



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

June 2020

As the staff considered the theme for our 2020 Summer Worship Series, we asked each other and ourselves a few questions:

“Is there a practice from the way of Jesus that would set us up to live in a rich web of relationships even while we are scattered and apart from one another?”

“Is there a theme that will help Black Mountain Presbyterian to maintain our sense

of community even while we are separated and unable to worship in our sanctuary together?”

As we continued to discern and explore where Jesus is calling us and what we are called to be as a scattered congregation, there was a phrase that kept on surfacing.

## **Beloved Community.**

It’s here but not yet. Beloved Community enriches us, but it can also serve as a model of community for the world around us. It can serve as an antidote to the individualism and tribalism that is so rampant in our country. Beloved Community is the image with which we view the future but it is also an image from an ancient world.

Its origin goes back to the New Testament itself. It is a phrase in the New Testament, from the instant in which Jesus is called “beloved” at his baptism. The first thing Jesus does after his baptism, according to the Gospel of John, is call people to community.

The first recorded words of Jesus are to people hanging around him. “What are you looking for?” Jesus asks them. “Rabbi,” they respond. And Jesus says, “Come and see.”

Jesus continues to ask our culture, “What are you looking for?”

Today, I believe the church has the calling and gift to be true community, to be “Beloved Community” even as we face the realities and the grief of being a scattered church. We are meant to gather together (even by Zoom), to learn and laugh together (in small groups), to love and cry together. And, together, we account for each other. We teach each other and hold each other to standards of civility and grace. We love for the long term and we live for the long term, not the short term. The Christian Church, at our best, offers true and beloved community to the world.



## *Beloved Community*



***Beloved Community. May we celebrate it; may we become it.***

***Summer 2020. Come and See.***

*Mary Katherine*

# 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**  
with Pastor David and Brittany
- 9:40 a.m. **From Then to Now: Church History 101**  
Through June 15. Austin Brown (austin.brown.54@gmail.com)
- 9:45 a.m. **Faith Formation Classes on Zoom**  
George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com)
- 10:00 a.m. **Elementary Church on Zoom**  
with Pastor David and Brittany
- 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
- 8:30 p.m. **BMPC Parents on Zoom** with Pastor David and Brittany

## TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

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

## WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. **Philippians Bible Study on Zoom** May 6-June 10
- 11:00 a.m. Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)  
(two classes)
- 4:00 p.m. **Preschool BINGO 2nd and 4th Wednesdays**
- 5:00 p.m. **Elementary BINGO 2nd and 4th Wednesdays**

**Youth outdoor activities are planned for this summer as soon as it is safe. Stay tuned!**

*Class times are subject to change.*

**If you have questions, concerns, or want to add something to our next newsletter, please email [jackie@bmpcnc.org](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org). The deadline for submissions for the July newsletter is June 15.**



## Poetry and the Language of Faith

*A Zoom Study led by Dr. Lewis F. Galloway*

**Thursdays, June 18-August 27**  
**9:00 or 11:00 a.m.**

Throughout the centuries, poetry has been a primary language of faith.

From biblical authors to modern day poets, writers have expressed profound spiritual truth through poetry, questioned the nature of human life before God, pondered the mystery of creation and explored the character of God. This class will explore major poems by such poets as John Donne, William Blake, Matthew Arnold, T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats, Philip Larkin, Wendell Berry, Mary Oliver, Denise Levertov, and poetic biblical texts that lead us to a deeper experience of faith. The class will be led by the Rev. Dr. Lewis Galloway, a Black Mountain resident and the former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis. The one-hour class will be offered twice each week. Interested participants are invited to sign up for either the 9:00 or the 11:00 class. Each class will be limited to 20 participants. **To sign up for the class, please email [lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com](mailto:lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com) by June 10 to be added to the weekly Zoom link.**

# “Singing in the Rain” – Masked PW Leadership



Presbyterian Women of BMPC enjoyed hosting their annual Birthday Offering Celebration on Tuesday, May 19, with a “drive through” event. (The Birthday Offering is received in the spring each year and is funding four projects in 2020.)

Though it was raining, there were 28 cars that showed up and were greeted (via social distance) by PW moderators and leaders. The women received individually packaged cupcakes and information regarding this year’s grant recipients as well as a list of the current PW

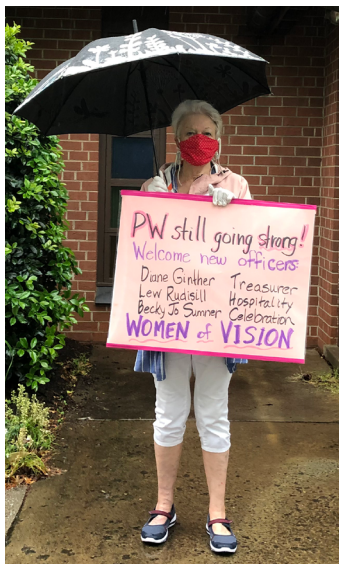
leadership and those to be installed.

PW women baked 12 dozen cupcakes! In addition to the cupcakes distributed during the event, three dozen were also home delivered to our special members at Highland Farms by some wonderful volunteers. Two dozen were donated to SVCM and another 18 were delivered to the Black Mountain Fire Department

Many women dropped off contributions for the Birthday Offering. Contributions may still be made to Deb Mullis.

PW is grateful that Mary Katherine Robinson, David Carter Florence, and Bob Tuttle were present to greet the women (and men) who braved the rain to participate.

**PW cares about you, misses you, and looks forward to meeting again.**



# Social Un-Distancing One Day at a Time

by Perry Sprawls

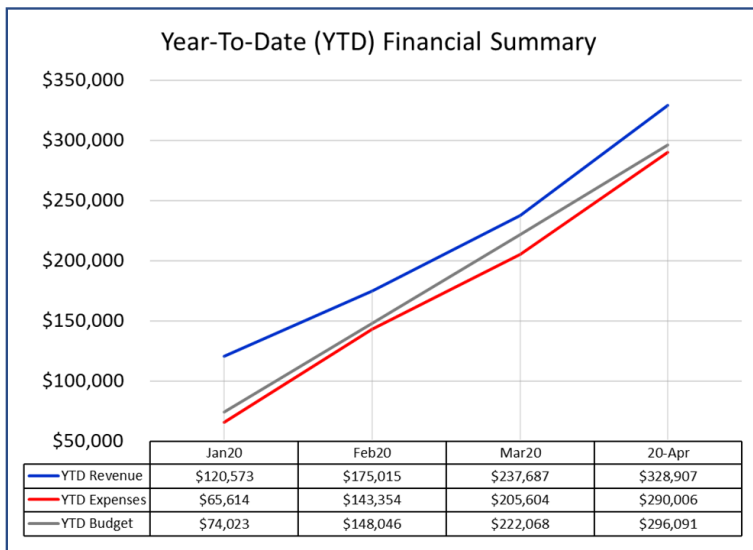
Over the years we all have become “socially distanced” from many friends and family from the past because of relocations to different communities after school, with careers, because of families, retirement, and maybe more desirable climates and living conditions. Those include many old friends, work colleagues, distant family members, and others with whom we shared common interests or activities.

A common bond now is “we are all in this together” with many restricted activities and social isolation. It is a time when reconnecting with others, especially those from the past, and not our current social contacts, will provide many pleasures and rewards.

For me it is now a daily practice. I begin each day by thinking about who will be my “person of the day.” I then contact them, usually by email, but phone calls or occasional letters also work. A special emphasis is to express interest in their life and activities and our shared experiences. Sometimes sending along a photo adds a special touch. These renewed connections can also result in discussions and sharing of ideas, information, and resources that bring opportunities for intellectual engagement for all.

It is the replies received that often convey the appreciation for being thought about and reached out to that makes my day. . . one day at a time.

## BMPC Financial Update



**Hello,**

My name is Connor Mailander. I'm a rising senior at Carolina Day School in Asheville, NC and a member of BMPC. I'm a passionate runner and have been thinking of a way that I could make a difference in my community. I couldn't think of a better way to impact our local at-risk youth than to partner with OpenDoors of Asheville. They have really invested in families' lives and make sure that every step of the way, they have somebody who is there for them. Education truly is the real ultra-marathon.

I've decided that I will run a 100-mile ultra-marathon, through the North Carolina Mountains, and I need your help! I had originally planned to race this fall, but due to COVID-19, the families that Open Doors of Asheville supports are facing even greater need during these times. I'm asking you to join us in achieving our goal by donating towards my race so that we can get families the support they need! Each gift will directly impact the work OpenDoors is providing. Thank you for helping under-resourced students get "To & Through" college. You can donate through [GoFundMe](#)

# “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”

by Mike Barker

The words of the psalmist are hauntingly relevant for us these days. The people of God making this cry in Psalm 137 had been dispersed from their homes and cast into a culture of non-belief in the God of Jacob. Familiar sights, sounds and smells were gone. All hope seemed lost. There was, it seemed, no balm in Gilead for their suffering bodies and spirits. They longed to sing, but the words wouldn’t come out.

One of the first things I heard as the pandemic was unfolding several weeks ago, and we began to shelter at home away from friends, family and routines, was, “I miss singing together.” Indeed some of the most creative energy I witnessed in response to the pandemic revolved around trying to make music with other people in the midst of isolation. We heard tales of Italians leaning out their balconies to sing in the evenings. We have heard of neighborhoods in the US where persons clap and bang and stomp at sunset as an expression of solidarity, and a testimony against all that is drear.

Then we heard grim reports of choirs that met for rehearsal with one symptomatic person, only for germs to spread on the very breaths of music. We’ve heard perhaps that singers, as they release music from their bodies, are also potentially “super-spreading” germs.



In the midst of such gloom and despair, and in the midst of such confusion over what is safe and what is harmful, how can we sing the Lord's song? My response, indeed, “how can we keep from singing?” We were designed to give praise to the Creator. We can barely take a breath without vocalizing a hum. It is our creaturely nature to transform vowels and consonants

into pitch and rhythm.

Our music-making will look different for a while. But whenever we create music, our pulsing voices join the universal music of the spheres. Singing together in a visible, corporeal way will be suspended for a time. But we know intuitively that corporate music-making continues: mountains sing, trees clap their hands, rivers roar. So I remark every morning that the birds still sing (especially one particularly boisterous robin outside my window); my music making joins theirs. Somewhere around this tremendous globe, someone is singing with me.

This is a gloomy time for those of us who make music, especially those who find great meaning in making music in smaller or larger ensembles. The people of God have at many points in history found themselves in similar situations. This is just a season. A new and glorious morning will come: I’m rehearsing even now for that glad day.

Image credit: *By The Rivers of Babylon, Psalm 137* by Magrit Roussos (2006)

# We LOVE our BMPC families.



Pastor David and Brittany have been connecting with BMPC families in the past couple of weeks by making home visits to drop off activity bags and letting them know they are loved and missed. These visits were filled with smiles, waving hands, chickens, a parade, sharing stories, and laughter.



## We can only imagine what it must be like to live in this world and to be homeless as well.

During the winter, shelters provide some protection and comfort for those without a permanent home, but once the temperature rises over 40 degrees, they are on their own. Led by Ginny Lindsey in concern for the welfare of those forced to move from place to place, the Mission team will sponsor the collection and assembling of 100+ comfort kits for the homeless in our community to be distributed by SVCM and church members who wish to carry them in their cars to hand out to people along the way as we drive from here to there. **Items can be left each day, May 29-June 12 at the front door of the church in the box marked "Comfort Kits."** In addition to this list, use your imagination and consider what you might want to make your life more bearable. You may wish to donate one item in bulk, (we already have 100 face masks), or put a kit together containing things like:

Washcloth • Hand sanitizer • Face mask • Energy bars • Tissues • Water bottles • Soap • Socks • Snacks (like peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars) • Hand wipes, • Toothbrush and toothpaste • Nail clippers/ Fingernail file • Band aids/compact first aid kit • Hand lotion • Pencil and small pad of paper • Quarters for laundry • Small container of laundry soap • Lip balm • Comb and/or small hair brush • Mints, cough drops, or gum • Rain poncho • A note containing words of kindness.

The kits will not necessarily be uniform, so feel free to include other items.

**Ours is a generous and thoughtful congregation, dedicated to serving children of God in our wider family. Thank you for your ongoing support of mission efforts.**



## Blessing Box

**Need a blessing, take one.  
Have a blessing, leave one.**

Soon we will be able to celebrate our new Blessing Box ministry. BMPC members can help Debbie Bailey keep the box full with bottled water, canned food, individually wrapped snacks, and personal care items helpful to those in need. This is a wonderful way to get your children involved in mission work. Visit the box when you are out walking and see what is needed and consider how your family can help. The Blessing Box will complement our Comfort Kits project and Can in Each Hand Ministry which is still going strong and also needs your attention. Canned food dropped off at the main entry to church is delivered weekly to SVCM where it is much needed, especially now. Remember Christ's words from Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

*In this day of social distancing and working from home, the BMPC mission team has struggled with how best to support our community. We continue to provide tremendous support to SCVM through our 'Can in Each Hand' program and financial help to other partner organizations. Caring members have presented us with two compassionate ideas to help those most in need. In the coming weeks we will be collecting and setting up two initiatives to deliver needed supplies to those in need. If you have further ideas or have questions about these projects, please contact Anne Drummond at [provostdrummond@charter.net](mailto:provostdrummond@charter.net).*

***We thank you for all that you do to support the mission efforts of our church.***



# The Weekday School

What a crazy school year we have had! Our staff has been amazing as we have learned new ways of supporting our children and families. To close out our year, we held a drive by parade for children and parents to pick up all the children's art and supplies. Each child was given a special bucket filled with fun summer items!





## Second Loaf continues, but with some differences.



Second Loaf will continue through the summer, with some alterations. We will be collecting only shelf ready food, unopened, sealed for the SVCM pantry, beginning **Saturday, June 6, 9-11 a.m. in the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church parking lot.** 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 community.

## Comfort Corner

Now that we are spending more time at home, maybe you are cooking your favorite comfort foods. The Nurture team will highlight a recipe from a member in this **Comfort Corner**. This recipe was submitted by Margaret Waterstradt.

### Squash Soufflé

1 lb. yellow squash, cleaned and chopped  
3 small to medium onions, chopped

Cook the squash and onions together in boiling water until tender. Mash together. (I use a food processor).

1 tablespoon flour  
1 tablespoon butter  
1/2 cup milk

In a saucepan, mix together the flour, butter and milk until smooth.

Add squash and onions to the white sauce. Separate 3 eggs, dividing the yolks from the whites. Lightly beat the 3 egg yolks and add to the squash mixture (let squash mixture cool first or the egg will cook) and salt and pepper to taste. Beat until stiff the 3 egg whites and fold into the squash. Put into a greased soufflé dish and cook 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

“This recipe is one I have made for many years. It’s always been a dinner time staple. It was my grandmother’s (Margaret Morris Newell) and passed on to my mother (Scott Newell Newton). My grandparents built a house in Montreat on Greybeard Trail in the 1950s and it is now owned by my cousin.”

### *Thank you, Margaret. This sounds delicious!*

Thank you to the Nurture team for the idea to add this Comfort Corner. We all enjoy good food and it’s fun to learn more about our members this way! If you have a recipe you’d like to share, please email [jackie@bmpcnc.org](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org) and include a brief story about why it’s special.



### news from ROOM IN THE INN

Room in the Inn has moved, again! Homeward Bound signed an agreement with the City of Asheville to house 60 unsheltered men and women in hotel rooms at the Red Roof Inn in West Asheville, as part of our continuing community response to COVID-19. Homeward Bound staff will continue to operate onsite and provide daily needs, like case management, meals, transportation to appointments and other supportive services as needed. We have moved all of the RITI ladies and our existing shelter clients from Harrah's Cherokee Center to the hotel location and got everyone settled in comfortably. Each person now has their own private room, comfy bed and can continue to safely shelter in place. The remaining rooms will be filled by our most vulnerable clients who remain unsheltered, with priority going to those who are 65 and older with chronic health conditions. The goal is to have all 60 rooms filled. We are so grateful for your generosity and willingness to be part of a community wide effort to expand shelter above and beyond Room in the Inn, and to create space for so many more to shelter in place during this pandemic.

The Black Mountain Counseling Center is open and serving clients virtually. Their mission is to provide mental health counseling without regard to clients' ability to pay. Services are provided by licensed, experienced counselors working with children, adults, and families within Western North Carolina. A poll done by the Kaiser Family Foundation published on April 2, 2020, showed that 45% of adults (53% of women and 37% of men) say the pandemic has affected their mental health, and 19 percent say it has had a "major impact." On-going Post-traumatic Stress (PTSD) will also be anticipated long after the crisis ends. Contact BMCC: <https://www.blackmountaincounseling.org/become-a-client>



THANK YOU for Helping Us GROW



We are proud to announce that we reached our \$30,000 COVID-19 Community Response Matching Grant goal! Thanks to you and dozens of other generous supporters, in just three weeks we were able to raise a total of \$76,329 – more than double our goal. We extend our deepest and most sincere gratitude to YOU for making this possible. Though apart, we are all in this together and you have shown that through your generosity and care.



# JUNE birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2</b> Diane Ginther<br>Donn Handy<br>Ellen Begley<br>Sarah Wren Robinson   | <b>19</b> Keithie Knowles<br>Randy Shaffer<br>River Hana  |
| <b>3</b> Joe Rand<br>Liesl Case   | <b>20</b> Ruth Janes<br>Jim Layman<br>Laura Weaver  |
| <b>4</b> Kurt Shaffer<br>Tanya Banks  | <b>22</b> Tom Stiles<br>Joe Lehman<br>Griffin Dodd  |
| <b>5</b> Alex Hutcheson<br>Bradley Garrison                                   | <b>23</b> Phil Garrison   |
| <b>6</b> Taylor Morris<br>Moses Lehman  | <b>24</b> Julie Moore<br>Noah Holladay  |
| <b>7</b> Carter Douglas   | <b>25</b> Paul Drummond   |
| <b>8</b> Kent Patton  | <b>26</b> Pat Thrailkill<br>Charlotte Sprawls<br>Jennifer Mohr<br>Sandy Shaffer<br>Tonya Tyndall<br>Mattie Lehman<br>Gavin Dodd |
| <b>9</b> Franklin Harris<br>Debbie Bailey<br>Ameliah Lee Davidson             | <b>27</b> Jack Wynn<br>Jeannie Maidment<br>Alex Farmer<br>Caroline Roy<br>Abby Lehman   |
| <b>10</b> Spring Patton<br>Rachael Lee<br>Lauren Nalley                       | <b>28</b> Carolyn Cordell   |
| <b>15</b> Faith Bradley<br>Cory Partlow<br>Kelly Peterson<br>Ruth Carswell    | <b>29</b> Bob Headley   |
| <b>12</b> Peter Mudge<br>Katherine Neville<br>Isabella Hile                   | <b>30</b> Bob McMurray<br>Wyatt Campbell  |
| <b>13</b> Henry Copeland<br>Melissa Wilson<br>Summer Kirkpatrick              |   |
| <b>15</b> Bill Bale   |   |
| <b>17</b> Ruby Begley<br>Elizabeth Rand<br>Powell Winstead<br>Margie Stansell |   |



## Items needed for Highland Farms residents

If you have a functional radio or cd player that you are not using and are willing to donate, please contact David Carter Florence (david@bmpcnc.org) or Anne Drummond (provostdrummond@charter.net). We are also looking for new aromatherapy diffusers. These items will be given to members at Highland Farms who need them.

## Library News

How many in the congregation know about all the published authors who are or have been part of BMPC? There are a large number, and the library has a section dedicated to them. If COVID-19 had not intervened, the month of May would have featured books by these distinguished writers. Since that was not possible, look for the display when the building is once again open. You might be surprised, not only at the number of authors, but also at who some of them are, and you may find one or more books which you would enjoy reading.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who are responsible for the creative and inspiring worship services in which members of BMPC and others of us are participating each Sunday. For the pastoral staff, musicians, liturgists, technicians and all others who have in any way contributed to making online worship possible, I offer my gratitude and, I am sure, that of the many who find sustenance on Sunday morning in this time when our lives have been disrupted.

God bless you.

Sally Woodard, *Library Committee*



**BLACK MOUNTAIN**  
Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Org.  
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MOUNTAIN, NC  
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an Earth Care Congregation



**BMPC Child Protection Policy**  
*providing a safe environment for children & youth*



**Congratulations**



**graduates!!!!!!!!**

**COLLEGE**

Emily Beaver  
Caroline Roy

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Scott Burns  
Maia Cogbill  
Melissa McElwee  
Taylor Owen  
Mary Scott Robinson  
Bella Van Note