



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

October 2020

Finding Wisdom in Scripture and Community: Holding Grief and Hope at the Same Time

How do we bring forth insight from ancient scriptures to meet our challenges today? As Nahum Ward-Lev says, “As a rabbi and a lifelong student of the Hebrew Scriptures, I find Biblical wisdom speaking into the present moment with more relevance and power than at any other time in my life. . . We are called to learn how to peaceably relinquish the old world and how to imaginatively give birth to a new world in which all life can flourish. These Scriptures, the Torah and the Prophets in particular, were gathered and edited to meet the needs of the Israelite people who had suffered the catastrophe of the Babylonian destruction and subsequent exile in the sixth century BCE. These writings were held sacred because they helped people absorb the loss of the world they had known and offered a vision for a way forward.” Now is one of those times when we may dig into our rich traditions to find our way forward.

During the 1960 to 1996 civil war in Guatemala, our brothers and sisters formed two committees, one to collect and bury the dead and one to celebrate life moving forward. It seems to me that we are in a time of holding mixed emotions. We’re staring at a changed world, living in pockets of isolation, and

striving to find ways to cope, acknowledge loss, and move forward in hope.

Many of our small groups have become like the home churches of the early Jewish and Christian diasporas. Outreach groups, Caring groups, Fellowship Groups, Presbyterian Women Circles, Youth Groups, Study groups and Sunday Schools continue to find ways to meet. We can still serve and see one another, though now it’s limited to Zoom, small groups and small outdoor gatherings. Keep an eye out for new small groups that are starting. Perhaps these limitations help us to be more intentional about how we do meet. I’ve noticed that we are listening better, choosing our words more carefully, staying attentive to our emotions, and being extra sensitive to care in the community. We’re feeling more pain, but we’re learning to give even more. May we be judged as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “by the content of our character.” So as we continue to watch worship, start up outdoors worship, and gather carefully in small groups, may we carry forth this new awareness that we, like our forebears in faith, are called to live in the abundance of Christ’s love and grace, giving birth to a new world in which all life can flourish.

David

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

SUNDAYS

- 9:45 a.m. **Becomers Church School Class on Zoom**
Currently studying Overlooked Missives: Titus, Philemon, and Jude
Newcomers are always welcome to the class!
George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com)
- 3:30 p.m. **Mental Health Support Group on Zoom** 1st & 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) If you are interested in joining a Sacred Circle, please let Beverly know.
- 1:00 p.m. **Earth Care Series on Zoom** with Pastor David
We are reading *Braided Sweetgrass – indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
[email Jackie (jackie@bmpcnc.org) for Zoom link]

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. **Matthew Bible Study on Zoom**
Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)

New BMPC office hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

You can find this newsletter, updates, and much, much more on our website bmpcnc.org

If you have questions, concerns, or want to contribute to the next newsletter, email jackie@bmpcnc.org. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is October 15.

Mike Barker's article, *Found Art Advent Wreath, an Intergenerational Revisioning*, appears in the current issue of *Reformed Worship*. The article discusses the advent wreath as it was utilized in *FirstLight* a few years ago, when family-groups brought "things" from around the home to create our weekly wreath installation, based on the lectionary readings. Thanks to all the families that participated, and made this article possible.



Please call the church office by October 15 if you would like a 2020-2021 Presbyterian Planning Calendar. The cost is \$14.50 each. You can pay for your calendar when you pick it up. We will let you know when they arrive.

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at BMPC is October 29, 1:30-6pm
Schedule your appointment for redcrossblood.org

Please pray for peace.



This public art installation seeks to remind our community of the need for **peace**.

Peace is broadly understood: world peace, inner peace, an end to violence and intolerance. We will create pinwheels, add written prayers to them, and display our pinwheels on the front lawn of our church. Our goal is 600 pinwheels adorning our lawn, and conveying to our community our prayers for all of us, and the world.

Pinwheels for Peace was born out of a public school art project in Florida in 2015. It was originally associated with the World Day for Peace on September 21 of that year (visit pinwheelsforpeace.com). Our installation will span a longer period of time not including 9/21, but the witness for peace in our community, nation, and world will be no less powerful.

Our pinwheel project seeks to build on the red pinwheels we enjoyed at Pentecost this year, adding a layer of “prayer engagement.” We hope you enjoy creating your pinwheel(s), but more importantly that you use this experience to focus your mind, heart, and spirit on the need for peace in our world and in our lives.

Pinwheel kits are available under the portico at the front doors of the church.

When we bought our old house, the refrigerator came with a magnet that reads: “Laverne's Self Cleaning Kitchen – Clean it Yourself.” In the time of COVID, I ask that if you plan a meeting at church, first contact Brittany Williams to get on the schedule, and be sure you sanitize the space when you are done (tables, chairs). Cleaning caddies with cleaner and rags are parked in various rooms throughout the building, as well as in the new cleaning closet, next to the family restroom. There are also spare face masks and hand sanitizer in the narthex. Thanks.

Sam Webber, *Director of Operations*



Helping to Feed Homeless in our Area

In the fall, BMPC normally participates in two events that provide food for our area homeless. One event is Homeward Bound's – Room in the Inn (RITI) program where we host women with the UMC for a week, in their church house. The other is providing meals for a week to the SVCM winter shelter. These projects have taken a different form because of COVID-19. Homeward Bound is housing the homeless community at a Red Roof Inn in Asheville, including the women we normally accommodate through RITI. The SVCM shelter will also be different with details being worked out.

In lieu of food collection, we would like to show our support through monetary contributions. Through October 14, we will be collecting funds for these two efforts to support our community. Our goal is to provide Homeward Bound and SVCM funds to purchase meals for one week for the populations that we would normally support. Although providing funds is less personal than cooking a pot of chili, it keeps us connected with those most in need.

Please provide your contribution to BMPC, with MEALS on the memo line or give online at <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=95713&f=421>.

Call Barbara Gaw at 828-775-4463 if you have any questions.

We are all in this together.

Campfire Vespers

beginning October 4, 6:30 p.m.



Sunday evenings in October at 6:30 on the church lawn and parking lot next to the education building, we are offering small informal worship (for inclement weather, congregants may choose to stay in their car or weather the weather). To get the most out of this, dress appropriately for the weather, bring a chair and stay in your pod! We will mark off pod areas for groups and individuals so that we may keep 6-8 feet physical distance.

- Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094AA5A82FA4FB6-campfire>
- Bring your own chair
- Gathering is limited to 50 people or under
- Wear a mask and stay in your family group
- If you are not signed up, you may sit in your car in the bank lot or adjacent to the lawn and tune into the FM station
- Come to hear music, readings, a message, and to pray together

Interested in helping? Contact David Carter Florence david@bmpcnc.org



There's a special event brewing...

Join other Presbyterian Women for a very special Thank Offering celebration on October 13.

You are invited to join in a “Meditation Walk” that will allow us to share a meditation worship with others yet still practice the safety of social distancing and wearing our masks.

We will not gather as a group in worship but we will worship together as each participant moves through the six stations of worship following the path our companions will walk.

You will be met along the way by PW guides who will direct you on your journey of personal renewal and your path of commitment to God's opportunities through the Thank Offering Grant Recipients. There will be an opportunity for you to bring your gifts to the Thank Offering. If you are unable to attend, your offering can be mailed to the church to the attention of PW Treasurer, Diane Ginther.

To make our crowd smaller, we request that women whose last name begins with A-L come between 1:30 and 2:30 and M-Z between 2:30 and 3:30. If this is inconvenient for you, just show up anytime between 1:30 and 3:30 at the church.

Postmark: PW

Presbyterian Women of BMPC newsletter

Have you received the new BMPC Presbyterian Women newsletter, PW Postmark, in the mail?

If not, and you would like to, please contact

Patti Pyle at pyle.patti@gmail.com.

Making New Connections

Remember when PW Circles met in each others' homes? We caught up with each other as we found a place on the sofa and jostled a salad plate holding cookies or nuts. As we left, there were choruses of goodbyes along with the dance of figuring out whose car was blocking whom in the driveway. My, how things have changed!

We started this year's Bible study online, using YouTube and Zoom, but I still felt a sense of connection. Many of you sent thanks and congratulations on that first lesson's success. Now we're moving forward and making a connection we never imagined through that technology.

A PW sister in Missouri saw the lesson on YouTube. She emailed, asking if she might share our Bible Study with members of her circle. Some of her members wouldn't be able to attend meetings even after Covid, and she saw the YouTube lessons as a way to reach them.

So we will be sharing next month's lesson and those in the future with the women of LaDue Chapel Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri!

– *Karen Austin*

RAD! WEDNESDAYS

Want a time
for your kids to
connect and play?

Join us for this new
program – a time of
Recreation, Art, & Drama –
once a month in
October, November,
and December.

Grades K-2

FIRST Wednesday
of the month
3:30-5:00pm

Grades 3-5

SECOND Wednesday
of the month
3:30-5:00pm

Please register at
bmpcnc.org/children

Pre-Youth Group

We invite ALL 4th and 5th graders to join us on the third Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30pm for Pre-Youth Group! Our goal for Pre-Youth Group is for kids to have lots of fun and build friendships while getting a feel for what youth group is like! All 4th and 5th graders are welcome and do not have to be members of the church to attend. Please register at bmpcnc.org/children.

Elementary Virtual Church School

(aka Sunday School) These lessons are for K-5th graders and are pre-recorded. We share them each week via email and our website at bmpcnc.org/children. Do the lesson in one day or spread it out through the week. There will be no zooming!

Preschool Church School

We invite our preschoolers to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am on Zoom for a time to connect and hear a story. We will also have a weekly show-and-tell where the kids can show us their favorite treasures.



For more information regarding any of these programs,
please contact Brittany Williams at brittany@bmpcnc.org or 828-669-2725



The BMPC youth group has been making the most of our recent good weather – rock-hopping, grilling, hiking, and checking out Montreat Online from the Montreat Campground!



Join us Saturday, October 24 , 3:00-5:00pm
for a drive-thru

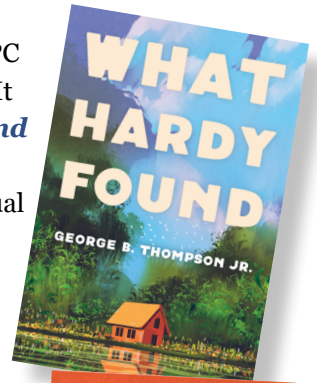
Fall CARnival

games • FUN • prizes • a community art project
service opportunities • FUN • FREE!

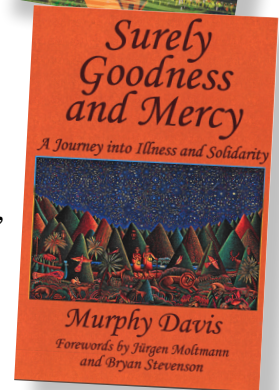
**If you would like to host a table with an activity,
please contact Brittany Williams at brittany@bmpcnc.org.**

Library News

The library again has been the recipient of more generous donations from BMPC members. One was written by BMPC clergy member George B. Thompson, Jr. It is a departure from his other works, which are nonfiction. *What Hardy Found* is an engaging novel, the main character of which is twelve-year-old Hardy Newkirk, who has just moved to a new town in Appalachia. Hardy faces the usual excitement, as well as trauma, of being the new kid in school and adjusting to a different environment. While the novel is a good read for teenagers, this senior citizen had difficulty putting it down. It is more than the story of an adolescent struggling with changes; it is also a mystery, as Hardy discovers something strange on one of his forays into the woods surrounding his new home. There is still another layer to this novel, as Hardy learns that suspicion and prejudice are prevalent in this community, although much of it appears beneath the surface. Intriguing plot, well-drawn characters, and a much needed message – all are found in *What Hardy Found*.



Surely Goodness And Mercy, the other new donation to the library is not, as one might think from the title, a book of devotions on Psalm 23. The subtitle, *A Journey Into Illness And Solidarity*, however, describes well the content of this inspiring, painful, and challenging work. Murphy Davis, the author of the book, is well-known to many students of Columbia Seminary who have volunteered at the Open Door Community, She, along with Ed Loring, to whom she is married, founded and ran this welcoming facility in downtown Atlanta for persons who were homeless and those who had been recently released from prison. The Open Door Community figures largely in this story of a devastating illness and personal journey of fear and hope.



In 1995 Murphy was given a diagnosis of cancer. For well over twenty years she has battled surgeries, treatments, recoveries – then more diagnoses, surgeries, treatments, and recoveries. She goes into great detail at times of her experiences, including the times of despair and the times of relief and even joy. The last verse of Psalm 23, reflected in the title, became a mantra, in a way, for her. Her personal struggle is only one theme of the book. The other, which is beautifully and often agonizingly woven into her story, is that of the plight of the poor and the marginalized. The problems with health care, racism, white privilege, and the death penalty, among others of social justice, are delineated vividly and passionately. This book has probably impacted me as much as any that I have read in quite a while. Anyone who wishes to order a copy may find some cards on the cart telling how one may do so.

A reminder that the library has added a number of other books relating to various current issues – these are still on display on the shelves immediately to the right as one goes into the library. Please come in, browse, and check out. – *Sally Woodard*

October 23-25, 2020 | Online or in Montreat

What's Essential: Discerning the Church's Work Amid the Twin Pandemics of Structural Racism and COVID-19

Our goal is to provide participants with capacity-building tools and resources to work for antiracist transformation in their churches and institutions. Participants will finish this antiracism training with concrete action steps for their congregations and local communities.

This Crossroads antiracism training will specifically address the political challenges facing the church in light of how the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare the acute structural inequities of the USA and their impact on communities of color, particularly Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. Given the coronavirus pandemic and its disproportionate impact, our antiracism training will also address how the church is called to be a political actor. What and where is the Church being called to do and be?

Dr. Reggie Williams – Keynote

Dr. Reggie Williams is the associate professor of Christian ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. Williams' book *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* (Baylor University Press, 2014) was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title in 2015, in the field of religion. Other leaders include: Elona Street-Stewart, Dr. Raj Nadella, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

REGISTER NOW!

<https://montreat.org/events/crossroads20>

RATES & REGISTRATION

Comprehensive rates

Includes conference fee of \$100, room in Assembly Inn, meals in the Galax Dining Room, and a \$2 community services fee per adult.

Single occupancy, private bath \$315

Single occupancy, connecting bath \$285

Full Conference, Commuter In-Person

\$102 per person. Commuter rate does not include lodging or meals.

Full Conference, Commuter, Online Only

\$175 per person. Online-only participants will receive the same materials and have the same access to small groups, panels, keynotes, and conference materials.

Keynote Only

\$40 per person. Should you wish to view only the keynote portion of this conference, you may also register for just the keynote, with the option to choose between in person or online viewing.

SVCM Walk for Hunger Relief

The Walk for Hunger Relief date has been set for October 11 this year and we need your help. Your participation in this outreach effort will benefit the Swannanoa Valley families and individuals who are in situations of hardship and need food. SVCM will be at First Baptist Church Black Mountain – 130 Montreat Rd., Sunday, October 11, between 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Stop by and drop off donations and non-perishable food.

The ministry will donate 5% to Bounty and Soul and 5% to Food Connection Asheville.

Ways to Participate

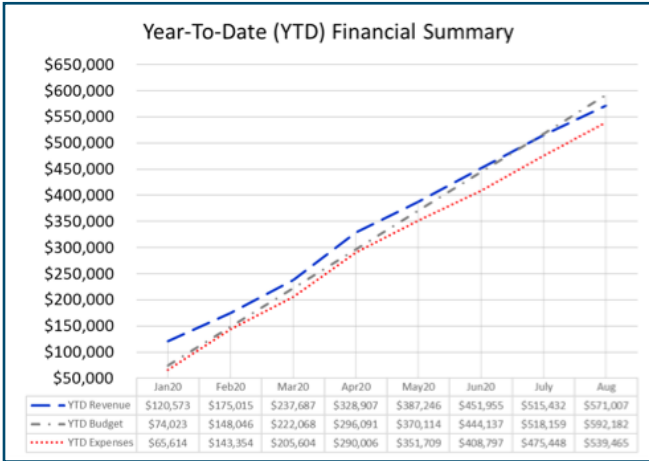
This year's event will look a little different. We are not able to gather together to walk, but that does not mean you cannot participate in helping raise needed funds for our food pantry.

Ways You Can Help

- **BMPC Youth will be participating in the Walk for Hunger Relief at a distance. Please contact David Carter Florence (david@bmpcnc.org) or Sam Weber (sam@bmpcnc.org) if you would like to sponsor one of our youth on their physical distanced safe walk!**
- Walk wherever you like: at home, the greenway, take a hike. Get creative! Get friends and family to sponsor you
- Start a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign.
- Make an online donation
- Mail a check (*write Walk in the memo) to:
PO Box 235, Black Mountain, NC 28711

August 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$21,090.465 lower than budgeted
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$58,058.14
- YTD Expenses are \$50,789.33 less than budgeted



Contributions to Restricted Funds

- Local Emergency Relief Fund (LERF) \$25 response to COVID-19 plea
- Memorials \$50 received in memory of Lamar Williamson
- Nurture \$100 reclassified unused funds from canceled Nurture event
- Youth Participation Fee \$402.50 Montreat Conference Center refund for cancelled event
- Organ Improvement Fund \$15 individual contribution

Expenditures from Restricted Funds

- LERF \$414.45 Virtual Classroom Assistant payroll expenses
- Memorials \$100 Dave Miller Memorial Funds to Outreach Foundation
- Music \$3,960.80 Carillon balance due
- Faith Formation \$200 Staff Intern payroll expense (used designated funds)

Expenditures from SBA/PPP Loan

Balance at August 31: \$29,942.01

Funds used in August

- Weekday School Payroll \$3,982.25
- Virtual Classroom Intern Payroll \$340

We're having a great beginning to our school year at the Weekday School!



OCTOBER birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 David Kaylor
Mary Knight
Sarah Berglund
Nick Murphy
Mary Scott Robinson | 19 Marvin Secrest
Stephen Riley
Rick Bailey
Allen Bell
Ella Farish |
| 3 Eleanor Landers
Stephen Smith | 20 Libba Fairleigh |
| 4 Jessica Lehman | 21 Carol Cauthen |
| 5 Doris Hogle | 22 Linda Stroupe
Donna Drake
Olivia Tyson |
| 6 Grace Stitt
Tonia Allen | 23 Becky Jo Sumner |
| 7 Lewis Galloway | 24 Mary Brueggemann
Nora Nelson |
| 8 Craig Cooley
Delores Spielman | 25 Ellen McClintock |
| 9 Barbara Jenkins
Dave Johnson | 26 Harry Horne
Donna Marie Todd
James Huggins |
| 10 Gayle Shelton | 27 Bill Janes
Hugh Mayronne
Ken Scott
David Hekking
Reid Pomeroy |
| 11 Renee Sandy
Daryl Fisher
Kristi Morgan | 28 Betty Becker
Olivia LaMotte
Caleb Ford
Max Cogbill |
| 12 Art Lindsay
Bill Waterstradt
David Carter Florence
Josie Munn | 30 Leslie Carreiro |
| 13 Barbara Massey
Paul Willison
Anna Carter Florence | 31 Susie Watson Burns
Billy Banks
Callie Shaffer |
| 14 Lucy Dusthimer | |
| 15 Pete Peery | |
| 16 Hannah Webber | |
| 17 Gayle Petty-Johnson
Mary Standaert
Kyle Holt
Autumn Hollifield | |



Dear Mary Katherine, David, Elders, Mission Committee, and members of BMPC,

I've been praying for you all each evening during this pandemic. I've been encouraged by the wonderful creativity you have used in being church in new and exciting ways.

Thank you also for your prayers and support of the mission work in Taiwan. Your partnership in mission means even more in these challenging days.

The government here was very proactive in seeking to contain the spread of the virus. With the experience with SARS 17 years ago, they have done a beautiful job of keeping folks healthy. Schools, churches, and businesses all remain open.

May God continue to give you wisdom and health.

Gratefully,
John McCall (*our international mission partner*)

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, a video from John McCall showing his work in Taiwan will be shared in the YouTube worship service.



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

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www.bmpcnc.org

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U.S. POSTAGE
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MOUNTAIN, NC
Permit No. 36



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



A great way to support The Weekday School

The Weekday School received \$1,900 worth of supplies this year from the Tools For Schools program! To link your Ingles card to our school, you can sign up at your local Ingles grocery store, on line at ingles-markets.com, or email Alice Patton (wkds@bmpenc.org). Our school code is 10820. Even if you have signed up in the past, you will need to relink your card for this new school year.

