



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2021

## To all that shall be – YES!

In Dag Hammarskjöld's spiritual diary, *Markings*, he often reflects on the threshold moments he experienced in his lifetime. As a New Year dawned on the month when he would be asked to serve as the United Nations Secretary General, Dag wrote this in his diary:

*"The night approaches now –  
For all that has been – Thanks!  
To all that shall be – Yes!"*

As we say goodbye to 2020, my reflections are similar to Hammarskjöld's. We look back with gratitude: for the Christmas season just past, for the gifts of resilience and love in a challenging time, for worship experiences online and fellowship by Zoom, for warm communications with family and friends, for the energy and delight of children, for opportunities to make Christmas for others. For all that has been – Thanks!

We look forward, saying Yes! Yes! to the prospect of joining our voices together in gratitude to God and singing again in 2021. Yes! to the promise in an altered strategy and new resources for combatting the coronavirus. Yes! to a new opportunity for studying the Scriptures in hopes of hearing a

relevant Word for our lives and life together. Yes! to a shared search for God's guidance in this in-between time in the life of our congregation. To all that shall be – YES!

I'm especially proud of the ways in which we have learned and discovered new ways of Being Church in a Pandemic. Throughout this time, we have continued to ask: who is God calling us to be? where is God calling us to go? We have never stopped planning for the future.

On **Thursday, January 14, at 7 p.m.** on Zoom, we are excited to share with all of you the work of the Exploratory Session committee and the Facilities Task Force in our **First Impressions Congregational Gathering**. If you'd like to register for this gathering, please call the church (828-669-2725) or email [jackie@bmpcnc.org](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org).

We ask everyone to join us as we look forward with great anticipation and excitement to sharing our dreams for the future with all of you. We also look forward to receiving your feedback!

May God bless you and us, and the whole world, in this New Year to all that shall be – YES!

*Mary Katherine*

# We hope you'll join us in worship on Sunday mornings starting at 8:30 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
- 10:30 a.m. Biblical Explorations on Zoom** (link on page 3)  
[Austin Brown](mailto:austin.brown.c54@gmail.com) (austin.brown.c54@gmail.com)  
*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
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group on Zoom**



## 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  
*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)
- 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, January 7 and 21

New General Presbyter, Rev. Byron Wade, will be preaching on January 24 for Officer Ordination and Installation. More information coming soon!

**Due to high levels of Covid-19** in Buncombe County, the BMPC session has cancelled all indoor meetings and activities which include more than two people at the church. Please wear a mask at all times when you are inside the church.

**Groups are encouraged to schedule their meetings on Zoom.**

If you need to use the church account, please contact Brittany@bmpcnc.org.

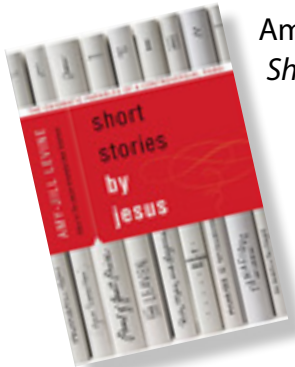
**If there is any church member needing assistance** with grocery or meal delivery, please email Mary Katherine Robinson, mk@bmpcnc.org.



## Star Words

You can pick up your word card for 2021 in the narthex during the month of January. If you are unable to come to the church, [click here](#) to spin the wheel to receive your word. Find your [star template here](#) if you would like to write your word on a star and decorate it.

## Bible Exploration Class begins new book study



Amy Jill Levine's  
*Short Stories by Jesus*

**Join us on  
Zoom  
Sundays at  
10:30 a.m.  
starting Jan. 3**

All are welcome for this study of Levine's book which will challenge us to see the familiar parables with new eyes.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88180579976>

Meeting ID: 881 8057 9976

## FROM THE BMPC EARTH CARE TEAM

Pastor David has been leading a book study group via Zoom on the topic of Earth Care during the past year. Currently, the book being studied is *Natural Saints: How People of Faith Are Working To Save God's Earth* by Mallory McDuff, Professor of Outdoor Leadership and Environmental Studies and Director of Environmental Education at Warren Wilson College.

In the chapter titled *Creating Sacred Spaces*, Dr. McDuff writes, "A large part of the work of churches occurs in their buildings, the sanctuaries and [fellowship] halls that surround Christians when they pray, eat, grieve, and celebrate God's world. And a significant portion of the revenues



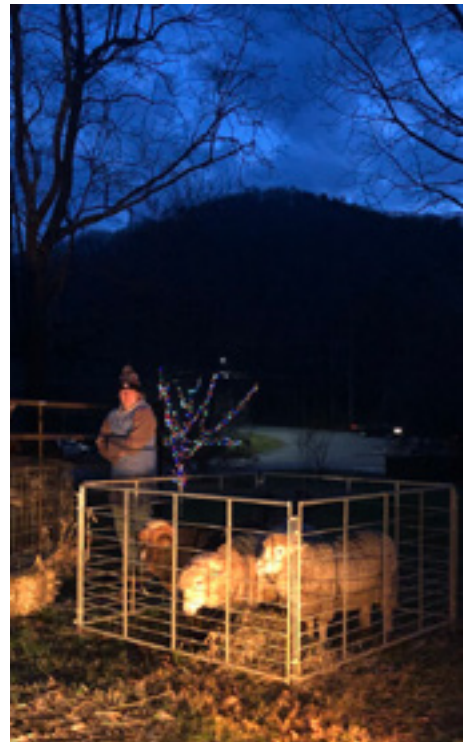
collected by religious institutions goes to maintaining the facilities where people gather, so that they can then do God's work outside the walls of the church... Each physical structure demands resources – electricity, natural gas, solar energy, water – and our consumption and conservation of these resources reflect our religious beliefs and views of God."

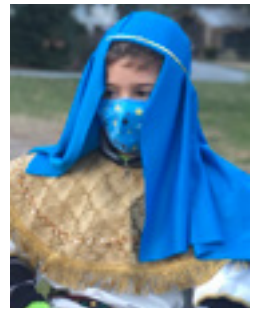
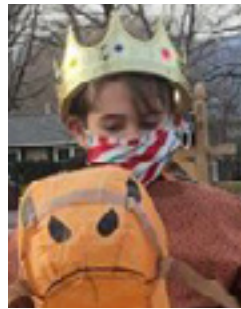
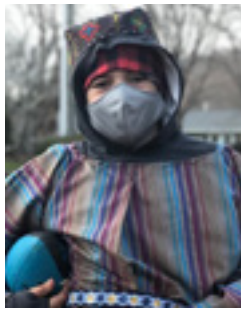
She says further, "Creating sacred space is a ministry of churches that can enhance our relationship to God by integrating the care of creation into our houses of worship. Whether designing new churches or improving the energy efficiency of existing structures, churches can address the climate crisis as a spiritual practice and create stronger connections to creation and God."

McDuff suggests that environmentalism in the church is like the role of music in a congregation: "Both are in our scriptures, our history, our traditions, our texts." Her remarks are food for prayerful thought and discussion among any church members as they contemplate renovations in their own sacred space.

## We hope you were able to experience the Neighborhood Nativity on Saturday, December 19.

A recorded narration with familiar voices of children in our congregation telling the story and singing carols is available on our website. There are CDs available in the narthex that you can pick-up during regular office hours.





**Thank You to everyone who attended the event and all those who helped to make this event possible.** SINGER: Ava Banzhoff; READERS: Vivan Pickett, Pearl Hall, Eli Banks, Keaton Williams; MARY & JOSEPH/INN KEEPERS: Sam and Hannah Webber, Gayle and Peter Mudge; ANGELS: Kiersten, Pearl, Freya, and Levi Hall; SHEPHERDS: Eli, Briggs, and Calvin Barker; MAGI: Burkley and Porter Reece, Keaton Williams, and Julie Moore for sharing her home; MANGER: Joe, Jesse, Mattie, Jonah, and Moses Lehman; STAFF: Mike Barker, David Carter Florence, Mary Katherine Robinson, Brittany Williams, Sam Webber

## November 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$67,720 lower than budgeted
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$15,714
- YTD Expenses are \$29,678 less than budgeted



### Contributions to Restricted Funds

Alternative Christmas	\$555	Individual contribution (will pass through special offerings at year-end)
Bill Hollins Memorial Fund	\$50	Designated for Property Endowment/ other projects
Earth Care	\$25	Book study funds received
Local Missions	\$75	Contributions for RITI/SVCM meals campaign
Memorials	\$1,845	Given in memory of Glen & Evelyn Bannerman, Pat Miller, and George Gunn
Music	\$1,175	Designated Memorial Funds in Memory of Wade Talbot and Sara LeVan
Next Year Pledges	\$17,000	2021 pledges paid in full, held to next year
Nurture Fund	\$120	Tumbler/T-shirt funds
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$1,000	Individual contribution
Youth Fund	\$50	Individual contribution

### Expenditures from Restricted Funds

Faith Formation	\$200	Staff Intern Payroll (Using Designated Funds)
Local Emergency Relief Fund	\$1,204	Virtual Classroom Assistant Payroll Expense; gas money for person in need
Local Missions	\$85	RITI Campaign/SVCM meals
Music	\$400	Guest Musicians

## 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)



## THESE DAYS

*These Days* daily devotionals for January–March 2021 have not been received due to USPS delays associated with the holidays. We will let you know when we receive them.

In the meantime, the publishing company has provided a digital file of the January devotions which you can view [here](#). There are printed copies in the narthex at the church.

## January Birthdays

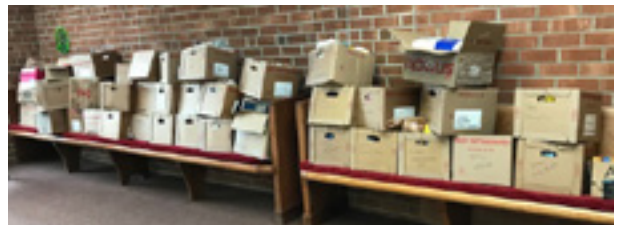
- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>3</b> Brad Holmes    | <b>14</b> Briggs Barker     |
| <b>4</b> Levi Hall      | <b>16</b> Michelle Ferguson |
| <b>5</b> Carol Tyson    | <b>17</b> Daisy Buckner     |
| Molly Minnick           | Sheldon Adams               |
| Valorie Speegle-Snell   | Cecelia Brandon             |
| <b>6</b> Becky Peterson | Katherine Stanley           |
| <b>7</b> Jeff Ruppert   | <b>19</b> Susan Alvin       |
| Kate Nelson             | <b>20</b> Caroline McElwee  |
| <b>8</b> Susan Banzhoff | <b>22</b> Alec Hile         |
| Kim Fisher              | <b>23</b> Lucas Dodson      |
| <b>9</b> Frances Turk   | <b>24</b> Amanda Wheeler    |
| Rosy Robson             | Dusty Lindsey               |
| Cammy Holt              | <b>25</b> Rick Lindsey      |
| Wyatt Lehman            | <b>26</b> Bill Straughan    |
| <b>10</b> Carey Jo Elam | <b>28</b> Maggie Ray        |
| Nell Summerline         | <b>29</b> Travis Childs     |
| Sloan Price             | Jack Jones                  |
| Sarah West              | <b>30</b> Betsy Warren      |
| <b>12</b> Becky Hughes  | <b>31</b> Sam Byrd          |
| Megan Bowman            | Nan Higgins                 |
| Charlie Edwards         | Suzanne Money               |
| <b>13</b> Sara Owen     | Porter Reece                |

## Thank you for the generous contributions to the PanTree



We have sorted and packed more than 40 boxes for the shelves at SVCM and will be ferrying them over to provide food for those in need during the rest of the winter. Thanks to Mike Barker for the tree frame to hold the collections, Jack Williams for preparing the boxes for delivery, and all who supported our expanded Can-In-Each-Hand. It is truly a Christmas blessing.

– *Worship & Music and Mission ministry teams*





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828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727  
[www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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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*



**The Weekday School** is looking ahead to the 2021-22 school year. Registration for our currently enrolled church member children and siblings will begin on Monday, February 1. If you are interested in having your child or grandchild in our program please contact Alice Patton for more information. You can reach Alice at 828-669-2725 ext 1114 or [wkds@bmpcnc.org](mailto:wkds@bmpcnc.org).