



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

July 2020

WE'RE THERE, BUT WE'RE GOING SOMEPLACE ELSE

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? The question, or potential chant, from the back seat of the car seems to defy generational differences. I asked it when I was carsick from the ride over seven mountains to go to the Highland County Maple Sugar festival in Virginia. You might have been the parent in the front seat who had to come up with the next soothing game of 20 questions, license plate ID, or find the alphabet in signs. Eight tracks, cassettes, and CD's made things easier with books on tape. One of our favorites was a little-known children's comedian named Curly Lasagne. He anticipated the question, Are we there yet? and would answer, "Yes, we're there! And, we're going someplace else!" At least this made the children stop for a second to think reflectively until they realized they'd been tricked. Now with the new league of iPhones and movie screens in minivans, things are a little different, but the same impatient longing for the end of the trip is alive.

With Covid-19 cases continuing to rise or plateau, we're in for a long ride. Our cellular and computer technologies have made this a little more bearable, but the ride is still long, and this time the stakes are very high: risk of death, a faltering global economy, unemployment, and severe limitations on physical gathering. I'm reminded of U2's song of struggle, "Let it go, Surrender, Dislocate . . . I'm wide awake, and I'm not sleeping." It's odd that we could enjoy more time to sleep, rest and reflect, but that's not how most people are responding to the pandemic and isolation. Most of us are frustrated, angry and feeling powerless. The degrees of pain vary, some of it extremely deep, but all of it is real.

In the first few weeks of April, I asserted that we should take these lemons and make lemonade, but this time has become something bigger than a pandemic. It has become a time for root change. We're seeing how business as usual wasn't exactly working for most of the population and we're being asked to reevaluate our core values and processes.

With the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor caught on tape, no one could look the other way. Our culture is re-evaluating what Confederate symbols mean now, and the vaults of history are being reopened to assess the incomplete story we got in school and in the news. Now a raised consciousness across generations is helping us to examine ourselves and racism as it has existed and still exists.

So as church leaders meet, we have many concerns before us, and with the fatigue and emotions being stirred, we sorely miss our gatherings to re-center as a community. At BMPC we are addressing this in the following ways:

- 1) Our worship theme, "The Beloved Community," asks us to consider and seek out community in new ways.
- 2) Our emphasis on psalms helps us to voice the range of human emotions and jumble of feelings coming at us all at once. Trauma is often understood as "too much, too fast, to take in." The writer of the psalms was familiar with trauma and was able to express that rush of feelings that we have to reckon with.
- 3) The upcoming Presbyterian Women's Bible study explores the theme, "Into the Light, Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament."
- 4) Our Racial Equity Task Force has stepped up and led education and relational ministry with black leaders in our area.
- 5) We continue Bible studies, prayer groups, and services online.

We don't stop there with reassurances! God's justice-logic and divine symmetry send us out with a charge, commitment and blessing to give more of ourselves individually and as a congregation. We're sent out to the road to love the lost, afflicted, and suffering. This is a time to be church, a community that seeks understanding, knows grace and lives love. We're not there yet, but we're on the way.

David

We hope you'll join us in worship on Sundays starting at 8:30 a.m. on YouTube.

SUNDAYS

- 9:30 a.m. **Preschool Church on Zoom** (breaks during summer)
- 9:45 a.m. **Becomers Church School Class on Zoom**
George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com)
- 10:00 a.m. **Elementary Church on Zoom** (breaks during summer)
- 3:30 p.m. **Mental Health Support Group on Zoom**
1st and 3rd Sundays
Bunny Alexander (bunny6alexander@gmail.com) or 317-517-0334

MONDAYS

- 8:00 a.m. **Sacred Circle on Zoom**
Beverly Thompson (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)
- 1:00 p.m. **Earth Care Series on Zoom** with Pastor David

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

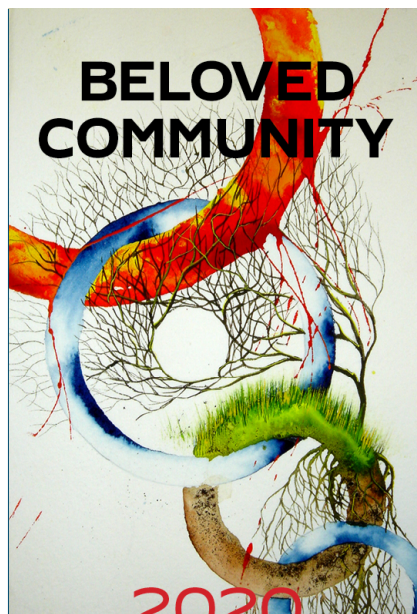
- 11:00 a.m. **Children's Storytime on Facebook**
with our pastors and members

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 and **Matthew Bible Study on Zoom**
- 11:00 a.m. Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)
- 4:00 p.m. **Preschool and Elementary BINGO 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays on Zoom**

THURSDAYS

- 9:00 and **Poetry and Language of Faith on Zoom** June 18-August 27
- 11:00 a.m. Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)
These classes are full – stay tuned for future classes



2020 SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday, July 26, 9:00 a.m.
Worship on the Lawn at BMPC
(If the weather and pandemic cooperate!)

Get up early to beat the heat. Bring a chair, practice physical distancing, and worship on the lawn. Bluegrass music, prayers, and sermon!

SAVE THE DATE

BMPC Annual Picnic at Camp Rockmont – August 23, 2:00-6:00

Bring a chair, swimsuit, sunhat, towel, and your own eating utensils and picnic. We will provide fried chicken. Waterfront opens at 2:00 p.m. We will worship outside around 4:30 and picnic with physical distance from 5:00-6:00.

Weekday School year-end was bittersweet

The school year ended abruptly (in our building) on March 13. We immediately began looking for ways to continue to support and stay in contact with our children and families. Thank you for all the love and support during this unusual time.

We created a YouTube channel and read stories to each class, held Zoom class meetings, made FaceTime calls with children and families, produced our annual Art Show virtually, and sent cards and letters to the children. We closed out the school year with a drive-by pick up on May 23. It was a sad day but a happy time to see our children and families.

In the 2019-20 school year, we served 50 families which included 63 children. We were able to supply eight families with scholarships this year for a total of \$7,634 for the seven months we were in session. Thank you to all those who have so generously given to our scholarship fund this year. Your gifts have meant so much to these families. Our virtual art show raffle raised \$1,700 for our scholarship fund this year!

As we work toward fall and all the changes that will be made due to new Covid-19 guidance, we are thankful for your support by linking your Ingles Advantage Card with our school. This year we have \$1,611.83 to spend. We will begin relinking cards in August. If you signed up with us this year, I will relink your card in August. If you have not already linked, please send me your card number and I will take care of that for you (wkds@bmpcnc.org).

It is an honor and privilege to serve this congregation and the young children and families of our community. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this vital ministry of the church. We feel your love every day!

Alice Patton, *Director of Preschool Ministry*



Russ Spiller installs the permanent sign on the new Blessing Box.

Blessing Box

When we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper we ask the question, "Has everyone been fed?" It's not just a rhetorical question. We mean it. Our congregation shares food, time, or money with Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries, Bounty & Soul, Manna Food Bank, Rise Against Hunger, the Summer Nutrition Program, Second Loaf, and now our Blessing Box. These words extend the message on the sidewalk.

Take what you need.

Give what you can.

May God bless you!

As we reach into the community, we hope all will feel welcomed with our warmth, efforts, and the love of Christ.

Comfort Corner

This recipe was submitted by Mike Barker.

Breakfast Burritos

(a knock-off of Louise's Kitchen's Big-Boy Burrito)

Makes 4-5 burritos

2-3 slices of bacon, diced into lardons

1 or 2 ounces pork sausage

2 cloves of garlic, minced

2 tablespoons of diced green chilis

1/2-1 cup of diced, canned tomatoes

15 ounce can of diced potatoes, drained salt and pepper to taste

1 cup shredded Tex-Mex blended cheese

4-5 10-inch tortillas

sour cream for serving

In a large frying pan, saute the bacon until it begins to get crunchy and browned. Add the sausage and cook and crumble until mostly done. Drain all or part of the grease if you wish. Add the garlic, green chilis, salt, and pepper and continue cooking for a few minutes. Increase heat and add potatoes. Cook until potatoes begin to brown slightly, and liquid has evaporated. Remove from heat. Stir in the cheese and blend until homogenous. Lay tortillas on a flat surface. Place 1/5 to 1/4 of the filling onto each tortilla. Rinse pan and return to medium-low heat. Roll tortillas with filling into a burrito shape. Carefully place the filled and rolled burritos, seam down, in the frying pan. Heat until tortillas gain some color; rotate to lightly brown most of the surface. Serve with a dollop of sour cream. As an alternative, use chorizo sausage in place of the regular pork sausage, and add some cumin and chili powder.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing this delicious Breakfast Burrito recipe!

Please share a recipe with us by emailing jackie@bmpcnc.org and include a brief story about why it's special.

“I hadn't heard the adage, “Eat like a king at breakfast, like a prince at lunch, and like a pauper at dinner,” until Betty Walker shared it with me several years ago. When we transitioned to home-based learning in mid-March, I found I had time to delve into more substantial breakfast items for the boys and myself. This has been one of our favorites. I'll not admit that the chefs at Louise's still do it better than I do, but...””

100 Comfort Kits for the Homeless in Our Community

We are continuing to collect items for comfort kits. **Thank you to those who have already contributed.** Here is an updated list of items we still need:

sample-sized shampoo, soap, and toothpaste
small hand sanitizer
wash rags
socks
combs
small bottles of water
3 boxes of regular bandaids
emergency rain ponchos
toothbrushes

You can drop them off outside of the front doors at the church.

Thank you!

Can in Each Hand

We are collecting canned food and other non-perishables in the north corner of the front entrance. Each week our donations will be taken to SVCM to help stock their shelves. While we stay separate, we can still drop off food for the many who are facing financial struggles during this stressful time. If you are unable to get out, you might contact a more mobile friend who could pick up your donation from your front porch to leave at the church. We persist in living our faith through mission and commitment to God's people.

Library News

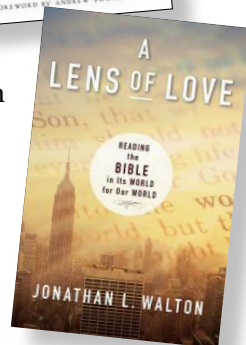
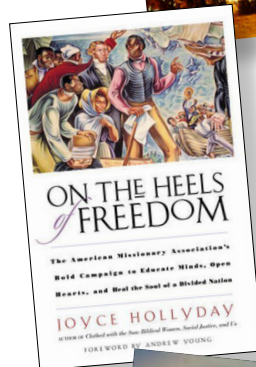
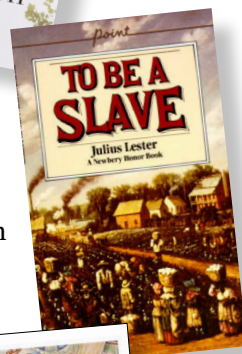
Although the church building is not open for worship, the staff will keep office hours on Tuesday through Thursday. Therefore, anyone wanting to use the library may do so during those times. Perhaps some of you may want to take advantage of checking out a book for these times of staying home. With the turmoil surrounding the events we see and hear in the news you may find some resources to enlighten and/or challenge you.

Most people these days know about Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, either from the book or the film. If you have not read the book, here is an opportunity. Other works which can assist our understanding of the place racism has in our society are historical works *To Be A Slave* by Julius Lester and *On The Heels of Freedom* by Joyce Hollyday. The first contains accounts from the Library of Congress of the actual words of those who were enslaved, often from interviews. It is not a pleasant book but necessary perhaps for those of us who are white to understand the history which still impacts our society. *On The Heels of Freedom* details the work of the American Missionary Association's efforts to bring education to former slaves and, in the process, to heal a divided nation.

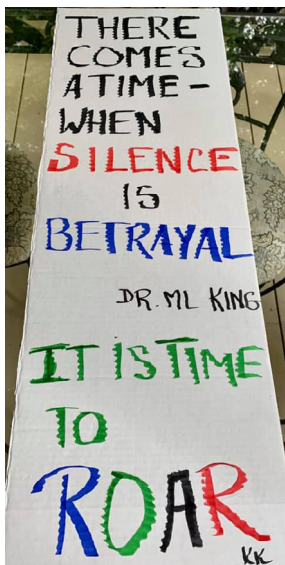
A book which addresses racism only as part of other issues which face us today is *A Lens Of Love* by Dr. Jonathan L. Walton. Dr. Walton delves into the ways in which the Bible still speaks to specific aspects of the twenty-first century. Using the "sociohistorical" approach to reading the Bible, he addresses racism, sexism, gun violence, and many other problems with which we are familiar. With chapter titles such as "Reading Someone Else's Mail" (Paul's letters), "Faith over Fear" (prevalence of guns), and "Speaking Truth to Power" (values voting), Dr. Walton returns again and again to what the title of his book refers: the love of God, which he believes is the only way in which to read the Scriptures.

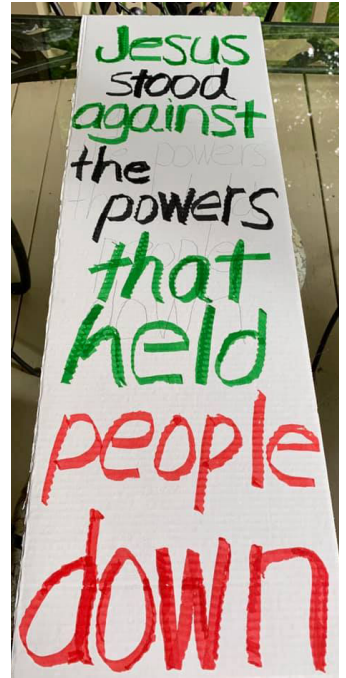
These and other works will be on the display shelves to the right as you enter the library. Feel free to look at and check out other books you may find. Write your name on the card and put the card in the basket on the cart. May you be blessed and challenged as you explore the ideas and experiences surrounding vital issues of our own time.

A special note to Presbyterian Women: the latest issue of HORIZONS is a potpourri of great articles on reading and reviews of books of interest. I encourage you to peruse the magazine and if any book strikes you as a good addition to the library, you may email me: sallygwoodard@gmail.com. As a caveat, I must say that the library's budget is small, but I will consider any suggestions made.



Black Mountain Vigil on Juneteenth





May 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$17,132.25 higher than budgeted.
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$86,286.85.
- YTD Expenses are \$17,200.40 less than budgeted.

Contributions To Restricted Funds

- LERF: \$250.00 in response to Easter/COVID Plea
- Memorials: \$250.00 in Memory of Ruth Brandon
- Music: \$100.00 Individual Contribution
- Youth Participation Fees \$360.00 Registration Fees
- Stimulus Gifts: \$120.00 New Restricted Account

Expenditures from Restricted Funds

- LERF: \$840.13 Assist w/ Utility Bills for Families Moving Unexpectedly
- Youth Participation Fees: \$402.50 Montreat Registration Fees

Expenditures from Endowment Funds

- Transfer to Operating Fund: \$493.28 Faith Formation – GaGa Ball Pit Supplies
- \$400.60 Endowment – Building a Legacy Campaign

Expenditures from SBA/PPP Loan small business

- Administration / Paycheck Protection Program: Forgivable Loan of \$121,900
- Salaries/Benefits: \$45,035.24
- Utilities: \$1,361.74

Fearless Generosity

First, I want to thank each of you for your continuing support of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Your financial support has allowed us to continue our many ministries. Many of you have also demonstrated your “fearless generosity” in the ways in which you have reached out with your time and talents to those in need in our congregation and our community. We will continue to show our members modeling of this fearless behavior in our communications with you and will utilize those examples in our fall campaign.

Our Generosity team met recently to discuss what our campaign might look like this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The timing of the campaign will be as in past years, with pledging information available in early October and pledge cards to be returned by the end of October. We’ll let you know more details for the campaign as we get closer to the fall.

Thanks in advance for your support of BMPC and its ministries in our local community and throughout the world. Your pledges make this possible!

Dave Johnson, *Generosity Chair*

Year-To-Date (YTD) Financial Summary



Habitat For Humanity has continued their work these past few months, but at a slower pace, without their volunteers. The 28th Presbyterian Methodist House that many of us, including BMPC staff, worked on last summer in the Curry Court neighborhood in Candler is complete! And there is finally a homeowner in process. Her name is Dewana Little. Dewana has started her sweat equity and is slated to purchase the 28th Presbyterian Methodist House in December of this year.

“Intergenerational wealth is what I am working hard to establish for my family. Being able to purchase a home through Asheville Habitat will help me accomplish my goal.”

~ Dewana Little



Dewana Little is a 4th generation Asheville native, a mother of two, and a part-time guardian to her nephew. She is also an agent of change.

As the full-time Business Development Associate for Self-Help Credit Union, Dewana also makes time to address the needs of her community by volunteering as the current Executive Director of YMI Cultural Center. She is the founder of the youth leadership organization, *Positive Changes*, and serves on the Affordable Housing Advisory Council. She previously sat on the board of Green Opportunities. As an environmentalist, Dewana worked as the Water Quality Educator for Green Works, and was responsible for establishing recycling programs in five public housing developments. Dewana is nothing short of a community engagement superheroine.

As much as Dewana does for the community, addressing the varying needs from food, shelter, and employment, it's now time for Dewana and her family to thrive. Dewana's outlook for her family remains positive despite the challenges to find safe, affordable housing for her children in Asheville.

As a community leader and professional, Dewana is in the income bracket where she makes too much to qualify for financial assistance and housing programs, but doesn't make enough or have the credit to qualify in the traditional housing market using traditional financing methods. She has stated the housing that is classified as "affordable" in Asheville and Buncombe County is unaffordable, which has prevented her from achieving her dream of homeownership and the creation of intergenerational wealth for her family.



Although we greatly miss conducting the open markets, in-person health & wellness classes, kids' activities, and cooking classes in our intimate community spaces, we are also fiercely committed to the safety, health and well-being of ALL of our staff, volunteers, participants and greater community and we are making that our priority. We are taking a conservative approach to how we operate as we navigate these uncertain times with caring caution and do OUR part to keep our participants, staff and volunteers both safe and healthy. This is what you can expect from Bounty & Soul. We will continue to:

OFFER drive-thru markets, offered twice a week at the former BiLo parking lot in Black Mountain. Bringing fresh, nutritious food to the community with compassion, dignity, positivity and deep intention.

IMPLEMENT strict safety measures at our operations including COVID-19 screening, wearing masks, cleaning and sanitizing, frequent hand washing and adhering to social distancing protocols.

OFFER educational classes online and in print, ensuring EVERYONE has the opportunity to learn about nutrition, healthy food preparation, stress reduction, physical movement, self-care and what to do with all those leafy greens.

ENGAGE with the community in a safe manner, gathering feedback on how we can continue to support the growing needs in these ever-changing times.

SUPPORT local farmers, growers and businesses as we bring local food to the community and commit resources to the local economy.

LEARN, listen and stand up and by communities of color as we do our part to heal injustice and create a more kind and just world.

And last but not least, we will continue to be grateful for YOUR support, generosity and trust. We could NOT do this without YOU. Thank you for taking this journey with us as we tread gently and carefully on this path moving forward.

With gratitude,
Allison Casparian, *Executive Director*

JULY birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 2 | Arlene Brandon
Janine Spiller | 15 | Hal Scheidler |
| 3 | Polly Miller
Milo Parker | 16 | Courtney Stiles |
| 4 | Terry Soll
Will Chilton
Holly Sosebee | 18 | Joan Kline
Wade Talbot
Marrion Ward
Parker Davidson |
| 5 | John Murphy
Ed McDaniel
Maia Cogbill
Jonah Lehman | 19 | Iris Parker |
| 6 | Charlotte Corn | 20 | Carl Franklin
Mary Jo Adams |
| 8 | Alida Grady
Andrea DeWitt
Bradley Campbell | 21 | Andrew Bowman |
| 9 | Gay Mothershed | 22 | Margo Smith |
| 10 | Linda Caldwell
Barbara Ford
Tyler Scouten | 23 | Jean Holder
Bradley Rachman |
| 11 | Nancy McClintock | 24 | Lamar Williamson
Elizabeth Riley |
| 13 | Pat Tuttle
Bunny Alexander | 25 | Grace Martin |
| 14 | Alice Smith | 25 | Aidan Schneider |
| | | 28 | Kristy Beaver |
| | | 31 | Keaton Williams |



In August, we will be collecting school supplies for Hand In Hand to distribute to students

We will collect school supplies in the narthex Sunday, August 2, through Sunday, August 9, for Owen District school students. Supplies will be gathered and delivered to Tabernacle United Methodist Church which is the Hand in Hand delivery point. Volunteers will sort and deliver the items to each of the six Owen District schools. Hand in Hand is a local faith-based nonprofit working with local churches and businesses to help the children and teachers at the Owen District schools. We are blessed to be a mission partner with Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Our valley students need our help to be successful in school and this is a big part of that success. Questions? Contact Jennifer Holt at 828-230-8613 or Kyle Holt at 828-606-0631 or Admin@HandInHandSV.org

Supplies needed:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Pencil boxes | Boxes of tissue |
| Glue sticks | Poster boards |
| Notebook dividers | Magic markers |
| Backpacks: all sizes | Hand sanitizer |
| Sharpies | Tri fold presentation boards |
| Crayons | White board markers |
| Scissors | Stitched composition books |
| Index Cards | Spiral notebooks: all sizes |
| Pocket folders | Rulers |
| Pencils | USB thumb drives |
| Copy paper | Notebook paper:
college and wide-ruled |
| Pens | |

Second Loaf continues with differences

Second Loaf continues through the summer on **Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church parking lot.** We will be collecting only shelf-ready food, unopened and sealed, for the SVCM pantry. Volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves and will exercise appropriate social distancing, but we will be collecting with the same loving spirit that has driven Second Loaf for over thirty years. We are also soliciting food donations from everyone in Black Mountain, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to drop things by. We can continue to show God's loving kindness by helping those in need in our



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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BLACK
MOUNTAIN, NC
Permit No. 36



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



Improvements to Fellowship Hall

While office hours are limited, your church staff is still hard at work preparing for the day when we can be together in person again. In the interest of having a cleaner, more worshipful experience in FirstLight, we are in the process of making several improvements to Fellowship Hall.

Freshly polished floor – Polish not only looks better but will make the floor easier to clean until it can be replaced.

Fresh coat of paint – While we chose a similar off-white, the new coat hides years of wear and tear on the room.

Sound booth – In order to clean up part of the visible bundle of wires, and to protect the audio equipment we use, we are constructing a small stage in the back of the room, lifting the audio and visual volunteers and their equipment about 16 inches off of the ground. The bottom

of the stage will also double as storage space. Trusses to build the stage were kindly donated by the folks at Andrew's Truss.

Music equipment storage – The FirstLight Task Force is looking into the design and construction of a furniture grade storage unit for the front of the Fellowship Hall to store music stands and sheet music.

Removal of old, defunct PA system – The old PA system that has been unusable for years, including the two speaker cabinets currently mounted to the walls, will be removed.

Updated artwork – The task force is seeking possibilities to beautify the space.

Yours in Christ,
Sam Webber, *Director of Operations and Youth Ministry*