



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

December 2020

## Neighborhood Nativity

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a Neighborhood Nativity this year. Please reserve the evening of **Saturday, December 19**, for this unique Christmas experience. We will drive around our town and see scenes of the Christmas story, en tableau, at the homes of members of our congregation. A prerecorded narration will guide you through the story and through town to each scene. Familiar voices of children in our congregation will tell the story and carols will encourage each participant to proclaim the wondrous story in song. Keep an eye out for more details, and a chance to sign up to participate (because we are sending additional cars into various neighborhoods, we want to control traffic by staggering our event).

## *Christmas Eve*

As 2020 draws to a close we confront bittersweet thoughts about all that we have missed in our congregational life and all who have been parted from us. Yet in the midst of such loss and upheaval, we rejoice in the yearly celebration of the Savior's birth. Like so much this year, our Christmas Eve celebration will be different, but we trust it will be deeply meaningful for you. We invite you to keep an eye out for *The Weary World Rejoices*, a service of music, poetry, and sacred story for Christmas Eve. The spoken word will help us draw near in faith to the timeless story of the birth of Jesus. Likewise the music, presented by "our" musicians and special friends of our congregation, will help us to celebrate anew. This special video presentation will premier on Christmas Eve at an announced time. In the meantime, continue in prayer for the needs of the world and our neighbors near at hand.



## **In Person: Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service December 24, 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for an outdoor service on the lawn in front of the sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This service will be short in nature as we listen to Christmas carols, hear the story of Christ's birth, and light candles as "Silent Night" is sung. Dress for the weather and look for a luminary to stand by on the lawn either in a pod or by yourself. Please reserve your spot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094AA5A82FA4FB6-christmas>

As the climate in Black Mountain evolves with COVID-19, we will be planning on events going forward as scheduled, but please continue to follow us on social media and check your email for any changes which may arise. No matter how we celebrate Christmas this year, we pray that it will be a special year together even if physically apart.

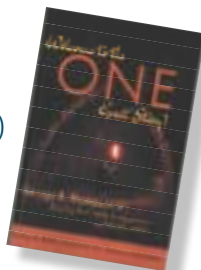
*THOSE WHO DREAM* **daily devotionals  
for Advent  
from Sanctified Art  
are available  
in the narthex.**

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

## SUNDAYS

**9:30 a.m. Preschool Church on Zoom**  
a time to connect and hear a story

**9:45 a.m. Becomers Class on Zoom**  
[George Thompson](mailto:revdr3george@gmail.com) (revdr3george@gmail.com)  
Welcome to the One Great Story! book study continues through January



**10:30 a.m. Biblical Explorations**  
[Austin Brown](mailto:austin.brown.c54@gmail.com) (austin.brown.c54@gmail.com)  
Christmas stories in December. In January, we will read *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy Jill Levine.

**3:30 p.m. Mental Health Support Group on Zoom** 1st & 3rd Sundays  
[Bunny Alexander](mailto:bunny6alexander@gmail.com) (bunny6alexander@gmail.com) or 317-517-0334

**4:00 p.m. Pre-Youth Group** 3rd Sunday

**5:00 p.m. Youth Group**

## MONDAYS

**8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle on Zoom**  
[Beverly Thompson](mailto:drbeverlythompson@gmail.com) (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)  
Contact Beverly if you are interested in joining new Sacred Circles for families and caregivers of loved ones with any cognitive impairment.

**1:00 p.m. Earth Care Book Series** with Pastor David  
We begin reading *Natural Saints: How People of Faith are Working to Save God's Earth* by Mallory McDuff.  
[email [Jackie](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org) (jackie@bmpcnc.org) for Zoom link]



## WEDNESDAYS

**9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Matthew Bible Study on Zoom**  
[Lewis Galloway](mailto:lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com) (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)

**3:30 p.m. RAD Wednesdays** with Pastor David and Ms. Brittany  
Grades K-2 – 1st Wednesday, Grades 3-5 – 2nd Wednesday

**8:30 p.m. Men's Leadership Group**

## THURSDAYS

**7:00 p.m. Men's Group on Zoom**

**8:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting on Zoom** with Bob Tuttle, every other week

## BMPC Merch!

We can share our BMPC pride *and* help in Mission!



TUMBLER, \$20

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



BACK OF T-SHIRT, \$20

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

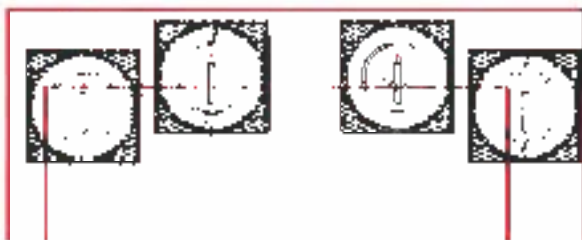
Use this link to place your order:  
[www.bmpcnc.org/merchandise](http://www.bmpcnc.org/merchandise)

# Christmas PanTREE

Our congregation's support of the food pantry at SVCM (Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry) is commendable. Need increases each year during the winter months. We are very familiar with our mantra, "a can in each hand." During the Advent season we will put a slightly different spin on our food giving. There will be a large Christmas tree-shaped ladder in the narthex with space to place canned and staple goods. Please leave your food gifts on the shelves of the tree or outside in the blue bin if it is after hours. This is a joint undertaking of our Worship & Music Ministry Team and Outreach Ministry Team. Thank you for your continued support of those in need.



## Worship & Music Team continues its art to the community focus with our Advent installation this year.



The emphasis will be on outdoor Advent wreaths attached to the front of the church building, where we often have large green wreaths. These four pieces, representing the customary four candles of a traditional wreath, will be larger than previous installations, and will include tasteful lighting. The plan is to conclude the installation with a large steel star which will be installed on the bell tower. In the drawing, the red lines represent the existing brick facade and concrete sidewalk in front of the narthex doors. The four candles will hang from there at a scale that will be visible from the street.

## Baptism of Ayla Maeve Maidment Sunday, November 15

Nich and Amy Maidment brought Ayla Maeve forward to commit themselves to raising her in the church and to ask God's blessing on her. The gathering of people at Vespers offered prayers and blessings as we baptized her in God's grace.



# Advent-at-Home Boxes

What a crazy year this has been! We have missed seeing everyone at church and we know this holiday season will be different from all the ones we celebrated before. To help our families, with children who are in fifth grade and younger, we have delivered Advent Kits full of activities that they can do at home. Some activities are completed throughout the season and others are done just once. Some of these activities were taken and adapted from a book called *Faithful Families: for Advent and Christmas* by Traci Smith.

There is so much more in the book and we highly recommend it. If anyone would like a list of what is included in the kits to make their own, please contact Brittany Williams (brittany@bmpcnc.org).



## ***“Feed-a-Family is my favorite event of the year.”***

Not only do we feed people, we teach our youth how good it feels to do so. Usually, we start our evening with a freezer and refrigerator full of turkeys, and make a last-minute Ingles run to fill in the gaps for our meals. This year, your generosity brought to my mind the feeding of the multitudes – in addition to packaging our goal number of 25 complete Thanksgiving meals, we were able to donate several more whole turkeys, and four packed crates of yams, instant mashed potatoes, and



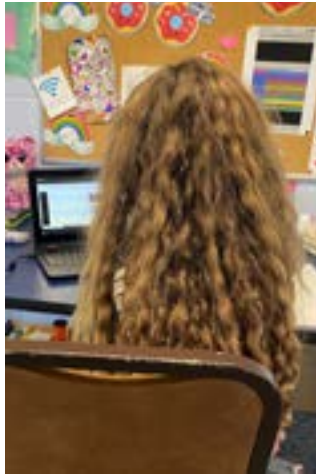
other holiday classics. Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this miraculous event!

– Sam Webber  
*director of operations and youth ministry*



## Our children in the Virtual Lab school are working hard.

They attend multiple zoom meetings a day and complete their assignments each day. When they finish, they do some running and playing outside. We are so grateful for the creation of this program to assist the Weekday School staff to continue to work during this time of COVID.



## The Weekday School donates 333 food items to SVCM.

It is a Weekday School tradition to collect food for SVCM before Thanksgiving. We were unable to deliver the food in person this year, but we collected more than last year even with a lower number of students.



## RAD Wednesdays

Pastor David reads a story during RAD! Wednesdays to Lucas Dodson, Xander Dodd, and Ruth Carswell. We learned about how we are still connected to those who have gone before us, moved away, or we are unable to see.

# October 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$41,622 lower than budgeted
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$31,427
- YTD Expenses are \$7,969 less than budgeted



## Contributions to Restricted Funds

Bill Hollins Memorial Fund	\$1,300	Designated for Property Endowment/ Other Projects
Music	\$845	Designated Memorial Funds in Memory of Wade Talbot
Local Mission	\$625	Contributions to the RITI Campaign
Youth Fund	\$250	Designated Memorial Funds in Memory of Wade Talbot
Memorials	\$150	Given in Memory of Muriel Hart
Local Emergency Relief Fund	\$100	Individual Contribution

## Expenditures from Restricted Funds

Local Emergency Relief Fund	\$2,508	Virtual Classroom Assistant Payroll Expenses; assistance to a church family
Local Missions	\$1,635	RITI Campaign
Music	\$1,400	Guest Musicians
Faith Formation	\$400	Staff Intern Payroll (Using Designated Funds)

## Expenditures from Endowment Funds

Hospitality & Welcome \$1,000 Printing Expense for Tumblers/Shirts

## Expenditures from SBA/PPP Loan

Funds used in October. Balance at October 31: \$0.00.

Weekday School Payroll	\$11,935
BMPC Staff Payroll	\$4,887
Virtual Classroom Intern Payroll	\$425

# BMPC Member Nancy Ruppert Receives National Award

**UNC Asheville Professor Nancy Ruppert, chair of the University's Department of Education, has received the John H. Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service in Middle Level Education, the highest award issued by AMLE, the Association for Middle Level Education.**

Nancy Ruppert's career has spanned 40 years in middle level education. From roles as a middle school math and science teacher to teaching aspiring teachers at the university level, Dr. Ruppert has dedicated her career to teaching and advocating for the middle grades. Dr. Ruppert has served in leadership roles including past president of the AMLE Board of Trustees, outreach coordinator for the North Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education, past president and symposium coordinator for the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NAPOMLE), and member of the European League for Middle Level Education (ELMLE). She has published numerous articles and presented at the state, national, and international levels. An advocate for the Collegiate Middle Level Association and supporter of pre-service teachers, Dr. Ruppert has on four occasions left the college classroom to teach full time in middle school mathematics classrooms to gather fresh experiences to support her work in middle school teacher preparation.

Here at BMPC, Nancy sings with the Prophets of Praise in FirstLight.

# Library News

"Tis the season to be generous!" No, the Generosity Team didn't tell me to say that, although it does fit BMPC right now, doesn't it? It also relates to something happening in the library during the month of December and beyond. The library is going to have books to give away. The idea was the brainchild of one of our retired ministers, who had three boxes of books to donate and thought that folks in the congregation might like to have some of them. Those that the library could use on the shelves we are retaining, but there will still be many to give away. And upon hearing about this, another of our retired ministers contributed a few more. What better time to begin this project than the Advent Christmas season?

Quite a few of the volumes are different translations of the Bible. If you are like me, you find it enlightening to read a passage in more than one translation. Since the library already has a plethora of versions, there will be a large number available, both in hardback and paperback. Some will have footnotes or other explanatory material. There may even be one or two that are totally new to members. In addition to the Bibles themselves, you may find a book on some aspect of the Scriptures or the church.

One beautifully illustrated volume was published by Readers' Digest. It is entitled *After Jesus* and is an account of the church after the life, death, and Resurrection of our Lord. The vivid pictures enhance the text and make this a very accessible book for a variety of ages.

Other choices include works of well-known authors on religious subjects. Henri Nouwen is a priest who lives in a community of those who have disabilities. While he writes often about his encounters with those in the community and what he has learned from being there, his books include a wide range of inspirational topics. These and many others will be on a cart with a sign designating they are FREE. Please come by and see if you can find a gift for yourself or someone else.

May you be blessed this holy season with the peace, hope, joy, and love of the Bethlehem Child.

— Sally Woodard

**Thank you to those of you who have already returned your Estimate of Giving cards. We look forward to receiving more! There are extra cards on the table inside the front doors at the church if you need them. Thank you for your fearless generosity!**

## December Birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Stacie Jones<br>Erin Van Note  | <b>20</b> Joseph Matthews  |
| <b>3</b> Martha Jane Petersen<br>Mike Salmon<br>Elizabeth Mailander<br>Emily Carter | <b>21</b> Chris Evans  |
| <b>5</b> Nancy Sprinkle<br>Teresa Owen  | <b>22</b> Martha Jean Alvis  |
| <b>6</b> Annie Hall<br>Frank Cappelli   | <b>24</b> Micah Davis  |
| <b>7</b> Carolyn Konnert<br>Carrie Coward   | <b>25</b> Glenda McDaniel<br>Mike Barker                                 |
| <b>8</b> Savannah Lindsey   | <b>26</b> Gayle Mudge<br>Susan McElrath<br>Adeline West                  |
| <b>11</b> Melissa Royer<br>Barbara Brinson<br>Charlie Wilson<br>Cayden Bemis        | <b>27</b> Marcy Buchan   |
| <b>14</b> Jim Poling  | <b>28</b> Gene Schimpf<br>Debbie Dunn                                    |
| <b>15</b> Barbara Witherspoon   | <b>29</b> John McCall<br>Kevin Brandon<br>Chris Mailander<br>Wesley Owen |
| <b>16</b> Jordan Kelly<br>Sydney Adams  | <b>30</b> Trudy Winstead<br>Ken Kelly<br>David Bell<br>Freya Hall        |
| <b>18</b> Virginia Rainey<br>Lisle Gwynn Garrity                                    | <b>31</b> Ellen Phillips Smith<br>Russ Spiller<br>Anna Banzhoff          |
| <b>19</b> Jack Williams<br>Sheila Ellington<br>Stacy Hana<br>Scott Burns            |  |

Happy  
Birthday



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[www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN, NC  
Permit No. 36

**BMPC office hours**  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



an Earth Care Congregation



**BMPC Child Protection Policy**

*providing a safe environment for children & youth*



## Alternative Gifting 2020 – ONLINE

The Alternative Gifting page on the BMPC website is ready for your orders! Go to [www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org) and click the **2020 Alternative Gifting** button at the bottom of the home page and you will see a catalog and order form. Our mission partners this year are: **The BMPC Weekday School, Bounty & Soul, Collins Early Learning Center, CoThinkk, 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 either locally or globally. 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 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.