out to support our neighbors returning from incarceration.



Left, amazing fresh produce from Govans' garden that is going to feed hungry neighbors at the CARES Food Pantry.



Racial Justice
Ministry

"The Color of Food: Exploring American

Foodways through the Lens of Racial Justice" with Derrick Weston

Live on Zoom, Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. from October 16 until November 20. Email lea@govanspres.org for more info and to register for the Zoom link.

- **Week one – The Color of Food – Introduction, why we should use food "Apartheid" instead of "desert"** – Texts: Food and Faith Podcast, episode 1: Rev. Dr. Heber Brown III "The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience, and Farming" by Natasha Bowens <https://www.guernicamag.com/karen-washington-its-not-a-food-desert-its-food-apartheid/>
- **Week two – What we brought with us – how African food practices shaped America.**
Text: "The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African American Culinary history in the Old South" by Michael Twitty, "Taste The Nation, ep. 4: The Gullah Way" (Hulu Series)
- **Week Three – The Great Migration- Bringing the rural south to the urban north**
Text: "The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food" by Marcus Samuelsson, "The Warmth of Other Sons: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson, "Our Harlem: Seven Days of Cooking Music and Soul at the Red Rooster" by Marcus Samuelsson (Audible exclusive series)
- **Week Four – Junk: malnutrition and environmental racism –**
Texts: "The Devasting Consequences of Unequal Food Access" by Lyndsey Hayes-Maslow in Union of Concerned Scientists Journal, Food and Faith Podcast, ep. 50: Michael Malcolm
- **Week Five – Disconnected: losing land and connection to nature**
Texts: "Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship to African and Americans to the Great Outdoors" by Carolyn Finney
- **Week Six – Edible Activism: Food justice is racial justice**
Texts: TED talk: Ron Finley, A Guerrilla Gardener in South Central L.A., "Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land" by Leah Penniman



Derrick Weston

Derrick Weston has spent the last two decades working in churches and community-based nonprofits in Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Oregon, and now Maryland. He manages the Rockrose community farm on the city's east end. Derrick received his Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, a certification in health ministry from Wesley Theological seminary and was a part of the Re:Generate Fellowship on food, faith, and ecology through Wake Forest University. Derrick is the co-host of the Food and Faith Podcast and the producer of the short documentary "A Wilderness Like Eden: Stories of Food and Faith" releasing in the summer of 2021. He and his wife Shannon have four children and live outside of Baltimore.

Support 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

-The Govans Finance Committee

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.

ChurchWorks

The Session met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

We approved a motion from the Racial Justice Working Group that Govans become a Matthew 25 Church. The Matthew 25 Program is an initiative of our national denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), inviting churches to pledge to values inspired by Jesus' teaching "Whatever you did to the least of these you did to me." In becoming a Matthew 25 Church we pledged to support the following activities:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

In other business, we reviewed the results of the congregational survey of people's plans for worship in the fall. A few observations were noted:

- People are still being cautious about COVID-19, with particular concern about the Delta variant. It appears this will limit in-person worship attendance for some time.
- Many families with young children are being particularly cautious and will likely stay home until they feel safer.
- Many people highly value the online worship broadcast both as a way to worship safely and for a variety of other reasons.
- There is also a significant group of people enthusiastic about attending in-person worship. The large majority of this group will be attending the second service. In-person attendance at the First Service is likely to be very low as younger families remain cautious.
- We will have enough volunteers to cover both services starting October 10, though we are still in need of a First Service Usher Coordinator.



Related to Sunday support needs, we approved a paid Camera/Video Operator position for four hours per week. This position will eventually take over cyber usher duties which were going to be difficult to fill by volunteers when moving to two services. Youth are welcome to apply.

Also related to worship we spent some time discussing next steps related to the retirement of Mary Hamlin-Spencer. A search for an Interim Second Service Music Director is already underway and we hope to have someone in place before Mary's last Sunday on October 17th. Having an Interim will allow us time to think carefully about next steps.

Pastor Tom and Pastor Billy presented a proposal to hire a Music and Worship Consultant to lead the congregation in a comprehensive discernment period related to our Music and Worship program. What are the values that inform our music and worship? What is our theology of music and worship? How do we nurture congregational unity through music and worship? How do we create music and worship that inspires our diverse membership and attracts our diverse neighbors? The proposal to hire a consultant was referred to the Music and Worship Committee for further discussion and there will be a congregational discussion at an upcoming Adult Options.

Finally, we approved a proposal from Pastor Billy to lead a youth and young adult focused trip to the Taizé Community in France and to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting trip.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me, Pastor Tom, Pastor Billy, Lea Gilmore, or any member of the Session.

Second Service Music News:

This month, we will celebrate the service of Kathy Fleming and Mary Hamlin-Spencer as Alto Section Leader and Second Service Music Director, respectively. Kathy will move to a new congregation in October and Mary will take a well-deserved retirement. They will lead worship for the final time at Govans during the second service on Sunday, October 17 at 11:00 am. We are grateful for their many gifts and leadership of the second service worship programs throughout many years and, especially, during the pandemic.

We are also happy to share that we will welcome two new section leaders this month. David Breen will serve as our new Bass Section Leader and Nerissa Paglinauan will be our new Alto Section Leader. Please welcome them both to Govans online and in-person in the coming weeks!



Govans Handbell Choir at a recent rehearsal. From left: Jon Christmann, Eleanor Schwartz, Mary Hamlin-Spencer, Karen Ceanfaglione, Linda Bluth, Maria Wong, Kathy Fleming, Jen Parks, Jenny Hoffman, and Marc Ceanfaglione.

The following is a note from Kathy:

Friends, I so appreciate your warmth and kindness, your creativity and intellect, your openness to explore all the wonderful variety of types of music and instruments that are available for us to use to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” Don’t ever lose those qualities; they make you you. Each of you have a very special place in my heart.

It’s hard to say what I will miss most, but it’s likely the amateur musicians that have bravely stepped out of their comfort zones for our virtual choir recording adventures or to do a piece during church services with me. Fear not! Perfection can be the enemy of good; we lay our gifts in music at the Lord’s feet.

I will miss you all more than I can say.

-Kathy

October Mission Offering:

Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God’s mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. Through the offering congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

All donations marked “Mission Offering” during the month of October will be given to the Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness Offering.



Pastoral Ponderings...continued from page 1

racial justice ministry, and community engagement, as well as meaningful, engaging worship, mission, and care for one another.

In 2021, we stepped out in faith to hire Rev. Billy Kluttz as our full-time Pastor for Church Growth and Member Engagement and Lea Gilmore as our half-time Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement. It is called the “Just Such a Time as This” Initiative and it has been a financial stretch for our congregation. Many of you made special single or multi-year pledges to support this work and we are grateful for everyone’s support. The amount of ministry accomplished in this first year has been amazing:

- A large Racial Justice Working Group with three active subcommittees
- Continual Racial Justice Book Studies
- A Racial Justice Speaker Series
- The beginnings of a Community Gospel Choir
- The beginnings of a children’s choir at Govans Elementary
- An active youth group
- An active Youth Servant Leader Program
- Regular and engaging podcast episodes (now in Season 2) with local community leaders
- A brand new website
- A Conversation Corps training members to have one-on-one conversations with people in the community
- Regular outreach to the Preschool
- And much more

Looking forward to 2022, our goal is to grow and expand these ministries, to build on the foundations established in this first year.

In addition to space to indicate your regular annual pledge, the pledge cards will have space to indicate your continued and needed support for these vital new and expanding efforts.

I hope you are as excited about the future at Govans as I am. We are doing important, meaningful, and energizing work together. I am grateful for this church and looking forward to all we can do together in 2022.

Peace,

SOUL KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Volunteers are needed every Sunday to help prepare, serve, and clean-up at Soul Kitchen, our free community take-out meal. Help is needed from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the time. Contact Carolyn Anewich (carolynsnecklaces@gmail.com) if you have any questions. You can sign-up to volunteer by going to the Soul Kitchen page on the Govans website: www.govanspres.org/events/soul-kitchen. Thanks!



Letter from Pastor Billy...cont. from page 3

This month also marks an exciting new community engagement program for Govans, our children's choir at Govans Elementary School. Lea Gilmore and I are launching this choir for children at Govans Elementary and it is the perfect example of our new community engagement model at work. Through one on ones with Govans Elementary School's principal and vice principal, I learned of their need with tech support and I volunteered with the school last summer. Through that relationship, we invited the principal and vice principal onto the podcast. And, during that podcast conversation, the school's need for music instruction and our ability to meet that need was recognized. Now, we have an opportunity to build even closer relationships with our neighbors through this choir. God is at work through you in our neighborhood! (And if that example inspired you, email me about joining our Conversation Corps!)



As the busyness of fall returns, I hope that you're finding time to be present to your body, your feelings, and those around you; I hope that you're giving thanks for things big and small; and I hope that you're noticing God's persistent presence in our midst. Toward that aim, I'll leave you with Mary Oliver's beautiful poem, *Making the House Ready for the Lord*:

*dear lord, i have swept and i have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice — it is the season of their
many children. what shall i do? and under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall i do? and
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall i do? beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. and still i believe you will
come, lord: you will, when i speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-geese, know
that really i am speaking to you whenever i say,
as i do all morning and afternoon: come in, come in.*



Peace,
Pastor Billy

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Baltimore, MD 21212
410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

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



**Racial Justice
Ministry**



The Color of Food

Exploring American Foodways through the Lens of Racial Justice with Derrick Weston

**Live on Zoom
Weekly on Saturdays
October 16 through November 20
2:00 p.m.**

**Email Lea Gilmore
(lea@govanspres.org) for more info and
to register.**