



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

**Proclaiming God's Word
Growing in faith and understanding**

Welcoming all

Extending comfort and grace

Working for justice and peace

Nurturing creation

Being generous stewards of God's gifts

Ministers - All Members

Pastor – Catherine Taylor

Interim Director of Music – Amy Cowan

Director of Children and Youth Ministries - Susan Hunter

Director of Communication and Church Life - Kendra Crabtree

Office Manager - Sherry Ingham

Custodian - Viola Howery

Interim Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Kathy Carpenter

Mission Co-worker in Guatemala – Leslie Vogel

Mission Co-workers in Bangladesh – (Our Mission Partners names cannot be listed in the bulletin as they are working in an area with terrorism and we do not want to risk their safety.)

Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Ruth Shakespeare

**BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“Those younger often look my way with pity. Yet this old body doesn’t mean I am dying, but rather, that I have lived.” ~ Emily Nelson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*The Prayers of the People are written by the congregation and read aloud as our corporate prayer. If you want to take part, write a one-sentence prayer on the cards provided.
No signatures, please. The cards will be collected during the second hymn.
Together we pray whatever is on our hearts.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catherine Taylor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. ... *(All are encouraged to sign the Friendship Pad in the pews. If you are a first-time visitor and leave an address, we can welcome you more fully.)*

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

GUSTAV HOLST

Judy McCord, handbells

arr. NANCY L. VANZANT

Phyllis Albritton-Webb

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise God from the heavens.

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let us praise the name of the Lord,

Whose name is exalted above earth and heaven.

Alleluia!

† HYMN No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

† PRAYER OF APPROACH

Gracious and loving God, with the angels, the shepherds and the wise men, we too sing praises to the new born King, ever marveling at the greatness of your love for us, a love prepared to take on our flesh and be born in the humblest of circumstances. Help us to begin the New Year following the pattern of your Son, praising and loving you in all that we do. May our gratitude be revealed in our dealings with one another, and in our care for creation, for we ask in the name of the Light of the world. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYERFUL RESPONSE No. 132 v. 2

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

† Please stand in body or in spirit

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God covenant promise, the year is soon spent. What we ought to have done still awaits action; what we do is not in accord with your will. We think of ourselves before others; we serve our own needs, keeping for ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. The new life you offer is not yet proclaimed in the land. Forgive us and make us more faithful. ... (A time of silent confession follows.)
In your mercy Lord, **hear our prayers. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, receive the good news:

**The light of Christ shines in our darkness,
to bring light and life to all.**

By the gift of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Praise God for our victory in Christ.

† GRATEFUL RESPONSE No. 132 v. 3

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)

HEARING THE WORD

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

(Children 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Parents may take kindergarten and younger children downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurture and care.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

“Seeing the Signs”

Dr. Taylor

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN No. 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY

**Good Christian friends rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
God our Maker does provide.
Christ our souls has satisfied.
Holy Spirit, One in Three,
completes the blessed Trinity.
God of mys-ter-y!
God of mys-ter-y!**

IN DULCI JUBILO
text by C. Taylor

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN No. 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

*please recycle your bulletin in the wooden bins on either side of the front doors.

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
701 Church Street, SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060-5213
540-552-2504 Email: bpc@blacksburgpres.org www.blacksburgpres.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

December 31, 2017

Welcome to all who gather for worship today. May each of us know something of God's grace and be moved toward deeper faith, sincere love, and service following Christ. No matter who you are, or what you are seeking, you are welcome here. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore all that happens in life and ministry in this church.**

HEADSETS for the HEARING IMPAIRED are available. Speak to an Usher or Gavin Faulkner to use them for the worship service.

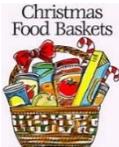
We are grateful for Phyllis Albritton-Webb who is our liturgist today. And for Jay Crone who is our pianist today for worship. Thank you both for all your gifts you share.

THE CELEBRATION FLOWERS IN WORSHIP TODAY are given in loving memory of Donna Stalcup by her family.

Creation Care thought: To drive to extinction something [God] has created is wrong. He has a purpose for everything... We Christians have a responsibility to take the lead in caring for the earth.

--Billy Graham (1918-), *Approaching Hoofbeats*

Attention men of the church: Whether you're a pinball wizard or someone who makes machines go TILT, join the men of the church on Saturday, Jan. 13 for an evening of pinball and fellowship in downtown Roanoke. We'll carpool from the church, leaving at 3 to go to the Roanoke Pinball Museum, where it's all-you-can-play. Around 6, we'll go out for dinner at a nearby restaurant before returning to Blacksburg. It's \$12 admission to the museum, plus the cost of dinner. All adult men are welcome, regardless of skill level. **Please RSVP to Rich Polikoff, rpolikoff@albion.edu, by Jan. 7,** so we can get an accurate headcount.



Woodchuck Food Baskets:

During the cold winter months, supporters of the BPC Firewood Ministry, also known as the "Woodchucks," are busy delivering firewood to those who can afford to pay and to those who cannot. So far, this fall we have delivered 38 loads of firewood, 29 of which were free. At this season, we would like to provide some additional warmth and cheer to the neediest of our recipients in the form of much-needed extra food, and you are invited to participate in this ministry to our community. Collection bins have been placed around the church for your donations. Suggested items include boxed dinners such as mac-and-cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat such as tuna, dry pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, pop-tarts, powdered milk in individual packets, and dried beans. This is an opportunity for everyone, young and old, those who can and those can't run a chainsaw, and any who wants to show the love of Christ. **Collecting food now through the end of December.**

SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: Dale Wolf **January 2018:** Dave Smith
Elder of the Week: **Today:** Brent Opell **Mon-Sunday:** Jama Hayes
Ushers: Jim Echols, Nancy Alexander, Bob and Delores Hendricks
Counters: John Perumpral and Greg Campbell

THIS WEEK AT BPC - HCR-Hatcher Conference Room, WM-Westminster, FH-Fellowship Hall

Dec. 31 No Sunday School
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 1, 2018 Happy New Year! – Church Office Closed

Jan. 2 Quilters gather at 9:30 a.m. –FH
 Prayer Group at 11:00 a.m. –Prayer Room- All are Welcome!
Jan. 3 Neighborhood Rezoning meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Blacksburg Motor Company
 Production Room, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg
Jan. 7 Sunday School resumes- 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:30 a.m. – Dave Snyder guest preacher
 Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting at 2:30 p.m. – FH
 Youth Group meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at BPC for Dinner & Discussion

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BPC

Jan. 8 Hildegard Circle meets at Marti Snyder's home-609 Kelly Lane, at 6:00 p.m.
Jan.13 Men of the Church –Roanoke Pinball Museum Outing
Jan. 14 Called Session meeting to accept new members at 11:30 a.m.
 Fair Trade Items available today* please note date change!
Jan. 15 Church Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 20 Church Family Movie Night at 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 21 Session meets at 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 22 KnitWits met at 1:00 p.m. –WM
 Faith Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. at Julie Burger's home, 911 Draper Rd.
Jan. 27 – Feb. 3 BPC Hosting To Our House
Jan. 28 BPC's Annual Meeting
Feb. 23 & 24 PW Winterlude Retreat at Camp Alta Mons



**To
Our
House**

save the date:

January 27th – February 3

**SHELTERING HOMELESS MEN
Volunteer Opportunities**

Please check off any volunteer opportunity you might consider. Our key coordinator will contact you to talk in more detail.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

_____ Provide snacks, breakfast, and lunch items

_____ Evening: Volunteer at Intake Site - 5:30 PM and drive guests from Intake to church - 5:40 PM

_____ Evening: "In-Charge" 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

_____ Evening: Drive guests to shower at Community Center

_____ Overnight: Stay overnight (you can sleep), 9:00 PM - 6:30 AM

_____ Morning: Drive guests, church to Intake, van provided, 6:30 AM (usually the same volunteer as overnight person)

_____ Weekly: Launder all linens

_____ One Time Delivery: Cots and materials to next Host Site

_____ One Time Set Up: Set up cots and materials for BPC

_____ Volunteer: Nurse, doctor, mending, attorney, hairdresser, other services

BPC WILL HOST TO OUR HOUSE JANUARY 27TH – FEBURARY 3RD

Please complete this form and place in the Offering Plate
Or you can sign up at this link on our website: <http://www.blacksburgpres.org/toourhouse>

2018 CELEBRATION FLOWER RESERVATION

Celebration flowers glorify God and add beauty and a sense of hospitality to our worship services. Flowers are often given in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special event in our lives. To give everyone a chance to participate, all Sundays, except those during Lent and Advent, are available to be reserved on a first requested basis. If you would like to sponsor the celebration flowers for any of the following dates in 2018, please complete this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	X	1	1	3	1	5	2			X
7	11	X	8	8	10	8	12		7		X
	X	X	15			15			14	18	X
	X	X	22		24		26			25	X
28			29					30	28		30

Please indicate your choice: Best Wishes BPC's Flower Committee Peace Lilies

Choice of dates: First : _____ Second: _____ Third: _____

(Please indicate optional choices in case your first choice is no longer available.)

Sponsor's name: _____ Phone: _____

Address to be billed by florist: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Flower/color preferences: _____

(If no preference is specified, the florist will select flowers/colors from the best available.)

TO BE PRINTED IN BULLETIN: "Flowers given by _____

_____ in loving memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ other _____

After church (please check one:

_____ Sponsor will take arrangement(s) home

_____ Deliver to shut-in(s) (names) _____

_____ Other _____

Best Wishes will bill you directly for your arrangements, which will cost \$50. (Special floral requests may incur an additional charge.) Or elect to have BPC's Flower Committee create arrangements for you for the same price.

As an alternative, you may sponsor the use of BPC's peace lilies in worship and donate the cost of an arrangement to a church program or charity of your choice.

Living Love:

Experiencing Faith Everyday

Presbyterian Women's
Winterlude Retreat 2018

February 23rd-24th
Alta Mons Camp and Retreat Center
Shawsville, VA (40-minute drive)

Register by February 4th with a \$50 deposit
Refunds are unavailable after registration deadline.

Check in begins at 5pm on Friday. The retreat will end at 7pm on Saturday.

Led by Pastor Catherine Taylor

As a person of faith, you attend worship and hope to incorporate the teachings of Christ and the church into everyday life. But how do we take the ideas and lessons we hear at church and make them real day to day? During this year's Winterlude Retreat, we will explore letting God's love infuse our actions – in our homes, in our work, and in our relationships.

Ways to Participate

Option 1: Entire retreat (overnight and all meals)

Option 2: Saturday only (9am - 7pm, with lunch and dinner)

Costs:

- \$130 overnight private room, program and 2 Saturday meals.
- \$90 overnight shared (double) room, program and 2 Saturday meals.
- \$45 Saturday only, program and 2 meals

Note: Dinner on Friday will be provided by participants (sign-up), and breakfast on Saturday will be BYO. Financial assistance available.

Questions?

Winnie Drummond 434-826-9639 winnie.drummond@gmail.com
Nancy Furr 540-951-8219 nancyfurr@gmail.com

Register online, or in the office including your \$30 registration fee (checks made out to BPC-PW).

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I plan to attend: Fri. and Sat. _____ Sat. only _____ Private room _____ Shared (double) room _____

Requested roommate _____ Need a roommate? _____

Vegetarian, gluten-free or vegan meals? (Please circle all that apply)



YOU ARE INVITED!

PW Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration

January 7, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study led by Jan McGilliard

Music by Emily King

Brief Business Meeting

Refreshments

PLEASE JOIN US!

