



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

November 2020

THE GIVING PATH

Over the **next four weeks**, we will be embarking on a journey to explore, separately and together, what God wants for us in our giving. ***Pathways to Fearless Generosity*** will be an opportunity for each of us to consider all the ways in which God has expressed generosity to us and then pray our **campaign prayer**, “God, where do You want me to be in my giving?”



This will be a biblical, spiritual, and **inspirational experience** designed to engage us on a journey of discovery. Each person and family will be asked to consider **The Giving Path** and where God may be leading you. The focus of this approach is not the need of the church to fund a budget, but on the need of each person to contribute proportionately from their resources as a part of his or her own spiritual maturity and **discipleship of Christ**. We are asking everyone to consider moving further along The Giving Path as a response to all that God has done for you. Whether it is to begin the journey by starting to give or to grow the percentage of your gift, the prayer, “**God where do You want me to be in my giving?**” will be our guide.

Over the next several Sundays, we will be **embarking on this journey together** to learn more about why we give and how your generosity through **Black Mountain Presbyterian Church** is having an impact on people’s lives. We have some wonderful **Impact Stories** to share with you throughout the next four weeks. On the final *Pathways to Fearless Generosity Sunday*, **November 22**, we hope to have all Estimate of Giving Cards turned into the church. On November 29, we will dedicate our 2021 commitments in worship as an **offering to God!**

It will be a meaningful time together! **The Generosity Team** and I look forward to walking with you on this important journey.

Grace and peace,

BMPC office hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

We hope you'll join us in worship on Sundays starting at 8:30 a.m. on YouTube.

SUNDAYS

9:45 a.m. Becomers Church School Class on Zoom

Welcome to the One Great Story! See page 3 for details

Newcomers are always welcome to the class!

George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com)

10:30 a.m. Biblical Explorations

The Life and Times of King David – through November 22

See page 3 for details

3:30 p.m. Mental Health Support Group on Zoom 1st & 3rd Sundays

Bunny Alexander (bunny6alexander@gmail.com) or 317-517-0334

MONDAYS

8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle on Zoom

Beverly Thompson (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com) If you are interested in joining a Sacred Circle, please let Beverly know.

1:00 p.m. Earth Care Book Series with Pastor David

We are reading *Braided Sweetgrass – indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

[email Jackie (jackie@bmpcnc.org) for Zoom link]

WEDNESDAYS

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Matthew Bible Study on Zoom

Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)

You can find this newsletter, updates, and much more on our website bmpcnc.org. If you have questions, concerns, or want to contribute to the next newsletter, email jackie@bmpcnc.org. The deadline for submissions for December's newsletter is November 15.



Thanksgiving Feed-a-Family

We hope that you have a place to go to share a feast with friends and/or family since we are unable to host the Thanksgiving Dinner this year. If you don't, we can work together to find a feast. Contact David Carter Florence (david@bmpcnc.org).

We have decided to put all our energies into another time honored tradition that we can safely do with physical distance. FEED A FAMILY!

Please don't start bringing in food until we put out the request, but in the days leading up to November 21, we will begin accepting food to share with families so that they can share in God's bounty and be thankful too! We are working out the safety procedures for drop off and pick up. Stay tuned.

The Life and Times of King David

through November 22

Biblical Explorations Class

Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30

Please join Margo Smith and Austin Brown for an (ongoing) 11-week exploration of the times and trials of King David, the most celebrated ruler in Jewish history – and also, refreshingly, among the most human. David was a larger-than-life character that lived and died 3,000 years ago, but whose life still has much to teach us today. Below is a roadmap for the journey.

WEEK 1 Welcome & Orientation (September 13)

WEEK 2 Poor Old King Saul – The Tragedy of Transition (September 20)

WEEK 3 The Young Hero! – Sensing the Future (September 27)

WEEK 4 The Fall of Saul (October 4)

WEEK 5 New King! Excitement & Expectations (October 11)

WEEK 6 Lost Innocence & the Corruptions of Power (October 18)

WEEK 7 Lost Innocence Continued (October 25)

WEEK 8 Redemption & Renewal (November 1)

WEEK 9 Endings & New Beginnings – The Death of David (November 8)

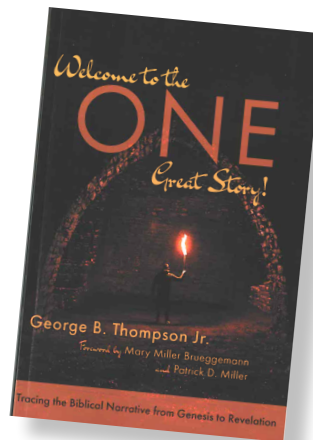
WEEK 10 Say What? How does Chronicles Tell the Story? (November 15)

WEEK 11 What to Make of David – Premonitions of Christ and Lessons for Today (November 22)

Contact Austin Brown (austin.brown.c54@gmail.com) for Zoom information.

WELCOME TO THE ONE GREAT STORY!

A 12-week course on the biblical storyline
November 1 through January 31



The Becomers Class invites you to join in a study of the central story that is woven through the Bible. The class will use the newly-released book, *Welcome to the One Great Story! Tracing the Biblical Narrative from Genesis to Revelation*, by BMPC clergy affiliate George Thompson. Written for a broad audience, this book allows readers with various levels of biblical knowledge to follow the characters, episodes, and generations that make the Bible what it is. **George Thompson will lead the weekly discussion on Zoom, Sundays, 9:30am, starting November 1.** Copies of the book may be purchased for a discounted price of \$20, available in the church library. When you pick up a book, please leave a check made payable to George Thompson for \$20. Anyone interested in joining the study and receiving the Zoom link may email George (revdr3george@gmail.com).

The Sacred Journey of Confirmation Begins

Eighth and ninth graders are invited to join the Confirmation “Class” this November. One of the many possibilities for faith formation happens around the traditional rite of passage years when children transform into young adults. Many shy away from the term young adults for 13 and 14-year-olds, but traditionally this age has been the target age for children to be challenged, guided, and respected in a new way. And when we do this, they grow up because everyone needs challenge, support, and respect! Delaying this process until they go off to college or work is a developmental miss. This is a time of great decision making in one’s development, and in our tradition we send a deep message that God’s sovereignty and providence will be holding them. My hope is that we will have volunteers knocking down my doors to help out in some way and to be a part of this sacred process as we begin again with a new group of our newest members! Spread the word that a new group will begin the process as we approach Advent. Contact David ASAP (david@bmpcnc.org). – *David Carter Florence*

A CALL FOR MENTORS

In Book 2 of the *Odyssey*, Telemachus is inspired by Athena to set sail to find his long lost father, Odysseus. He musters the courage to publicly challenge the suitor/warriors who have been wooing his mother and consuming his household wealth. But as the suitors persist and foil each move he makes, he desperately prays to Athena. She comes to him in the guise of Mentor who urges him on, “Telemachus, you’ll lack neither courage nor sense from this day on, not if your father’s spirit courses through your veins.” So begins our understanding of this word, mentor! To be a mentor to one of our young adults is a revered role. We have around ten youth who will begin the confirmation process soon, and each one needs a mentor to be an inspiring part of this person’s life. I can’t think of a higher calling! Please contact me (david@bmpcnc.org) to discuss the possibilities of acting like Athena in the life of one of our youth. – *David Carter Florence*

PW enjoyed a beautiful fall day as they celebrated the Thank Offering with a Meditation Walk.





Alternative Gifting 2020

Join us in honoring Christ by making a gift to one of the eight mission partners we are highlighting in this year's Alternative Gifting program: **The BMPC Weekday School, Bounty & Soul, Collins Early Learning Center, CoThink, Ebenezer Church in Guatemala, Ebenezer Institute of Learning in Malawi, Marion Medical Center, and Outreach Foundation.** Each one has a unique way of serving the children of our world. Some are local, some global. All are making a difference through their work and will benefit directly from our financial support. Read about the agencies and think about where you would like to direct your gift. We won't have special Christmas cards with enclosures this year, but you can "shop" for favorite people in your lives through these meaningful donations.

We have recreated our traditional way of doing Alternative Gifting. Since we can't welcome you

to the gift table in the narthex, we will welcome you online. Look for the Alternative Gifting button on the home page of the BMPC website in mid November. With a click, it will lead you to a catalog of this year's recipients with instructions on how to give to one or to several, with an easy-to-use order form to enter your gift amounts and grand total. We will accept gifts until January 4, 2021. If you do not have computer access, feel free to bring one check to the church during office hours and fill out a paper form. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Margo Smith or Patti Pyle from the Outreach Ministry Team.

Alternative Gifting is a longstanding tradition here at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. It is just one way we can respond, recognizing in a tangible way, that "indefinable gift," Immanuel, God with us!

Advent-at-Home Kits

The holidays are going to be different this year but it does not mean that some of the traditions can't be done from home! The last week of November, Pastor David and Ms. Brittany will be delivering Advent-at-Home kits to all BMPC families that have children in fifth grade and younger. These kits will include instructions and supplies for five activities to do during this special season. Any other BMPC members who are interested in one of these kits, please contact Brittany (brittany@bmpcnc.org).



VESPERS

Pandemics cause us to think not only out of the box, but out of the building! For the next few months, we're gathering outside on Sunday evenings – distancing protocols in place! We're inviting a musician or two to share their heart in art. We're hearing scripture. We're praying together, and we're seeing each other in person, at a distance,



behind masks. Andy Gwynn's singing of "There is a Balm in Gilead" set the tone for our first evening in October. Andy and Anna Banzhoff's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" from last week still rings in our ears. The music will be on the simpler side and will include a wide range of styles; the liturgy and prayers are more informal than our indoor services. Giving thanks and praise to God is where we start, and all are welcome so that everyone can be fed.

The word Vespers comes from the Greek (*hespera*) and the Latin *vesper*, meaning "evening." Many of us have fond memories of camp worship experiences and how being out in the open air, as evening came on, created

a rhythm of worship that ended the day, prepared us for sleep and bound us together. From childhood, I remember Vespers on the hillside over the lake at Camp Massanetta being among my favorite moments when we listened to our Camp Director, Rev. Goodrich, tell stories. As the Director of Camp Buc, I remember our Vespers in the wooded chapel or by the lakeside campfire being a time when everyone's faces were changed and we did indeed see dimly, even as we were face to face. As a Pastor with youth during Montreat evening gatherings, small groups were a place for truth



telling and reflection on the day – “takeaways” for each teenager that school or homelife rarely could resemble.

Don't expect the same thing each week as we will strive with volunteers to develop these gatherings for the people and from the people. But do expect a welcome, and opening for the Spirit to join us in our lives as we gather to praise and give thanks to God.

– David Carter Florence



Vespers Details

On Sunday evenings at 6:30 in our south parking lot, we are offering small informal worship. For inclement weather, if we don't cancel, congregants may choose to stay in their car or weather the weather. To get the most out of this, dress warmly and appropriately for the weather. We encourage at least 6-8 feet physical distance at all times.

- Wear a mask and stay in your family group
- Bring your own chair.
- Gatherings are limited, based on the latest guidelines
- If you are not signed up, you may sit in your car and tune to 90.9 FM on your radio

Interested in helping?

contact David@bmpcnc.org

Sign-up Link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094aa5a82fa4fb6-campfire>

Generosity and Pig Banks

The Generosity Campaign kicked-off on Sunday, October 25. Pastor David and Ms. Brittany have put together family packs that include materials for teaching your children about generosity and gratitude. They will be delivering these to families the first week of November. Last year, Generosity gave BMPC children Money Savvy Pig banks. If your child did not get one, please let us know and we will make sure to deliver one of those as well.



RAD! WEDNESDAYS

Want a time
for your kids to
connect and play?

Join us for this new
program – a time of
recreation, art, & drama –
once a month in
October, November,
and December.

Grades K-2

FIRST Wednesday
of the month
3:30-5:00pm

Grades 3-5

SECOND Wednesday
of the month
3:30-5:00pm

Please register at
bmpcnc.org/children

Pre-Youth Group

We invite ALL 4th and 5th graders to join us on the third Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30pm for Pre-Youth Group! Our goal for Pre-Youth Group is for kids to have lots of fun and build friendships while getting a feel for what youth group is like! All 4th and 5th graders are welcome and do not have to be members of the church to attend. Please register at bmpcnc.org/children.

Elementary Virtual Church School

(aka Sunday School) These lessons are for K-5th graders and are pre-recorded. We share them each week via email and our website at bmpcnc.org/children. Do the lesson in one day or spread it out through the week. There will be no zooming!

Preschool Church School

We invite our preschoolers to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am on Zoom for a time to connect and hear a story. We will also have a weekly show-and-tell where the kids can show us their favorite treasures.



For more information regarding any of these programs,
please contact Brittany Williams at brittany@bmpcnc.org or 828-669-2725

Library News

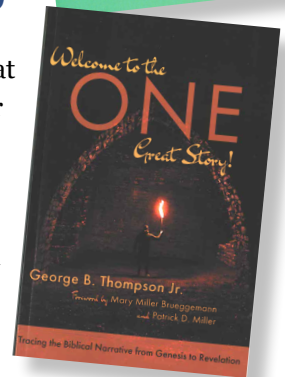
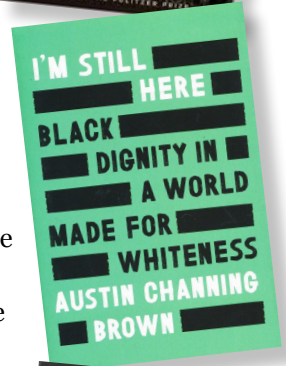
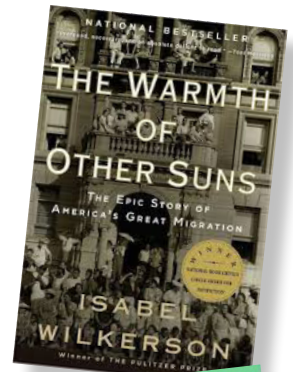
Probably one of the lesser known events in the history of people of color in our nation is that of Black Migration, that is the surge of Southerners who moved to the North and the West in the first few decades of the twentieth century. In a nonfiction work which reads like a novel Isabel Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, has chronicled the lives of three people, each of whom left the South in search of opportunities for a better life. In *The Warmth of Other Suns*, which is based on conversational interviews, oral history, and many printed accounts, Wilkerson has woven an informative, enlightening, and fascinating account of the motives, challenges, and unbelievable courage of Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, George Swanson Starling, and Robert Joseph Pershing Foster. The volume is well documented with copious endnotes so that the reader can ascertain the factuality of the information, but it is written in such an engaging manner that the reader may not want to put it down.

Austin Channing Brown discovered when she was seven years old the real reason her parents gave her a name that sounds not only masculine but also more like that of white person. The reason they did this was their hope that when she was an adult and was applying for jobs, she would be granted an interview before the interviewer saw her. In her autobiography, *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, she recalls trying to fit in with a white world and then learning, as she calls it, “to love her Blackness.” One message that comes through vividly is that our actions as white people often do not reflect our lofty words about diversity and acceptance, even in our churches. This was not a comfortable book for me to read, and I expect others will also find that true. Nonetheless, those of us who proclaim that our God has made all of us in the Divine image and loves all of us equally need to understand what life is like for a Black person struggling to find “dignity in a world made for whiteness.”

Some of you are probably already familiar with this latest addition to the library, George Thompson’s *Welcome to the One Great Story!*. BMPC is privileged to have George offer a course based on this work which, as the subtitle indicates, is in essence a journey “tracing the Biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation.” For those who wish to buy their own copy there is a box on the library table containing copies of the book with instructions for purchasing it. This promises to be a fascinating study.

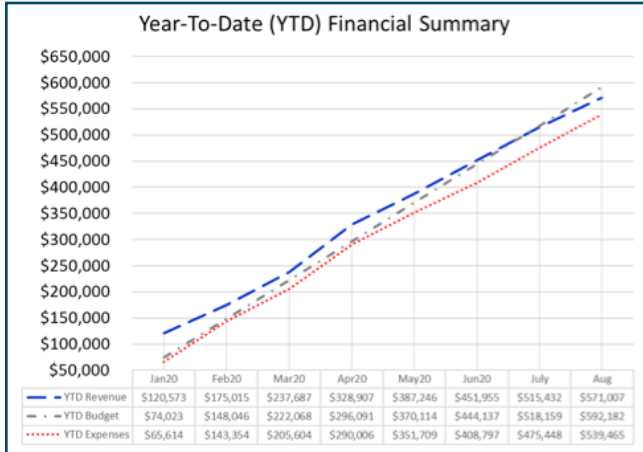
Apparently some of you are using your “down” time for reading. It has been gratifying to see that books are being checked out each week. If you haven’t been in the library recently, I recommend coming by and choosing a book.

– Sally Woodard



September 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$17,032 lower than budgeted
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$47,141
- YTD Expenses are \$41,305 less than budgeted



Contributions to Restricted Funds

Local Mission.....	\$945	Contributions towards RITI Campaign
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$300	Individual Contribution
Music	\$225	Designated Memorial Funds in Memory of Wade Talbot

Expenditures from Restricted Funds

Local Emergency Relief Fund.....	\$2,648	Virtual Classroom Assistant Payroll Expenses, Childcare Expenses for Families in Need
Music	\$1,000	Guest Musicians
Faith Formation.....	\$400	Staff Intern Payroll Expenses

Expenditures from Endowment Funds

Black Mountain Home for Children...	\$4,400	Grant for Education Program
Property	\$2,200	Deep Cleaning Weekday School
Faith Formation.....	\$879	Virtual Learning Lab
Property	\$774	Soap Dispensers
Strategic Planning.....	\$470	Capital Campaign Consultant Fees
General	\$300	Virtual Learning Lab

Expenditures from SBA/PPP Loan

Funds used in September. Balance at September 30:	\$17,247.
Weekday School Payroll	\$11,935
Virtual Classroom Intern Payroll	\$850

Blessing Box Update

Our little free pantry is certainly meeting a need in the community. Some days it is almost bare because hungry folks know they can take what they need. The weather will get colder and the local shelter will only serve meals on a limited basis so we could use some extra help in the coming months to keep it going. Please consider signing up to supervise the Box for a week, or beef up your can in each hand donations so we can have the right kinds of things on-site to add to it. Many thanks to our team of faithful volunteers who have helped so far: Mary Brueggemann, Libby Barker, Scottie Cannon, Ann Herring, Julie Culpepper, Trudy Winstead, Vanessa Pickett, Katherine Holman, Leslie Applewhite, Margaret Waterstradt. The Outreach Team thanks you and hopes more folks will consider participating in this hands-on mission effort. All weeks are now covered but sign ups for January through March are welcome. Call Patti Pyle (262-573-8242) if you would like to sign up.

Happy November Birthdays!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Peter Van Dorsten | 17 Ella Davis |
| 3 Lew Rudisill
Dan Stitt
Gary Bartlett
Alison Banzhoff | 18 Joe Standaert
Laurel Broadhurst
Lauren Rash
Parker Fisher |
| 4 Carolyn Crowder
Arlene Wells | 19 Margaret Baxter
Kevin Griffin
Brett Gudeman |
| 5 Kiersten Hall
Meredith Begley | 20 Carolyn Johnson
Avery Van Note |
| 6 Robin Stiles
Cailyn Hollifield | 21 Daniel Wiggs
Colton West |
| 7 Susan Wilkinson | 22 Wilson Jumper
Caleb Holladay |
| 8 Virginie Pomeroy
Vivian Pickett | 23 Jill Edwards |
| 9 John Evans | 25 Ellen Gibson
Leta Parks
Bart Jones
Matt Coward |
| 10 Rachel Hekking
Isaac Dannenberg
Eli Banks
Evie Wiggs | 26 Kay Layman
Jennifer Holt |
| 11 Noah Lehman | 27 Jonathan Kadau |
| 12 Vanessa Pickett
Isaac Baraki | 28 Kim Wheeler |
| 13 Sarah Wilson | 29 Jim Cogswell
Connor Mailander
Vivian Rachman |
| 14 Beverly Highland
Bethany Corn
Alex Atkinson | |
| 15 Ellen Farrior
Jane Blount | |
| 16 Bess Perryman
Cherie Lunsford | |



A great (and easy) way to support The Weekday School



The Weekday School received all of these educational toys (\$1,900 worth!) this year from Ingles' Tools For Schools program simply from folks linking their Ingles Advantage card to The Weekday School. To link your card to our school, you can sign up at your local Ingles grocery store, online at ingles-markets.com, or email Alice Patton (wkds@bmpcnc.org). Our school code is 10820. Even if you have signed up in the past, you will need to relink your card for this new school year.

As fall moves to winter, remembering those in need becomes even more important.



Our **Kindness Corner** at the entrance of the church, makes dropping off food for the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry pantry shelves convenient with no contact. Drop off food anytime and it will be delivered To SVCN on Monday afternoons. Thank you for your continued support of our community.



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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MOUNTAIN, NC
Permit No. 36



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth



BMPC Swag is Here!

The Welcome and Hospitality Committee is excited to share with you an opportunity for you to purchase some BMPC Swag.

MiiR (16 oz.) Tumblers – products sold help fund trackable giving projects, just by uploading the code on the bottom of the tumbler

Recover Brand T-shirts – based out of Charlotte, NC, each t-shirt is made from 8 plastic water bottles

So not only are we Sharing our BMPC PRIDE, we are also helping in Mission!

Use this link to place your order: www.bmpcnc.org/merchandise



TUMBLER



IMAGE ON BACK OF T-SHIRT