



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

September 2020

*A*s we move into the month of September and prepare for fall in the mountains, there are several complex thoughts and emotions that surface. On one hand, we as a church continue to seek out ways we can be together safely and live out our value to love the world God so loves. On the other hand, we are doing everything we can do to limit the spread of this virus, even when it means sacrificing our own desires to be in worship together. The staff, session and I live between these two tensions each and every day.

I know that many of you are wondering what our plans are for the near future in terms of worship, the Weekday School, and other gatherings. The Session authorized a Reopening Task Force at our July meeting. Your pastors, along with our clerk of session, Mike Ballard, and members of our Emergency Response team will be meeting in September to determine the parameters for being able to slowly reopen our facilities back up to our community.

For now, the session and our Faith Formation Team have prioritized the reopening of our Weekday School as a ministry and mission to young families in our valley. The BMPC Weekday School is scheduled to reopen on September 1 with all the necessary precautions in place. Please keep the children, families, and our teachers in your prayers.

Until further notice, meetings are limited to groups under 10, preferably outside. When a space is reserved inside in advance, limited small meetings (with everyone at least six feet apart at all times and wearing a mask) may occur. When at all possible, Zoom meetings are preferred.

The staff is hard at work planning new opportunities to inspire, nurture, and serve as we move into the fall. As we plan for more worship opportunities outside, please pray that the COVID-19 numbers in our valley take a downward turn. We are grateful for your patience, perseverance, and creativity as we take this opportunity to explore how to be the church in new and innovative ways.

I am deeply appreciative for how we continue to live out our values of embodying the love of Christ to one another and our community. I'm amazed by your courage, your fearlessness, and the generosity I see in your discipleship.

Thanks be to God.

*Mary Katherine*

# 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 the speeches in the book of the Acts. What do these speeches tell us about how the early Christians connected their proclamation to the one great story of the Hebrew Scriptures? **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
- 5:00 p.m. The Gathering Place on Zoom** with Mary Katherine and Beverly Thompson [email Jackie (jackie@bmpcnc.org) for Zoom link]

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

---

**You can find this newsletter, updates, and much, much more on our website: [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org)**

---

## BMPC office hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays  
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## Needed: Used Tablets



If you have an electronic tablet laying around that is not being used, please consider donating it to our healthcare members at Highland Farms. There is a shortage of tablets there and your donation could aid in someone watching BMPC's worship services. Contact Bob Tuttle (bob@bmpcnc.org).



## Red Cross blood drives at BMPC

Thursday, September 3, 1:30-6:00 and Friday, September 4, 10:30-4:00 Schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or email Brittany (brittany@bmpcnc.org).

# Faith Formation Programs

Faith Formation for now . . . until we adjust to new protocols! Like everybody else in education, we're adjusting our programs to meet the current safety standards. Here's what's going on.

- Weekday School is operating with around fifty preschoolers
- A "Youth Space" is set up for our youth 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. weekdays for our middle schoolers to work (by reservation only)
- Church School (aka Sunday School) for K-5th grade is pre-recorded and shared on Fridays for families to listen and engage in at home.
- RAD (Recreation – Arts – Drama)  
Grades K-2 meet 3rd Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Grades 3-5 meet 4th Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- Pre Confirmation (grades 6-7) and Confirmation (grades 8-9) will begin in October. It will be a hybrid program.
- Middle School and High School youth Group begins Sunday August 30. It will be a hybrid program.

---

## Virtual Learning Lab

We are opening a new Virtual Learning Lab upstairs of the Faith Formation Building. This lab will serve the Weekday School teachers' children during this time of virtual learning. We will have one paid staff member that will be facilitating the children. The hours will be 7:45am-1:30pm Monday through Friday. If you would like to know more, please call Alice Patton (828-669-2725).

## Volunteers Needed!

Are you interested in helping out with the children and youth in our church? Even during this time of COVID we are seeking volunteers so that when we return in person, we will be ready.

Areas where volunteers are needed:

### Nursery

for Sunday mornings (once we return)

### Preschool

Church School and Extended Session

### Elementary

Church School, Godly Play (Extended Session), Pre-Youth Group, RAD Wednesdays (Recreation, Art, Drama), and Kids Night In (Parents Night Out)

### Middle School Youth

Advisors for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

### Pre Confirmation

Mentors for 6th and 7th graders

### Confirmation

Mentors for 8th and 9th graders

### High School

Advisors for 9th graders to seniors

**If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact David Carter Florence ([david@bmpcnc.org](mailto:david@bmpcnc.org)).**

**Child Protection Training** happens on September 20 with Pat Tuttle. This training is required in becoming an Approved Adult – to work with children and youth at BMPC.

## Presbyterian-Methodist House 28

Previously, Dewana Little was in process to purchase the Presbyterian Methodist House 28 in the Curry Court neighborhood. Unfortunately, she has withdrawn from the program because the sweat equity requirement was too much for her busy life right now. While this is disappointing for all involved, we were quickly able to find another family for the Presbyterian Methodist House 28: Holly Brock and family. Holly is a devoted mother to three children, and is also raising her seven-year-old niece after the death of her sister last year. Holly drives an Asheville City bus and is a native of Asheville. She was raised by her grandparents in West Asheville. She is such a warm and kind woman, who is close with her children and so excited to be finally owning her own home. The family of five has been living in a cramped two-bedroom apartment in East Asheville. When Holly learned about the many churches that came together to build her house, she was so moved by all the hard work, and hopes to meet the church members involved eventually!



*Holly Brook, shown here with her family, will be the new owner of the Presbyterian-Methodist House in Candler.*

*“My grandparents taught me about responsibility and working hard for what you want in life. Owning a home would greatly improve my situation, and help my kids feel safe and secure.” ~from Holly’s application letter*

## Comfort Corner

*“Gayle was so kind to share this gazpacho she made recently. I have never been a fan of gazpacho, but I accepted it graciously hoping for the best... WOW. It was wonderful! It made me a lover of gazpacho and I couldn’t wait to use those fresh tomatoes from the garden to make this yummy soup. For me, there is not much better than fresh food that satisfies my body and soul. This did both for me.”*

*Many thanks to Gayle Shelton for sharing this recipe with us. It comes from Helen Corbitt’s Cookbook.*

### Gazpacho

#### Ingredients

2 ripe tomatoes, peeled	2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cucumber, peeled	1-1/2 tablespoons vinegar
1/4 cup diced green pepper	dash of Tabasco
1/4 cup diced onion	Salt and pepper
1 cup canned tomato juice	garlic salt or garlic

#### Directions

Mix all ingredients in an electric blender and serve in ice-cold cups with an ice cube in each cup and a slice of lemon or lime for a garnish. You can chop by hand or put through a food chopper if you are without a blender. This is a good idea for getting vitamins into anyone who doesn’t like to eat vegetables or salad.

**Some of you must be creating some great food at home! Please share your recipes with us. We want to compile them for a cookbook! Email Jackie (jackie@bmpnc.org) your recipe with a brief story about it. THANK YOU!**



# BMPC Presbyterian Women – start a new season

Presbyterian Women are getting ready to begin a new year of study and fun in September. Our new Bible study, *Into The Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by Lynn Miller seems very timely, considering all we're dealing with in this era of COVID-19. Most of our Circles will be meeting remotely at least to start our program year. We welcome any BMPC women who may be interested in joining a Circle. For questions or more information, contact Gayle Shelton at 664-1474 or Andrea DeWitt at 357-8081.

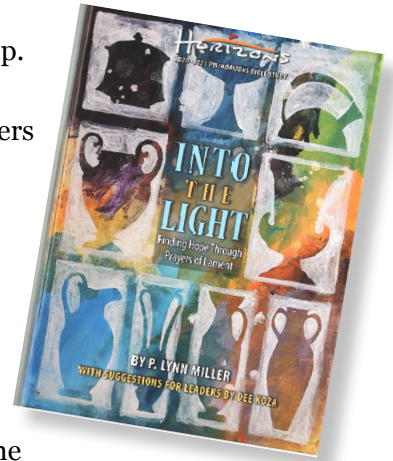
Our PW Bible studies take years to develop. This year's study was initiated in 2017, but with its focus on finding hope through prayers of lament it seems tailor-made for these unsettled times.

You might ask, "Why offer a study of Biblical lament? Why bother to lament at all?" Our author answers that such a study can help us live faithfully in difficult times, engaging the real world with our faith.

We need to understand and appreciate the difference between regret and lament. As our author says, "Lament is not the appropriate response for situations over which we have control. If there are situations of injustice and suffering over which we have control and we do nothing, then the faithful response is to confess and repent our inaction." Occasions of grief over which we have no control are times for lament. Natural disasters and tragic accidents, acts of terrorism or global pandemic deserve lament. In our mourning, we communicate with God and have an opportunity to confess our faith in God whose promises are trustworthy. As the introduction to our study says, "When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope."

Reading the introduction to the study will help you understand the tone and the theme of the lessons that follow. I encourage you to immerse yourself in each lesson before the time you gather together, so we can make the most of our limited time together. These lessons are fairly short and easily read, but they include questions which can spark reflective self-examination or a lively discussion within your circle. The artwork accompanying each lesson was made by the study's author, thoughtfully representing that lesson's focus.

I'm not sure what shape our circle meetings will take this year. They might be Zoom meetings, small group gatherings, or some other solution. I'll work on study helps for all the circles, however you choose to gather. I look forward to digging into this study with you, and discovering ways we might all find hope in a time of lament. ~Karen Austin, PW Bible Study leader







Our campaign theme this year – **FEARLESS GENEROSITY** has turned out to be particularly appropriate with the impacts of the pandemic and the focus on racial injustices. Due to the pandemic, our process for pledging will be a bit different since we will not be able to distribute our pledge packets after Sunday services as we have done in the past. **We want to encourage everyone to pledge online if possible.** This will be the easiest way for you to complete your pledge and for us to receive it. The following are your three options for pledging.

## 1 PLEDGE ONLINE

- If you have logged in to Access ACS in the past to input your pledge, you will still be able to do so. Please note that if you have autopay set up, you will also need to manually change your autopay amount too.
- You can also send your pledge information to the email address **pledges@bmpcnc.org**. In that email, type in your name, address, and 2021 pledge amount just like you would if you filled in a pledge card and click SEND. The email will go to Sam Webber, BMPC Operations Manager, who will then input your pledge into our church database. Sam is keenly aware of the sensitivity of the information and assures you that it is held in strict confidence.
- If you wish to pledge via the church website, go to the **bmpcnc.org** home page and click on the button 2021 PLEDGE. This will take you to the 2021 pledging information with an option to pledge online now. Click PLEDGE ONLINE NOW. This will take you to a new email message on your email system. In that email, type in your name, address, and 2021 pledge amount just like you would if you filled in a pledge card and click SEND. The email will go to Sam Webber, BMPC Operations Manager, who will then input your pledge into our church database. Sam is keenly aware of the sensitivity of the information and assures you that it is held in strict confidence.

## 2 PICK UP AND RETURN

- If you are unable to pledge online for any reason, we will provide three dates for you to pickup your pledge cards at the church.
- Generosity team members will be at the church to hand out pledge packets on Monday, Sept. 28 (9-11 a.m.), Wednesday, Sept. 30 (1-3 p.m.) and Friday, Oct. 2 (5-7 p.m.).
  - Simply drive up to the front of the church (please wear your mask) and we will hand you your pledge packet.
  - Complete your pledge card and place it in the locked box on the table in the church narthex as you have done in the past or mail to the church with the envelope included in your packet. Please return your card by Friday, Oct. 23.

## 3 RECEIVE AND RETURN

If you are unable to pledge online or pick up your pledge packet from the church, we will mail it to you. You can then complete your pledge card and return to the church by mail or deposit it in the narthex locked box. **Please try to have your cards returned by Friday, October 23.**

Our goal for this year's campaign is \$775,000, a small increase over 2020. We will monitor the pledging total and provide updates in our communications so you can share in the success of the campaign as it proceeds. With your prayerful and fearless generosity, we are certain that we can achieve or exceed our goal. Thanks for your contributions of time, talent and treasure to BMPC.

# Update on The Blessing Box

We have now been operating a Blessing Box (corner of church property by the White Horse) for over two months now.

We have seen quite a few goods come and go so we know it is working! Thank you to all that have helped to keep it going.

To continue to sustain this community project, we are in need of donations to stock the box.

Items that work well:

Small bottles of water or juices, individually wrapped snacks like cookies, crackers, granola bars, nuts, easy to prepare meals such as soup or canned meats, toiletries, rain ponchos, hand sanitizers, masks. We will continue to take goods in our 'Kindness Corner' by the front door.

In addition to donations, we are looking for a few people that can help to check on the box. We would like to be able to schedule a team of folks to keep the burden light. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Debbie Bailey ([husseymom@yahoo.com](mailto:husseymom@yahoo.com)).

Thank you for helping us provide this community service!

# FROM THE Ecumenical Garden

We have harvested 150 pounds of string beans, picked over 14 pounds of okra and two rows of yellow-eyed beans. A second planting of fall veggies has begun. We generally gather in the garden at 9:00 on Thursday mornings. All that is harvested at the garden is donated to SVCM where it can be distributed to the folks that need it most in our community.



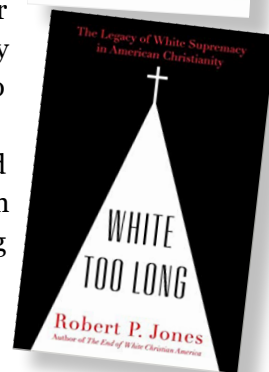
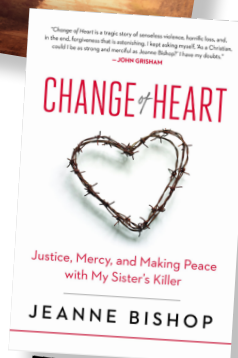
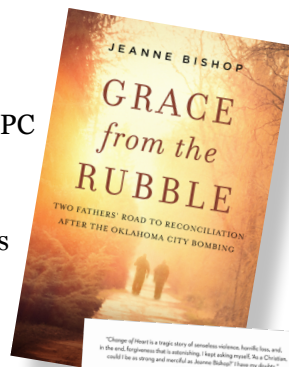
# Library News

A recent issue of *Presbyterian Outlook* featured reviews of a number of books recommended for summer reading. Shannon Kershner, former BMPC pastor, reviewed *Grace From The Rubble* by Jeanne Bishop, a book which sounded fascinating. It is. The background is the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, one of the most horrific mass murders of our time. As she writes, there are three major characters in this book: the author herself, Bud Welch, and Bill McVeigh. Bishop describes much of the lives of all three prior to the bombing, and then relates how all three are impacted by the tragedy. For Bishop, a journalist, talking with the families of those killed recalls the horror of her own life years before when her sister, brother-in-law, and their unborn child were murdered by a young man who broke into their home. The story of her journey through grief and despair to reconciliation is told in *Change Of Heart*, which is also in our library.

As Bishop interviewed more and more family members, she became very much interested in Bud Welch, whose young adult daughter Julie had worked in Social Security in the Murrah Building. One facet of Bud Welch's character was particularly outstanding. He spoke against the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh, the perpetrator of the bombing. As she got to know Welch, she also began to wonder about another father who had lost a child. That was Bill McVeigh, Timothy's father. More importantly she learned that Welch wanted to meet McVeigh. How all this transpired is beautifully but graphically told in *Grace From The Rubble*. As you read the book, remember that in the reading you must also go through the rubble before finding the grace.

Another recent addition, although quite different from the previous book, is important and timely. *White Too Long* has just been published and concerns white supremacy and the Christian Church. Robert Jones, the author, was reared, from his description, in a typical Southern Baptist Church of the mid to late 20th century. Eventually he began to question some of the church's tenets and especially the position of the denomination toward people of color. He delved into the history of the formation of the Southern Baptist Church, its roots in slavery and the Civil War, and came to the conclusion that white supremacy has been supported by white churches. Lest anyone think that those of us in other denominations escape his judgement, we come in for our share also. Jones calls for Biblical love and justice to become the forefront of our teaching, preaching, and action and to forego historical patterns of superiority which may continue to influence our faith. A valuable book for today.

The library will have some other additions about which you can read in the next issue of the Window. Meanwhile, come by and "check out" the library and a book. ~Sally Woodard





# Earth Care Update

This time of the year we might expect to have the first Earth Care Team meeting of the fall, after a summer filled with family, friends, and travel. Our expectations have been dashed, but we're adapting.

We had to put this spring's "Demystifying Solar" program on hold but once we're able to do so, we'll get back to planning it. Our certification as an Earth Care Congregation came through, and I've been assured that the "Powers That Be" in Louisville will recertify congregations for the current year even if we aren't able to accumulate the required points. They will also give us credit for actions we planned even if they didn't come to fruition.

Despite the challenges we were able to celebrate Earth Care Sunday, with Pastor David and myself bringing the message. Throughout the year our worship services continued to encourage us to appreciate and care for creation through scripture, music, prayer, and more. Just think of the paper we've saved by not printing all those Sunday Guides to Worship!

Using his own library of environmentally oriented books, David put together our very own eco-library in CR1.

When we were no longer meeting in person, we initiated an Earth Care book study on Zoom. It's been great to see and talk with friends, even on a computer screen. When we felt safe doing so we met in person, socially distanced and masked. We're inspired by what we're reading, finding the connections between the spiritual world and our earth. If you'd like to join the book group, let Pastor David know so he can send you the Zoom invitation and meeting info.

The community garden has been another bright spot. We all need some sunshine and fresh air, and working in the community garden is bringing loads of fresh produce to our hungry neighbors. Even as we slide into fall, we're planting succession crops that will thrive in cooler weather. Peter Mudge has been a constant presence in our garden – Thanks, Peter!

Our Western North Carolina Presbytery has formed an Earth Care Committee with representatives from several churches, including BMPC. Both George Thompson and Pastor David have participated in their monthly meetings.

We're still members of Presbyterians for Earth Care and Creation Care Alliance which is based in Asheville. Check out their websites and subscribe to their email to stay current on their actions and initiatives.

On a personal note, I believe it's vital that we vote for those who will respect and care for creation. Early voting starts October 15 and there are seldom lines for early voting. Please vote and encourage your friends and family to do so.

~Karen Austin, Earth Care Team chair

## Letters to Congress

The Offering of Letters campaign is the main way *Bread For The World* engages people in churches and other faith communities in advocacy with members of Congress.

**The 2019 Offering of Letters achieved victories in a year marked by partisanship and intense disagreements. Bread for the World drafted two Global Nutrition Resolutions, which were introduced in the House and Senate. Each resolution passed out of their respective committees with broad, bipartisan support.**

<https://www.bread.org/toolkit>

Follow this link to send your letters electronically and to find out more.

If you would like to bring your hand-written or typed letters to the church, Barbara Gaw will make sure they are mailed. Address your letters to our North Carolina senators and our area representative:

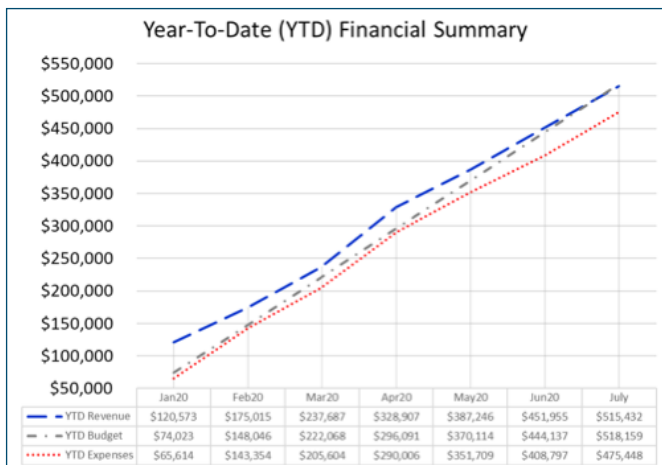
Senator Thom Tillis  
113 Dirksen Senate Office  
Building, Washington DC 20510

Senator Richard Burr  
217 Russell Senate Office  
Building, Washington DC 20510

Representative Patrick McHenry  
160 Midland Avenue  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

## July 2020 Financial Highlights

- YTD Revenue from all sources is \$2,703.46 lower than budgeted
- Note that revenue includes pre-paid pledges of \$68,826.88
- YTD Expenses are \$41,025.36 less than budgeted



### Contributions to Restricted Funds

- LERF \$10,202 Response to COVID-19 Plea
- Memorials \$80 received in memory of Ruth Brandon/John Knight
- Music \$200 Individual Contributor

### Expenditures from Restricted Funds

- FOC/Earthcare \$75.00 annual fee for Presbyterians for Earthcare membership
- Music \$500 Bluegrass Band for 8/2 Worship
- Youth Participation Fee \$175 Massanetta refund
- Seminary \$500 tuition support for seminarian
- Property Reserve \$3,085 remove existing; install new skylights
- Faith Formation – Racial Equity Task Force \$64.11 library books

### Expenditures from Endowment Funds

- Transfer to Operating Fund \$214
- Faith Formation - fishing supplies

### Expenditures from SBA/PPP Loan

Funds were not used in July; instead, they will be used in August, September, and October to fund The Weekday School payroll.

## MISSION TEAM Response to Explosion in Beirut

The Outreach and Global Mission Team voted to send \$500 to the NEAR EAST SCHOOL of THEOLOGY (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon. Their building was badly damaged in the recent explosion. NEST is an interdenominational Protestant theological Seminary serving the Evangelical Churches of the Middle East. Heath Rada, our friend and neighbor as well as former moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA has said, “NEST’s dedicated service to our faith and to efforts for love and justice in the Middle East has been profound. We have visited there on more than one occasion. Our beloved former student and remarkable leader, Mary Mikael is the immediate past president. Benjamin Weir, our friend and another former moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA was a professor there when he was kidnapped and held prisoner until being freed on the day of Ronald Reagan’s inauguration. You may remember the “Hostage Situation” which held our nation breathless.”

Our donation is being made through our Presbyterian Mission Agency: [www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e862612](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e862612)  
The Seminary’s website is: [www.theonest.edu/lb/en/Home](http://www.theonest.edu/lb/en/Home)

We can join together in praying for their safety and recovery as they continue to serve as a sign of hope in the Middle East.

# SEPTEMBER birthdays

- |                                                                             |                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Ron Botsford<br>Parker Stiles                                      | <b>15</b> Deb Mullis<br>Anne Drummond<br>Erin Campbell                                   |
| <b>2</b> Betty Lou Jeffrey                                                  | <b>16</b> Lyn Nygren                                                                     |
| <b>3</b> Rita Cruse<br>Ava Banzhoff                                         | <b>18</b> Carly Campbell                                                                 |
| <b>4</b> Frank Dimmock<br>Isbell Behrer<br>Marian Bradley<br>Samuel Edwards | <b>22</b> Wilma Leary                                                                    |
| <b>5</b> Donna Secrest                                                      | <b>23</b> Helen Davies                                                                   |
| <b>8</b> Yvette Ballard<br>Tania Griffin<br>Billy Robinson                  | <b>25</b> Jerry Newbold<br>Barbara Bartlett<br>Holly Childs                              |
| <b>9</b> Nancy Poling<br>Lucas Adams                                        | <b>26</b> John DeWitt<br>Rick Spielman<br>Eli Barker<br>Gracie Corn                      |
| <b>10</b> Johnnie Wood<br>Betsy Ray                                         | <b>27</b> Jerone Herring<br>Steven Coward<br>Mark Rose<br>Elizabeth Hunnicutt            |
| <b>11</b> Karen Austin<br>Tommy Wilkinson<br>Maddie Pomeroy                 | <b>28</b> Sue Smith<br>Beate Kaufman<br>Cathy Evans                                      |
| <b>12</b> Wyllys Ingersoll<br>Dan Wells<br>Jane Bannerman                   | <b>29</b> Brett Van Dorsten                                                              |
| <b>13</b> Grace Hunnicutt                                                   | <b>30</b> Debbie Horne<br>Bill Cox<br>Julie Culpepper<br>Cindy Hile<br>Adrienne Atkinson |
| <b>14</b> Nancy Dimmock<br>Larry Berglund<br>Rosie Johnson<br>Anthony Lee   |                                                                                          |

Happy  
Birthday



**CAN IN EACH HAND** is a great way to help our community get enough to eat, especially in these COVID times.

There is a consistent need for canned beans of all varieties (black, red kidney, pork and beans, etc.) and flour and sugar. Next time you're shopping for your dinner, consider buying a little extra, bring it to the church and leave it in our 'Kindness Corner' by the front door under the portico. From there, it will be picked up and delivered to SVCM for distribution. Let your friends and neighbors know they can help too. We can offer to pick up cans to bring to the church from those unable or unwilling to venture out. A little bit helps a lot!



# BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN, NC  
Permit No. 36



an Earth Care Congregation



**BMPC Child Protection Policy**

*providing a safe environment for children & youth*



## From The Presbytery...

Congratulations! Thank you for renewing your covenant as a **Hunger Action Congregation**, and for continuing to serve in ways that help alleviate hunger and eliminate the underlying causes.

Each year on World Food Day, we formally recognize all the Hunger Action Congregations. The list, available at [www.pcusa.org/haclist](http://www.pcusa.org/haclist), will be updated by World Food Day on October 16.

Together, let us continue to reach out to those who hunger in our own communities, including those who may be sitting near us in our own congregations, and may we respond to larger national and global hunger concerns as well.