



What's Inside?

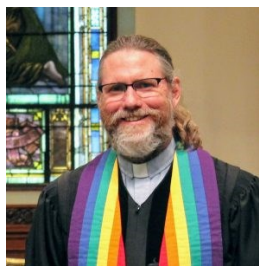
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Govans to Present Juneteenth concert featuring BSO Members

Join us for a joyous concert celebrating African-American music. Govans Presbyterian's First Service music program and the Racial Justice Ministry will be presenting a Juneteenth musical community celebration - *"Juneteenth Jubilee."* on **Monday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.** This event is being organized by Jonathan Jensen, bassist for the award winning Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Lea Gilmore, First Service Music Director and Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement. This multi-genre concert (classical, jazz, blues, gospel, spirituals, ragtime, folk, etc.) will feature music composed by or for African-American musicians.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS



Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

Schadenfreude is the experience of rejoicing at another person's misfortune. We all experience it from time to time.

We especially feel it when someone has tried to put us down or show us up. When someone acts like they are more important than everybody else or they know more than everyone else we may feel schadenfreude when they prove themselves wrong. As I write this, the

headlines say that Fox News has been ordered to pay a kabillion dollars to Dominion Voting Systems for intentionally telling lies about the 2020 election and slandering Dominion in the process. I admit more than a little schadenfreude.

Maybe that is not a perfect example. Maybe there is a place for rejoicing when justice is down, when the scales of justice get pushed slightly more toward balance. I suppose when there is great injustice done by certain people, we will rejoice when justice is done. Those getting pulled down from

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May Calendar

3 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
6 - Community Farm Visioning Session, 9:00 a.m.
6 - Memorial Service for Linda Ketner, 2:00 p.m.
7 - Worship at Knox Presbyterian, 11:00 a.m.
7 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
10 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
14 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
14 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
16 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
17 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
21 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
21 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
24 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
28 - Worship, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
28 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
31 - Govans/Knox Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.

June Calendar

4 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
4 - Church Picnic, 11:30 a.m.
4 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
11 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
11 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
12 - Juneteenth Jubilee, 7:00 p.m.
18 - Youth Sunday at Worship, 10:30 a.m.
18 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.
20 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
25 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
25 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.

May Birthday

5 - Carol Frigo, Hailey Gaede
6 - Andy Wilson
7 - Elena Storey
9 - Rena Hoisington, Lee Seabolt
10 - Sam Fuller, Stephen Gaede
13 - Madison Gaede
16 - Patreena Parsons
17 - Chase Koehler
23 - Naomi Hairston
27 - Charley Burton
29 - Tom Harris
31 - Beth Bryant

June Birthdays

2 - Beth Goldsby-Allen, Laura Kittel
3 - Barbara Kemp, Joan Riffert
5 - Joe Gover, Gavin Green
6 - Henry Peck
10 - Carl Brown
12 - Becky Dunlop
15 - Rowan Clay-Robison
19 - Carol Hamilton, Sita Smith
23 - Nick Mills, Ken Greene
24 - Doug Stouffer, Leslie Grant
26 - Kaye Gooch, Jean Istero
28 - Bonnie Lewis
29 - Kai Gibbons

Thank you from Sylvia Usher following passing of Donna O'Laughlen

Dear Govans Family,

On January 23, 2023, my world, as I knew it, came crashing down. Little did I know there were so many angels around for me to lean on. Angels, your kind words, cards, and hugs of reassurance are still accompanying me. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. Thank you and may God continue to hold us in the palm of his hand.

Peace,
Sylvia

The Herald & Belringer



GOVANS TO VISIT HARRIET TUBMAN'S BIRTHPLACE & MUSEUM IN JUNE

The Racial Justice Ministry has planned a visit to Harriet Tubman's birthplace on the Eastern Shore **Saturday, June 17**, (rain date, June 24). We will leave in carpools at 9:30 a.m. from the Govans parking lot and travel to Church Creek, MD. and begin at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. We will enjoy our lunches (brought from home) in a park pavilion and tour the museum. From there we will visit Brodess Farm where Harriet was born into slavery and spent her earliest years.

Then, we will then make our way to Cambridge, Maryland where we will see the Harriet Tubman mural and visit the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center. After a stop for afternoon tea/coffee we will travel north to return home.

Harriet Tubman was a deeply religious woman who responded to a powerful divine call with powerful courage, commitment, and action. She served her God, her people, and her country tirelessly throughout her entire life. We have much to learn about her and from her.

Our visit will be a time to learn more and honor her on the land she walked – where she toiled, suffered, loved, prayed, and rejoiced. Let us know if you wish to join us: email Minister Lea Gilmore, lea@govanspres.org or call the church office, [410-435-9188](tel:410-435-9188).

Learn more at: www.harriettubmanmuseumcenter.org



Racial Justice
Ministry



Harriet Tubman (ca. 1820-1913)

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Pastor
Lea Gilmore,
Minister for Racial Justice &
Music Director, 1st Service
Marie Herrington
Music Director, 2nd Service
Rufus Ingram, Bookkeeper
Andy Wilson, Office Manager
Sylvia Usher, Sexton
Pam Ferguson,
Director of Preschool
Gwen Lloyd, Program Director,
Senior Network

Govans Presbyterian Church
5828 York Rd Baltimore, MD
21212 410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

**Submissions for the August/
September 2023 newsletter
are due by August 10.**

**Please send to Andy Wilson
at wilson@govanspres.org**



**GOVANS
RECERTIFIED AS
AN EARTH CARE
CONGREGATION:**

Through the efforts of the Earth Care Committee, Govans has been recertified as an **Earth Care Congregation** by the PC (USA). Through our efforts in our vegetable and fruit garden, our many Adult Options relating to the environment, and our many water and solar related facility improvements, we have been certified for the past five years. We welcome additional church members getting engaged with our Earth Care projects and programs. If you are interested please contact Jody Morris at jodyomorris@gmail.com or 717-713-9840.

WHAT'S GOING ON @ GOVANS?



SUMMER WORSHIP @GOVANS

10:30 a.m. Combined Worship
June 4 until September 3

*Note: This is separate from any decisions about the
worship schedule the rest of the year.*

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, June 4 following the
combined service

Join us June 4 after the combined service for our annual
Potluck Church Picnic under the trees in the front yard.
Bring a dish to share and enjoy spending time with the
church family. The combined service will include the
ordination and installation of our new Session members!
So you don't want to miss it.

GOVANS BOOK CLUB

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:00 am on the second Friday
of the month - Live on Zoom

Email Bobbie Cook for info.
(cookbobbie347@gmail.com)



Three Church YOUTH MIXER

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 7
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

ROLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
4801 ROLAND AVE
BALTIMORE, MD 21210



GOVANS APPLACHIAN TRAIL BACKPACKING TRIP



Join a group of intrepid Govans members and
friends as we backpack the Appalachian Trail
together. We will leave Thursday morning, June
22 and return Saturday afternoon/evening June
24. Two nights sleeping on the trail and 2-3 days
of backpacking. If you are interested but don't
have equipment, we may have some available
to loan. For more information contact with
Peter Conrad (pgreenlie@gmail.com).

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, June 18
10:30 a.m.
Worship Service

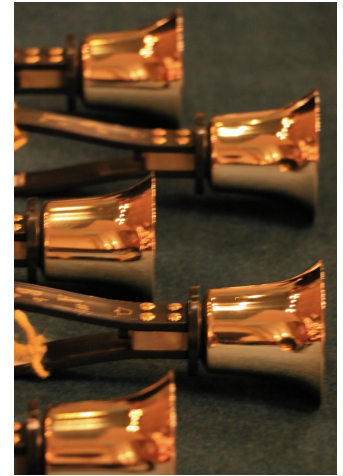
GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS

by Marie Herrington, Second Service Music Director

Sunday May 21 will be a day of is a joyous musical celebration of music; the Govans Handbell Choir will be presenting a glorious theme on the hymn tune *Hyfrydol*, which is in the celebration of Easter. There are seven Sundays in the Easter season, and with May 21 being the last of them, we are reigning in the joy of the season through this beautiful tune. We will also have the joy of hearing a beautiful handbell duet for eight bells, played by Maria Wong and Ashley Short. Did I say two people will be ringing eight bells? Yes, I did! Typically, ringers ring with one bell in a hand at a time, and if they have to ring more than two bells in any given piece of music, they have to put down a bell (or bells) and pick up the new bell(s) in just enough time to come in with the notes. Both Maria and Ashley will be playing a piece that requires two bells in each hand, known as “four in hand.”



This coming June, you get to look forward to the choir singing a very challenging piece in Russian. *Bogoroditse Devo*, or *Rejoice, Mother of God*, is a choral piece part of Rachmaninoff's Vespers “All-Night-Vigil.” Rachmaninoff composed this piece in 1915, after he had written another lengthy choral piece of similar vein, *Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*, which he was not satisfied with. The All Night Vigil is a rich piece of choral music history, and is considered one of the biggest choral masterpieces of the early 1900's. This movement of the piece is the most-performed movement out of the entire 15 movement piece. Join us on June 4 for this musical masterpiece!

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page



their thrones are going to necessarily experience some unpleasantness, as those who have been oppressed rejoice that the boot is off their neck.

Did you know there is an opposite feeling to *schadenfreude*? It is *freudenfreude*. As you might guess this is rejoicing at the good fortune of others. It is being happy at other people's happiness. It strikes me that to experience true *freudenfreude*, the joy others are feeling must be a joy that comes at no one else's expense. It must be a just joy.

Because if we experience joy when others are experiencing joy at some else's expense, isn't that ultimately a form of *schadenfreude*?

I believe one of the main purposes of being alive is to be happy and experience pleasure. That may seem shallow or hedonistic but only if the joy we seek is a selfish joy that disregards how our pursuit of happiness may do harm to others. But, if we can find joy, happiness and pleasure in a way that allows everyone else to experience joy, happiness, and pleasure then it seems like we are getting awfully close to the kin-dom of heaven. 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart agrees. He wrote, “To rejoice at another person's joy is like being in heaven.”

So let's watch out for unjust *schadenfreude* and cultivate a just *freudenfreude* as we continue on this journey together as followers of Christ.

Peace,
Tom

MAY MISSION OFFERING:

SOUL KITCHEN

Each and every Sunday, Soul Kitchen hands out bags consisting of two separate meals, each including a protein, veggie and starch. In addition, many weeks we also serve a dinner sized veggie stuffed green salad. We also give out eating utensils, something to drink and a baked dessert. All this is put into recyclable containers and handed out in a donated paper bag.



This past year we have continued our volunteer partnerships with Roland Park Presbyterian and Loyola Universities Center for Community, Service and Justice. (CCSJ). Volunteers from each come help us cook, pack meals, serve and clean up. It is an awesome opportunity to share in the fellowship of Soul Kitchen, and everyone is welcome to come and help us serve our community.

Soul Kitchen has also continued our partnership with the Rockrose Food Justice Project. During the growing season, they provide Soul Kitchen with fresh produce grown at their Urban Farm every week free of charge. We are delighted to be in continued partnership with them and Soul Kitchen supports their ongoing mission of Food Justice. Please find it within your heart to support Soul Kitchen with your Mission Offering this month. Thank you!!

****All donations marked “Mission Offering” will go support the work of Soul Kitchen****



JUNE MISSION OFFERING:

ST. ANDREW'S REFUGEE MINISTRY

St. Andrew's United Church is a very small church in downtown Cairo, but it is home to **St. Andrew's Refugee Ministry (StARS)** a huge refugee ministry. Jean Isteero, a member here at Govans, started an English and General Education program at St. Andrew's in 1986 and it has grown in all directions since then. Refugees feel safe to be on the St. Andrew's compound where they can sit and talk with their friends and attend worship and educational activities. St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo depends upon contributions from churches like ours to be able to continue its very valuable work. Below is a recent report from their pastor, Rev. Christie Manisto.

StARS continues to be busy during this time of economic challenge in Egypt. With the devaluation of the Egyptian pounds running at almost 50% against the USD and inflation at about 25%, stresses on the refugee population continue to be difficult. Ability to access accommodation, medical care and even food is constrained. StARS continues to provide a range of services, and is particularly looking at ways of alleviating the financial situation for refugees. We are currently distributing food and hygiene boxes and medical and educational grants through a number of different projects.

In the Education Department this year, 256 students enrolled in the Children's Education Program and 46 in preschool. Moreover, the Education Department partnered with four new Community Based Organisations (CBO) and provided them with teacher training for 111 teachers and as well as training school management training for 7 school leaders.

This year has been very busy for visitors. We have hosted a visit from the Resourcing Refugee Leadership initiative, the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and Secours Catholique so far this year and we are expecting a visit from the ELCA in March

In the coming month we are starting work on a new livelihoods project which will see women from female headed households taking training in upcycling (reusing old materials in new ways), and understanding climate change, as well as being supported to start new businesses.




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."*



JUNETEENTH JUBILEE

Join us for a joyous concert celebrating African-American music

Monday, June 12 @ 7pm

***featuring musicians from the Baltimore Symphony
Orchestra, Govans, and the community**


PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH