



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

June 2021

We're on the way! What's next?

As we've listened and spoken to many colleagues around the country, we realize that we are in an unprecedented season in the life of our church. The pandemic may have felt like a set-back, but we are resilient. **Hope, trust, and confidence** are alive in our congregation as our mission to our community is urgent – we are a living presence through every single member. We are planting our future.

Thanks to the overwhelming giving through prayer, leadership, and financial commitments of our members, work will begin on the Church House in June as we transform six multi-use spaces for all kinds of small group gatherings, **our inreach and outreach**. We need an apt name for this house that proclaims its use to all who pass by. Please send in submissions as you dream about this revitalization to our church.



Designs, plans, and timelines are also being made for the renewal of the fellowship hall, kitchen, narthex, and sanctuary. While this work occurs, we've wondered together: What is our community of faith longing for this summer as we dream about our worship, faith formation, fellowship, and outreach?

How can we reconnect with one another? How do we learn again the patience to listen, to share, and to build trust in difficult conversations? How do we find the holy in one another? Join us as our summer worship series, **Courageous Conversations**, will lead us deeper into the heart of who we are, how are we being shaped by the universal love of Jesus, and who the Holy Spirit calls us to be?

Mary Katherine Robinson, David Carter Florence, Bob Tuttle

Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 11:00.

Sign-ups will no longer be needed for Sunday worship. Social distancing and masks are still required.

FirstLight returns Sunday, June 13, at 9:00 a.m.

Inquirers' Class – Sunday, June 6, 9 a.m.

Call the church office to sign up, email Mary Katherine (mk@bmpcnc.org) with questions

BBQ & Bluegrass – Sunday, June 6

Join us after worship in the south parking lot as we honor our 2021 high school and college graduates! The Big Deal Band will perform and lunch will be served: pork BBQ, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, cookies/brownies, water, tea, lemonade. Please let us know you will be there by calling the church office, 669-2725.

SUNDAYS

9:00 a.m. FirstLight Worship beginning June 13

10:30 a.m. Biblical Explorations on Zoom
(breaks for summer after June 6)

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Playground Picnic *(2nd Sunday of the month)*

3:30 p.m. Mental Health Support Group
June 13 at the home of Bunny Alexander
(last meeting before summer break)
Bunny Alexander (bunny6alexander@gmail.com)

MONDAYS

8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle on Zoom
Beverly Thompson (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)
Contact Beverly if you are interested.

WEDNESDAYS

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

11:00 a.m. Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)
(Last meeting will be June 9)

THURSDAYS

7:00 p.m. Men's Group

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new COVID recommendations. Fully vaccinated individuals can now go without masks or social distancing in most settings. Based on the CDC's guidance, North Carolina enacted similar recommendations. The session of BMPC met Monday night to discuss the new recommendations.

BMPC's updated COVID protocols

1. Masks are still required for all (fully vaccinated and unvaccinated) in crowded spaces or large gatherings which includes worship.
2. Those who are not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks indoors.
3. All volunteers working with children must remain masked and socially distant.
4. There is no capacity limit indoors, but social distancing is still required.

FAQs on BMPC Guidelines

1. Why do unvaccinated individuals need to continue to wear masks? Not everyone is able to receive the vaccine. For example, children under 12 are not yet eligible. Those with certain allergies or health conditions also cannot receive it. As a church, we care for all of our members, including those who are most vulnerable to this virus.
2. How can you tell if a person is vaccinated or unvaccinated? We are trusting in the honor and truthfulness of our members and visitors. We are not requiring proof of vaccination.
3. How long will unvaccinated members have to wear masks? We will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC and North Carolina. The session will reevaluate our protocols at every stated meeting.
4. If I'm vaccinated, can I still wear a mask? Of course! Some who are fully vaccinated may still want to wear a mask for a period of time. This last year has highlighted the need to carry one another's burdens. As we begin to take concrete steps out of the pandemic, let us continue to do so.

SAVE THE DATE VBS 2021

SUNDAY, JULY 18 - THURSDAY, JULY 22

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



Bring a picnic dinner and join us at **5:00 p.m.**
We will eat and enjoy fellowship.

5:30-7:30 p.m. – VBS



Youth Car Wash – Over \$800 was raised for the Capital Campaign!

Summer Faith Formation

June

3-5 Confirmation Retreat at BMPC for eighth and ninth graders

6 We will **honor our High School and College Graduates** in worship and afterwards have a BBQ Lunch Celebration, sign up online or call the church office

21-25 Presbytery of WNC Mission Camp at Christmount

Caring for creation in our town – gardening, permaculture, river clean-up, ecological foundations

21-25 Weekday School Summer Camp (*youth are invited to be junior leaders*) ages 3-5 – 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.

July

13-16 Backpacking Trip up Mt. Mitchell hiking trip from Black Mt. Campground to Mt. Mitchell co-led by East Brentwood Pres, Nashville

18-22 Vacation Bible School evenings 5:30-7:30 Sunday-Thursday (Presentation in Worship at 11 am Worship)

19-23 Weekday School Summer Camp (*youth are invited to be junior leaders*) ages 3-5 – 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.

August

1-7 Montreat Youth Conference “Called to Connect” High School students rising grade 9 and 2020 graduates

22 Child Protection Training with Pat Tuttle from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

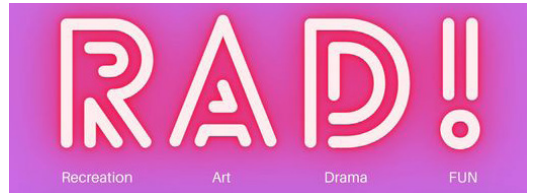
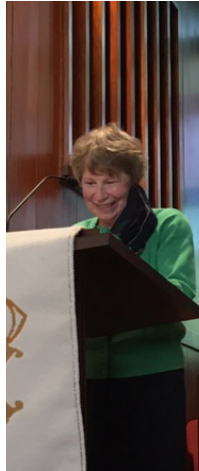
29 All church waterfront, vespers and **Picnic at Rockmont** 1-6 p.m.



Presbyterian Women

PW Celebrates its Spring Gathering in the sanctuary

Three honorary life memberships were awarded to deserving members: Andrea Dewitt, Patti Pyle, and Linda Stroupe. Continuing support for our Birthday Offering raised over \$1,200 for three projects. If you missed this event, you can view the video on the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church channel on Youtube.com.



RAD! Wednesdays is over for now, but will be back in September! Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped: Annamarie Arens, Jane Belsches, Jean Chamberlin, Becky Jo Sumner, and Cheryl Wilson. We loved getting to spend Wednesday afternoons with the children of BMPC and getting to know them better. They have been such a joy to work with and we will miss seeing them every week!



Restoring Insects

“The Little Things that Run the World”

The Earth Care book group has finished reading Douglas Tallamy’s book, *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*. We looked closely at the way Creation functions, all 14 of us absorbing much new information about how insects interact with plants in perfect balance, a balance that must not be allowed to fail. Finally, we learned that our actions can turn our sterile grassy lawns into beautiful pollinator gardens that will sustain life.



Tallamy focused on two groups of insects that have the greatest impact on feeding all of life: bees, which are responsible for most of the pollination required by plants; and caterpillars, “the insects that are larger, more numerous, more edible, and more nutritious than most other insects.” He describes caterpillars as “soft bags filled with food,” which most terrestrial birds in North America feed to their nestlings. For example, Carolina chickadees eat seeds most of the year, but chickadee parents deliver 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to bring one nest to fledging. Thus, if we want songbirds in the spring, we need to provide the foods newly hatched birds eat (caterpillars), and to have caterpillars, we must provide the native plants on which they develop.

Tallamy says that wherever his team looked – north, south, desert, forest – “about five percent of the local plant genera hosted 70 to 75 percent of the local moth and butterfly species.” He calls these hyperproductive plants “keystone species.” One of the best examples is the oak, which in the mid Atlantic region supports 557 species of caterpillar. Thus, for a yard to produce ample caterpillars, the landscape must contain one or more keystone plants with groundcovers planted under them

for moths to complete their development safely. People interested in understanding this further should read either *Nature’s Best Hope* or *The Living Landscape* by Douglas Tallamy.

What can we do? Before we had read very far, our group found ourselves eagerly scrambling to find the best places in our area to buy native plants. Even if we cannot plant oak trees, we can all help attract pollinators. Most important is to get rid of exotic ornamental plants and use native species. Blueberries are excellent food for pollinators. Even if you have only a patio or a tiny garden, plant something, such as milkweed to support monarchs, and perhaps asters and goldenrod for their return journey. (Ragweed, not goldenrod, causes fall allergies.)

Here are some good sources that we found:

- ONLINE: The Native Plant Finder (www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder), developed by Tallamy’s team, ranks plant genera that occur in every county of the United States in terms of their ability to host caterpillars. Enter your ZIP code to find out which plants are best in our area.
- BLACK MOUNTAIN: **Mellie Mac’s Garden Shack** and **Painters Greenhouse** carry some natives, and Mellie will order for you.
- **Carolina Native Nursery** (Burnsville) and **Mountain Mist Nursery** (Fairview) both carry only natives. *Mountain Mist* is run by Richard and Susan Lucci (daughter of Dr. John Wilson). Call a day ahead before visiting *Mountain Mist*. **Patchwork Meadows** (Padgett Road, Black Mountain) – owner Emily Sampson follows the philosophy of Douglas Tallamy in creating wildflower meadows and pollinator gardens for her customers, including for the town of Black Mountain.

Cullowhee Native Plant Conference 2021

Friday and Saturday, July 16-17

Virtual Only

Doug Tallamy speaks Saturday at 12:15 p.m.

Register online by July 1 – \$75

for more information and to register:

<https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professional-enrichment/conferences-and-community-classes/the-cullowhee-native-plant-conference/index.aspx>

Mustard greens, okra, and beans are growing in the **Ecumenical Community Garden** across the street behind the First Baptist Church. If you would like to help with the garden where the harvest helps feed our community, contact Karen Austin, atltreehugger@gmail.com.



Library News

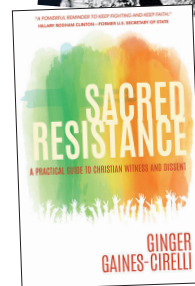
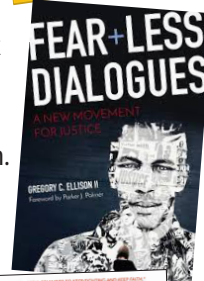
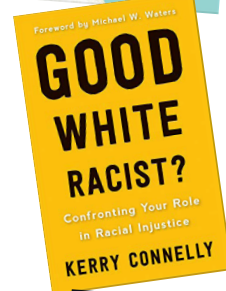
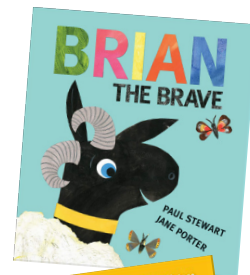
There are several new books on display in the library. One is a delightful children's book entitled *Brian The Brave*. Brian is a sheep with white wool who discovers, upon encountering sheep who have different colored wool or horns unlike his, that they don't want to be his friend. The reader may be surprised to learn what helps the sheep to find friendship even with their differences. This is a great read-aloud with bright illustrations.

The other three are additions to the Social Justice section. *Good White Racist?* may seem an unlikely title, but Kerry Connelly very appropriately addresses the issue. The question mark at the end of the title is significant. Can one be both Good and Racist? Here is one of Connelly's definitions: "Good White Racist: A well-intentioned person of European descent who is nonetheless complicit in a culture of systemic racism." While this book may anger many good people, especially Christians who really are trying not to show prejudice, it can be a call to all of us to examine ways in which we, often obliviously, are complicit in systemic racism.

Fearless Dialogues by Gregory C. Ellison II is not only the title of a stimulating, provocative book but also the name of an organization which brings together people to create "spaces for hard, heartfelt conversations between unlikely partners." The founder of the grassroots organization is also a professor of pastoral care at Candler School of Theology and the author of this very readable and engaging work in which he combines storytelling, Biblical wisdom, and much-needed insights for a "new movement for justice," which is the subtitle of this book. This has been given by the Faith Formation group.

For those who are interested in the Montreat Conference summer services, one of this summer's preachers will be Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, pastor of the Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, DC. In 2018 WJK Press published her book *Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent*. After describing sacred resistance and spending several chapters explaining aspects of it and giving examples of Scripture related to it, she has a chapter entitled "What to Do." Here she relates specific ways in which the church she serves considered, debated, and acted on issues of social justice. She then gives some guidelines to follow with the realization that each congregation must make its own decisions.

With the many troubling events we are encountering daily, these are welcome additions to challenge and enlighten us all. — Sally Woodard



June Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Marsha Campbell
Diane Ginther
Donn Handy
Ellen Begley
Sarah Wren Robinson | 19 Keithie Knowles
Randy Shaffer
River Hana |
| 3 Joseph Rand
Liesl Case | 20 Ruth Janes
Jim Layman
Laura Weaver |
| 4 Kurt Shaffer
Tanya Banks | 22 Thomas Stiles
Joe Lehman
Griffin Dodd |
| 5 Bradley Garrison | 23 Phil Garrison |
| 6 Erskine Alvis
Taylor Morris
Moses Lehman | 24 Julie Moore
Noah Holladay |
| 8 Kent Patton | 25 Paul Drummond |
| 9 Franklin Harris
Debbie Bailey
Ameliah Davidson | 26 Pat Thrailkill
Charlotte Sprawls
Sandy Shaffer
Tonya Tindall
Mattie Lehman
Gavin Dodd |
| 10 Spring Patton
Rachael Lee | 27 Jack Wynn
Jeannie Maidment
Caroline Roy
Abby Lehman |
| 11 Faith Bradley
Cory Partlow
Ruth Carswell | 28 Carolyn Cordell |
| 12 Peter Mudge
Katherine Neville
Isabella Hile | 29 Bob Headley |
| 13 Henry Copeland
Annamarie Arens | 30 Bob McMurray
Wyatt Campbell |
| 15 Bill Bale | |
| 17 Ruby Begley
Elizabeth Rand
Powell Winstead
Margie Stansell | |



On Sunday, June 20, we will announce our campaign totals for **Sowing the Seed Planting our Future** in both worship services!

April 2021 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenues of \$329,070 are higher than the \$305,892 budgeted by \$23,178
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$79,584.20 for April 2021
- YTD Expenses of \$290,065 are lower than the \$305,768 budgeted by \$15,703

Contributions to Restricted Funds

- Capital Campaign \$31,000 individual contributors
- Memorials \$525 contributions in memory of Wall, Bannerman
- Music \$103 Contribution in memory of Sara LeVan
- Youth Fund \$20 individual contributor

Expenditures from Restricted Funds

- Capital Campaign \$18,254.60 Hurt Architecture; Horizons Stewardship; Miscellaneous campaign expenses
- Nurture Fund \$2,292.56 Roan Mountain Retreat; Branded Tumblers
- Local Emergency Relief Fund \$2,102 Virtual Learning Lab teacher; air filtration for in-person worship
- Seminary \$840 Ministry Development Services for Seminararian
- Property \$629 remainder for bell tower signage not covered by Endowment
- Pastor Discretionary Fund \$400 Next Church recordings from conference

Expenditures from Endowment Funds

- Property \$1,238 bell tower signage
- Discretionary \$671.42 virtual classroom
- Worship \$582.72 A/V equipment
- Discretionary \$100 Earth Care
- Worship \$8.22 streaming service



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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www.bmpcnc.org

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MOUNTAIN, NC
Permit No. 36

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



**Summer is upon us and as we continue our
return to normal, we will need more volunteers
on Sunday mornings.**

Please let us know if you can help with any of the following:

Nursery • Extended Session (children's worship time) • **Ushers**

Greeters • Welcome table • AV/Sound

All ages can participate!

Contact brittany@bmpcnc.org or call the church office, 669-2725.