



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

March 2022

Awake, My Soul

There are certain hymns that resonate deeply within me. When I sing the words to *God Be the One to Search and Keep Me in the Glory to God* hymnal, my heart is aligned, at one with God, the creator of all. Every time I sing *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, my soul jumps with joy and hope!

There are secular songs that evoke the same feelings in me. The Irish band, Mumford & Sons, has a poignant and haunting song called, *Awake, My Soul*, a song influenced by a classic hymn, but it is a call to remember the bigger picture, to know that the metanarrative in which we live has meaning and yet the small, daily choices to love and serve others have meaning, too. *"In these bodies we live, in these bodies we die...where you invest your love, you invest your life."* There's a refreshing absence of cynicism in their lyrics that provides a contrast to the dominant American attitude of entitlement, arrogance, and individualism which is often hard to shake off. The utter simplicity and wisdom of their message speaks to me: life is dirty and hard, but we can persevere with



integrity, humility, and community. Remember who you are, they seem to be saying.

During this season of Lent, we are being called to remember who we are as we enter the next 40 days. **Awake, my Soul** is a call to listen, explore, reflect and recall. Why did

God create us and for what purpose? How have we wandered away from the person God has created us to be? **Awake, my soul from death into life, from isolation into community, from fear to courage!** On Ash Wednesday, **March 2**, we will gather with Montreat Presbyterian Church at BMPC at 6 p.m. to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. There will

be an outside option for those who do not wish to be indoors.

Starting on **March 9**, every Wednesday night during Lent we will host small groups at the church as we explore ways in which we can wake up our bodies, minds, and spirits after a long season of Covid. There will be two options for Lenten devotionals, [Making the Road](#) and [Vincent Van Gogh and the Beauty of Lent](#).

Awake My Soul and all that is within me.

Mary Katherine

MARCH 2022

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<p>Tuesday, March 1, 5:30 p.m. Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper at BMPC and 7:00 p.m. Benefit Concert at White Horse – both benefitting the Love Your Neighbor Fund</p>						
		<p>1 PW Circles (p. 5) 1:30p Staff Mtg 5:30p Pancake Supper 7p Benefit concert at White Horse</p>	<p>2 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5p HS Girls 6p Ash Wednesday 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 8:30a AARP tax help</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>6 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation</p>	<p>7 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:30p Welcome & Hospitality 7p Earth Care</p>	<p>8 1:30p Staff Mtg 3:30p Congregational Life 6:30p Lydia 6p Faith Formation 7p Prophets 7p Sacred Circle</p>	<p>9 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 6:30p Lent Small Groups 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 8:30a AARP tax help 1:30p Blood Drive 6p Men's Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>13 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Inquirers' Class 11a Worship 5p Taizé Worship</p>	<p>14 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 7p Personnel Team</p>	<p>15 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>16 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5p HS Girls 6:30p Lent Groups 6:30p Strategic 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 Weekday School Art Show 8:30a AARP tax help 3p Ina Hughs Book Group</p>	<p>18 1p Knitting Group</p>	<p>19 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>20 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12:15p Potato Lunch 4p Finance</p>	<p>21 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study</p>	<p>22 1p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:15p PW Coordinating Team 6:30p Lydia 7p Prophets</p>	<p>23 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 1p Generosity 3:30p RAD! 6:30p Lent Groups 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 8:30a AARP tax help</p>	<p>25 5p Kids night in / Parents night out</p>	<p>26 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>27 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation 1:30p Youth Gathering 1:30p Hike 5p Take Five @ 5</p>	<p>28 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 6p Session</p>	<p>29 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>30 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5p HS Girls 6:30p Lent Groups 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 8:30a AARP tax help</p>	<p>Lenten Small Groups will meet on Wednesdays during Lent. Look for details in Sunday bulletins and weekly emails.</p>	

Deadline for the April Window newsletter Tuesday, March 15

Hope For Tomorrow

Our partnership with Hope for Tomorrow, the SVCM transitional housing campus for women and children, continues this month with a wonderful new opportunity to serve. The apartment we sponsor is ready to be refreshed and furnished! This is such joyful news since it means the family it sheltered has moved on to permanent housing and the goal of ending homelessness one family at a time is being met. Praise God!

Volunteers are now needed to clean, paint, and donate. We have a deadline of March 25. Sign up to help with this [link to Sign Up Genius](#), follow the announcements in weekly church news emails, or see the clipboard in the narthex.



We have a need for the following gently used furniture and appliances: twin beds, dresser, futon or daybed, TV, kitchen table and chairs, microwave, set of china and glassware, side chair, area rug. Smaller items purchased new to fully outfit the apartment are also needed.

A detailed list is available and we want to be good stewards in providing what is right for this tiny house style of living.

To find out more and to confirm your donation, please call Mission Team member Patti Pyle (262-573-8242). Thank you for your support!

Get an extra dose of choral music on Wednesdays in Lent

Starting March 9 and through April 6, please join me in the sanctuary for group singing as the choir convenes. We will lift our voices together with the coming week's service music. Regular choir practice will commence at 7:00 p.m. and all are welcome to remain and observe the rehearsal. This is an excellent opportunity for those of you interested in joining the choir to see what goes on at choir practice. – Aaron Price

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

drop in between **5:30-6:30 p.m. Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper at BMPC** suggested donation: \$10 per person and **7:00 p.m. Benefit Concert at White Horse** (see next page). All donations go to the [Love Your Neighbor Fund](#), a fund that has been established to provide housing for the Amire family.

BENEFIT CONCERT

WHITE HORSE BLACK MOUNTAIN

**Tuesday
March 1**

door opens
at 6:00 music
starts at 7:00

proceeds help
Afghan family
find permanent
housing

music ranging
from
Indian roots
to American
country to jazz

opportunities
to win prizes
and trips in a
silent auction

Aditi Sethi
& Jay Brown

Aaron Price &
Jeff Thompson

The Big Deal Band
with Autumn Wheeler

The Prophets
of Praise

Advance Tickets: \$22
purchase tickets – whitehorseblackmountain.com
\$25 at the door

Presbyterian Women



Circle Meetings Tuesday, March 1

DORCAS

10 a.m. on CR1

PRISCILLA

10 a.m. in the Parlor

ESTHER

10:30 a.m. at the home of
Carol Cauthen

NAOMI

4:30 p.m. in the Library

RUTH

1:30 p.m. at the home of
Penny Mayronne

Tuesday, March 8

LYDIA

6:30 p.m. in the narthex



PW Leaders

Tuesday, March 22

Bible Study
1 p.m. in the Library
Coordinating Team
2:15 p.m. in CR1

MEET & EAT

Are you Covid-weary? Are you people-starved? Do you like to eat?
Will you be fully vaccinated by March 5?

Your Congregational Life team is organizing small lunch or dinner groups to begin in March. Here's how this will work. **The first lunch or dinner event will occur on Saturday, March 19.** Groups will consist of eight adult members and will meet once a month during March, April, and May. Each group will decide when and where to meet and how to proceed – gather in homes, pot luck, meet at a restaurant, bring in take-out or a combination. Members in each group will designate someone to be the point person for basic communication and reminders.

Participants have three ways to sign up and indicate whether they prefer lunch or dinner and the number in their party.

1. [Sign-up online](#)
2. Contact Gay Ferguson
(704-451-3097 or gwenflfe@gmail.com)
3. Call the church office (828-669-2725)

Saturday, March 5, is the deadline for signing up for the first round. After the deadline, the staff will look at the participants and put them in groups of eight.

New groups will be formed for the months of June, July, and August and again for September, October, and November. Sign-ups will be available before each of these three-month periods.

We are hoping that covid cases will be trending down by mid-March and are adhering to covid guidelines by limiting the number to eight people.

Join in by signing up today. This is the perfect opportunity to form real relationships with other members of our congregation beyond just saying a brief "hello" at church events. I'll be the first to be added to the list! – Gay Ferguson, *Congregational Life chair*

**You are invited to the presbytery PW Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at nearby Montreat, cost \$15**

featuring Carol Bechtel, author of next year's Bible Study "Sabbath Rest"

Let's gather a large group to go! Register with Ginny Soll today!

KIDS NIGHT IN & PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday, March 25, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

for kids 4 years old through 5th grade • a time of fellowship, games, arts and crafts, pizza, and movie with popcorn!

• Parents are encouraged to meet together at a local restaurant for their time of fellowship! • This is a wonderful opportunity for children and parents to build a community of friends.

Cost is \$10 per child. Registration is required by Wednesday, March 23 at bmpcnc.org. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Brittany Williams if you would like to help!



another session of
RAD!
Wednesdays
begins



Single-Use Plastics: A Huge Problem

Psychologist Karl Weick says that when individuals feel a problem is overwhelming, they do nothing, but when a person or group focuses on “small wins,” it is much easier to be successful. This idea is more to our scale, and our church’s Earth Care Team is actually good at focusing on “small wins,” such as hosting a conference on solar panels, or adding native plants to our church’s new landscaping.

According to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Marvin Burman, wanting to use his extensive tech skills to make a positive impact on humanity and the environment, has founded *OceanHero*, a search engine that provides funding for ocean-bound plastic waste cleanup. This group has tackled an ocean-sized problem, “the green industry’s black underbelly,” also called “green colonialism.” He says that “only nine percent of the plastic produced ever gets recycled,” while at least “eight million tons of plastic enters the ocean annually.” By 2025 humans will be adding more than 17 million tons every year. We may think that when we clean, sort, and recycle items they are shipped to a shiny recycling factory, but the reality is that since the 1990s, plastic waste was shipped to China, where most of it ended up in the ocean. Then we started shipping the waste to countries even less capable of handling it. In places like Manila, Philippines, streets literally overflow with plastic, “which gushes into rivers, streams, and oceans.” An investigation by the Guardian found the developing countries that receive the U.S.’s plastic “mismanage

70 percent of their own plastic waste.” Burman adds, “It’s outrageous that companies continue to manufacture single-use plastics.”

The AC-T has also reported on two other problems: waste – air pillows, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, and other packaging – generated by ecommerce (*Amazon* and other companies); and microplastics, which now affect every species in the ocean, from whales to tiny plankton to humans. Conservation nonprofit *Mountain True* explains that once a plastic bag is thrown away, it never goes away, but breaks down into millions of smaller and smaller particles called microplastics. “You breathe in and consume approximately one credit card’s worth of microplastics each week, and the health effects of this are largely unknown.”

Mountain True is working in Asheville and Buncombe County for an “outright ban on plastic bags, styrofoam, plastic straws, coffee stirrers and cup lids.” In Hendersonville, they are partnering with the city and local businesses on a “Working to be Plastic Free” program, voluntarily transitioning away from one-time-use plastics such as plastic bags, straws, and takeout containers.

While the problem of plastic in the oceans is overwhelming, we can concentrate on “small wins” both on the home front and here at church, seeking solutions for the problem of single-use plastics, such as food containers, water bottles and other beverage containers, plastic bags, and even communion cups. This is hard work, but worth doing.

What We Can Do

OceanHero lists three things we must do to protect oceans now. While his company works overseas to collect ocean plastic and repurpose it, we must stop adding more to the plastic heap.

Burman suggests:

- 1**
Immediately eliminate single-use plastics from your routine
- 2**
Buy products in sustainable packaging (paper or glass)
- 3**
When companies are failing your sustainability standards, let them know, by phone, email, or social media.

This month the only similarity among the three books highlighted is that all three are recent donations. Each falls into a different category and, for the most part, is on a different subject. However, I believe that each one can teach us something about either ourselves or our history.

Many of you are probably familiar with Barbara Brown Taylor, who has been an Episcopal rector and a professor at Piedmont College. She also continues to be a noted speaker.

ALWAYS A GUEST describes her current vocation, that of being a guest preacher.

Yes, this is a book of her sermons. However, if you think these are dry, humorless proclamations to a variety of audiences, you would be wrong. Taylor's style of writing and preaching is provocative but, except perhaps when you feel you are being challenged, they are also delightful. She frequently gives a new and enlightening interpretation to a familiar passage, such as "The Good Samaritan" or "The Widow's Mite" or "The Parable of the Talents." Most of all, she immediately draws in the reader with her eloquent but often "down-to-earth" prose. This is one of the best books I have read this year.

Beth Allison Barr made religious headlines not too long ago with her **THE MAKING OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**, a protest against patriarchy in the church, in this case specifically the Southern Baptist denomination. As a professor in a Baptist college and the wife of a Baptist preacher, she speaks from experience. She recalls early on when her husband was severely chastised because he approved of a woman teaching a class that included males. This, and other incidents of what she perceived as women's subjugation, became the premise for her research into church history to determine how and why this practice evolved. Much to my surprise, she credits the Reformation with some

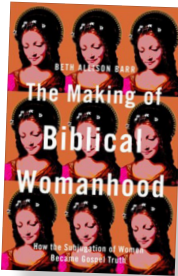
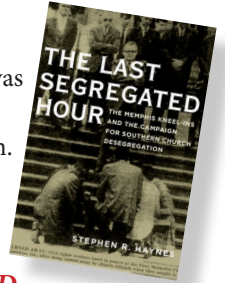
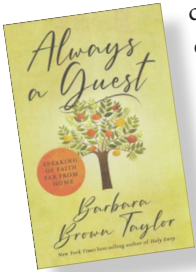
of it, saying that women in the early church and even in the Middle Ages had more authority. Although I feel sure that most of us find the idea of patriarchy in the church outdated and wrong, I know that I learned a great deal from reading Barr's book, and I believe that other "good" Presbyterians can also.

The third book is not a recent publication, as are the other two; it was written ten years ago. However, it is another one from which we can learn.

Even today I still occasionally hear about "the most segregated hour of the week," meaning 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. **THE LAST SEGREGATED HOUR** by Stephen R. Haynes recounts the attempts to integrate Southern churches in the mid-sixties.

While the first chapter gives short descriptions of several Southern churches, the main body of the book concerns the Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. The "kneel-ins," as they were called, occurred when people of color, along with some whites, tried to worship at Second Presbyterian (this was happening in many other places also). One fact that complicated the situation here more was that most of those involved were from Southwestern College (now Rhodes), a Presbyterian institution. Much of the attention is given to the year 1964. The General Assembly met at Montreat that summer, and the author said that initially most thought that the controversial issue would be the ordination of women. Then the subject of integrating churches came on the scene. While this may seem like dull reading of a past which we have overcome, I think that there is much we can gain from knowing about the history of our denomination. It may well help us to understand our present.

Remember the cart of free books in the library, as well as puzzles and handmade bookmarks. In CR1, you will find a veritable library of books on creation care. Borrow one to read – no card to check out. It is an honor system. Nourish your mind during March.



Sunday Evening Worship Services

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Taizé Worship

March 13 and thereafter on the second Sunday of each month through June. We will meet in the sanctuary, outdoors, or in the fellowship hall.

Take Five @ 5

March 27 and thereafter on the fourth Sunday of each month through June. This is a time for poetry, innovative scripture and music in the sanctuary.

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 2.0 upstairs

Bible reading, mostly from the Gospel of John

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

Led by Ellen McClintock, Susan Jumper, Pat Tuttle

All are invited March 6

9:45-10:45 in the fellowship hall

We conclude a month of Mission and Outreach focus with an adult education presentation. Learn what's happening now in Guatemala!

Guest presenter: Trae Holland

Trae Holland is Executive Director/Head of School of Safe Passage school and outreach organization serving the communities surrounding Guatemala City's garbage dump. With over 30 years as a teacher and leader in international education and serving at-risk communities, he has also founded an international sustainability firm and led strategic planning, financial management, and organizational reform initiatives for non-profits in the US and Latin America.

Trae served as a Director of Development in Florida's non-profit sector and before joining Safe Passage, held the position of Director of Academia Cotopaxi's The One Institute in Quito, Ecuador. Additionally, he is a specialist in sustainable approaches to landfills, with extensive experience working with municipalities to change their policies concerning garbage pickers. Trae has dedicated his career to service through innovative education, community development, and leading programs that nurture all aspects of student learning and social advancement

The Safe Passage program has been a major recipient of Rotary support, including local clubs, direct district funds, and a series of global grants, both from the district and other districts throughout Canada and the United States.

Church House progress



Let's Knit Together

The Congregational Life Team has formed a fun new group since there are lots of people in our congregation who like to knit or crochet. We will meet on the **Third Friday of every month in the parlor from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m.** where we can visit while we work on our projects. Come whether you are just beginning to knit or are an expert. You can work on your own project or knit for Project Linus. You don't need to sign up for this group. Just show up. This will be a great time to socialize and make new friends. Feel free to bring a friend!

– Gay Ferguson

THANK YOU!

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church's 2022 Collection

raised:

\$863.35

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 13, 2022


Alison Reese
Executive Director
Souper Bowl of Caring

March birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Betsy Murphy
Nada Barnett
Bella Van Note | 16 Betty Thum
Joe Tyson
Randy Peterson
Christy Carswell |
| 2 Alice Patton
Joe Carreiro
Perry Sprawls
Kim Reece | 17 Mary Hunnicutt |
| 3 Neil McMillan
E.T. Thomas | 19 Bobbie Johnson |
| 4 Jackie Garrison
Johnny Wood
Abraham Mailander | 20 James Robinson-Long |
| 7 Nancy Beaver
Emily Beaver | 21 Rick Hughes |
| 8 Mike Duckworth
Patti Pyle
Cullen Ferguson | 22 Anne Cooper
Melzer Morgan Jr. |
| 9 Don McMahill
Martha Griffin | 23 Jessi Stitt
Martia Rachman
Gus Nelson |
| 10 Scott Roy
David Kadau
Jen Partlow
Darrell Johnson
Knox Gunn | 24 Scottie Cannon
Tom Cannon
Burkley Reece |
| 11 Pam McMurray | 26 Josie Davis
Munroe Robinson |
| 12 Cliff Schlegelmilch
Jonathan Ehrlich | 27 Bill Pollard
Paul Garrity
Jamie Munn
Harrison Partlow |
| 14 Karen Davis
John Smith | 28 Ginny Soll |
| | 29 Martha Murphy
Judith Burt
Max Dodson |
| | 31 Edie Covert |



Pat Thraikill and her late husband Tom will be inducted into the YMCA's Southeast Hall of Fame at a celebration dinner on March 9 at the Blue Ridge Assembly.

They are being honored for their dedication and work with the YMCA for 25 years; He was the director of the Blue Ridge Leaders' School and she was the registrar.

The Blue Ridge Leaders' School was created in 1922 to train teens to be leaders in all aspects of YMCA physical education. The purpose of Blue Ridge Leaders' School is teen leadership development through YMCA health and physical education. Blue Ridge Leaders' School is not a camp. Rather it is a physical education training school profoundly structured with high standards of behavior, physical participation, and individual performance.

THE BLESSING BOX

You can now [sign up online](#) for a week to keep the Blessing Box stocked. You can always add food items whenever you see the need.

Mental Health Support Group

The Mental Health Support Group is taking a break from meeting during the winter months. In the Spring we will re-evaluate the future of this group. Please be assured that our congregation remains committed to supporting those who struggle emotionally themselves or with loved ones. If you need support, please contact Bunny Alexander (317-517-0334), one of the BMPC pastors, or Black Mountain Counseling Center.



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road, PO Box 39
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727
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



TAKE A HIKE WITH US!

Monthly hikes are open to all ages and your well-mannered dogs on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30. Contact Margie (828-399-0148) if you have questions.

