



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

November 2021

You are invited ... Worship and Music Exploration

On **Saturday, November 13,**
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Eric Wall will join with the members of BMPC to dream and explore what worship means to us. Eric is the Assistant Professor of Sacred Music, Dean of the Chapel at Austin Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. He also serves as the Conference Musician at Montreat Retreat Association every summer.

Every single member of our congregation is invited to attend and participate! To start their work, we want to hear from our members. We will explore not only what you love about our worship but also where you hope for us to grow as a congregation.

The Search Committee and Our Timeline

Our search committee is forming and at time of print, Andy Banzhoff (Prophets and Personnel Team), Jim Layman and Jane Belsches (Members At Large), and Reverend Mary Katherine Robinson, (Staff) have committed to serving. We are in conversation with representatives for the Chancel Choir and worship ministry team as well. This team will be working through January on a job description and we hope to make the search public with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and other organizations in February. Applications will be received in March and April and interviews will take place in May.

Our Strategy

Our strategic plan for music will be built on this foundation: the Music Ministry will facilitate and encourage congregational engagement in worship and all ministry areas of our church life. Participation is one thing – but engagement is something much more powerful.

We will consider all aspects of our five worship services: weighing beauty, message, efficiency, effectiveness, and flow of worship. We are looking for congruity with theology, pastoral concerns, tradition, new opportunities, and congregational context. Our choral accomplishments will be showcased. Our hymnody must not be too difficult for the congregation to participate in. Our music must foster love of worship, investment, and a desire to invite others.

We will incorporate youth and children's music into our worship. In the short-term, we will make this happen however we can. The young children who attend RAD on Wednesdays will be the obvious place to look. But we are also investing more time in our Weekday School children as well.

We are grateful to Aaron Price (Interim Director of Music) and Ednae Fisher (Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director) for the beautiful job they are doing in leading our music ministry during this interim time.

We are excited about this opportunity to explore what worship and music mean to BMPC. Plan to join us on November 13 & 14. Eric will be with us in worship too!

NOVEMBER

Be sure to set your clock back an hour on November 6 before going to bed.

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
 <p>A U T U M N</p>	<p>1 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 5:30p Hospitality & Welcome</p>	<p>2 PW Circles (p.6) 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>3 12p Old Fellers Lunch 3p RAD! Wednesdays 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>4 7p Let's Talk About Depression Thursday Night Live</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12p Confirmation 1:30p Youth 4p Family Fall Gathering</p>	<p>8 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 6:30p Mission 7p Weekday School Team</p>	<p>9 12p Book Club 1:30p Staff Mtg. 3:30p Cong. Life 6p Lydia Circle 6p Faith Formation 7p Prophets</p>	<p>10 12p Old Fellers Lunch 3p RAD! Wednesdays 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11 1:30p Blood Drive 6p Men's Group</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul 10a Worship and Music Exploration with Eric Wall</p>
<p>14 9:45a Church School 11a Worship 12p Confirmation 3:30p Mental Health group 4p Officer Training 5p Taizé Worship</p>	<p>15 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls</p>	<p>16 1:30p Staff Meeting 7p Prophets</p>	<p>17 12p Old Fellers Lunch 3p RAD! Wednesdays 6:30p Strategic 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>18 1:30p Sewing Ministry 8p Deacons</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>21 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12p Confirmation 5p Feed A Family</p>	<p>22 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 6p Session</p>	<p>23 1:30p Staff Mtg 6:30p Lydia 7p Prophets</p>	<p>24 12p Old Fellers Lunch 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Church office closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>28 ADVENT BEGINS 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 9:45a Advent Workshop 11a Worship 12p Confirmation</p>	<p>29 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls</p>	<p>30 1p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:30p PW Coordinating Team 7p Prophets</p>	 <p>Advent Alternative Gifting starts Sunday, November 28 SEE PAGE 5</p>			

What No One Wants To Talk About



Thursday, November 4

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Let's talk about depression.

According to the World Health Organization:

- Globally, more than 264 million people of all ages suffer from depression.
- It is a leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease.
- It can cause the affected person to suffer greatly and function poorly at work, at school, and in the family.
- It can lead to suicide. Close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year and it is the second leading cause of death in 15 to 19-year-olds.

Presenters

Ellen Begley, LCMHCS and Director of the Black Mountain Counseling Center, will discuss the need for counseling, the kinds that are available and how counseling can help mitigate the anxiety and stress many people have to deal with on a daily basis.

Dr. Laurel Broadhurst, MD, Public Health and General Preventive Medicine Specialist affiliated with Broughton Hospital in Morganton, will discuss the signs and symptoms of depression, the various types of depression, and the variety of treatments available, to treat this insidious disease.

We want to help reduce the stigma associated with depression by understanding and talking openly about it. Come and be a part of this critical discussion.

Open Table is one of our many mission partners. Beginning in 2008, it was patterned after the Welcome Table in Swannanoa. With an ecumenical team of volunteers, Open Table serves hot, balanced meals with no charge every Wednesday from 11:30-1:00 in the fellowship hall of the Methodist church. The food comes from the food rescue agency, Food Connection, Manna Food Bank, and financial support from churches. Before Covid, 80-100 guests were served weekly, but now the typical count is about 40 meals, with both in-person dining and takeout options. In addition to the nutritious lunch, volunteers provide an atmosphere of friendship, hospitality, and respect which makes true the statement that all are welcome. A great way to support Open Table is through BMPC's Alternative Gifting (page 5) beginning November 28.



Adult Church School

Sunday mornings: 9:45-10:45

BECOMERS

in the library and on Zoom

Rev. Dr. George Thompson continues to lead a close reading and exploration of the gospel of Mark. We believe that our spiritual growth is dependent on our understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ revealed in the Old and New Testaments. We encourage adults of all ages and levels of knowledge to join us.

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS

upstairs in the education building

Rev. Bill Waterstradt will lead an Advent Bible Study for the four Sundays of Advent beginning November 28. We will look at the Gospel passages that build our understanding of Advent and the Christmas story. Be ready for some surprises and new insights into these texts as we look at how Matthew and Luke have very different emphases in their respective stories.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

in CR1 and on Zoom

We seek to grow in Christian fellowship, faith, and practice by sharing and hearing stories of life and ministry from members and guests, by addressing current issues in church and society together through the study of the Bible and by discussion of our response as we are led by the Holy Spirit. We warmly invite you to join us!
Led by John Van Osdall

FAITH BUILDERS

outside under the tent or upstairs in the education building in inclement weather

Continues to explore how our faith is lived out through our study, reflection, and action. Led by Ellen McClintock and Susan Jumper

Alternative Gifting 2021

Advent is a special season in the church and when the liturgical color changes from green to purple, we return to one of our longstanding Black Mountain Pres traditions, Alternative Gifting. This is a way to give a different kind of Christmas gift to someone you know or love – a donation to one of our mission partners in their honor.

LIST OF 2021 AGENCIES

- 1) Black Mountain Counseling Center
- 2) BMPC Weekday School
- 3) Bounty & Soul
- 4) EbenEzer Church in Guatemala
- 5) Marion Medical Mission
- 6) Open Table
- 7) Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries

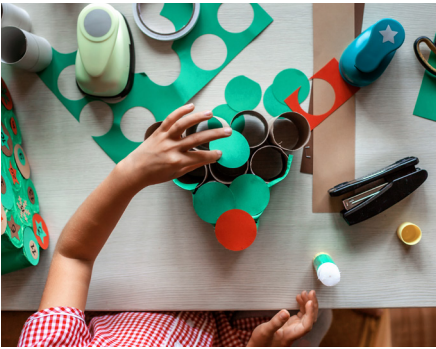
All you need to do is fill out a form in person or online, choose your agencies and level of gifts, turn in one check or make one payment on the BMPC website.

Forms will be in the pews and in the narthex beginning Sunday, November 28. Online gifting will be possible through the website on the same day. Beautiful Christmas cards will be available in the narthex for you to acknowledge your gift and enclose a brief description of the receiving agency and the work they do.

This is such a meaningful way to do your shopping for family near and far, teachers, coaches, neighbors, pet sitters, team members. Please consider participating. Last year, even during Covid with no in-person worship, we had 41 participants and raised \$10,410 for our mission partners. We'd like to see those numbers grow! Help make Christmas extra merry for our mission partners and spread the light of Christ in this weary world.

If you have questions, call:

Patti Pyle 262-573-8242 or Jessi Stitt 828-674-9113



Advent Workshop

Join us on Sunday, November 28, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for an Advent Workshop for all ages!

We will make advent wreaths with clay that you can take home, nativity tissue artwork, Christmas ornaments, advent countdown chains, and more! This is a newer church tradition that has been loved the last few years and we are excited to bring it back!



On the first and third Sunday of the month young families gather outside on the lawn at 10:00-10:45 a.m. for worship. Please join us and bring your own chair or blanket. The services are led by Pastor David and Ms. Brittany, with music from Aaron Price.

Presbyterian Women



Circle Meetings Tuesday, November 2

DORCAS

10 a.m. in CR1

PRISCILLA

10 a.m. in the Parlor

ESTHER

10:30 a.m.

Dee Cox

23 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

NAOMI

4:30 p.m. in the Library

RUTH

1:30 p.m.

Olivia LaMotte

141 Woodburn Dr, Swannanoa

Tuesday, November 9

LYDIA

6:30 p.m. in the narthex

Tuesday, November 30

Bible Study

1:00 p.m. in the Library

Coordinating Team

2:15 p.m. in CR1

Lydia in Action

Lydia Circle started in 2017 and meets on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings, at church, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. With sixteen members, there is plenty of energy for sharing lively study time and for taking on both short term and long term mission projects throughout the year. Lydia enjoys a relationship with the families at Hope for Tomorrow, providing birthday gifts and holiday treats. Recently, members were also able to say yes to a call for help from Bounty & Soul. As pictured below, the Circle is committed to packing "kid kits" for the weekly Bounty & Soul markets. Service, study, fellowship and fun! PW Circles are open to any women of the church and their friends. For more information about Lydia Circle, contact Patti Pyle at 262-573-8242 or for information on all activities of PW, contact the PW Moderator, Ginny Soll.



A huge thank you to all who came together on a beautiful fall evening to do God's work to help our neighbors. We plan to do a service project for Bounty & Soul every fourth Tuesday of the month. We welcome you to join us!



Youth Ministry has taken on a new look as we move through this continuing pandemic. We have adjusted the way that we gather and are focusing on outside gatherings and building relationships across all grade levels. While it is challenging to integrate and include youth in broader programs and events, intergenerational ministry is an on-going goal of the Faith



Formation Team. **Confirmation** class meets each Sunday from 12:30-1:30 as our youth learn about and live into our Reformed and Reforming tradition. They have begun their relational work with Mentors! In collaboration with the **Black Mountain Counseling Center**, several small groups have formed to resource, equip, and support our girls and young women to confront the stressors of adolescence. The Faith Formation Team is preparing care packages to be mailed



in November for our **college students** as they head into wrapping up their fall semester. A few highlights of our fall fellowship activities so far include **mini-golf with Trinity Presbyterian** youth (Hendersonville), the presbytery Youth Rally Day in Montreat, and a fantastic take-out **Potato Lunch** fundraiser which raised over \$1,500 to support youth activities next summer. Thank you for your support! We are looking forward to the Presbytery Middle School Retreat at **Camp Grier** (November 6-7) and sharing in the Advent activities with the whole congregation.

Rev. Betsy Ray continues as a part-time interim Youth Director as we begin our search for a permanent Youth Director.

Climate Update and Hope for the Future

Source: Petteri Taalas and Joyce Msuya, IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees

The natural world is facing two huge problems simultaneously as 2021 comes to a close. The first, climate change, is the warming of the planet caused by the rapid burning of fossil fuels. The second is biodiversity collapse or species extinction, the rapid collapse of species and systems that collectively sustain life on earth. One hopeful sign is that both of these problems are being addressed this month by international conferences that began in October – The 15th UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China; and The 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

Also this year, two new books address both problems in a hopeful, empowering way. We have already discussed Doug Tallamy's book, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, on how homeowners can slow species extinction by planting native plants in their yards. Now a brand new book by Katharine Hayhoe, *Saving Us*:



Every bit
of warming
matters.
Every year
matters
and every
choice
matters.



A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World, teaches us how to talk to each other about climate and embrace hope as a practice, not an emotion felt only when things are going well.

Canadian-born Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian and climate scientist, was stunned when she arrived in the United States to become Climate Science Center Director at Texas Tech University and encountered the bizarre American phenomenon of "climate denial." Since then she has become noted for communicating with others on climate change and was listed as "one of the 100 most influential people in 2014." In her

new book *Saving Us*, she explains the science of climate change succinctly, and explains why the approach of climate scientists has failed to move more people to action. Facts alone can lead to fear and despair unless "negative news about climate change is immediately followed with information explaining how individuals, communities, businesses, or governments can reduce the threat."

Hayhoe stresses that the main thing people can do to spread concern about the natural world is

talk about climate change. Even people who are alarmed and concerned tend to "self-silence" on this topic, causing

ourselves "severe psychological distress" as a result of not being able to connect with others about it. She spends several chapters teaching us how to do this – how to engage people and then listen – explaining that people respond to personal stories and experiences over data and facts.

She shows us how to approach people in authority – pastors, mayors, executives, heads of organizations – for discussions if we have a useful idea to propose.

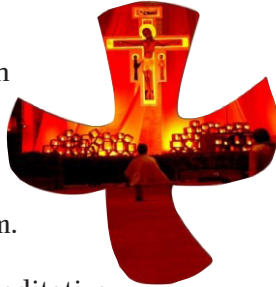
Finally, she stresses hope. Science tells us it's too late to avoid all the impacts of climate change due to the past choices we've made. "But the research I do is clear: it is not too late to avoid the most serious and dangerous impacts. Our choices will determine what happens." Therein lies hope for the future. Hayhoe says that hope is a practice, not an emotion or a value. She insists, "Hope is something we do rather than have. First, we take in a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for; and third, we take steps to move our situation in that direction." – Jeannie Franklin

sunday evening services

November 14

Taizé Worship

with
Mary Katherine Robinson
David Carter Florence
Beverly Thompson



in the sanctuary 5:00 p.m.

simple chants with the meditative
quality of prayer in our search for God



November 28

Take 5 at 5

Rhythm & Word

JAZZ WORSHIP



worship in the moment

scripture, poetry, jazz, prayers

in the sanctuary 5:00 p.m.

Aaron Price and Sam Webber, coordinators

Would you like to join a **BOOK CLUB?**

Annie Hall and Carolyn Crowder will lead a book study of Southern U.S. literature. Flannery O'Connor is first on the list. On **November 3 at 1:00 p.m.**, we will meet at the church under the courtyard canopy or in CR1 to get started on forming this group

Ina Hughs will lead a book club on the **second Thursday of each month from 3:00-4 p.m.** beginning November 11. We will meet at the church under the courtyard canopy or in CR1 and get started with a book selection.

Earth Care Book Study continues every **Monday 1:00-2 p.m.** under the courtyard canopy with the study of the writings of Wendell Berry.

Library News

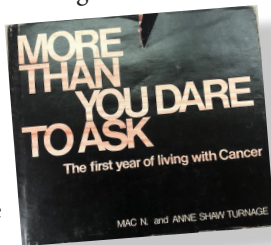
Living through difficult times is a subject most people feel qualified to discuss right now. The Covid pandemic has not only slowed us down but frequently has made us come to a complete halt. While this has been a unique time, most people are aware that individually each of us can face other kinds of situations that can make life difficult or even change it drastically. Two books in the BMPC library collection may offer inspiration on learning to live through difficulties.



One recent donation is a book by the Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill, the Associate Executive of Charlotte Presbytery and preacher at the Women's Connection in August. Dr. Ridgill's book is entitled *Maximizing the Meantime: Feasting on God in Times of Famine*. She says that the book addresses the question:

“What are you doing in the meantime, while you are waiting for God to do what you've prayed about?” In an interesting play on words, she describes the meantime as often feeling like “a mean time.” With the use of both practical and spiritual exercises Ridgill seeks to provide inspiration to assist her readers as they traverse whatever difficult times they may be experiencing.

Facing a possible terminal illness is certainly one of the most frightening prospects anyone can face. *More Than You Dare to Ask* details the long and arduous journey Anne Turnage made over forty years ago. Anne and her late husband Mac, along with their daughter Lynn, are known to multitudes of Presbyterians for their various ministries. This community is blessed that she, Lynn, and granddaughters Catherine and

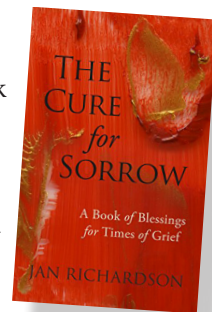


Elizabeth have relocated here. Anne has donated a copy of the book she and Mac wrote about her bout with cancer. It includes accounts by both Anne and Mac of their thoughts, feelings, experiences, as well as prayers and Scripture passages and sometimes an entire page which almost resembles a cartoon that is inspirational. Whether or not one has faced a similar illness, this is an uplifting account of God's provision in the direst of times.



All of us find ourselves grieving the death(s) of loved ones. Perhaps the most difficult of these times is the loss of a child. The son of beloved poet Ann Weems and her husband was killed a few hours after his twenty-first birthday. *Psalms of Lament* is Anne's attempt to express the agony of their grief, the cries of despair, the pleading to God. While this may not appear to be what a bereaved person would want to read, speaking from personal experience, I have found comfort in reading the experiences of others.

Another beautifully written work is *The Cure For Sorrow* by Jan Richardson, written after the death of her husband. The goodness in reading these works comes not only from shared experiences but also from the realization that no matter what dire circumstances one may face, we have a God who is always there with us, in and through our circumstances.



On a lighter note, the library has a basket with several handmade bands to attach to masks to help those with hearing aids. Find these on the display shelves to the right as you enter. AND remember the bookworm bookmarks, which are also handmade, on the display shelves and the freebie cart. – Sally Woodard

Stay connected with your BMPC friends!

On Sunday, November 7, after the 11:00 service, Sam Webber and Brittany Williams can help you get acquainted with Realm, our new database.

Realm replaces the Church Life app and we hope you will find it easier to use and navigate as an online church directory. You will receive an invitation to sign up on Monday, November 1. If you have any trouble getting signed up, plan to meet with Sam or Brittany on November 7.

Helping Hands Ministry



Need a ride, a visit or a meal? How about someone to pick up a few groceries for you? Or to do a small handyman job or occasional simple yard work? Does your dog need walking? The church now has a list of folks eager to assist members with small tasks. Call the church office or email helpinghands@bmpcnc.org with your request and someone will be in touch.

Your church has your back.

SAVE THE DATE
January 22, 2022

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner!

Congratulations to Paul Ginther who won The Asheville Habitat for Humanity Restore's annual Reuse Contest for the Montessori-style Kid Kitchens he built for his two grandchildren. He even used materials from the Church House just before it was gutted.

November Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 Alison Banzhoff
Lew Rudisill
Dan Stitt | 16 Cherie Lunsford
Bess Perryman |
| 4 Carolyn Crowder | 17 Ella Davis |
| 5 Kiersten Hall | 18 Laurel Broadhurst
Parker Fisher
Joe Standaert |
| 6 Robin Stiles
Cailyn Hollifield | 19 Kevin Griffin |
| 7 Susan Wilkinson | 20 Carolyn Johnson
Avery Van Note |
| 8 Virginia Pomeroy
Vivian Pickett | 21 Daniel Wiggs |
| 10 Isaac Dannenberg
Rachel Hekking
Eli Banks
Evie Wiggs | 22 Caleb Holladay
Wilson Jumper |
| 11 Noah Lehman | 23 Judy Hollins |
| 12 Isaac Baraki
Vanessa Pickett | 25 Ellen Gibson
Matt Coward |
| 13 Sarah Wilson | 26 Jennifer Holt
Kay Layman |
| 14 Bethany Corn
Beverly Highland | 27 Jonathan Kadau |
| 15 Jane Blount
Ellen Farrior | 29 Jim Cogswell
Connor Mailander
Vivian Rachman |

Happy
Birthday



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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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

