



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

December 2021

## 2021 Advent CALENDAR

### November 28

#### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9:00am Hanging of the Greens
- 9:45am Advent Workshop
- 11:00am Hanging of the Greens
- 5:00pm Take Five at Five

### December 5

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9:00am FirstLight Worship Service
- 9:45am Church School
- 10:00am Family Worship Service
- 11:00am Worship Service

### December 12

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9:00am FirstLight Worship Service
- 9:45am Church School
- 11:00am Worship with Special Music
- 3:30pm Caroling at Highland Farms

### December 19

#### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9:00am FirstLight Worship Service
- 9:45am Church School
- 10:00am Family Worship Service
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 5:00pm Longest Night Service

### December 24

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00pm Children & Families Service  
bring a bell
- 7:00pm Communion Service
- 11:00am Unplugged Service



The church office will be closed  
Monday and Tuesday, December 27 & 28,  
and Friday, December 31.

## Poinsettias

If you would you like to purchase a poinsettia during Advent, provide the information below. Please make your \$10 check payable to BMPC, adding "poinsettia" on the memo line. You may take your poinsettia to keep after December 24.

your name \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of or in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

# DECEMBER

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
 <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #f9f9f9;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Alternative Gifting</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>details on next page</i></p> </div>			<b>1</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>7p</b> Earth Care <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>2</b>  <b>3:30p</b> Caregiver Group	<b>3</b> <b>9:15p</b> Weekday School LaPosada  <b>4p</b> Holly Jolly	<b>4</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
<b>5</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>10a</b> Family Worship <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>1:30p</b> Youth <b>5p</b> Officers Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle <b>1p</b> Earth Care Book Study <b>5:15p</b> HS Girls	<b>7</b> PW Circles (p.8)  <b>12p</b> Book Club <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg.  <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>8</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> <div style="border: 2px solid #f4a460; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <b>Deadline for the January Window newsletter Wednesday, December 15</b> </div> <b>3:30p</b> Caregiver Group	<b>10</b>  <b>11</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul  <b>2p</b> Ruth Janes Memorial Service	
<b>12</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>3:30p</b> Caroling at Highland Farms <b>4p</b> Finance Team	<b>13</b> <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle <b>1p</b> Earth Care Book Study <b>5:15p</b> HS Girls <b>6:30p</b> Mission	<b>14</b> <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg <b>3:30p</b> Congregational Life <b>6p</b> Faith Formation <b>6p</b> Lydia Circle <b>6p</b> Sacred Circle <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>15</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>6:30p</b> Strategic Planning  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>16</b>  <b>3:30p</b> Caregiver Group	<b>17</b> <b>12p</b> Weekday School Christmas Program	<b>18</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul  <b>2p</b> Jim Cogswell Memorial Service
<b>19</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>10a</b> Family Worship <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>1:30p</b> Youth <b>5p</b> Longest Night Service	<b>20</b> <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle	<b>21</b> <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg  <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>22</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>  <b>3:30p</b> Caregiver Group	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <i>office closes at noon</i> <b>4p</b> Family Service <b>7p</b> Communion Service <b>11p</b> Unplugged Service	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>26</b> <b>11a</b> Worship	<b>27</b> <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Church office closed</b>  <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>29</b>  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>30</b> <b>3:30p</b> Caregiver Group	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> <b>Church office closed</b>	



## HOLLY JOLLY

Friday, December 3

Our Welcome and Hospitality ministry team will have a booth set up for Holly Jolly this year in our lower parking lot (*White Horse*). Drop by and join in the merriment!

As this year comes to a close, it is important that we remember how essential our financial contributions are for the church's life and ministry. **Please sacrificially and prayerfully consider what your year-end giving will be to ensure that Black Mountain Presbyterian Church fulfills all of our commitments.** The IRS requires donations be received (or postmarked) by December 31 to receive credit on your 2021 Contribution Statement. The church has installed a secure dropbox-style mailbox next to the belltower for last minute drop-offs. If you would like to give stock, please contact Sam Webber ([sam@bmpcnc.org](mailto:sam@bmpcnc.org)) for more information.

# Alternative Gifting 2021

Advent is a special season in the church and this year 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 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.**

Order forms are in the pews and a table is set up in the narthex with Christmas cards to acknowledge your gift and enclose a description of the receiving agency and the work it does. Online gifting is available through January 10.

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 while spreading the light of Christ.**

**If you have questions, call:**

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



Young families gather for worship on the first and third Sunday mornings of the month outside in the courtyard at 10:00. We invite you to layer up and join us!

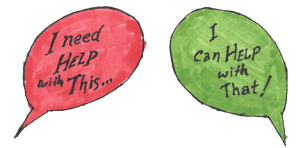
## Helping Hands Ministry

Need a ride, a visit, or a meal? How about someone to pick up a few groceries, a small handyman job, or occasional simple yard work? Does your dog need walking?

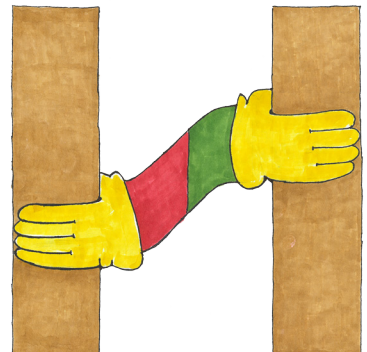
The church now has a list of folks eager to assist members with small tasks.

Call the church office or email [helpinghands@bmpcnc.org](mailto:helpinghands@bmpcnc.org) with your request and someone will be in touch with you.

*Your church has your back.*



“HELPING HANDS”



# Thoughts for the Holy Days

*from the Earth Care Team*

As we wish each other "Happy Holidays," we are using an ancient sacred term formed from the Old English words halig [holy] and daeg [day]. Although the modern term "holidays" sounds secular and not specific, our Christian holidays are indeed holy days, in the sense that Wendell Berry meant when he wrote, "We are holy creatures living among holy creatures in a world that is holy."

Let us remember that the world is holy when we are tempted to do too much online ordering and throw away too much packaging. There are creative ways to give gifts that are not bought or wrapped, such as gifts of our time, or gifts through



our church's Alternative Gifting program.

Let us remember that we live among holy creatures when we plant our gardens for spring. The photos above remind us that we can support little holy creatures when we let leaves pile up somewhere in our yards so that they can shelter for winter, and reduce our sterile lawns, planting native plants that support pollinators the rest of the year. May your holy days be merry and bright!



# Youth at BMPC

Middle schoolers returned to Camp Grier in person this year for the WNC Presbytery Retreat. In the first truly chilly weekend of the fall, youth played games, participated in a Bible study focused on Matthew 25, and enjoyed camaraderie together mostly outside. Several of our youth participated and supported the BMPC Trunk or Treat event by handing out candy. Ava Banzhoff, Max Cogbill, Freya and Pearl Hall, and Burkley Reece all helped out at various stations around the church. Youth and a few friends gathered in the Montreat picnic area near the campground and enjoyed s'mores, hot chocolate, and other snacks on Halloween.



## Camp Grier



## Trunk or Treat



## Fall Picnic



# Feed A Family

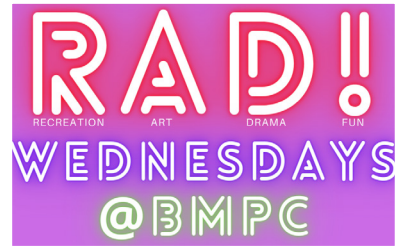
On Sunday, November 21, youth gathered in the fellowship hall to sort, package, and distribute over 30 whole Thanksgiving meals for families in need. Each family that applied through SVCM received a frozen turkey, stuffing, rolls, a pie, a can of yams, a can of beans, a bag of flour, a bag of sugar, and many more of the fixings we are accustomed to, along with a hand-made card from the youth. Year after year, our church comes together to care for our neighbors in need through this amazing program. What a wonderful idea this church helps to instill in the minds of the next generation: that feeding people feels really good.



BMPC window

## That's a wrap for our fall RAD! Wednesdays program.

What a fun time we had over these ten weeks learning Bible stories, singing, playing, enjoying arts and crafts, welcoming special guests, and having time to fellowship with some of our youngest members. For our last gathering we had a pizza party with a wood-fired brick oven!



Thank you to all our amazing and wonderful volunteers: Annamarie Arens, Becky Jo Sumner, Cheryl Wilson, Dave Johnson, Jean Chamberlin, Jane Belsches, and Jody Welker. We also want to

thank all of our families for their participation and support!

Registration for our Winter/Spring RAD! Wednesdays program will begin in January. Our plans for the next session are to learn all about Worship – including writing our own prayers and liturgy. We will also use this time to prepare for the Children's Worship Service that will take place on Sunday, May 1. If you would like to help with this program in any way, please contact Brittany Williams.



# Presbyterian Women



## Circle Meetings

Tuesday, December 7

### DORCAS

10 a.m. in CR1

### PRISCILLA

10 a.m. in the Parlor

### ESTHER

10:30 a.m.

the home of Karen Smith  
144 Lake Eden Road

### NAOMI

4:30 p.m. in the Library

### RUTH

1:30 p.m.

the home of Olivia LaMotte  
141 Woodburn Dr, Swannanoa

*Please bring your own  
sack lunch and beverage*

Tuesday, December 14

### LYDIA

6:30 p.m. in the narthex

## PW in Action

**Priscilla, Ruth, and Naomi** circles' mission project for the winter is assisting the *Black Mountain Home for Children*. We are filling plastic container totes to be given to new children entering the home. Basic supplies included are age-appropriate toothbrush and toothpaste, hair brush, shampoo, twin size sheets, towels, small toy, stuffed animal, Bible, etc. An important part of the tote is the decorated lid which will have welcoming messaging such as "You are loved, we are glad you are here" and a Bible verse. All totes are individual and the tote belongs to that child. If they leave, they take the tote with them with clean new items they can use at home. We hope they return home, but many stay a long time. It belongs to them, no matter what! So, we are collecting items for one tote or more and we are enjoying this hands-on project.



**Lydia** circle gathered at *Hope for Tomorrow* on a beautiful fall evening to plant a Dogwood tree. Huge thanks to Alan, Bill, Doug, and Jean for picking up the tree, digging the hole, and getting it in position to finish the planting. Harmony's two sons were more than willing to put the final soil and mulch on the newly planted tree. After a dedication ceremony was held around the tree, we enjoyed tree shaped cookies and lemonade.

**Supporting our mission partners is an important part of all the Presbyterian Women circles. Esther and Ruth Circles are collecting specific items each month for SVCM.**



## A Second Sacred Circle

with Beverly Thompson is forming and will begin on Tuesday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. There is space for four more women to be a part of this group that will meet via Zoom. Contact Beverly for more information ([drbeverlythompson@gmail.com](mailto:drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)).

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## 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

**Dreams, Dilemmas, Epiphanies** – In December we will take a refreshing new look at the birth of Jesus narratives in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. With Bill Waterstradt leading, we will tackle some questions that you held back from asking because you were afraid they would ruin Linus' speech in "A Charlie Brown Christmas!" Questions like: why are the birth stories so different and why does Jesus' family seem to forget all about them? Where was Jesus born? (yes, scholars debate this) The class will seek to open new pathways of thinking, both about Jesus and the Bible that reveals Him as our Savior.

**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** upstairs in the education building

We will join Bible Explorations for all classes in December. Led by Ellen McClintock and Susan Jumper

## Two Book Groups begin in January

Ina Hughs will be the leader of a group that meets the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Ina's idea is "the group will decide what book we choose to read together from various literary lists, current best-sellers, award-winners, those making waves in bookstores and libraries. Fiction, nonfiction, memoirs... even poetry if the group would like that."

The second book group will be led by Annie Hall and Carolyn Crowder. Their group will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. and will be focused on Southern literature beginning with the work of Flannery O'Connor.

Each group is limited to 15 people. Email Trudy Winstead [gswinstead@aol.com](mailto:gswinstead@aol.com) if you would like to join.

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## 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. The group will meet in CR1 when the weather is too cold or wet.

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## Mental Health Support Group

will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 9 at 3:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

# Advent Workshop

The Advent season began on Sunday, November 28, with with one of our favorite new traditions! People of all ages made clay Advent Wreaths, Advent Countdown Paper Chains with daily acts of kindness activities, decorated ornaments, colored an Advent poster, and cut out Christmas stars. It was a wonderful time of fellowship as we prepare for the birth of Christ.



## Matching Fund Grant for First-Time Donors to Black Mountain Counseling Center

A special grant through the Pisgah Investments Foundation has been given to BMCC which, for a limited time, will provide matching funds (up to \$500 per individual donor) for those who have not previously donated. Your gift of \$100 would mean \$200 for the Counseling Center; a \$500 gift would mean \$1000! The number of people seeking mental health care has increased drastically as a result of the pandemic. Many are in financial need, and BMCC is one of the few counseling centers who take in clients regardless of their ability to pay. All money donated through this grant will be used to assist people who are not able to pay for counseling. Please make your gift online at [blackmountaincounseling.org](http://blackmountaincounseling.org) or send your check directly to:

Black Mountain Counseling Center  
201 N Ridgeway Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711

**Thank you for your faithfulness, care and support!**

## HELP WANTED Church Wedding Coordinator

A rewarding volunteer opportunity is available for someone who wants to assist couples with the details of their weddings at BMPC. This position will be a liaison between the church and the families, help with logistics, relay information, and interpret church policy so everything goes smoothly on these extra special days.

If you like planning and communicating, and enjoy the details of such important celebrations, please call Pastor Mary Katherine and let her know of your interest.

This position has been filled for many years by faithful volunteers and we now need someone to take over and bring their skills to help BMPC's pastoral staff.

Do you know a friend who might share duties, split the year, take turns? This volunteer position can easily be done in partnership. Call the church office (669-2725)

# Thank you BMPC family

*Nancy Beaver and her family wish to thank friends and members of BMPC for their kind words and thoughtful condolences after the unexpected death of our husband, father, and grandfather, Jack Beaver. We deeply appreciate the cards, food, phone calls, and messages.*

## December



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

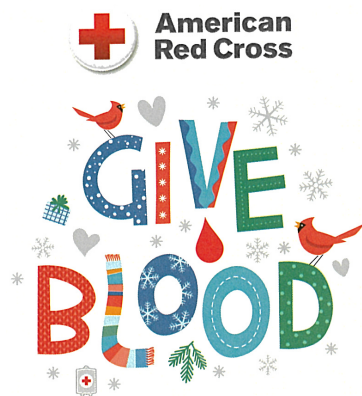
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, January 22**

Guess  
Who's  
Coming  
to  
Dinner!

*watch for details in the January newsletter*

## THE BLESSING BOX

There is a sign-up link to claim a week to keep the Blessing Box stocked, but you can add food items any time. Next time you see the supply running low, feel free to add cans of soup, water, protein bars, etc.



**Blood Drive at BMPC**  
**January 6, 1:30-6:00 p.m.**  
Click [here](#) or call the church office  
to make an appointment.



# BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road, PO Box 39  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727  
[www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BLACK  
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*



**Church House Progress** These photos show the site prep for replacement of century old lead-soldered water lines and terra cotta sewer pipe with newer and safer materials.

