



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

December 2022

# Advent & Christmas

## HOLLY JOLLY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:30p - Look for the BMPC bus parked at The White Horse

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 9:00a FirstLight Worship
- 10:00a Faith Formation Classes
- 10:20a Advent Mosaic Art
- 11:00a Sanctuary Worship
- 6:00p Advent Vespers

## HOLIDAY RELIEF CONCERT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00p at the White Horse to benefit *This Child Here*, an organization headed by Robert Gamble to assist war refugees. See page 4 for details

## CONTEMPLATIVE JOURNEY TOWARD BETHLEHEM

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 7, 14, and 21, at 9:00a in the Parlor

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:00a FirstLight Worship
- 10:00a Faith Formation Classes
- 10:00a Discovery Class
- 10:20a Advent Ornament Making
- 11:00a Sanctuary Worship
- 3:00p Soup & Caroling
- 6:00p Advent Vespers

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 9:00a FirstLight Worship
- 10:00a Faith Formation Classes
- 10:20a Christmas Stars
- 11:00a Sanctuary Worship
- 6:00p Advent Vespers

## CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 3:00p Children & Families Service
- 7:00p Candlelight Worship
- 11:00p Christmas Vigil

## CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 11:00a Sanctuary Worship

# DECEMBER

Many other groups meet here, but mostly BMPC events are reflected on this calendar.

Sunday M T W Th F S

**Discovery Class**  
**for inquirers and new members**  
**Sunday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.**  
 Discover more at BMPC and what membership looks like!

**1**  
 5p Karate with Tanner Pickett

**2**  
 5:30p Holly Jolly  
 6p Girl Scouts

**3**  
 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul

**4**  
 COMMUNION  
 9a FirstLight Worship  
 10a Faith Formation  
 11a Worship Service  
 6p Advent Vespers

**5**  
 11:30a Words on the Word  
 1:15p Earth Care Book Study

**6**  
 PW Circles (see page 4)  
 1:30p Staff Mtg  
 7p Prophets

**7**  
 9a Contemplative Journey  
 11:30a Fellers Lunch  
 4:30p Kids Practice  
 5:30p Youth Small Group  
 7p Choir Rehearsal

**8**  
 5p Karate with Tanner Pickett  
 6p Men's Group  
 7p Holiday Relief Concert

**9**  
 7p Staff Christmas Party

**10**  
 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul  
 10p Kids Day IN

**Deadline for the January Window newsletter Thursday, December 15**

**11**  
 9a FirstLight Worship  
 10a Faith Formation  
 10a Family Worship  
 10a Discovery Class  
 11a Worship Service  
 3p Soup & Caroling  
 6p Advent Vespers

**12**  
 11:30a Words on the Word  
 1:15p Earth Care Book Study  
 6p Joint Officers Meeting

**13**  
 1:30p Staff Mtg  
 7p Prophets

**14**  
 9a Contemplative Journey  
 11:30a Fellers Lunch  
 11:30a One River  
 4:30p Kids Practice  
 5:30p Youth  
 7p Choir Rehearsal

**15**  
 3p Book Group with Ina Hughs  
 5p Karate with Tanner Pickett

**16**  
 5:30p Youth Christmas Party  
 6p Girl Scouts

**17**  
 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul

**18**  
 9a FirstLight Worship  
 10a Faith Formation  
 11a Worship Service  
 4p Finance  
 6p Advent Vespers

**19**  
 11:30a Words on the Word  
 1:15p Earth Care Book Study

**20**  
 1:30p Staff Mtg  
 7p Prophets

**21**  
 9a Contemplative Journey  
 11:30a Fellers Lunch  
 4:30p Kids Practice  
 7p Choir Rehearsal

**22**

**23**

**24**  
 CHRISTMAS EVE  
 3p Children & Families  
 7p Candlelight Service  
 11p Christmas Vigil

**25**  
 CHRISTMAS DAY  
 11a Worship Service

**26**  
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**27**  
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
 7p Prophets

**28**  
 11:30a Fellers Lunch  
 7p Choir Rehearsal

**29**

**30**

**31**  
 NEW YEAR'S EVE

# Holly Jolly

Friday  
December 2  
5:00 p.m.

Stop by and see the Welcome & Hospitality Team for hot chocolate, cider, a Christmas photo booth, music, and fellowship!



## Soup & Caroling

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

Sing carols and brighten the season for our friends at Highland Farms. Bring your family and friends. We will meet at the church at 3 p.m., or at Highland Farms at 3:15 p.m. Afterwards, we will return to the church for soup, bread, and dessert.

The Worship Arts Team has been busy as little elves this season!

They are preparing for the Advent/Christmas season by leading in the decorating of the church and participating in a beautiful liturgical paper cut out. We can't wait to see what they create!



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to any circle.

**Tuesday, December 6**

**DORCAS** – 10:00 a.m., CR1

**PRISCILLA** – 11:00 a.m. luncheon, Church House

**ESTHER** – 10:30 a.m., Host: Carol Cauthen,  
6 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

**RUTH** – 1:30 p.m., Highland Farms  
Cyprus Room, Second floor, Prentice Lodge

**NAOMI** – 3:00 p.m., Church House

**Tuesday, December 13**

**LYDIA** – 6:30 p.m., Church House

**No Bible Study or Coordinating Team in December**



*Lydia circle women prepared over 200 bags to be used in a recipe for banana oats chocolate cookies for the Bounty & Soul kids' market. Conversations and laughter filled the front room of the church house while they rolled, cut, tied, and scooped. Thank you to all who came and shared this time of fellowship and service.*

## Contemplative Journey Toward Bethlehem

If you are looking for a deeply spiritual Advent, join us!

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we seek the Spirit's guidance by journeying toward Bethlehem together. Grab your coffee or tea, and gather with us on **Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21, at 9:00 a.m.** in the parlor for a deepening of our hearts as we listen, remember, and pray in deep silence. As Mother Teresa reminded us, at some point we have to stop speaking and start listening. We will listen to thoughts from Ann Weems's *Kneeling In Bethlehem*, and Lynn Klug's *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women's Prayers*. We will pray in deep silence as we believe: "The beginning of prayer is silence... God speaking in the silence of the heart."

## Holiday Relief Concert Thursday, December 8

at the White Horse to benefit *This Child Here*, an organization headed by Robert Gamble to assist war refugees. Find out more at [thischildhere.org](http://thischildhere.org). Aaron Price will be joined by some of the area's best jazz musicians to raise money for holiday Relief. Expect good jazz with a dash of holiday seasoning.



## Celebrating an Earth-friendly Christmas

Atlanta writer Celestine Sibley wrote a newspaper column decades ago titled "Christmas Catalogs Tempt the Thrifty," complaining about Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. In the decades since then, we seldom hear the word *thrifty* associated with Christmas, while pounds of unsolicited catalogs pile up in our mailboxes. Sibley wrote that the adults in her family had decided to refuse gifts that were new and store-bought. Instead, she wrote, "We will exchange only: **1) things we have, 2) things we make, or 3) things we buy at yard sales.**

No expenditure of cash, no use of the magic plastic card allowed."

Her ideas remind us that the insidious take-over of our most holy days by consumerism has been going on for a long time. Since this column was written, our culture's celebration of Christmas has exploded into practices that involve the waste of natural resources including trees and fossil fuels. Here is an opportunity for an annual family conversation in which we look closely at what celebrating in our homes costs the Earth. How many lights? How much packaging? What are the best ways to enjoy a feast, family, friends, and giving?

Of course, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church has been addressing these questions for many years, and both the Alternative Gifting and Presbyterian Giving catalogs are filled with opportunities for giving and enriching the lives of others.

**Merry Christmas from the Earth Care Team!**

### Solar Panel Report Energy Captured in October, 2022

- Energy captured from the sun – 2082 kWh
- Money saved at 11 cents per kWh – \$229
- CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere – 1,722 pounds (almost one ton)



## Discovery Class

Sunday, December 11  
@ 10:00AM in CR1

Interested in membership or want to learn more about our church?  
This is the time come and **DISCOVER!**

Please email  
[Brittany@bmpcnc.org](mailto:Brittany@bmpcnc.org)  
if you will attend.

## Longing for Light

### Advent Vespers

Sundays, 6:00-6:45pm

Don't miss an opportunity to take a deep breath in the busyness of December. Join us for quiet, candle-lit Sunday evenings, when we self-reflect on the balance between light and darkness in the Advent season. We will take a journey inward while anticipating the coming of the light of Christ.

#### December 4

*Organ and piano recital by Makena James  
in the sanctuary with refreshments  
served afterwards*

#### December 11

*Spoken word and poetry:  
Inspirational readings and music for the season*

#### December 18

*to be announced*

# December YOUTH Calendar

**SUN 4** Hot Chocolate,  
Cookies, and SVCM  
present collection  
2:00-4:00pm

**WED 7** Small Group  
5:30-7:30pm

**SAT 10** Kids Day IN  
10:00am-2:00pm

**SUN 11** Soup & Caroling  
3:00-5:00pm

**WED 14** Small Group  
5:30-7:30pm

**FRI 16** Christmas Party  
5:30-7:30pm

**18-Jan 1** No Youth Group

**SAT 24** Christmas Eve  
Children & Families  
Service  
3:00pm



**BMPC youth  
went rock  
climbing on  
November 13  
at the Marion  
YMCA. We had  
so much fun as  
we tested our  
determination,  
strength, and  
endurance.**

## Christmas Eve Play Practice for Children

Every Christmas Eve we have a special worship service for children and families. It's full of music, noise, and the telling of the Christmas Story. We invite all children who would like to participate in this service to come on **Wednesday afternoons 4:30 to 5:30 on December 7, 14, and 21** with the service taking place on Saturday, December 24, at 3:00 p.m. Email Brittany if your children would like to participate!



## Kids Day In Parents Day Out

**Saturday, December 10**  
**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Kids ages 4 years-5th grade.  
\$20/per child with proceeds going to support the BMPC youth program with trips and activities.

Thank you to all of our **amazing volunteers** who helped with RAD! and Spaghetti Dinners:

### **RAD! Wednesdays**

Annamarie Arens  
Jane Belches  
Michelle Ferguson  
Dave Johnson  
Cherie Lunsford  
Blake and Janet Martin  
Laura and James Robinson-Long  
Ginny Soll  
Becky Jo Sumner  
Cheryl Wilson

### **Spaghetti Dinners**

Leslie Applewhite  
Scottie Cannon  
Craig Cooley  
Anne Drummond  
Ruth Duckworth  
Margaret Fouse  
Katherine Holman  
Susan Jumper  
Yonie Klein  
Margo Smith  
Margie Stansell  
Dan Stitt  
George and Beverly Thompson



# Loving and Helping Others in the Weekday School

The Weekday School strives to help the children and their families begin to see a world beyond themselves and to help them connect to our community. One of the mission projects that we participate in is collecting canned goods for SVCM during November. We recently delivered 291 cans of food to SVCM! New Director Kevin Bates (parent of a weekday school child) shared with the children what the ministry is all about. We have found that even when we don't have a lot of food ourselves, there is always enough to share with someone in need.

During the month of December we will be collecting new children's socks, underwear, hats, gloves, and pajamas for SVCM to use with families for Christmas. This will allow us to continue to help our children to know that you can give more than just food to help children and families of the valley.

It is such a blessing to be a part of these children's lives. It is so special to watch them as they begin to realize the ways that they can love and help others. We sing a song called *We Love Because God First Loved Us*. This is a great way for the children to begin to understand those words. Thank you for your continued love and support of the Weekday School.



## PROPERTY WORK DAY on November 5





Recently I have become interested in how many of the books in our BMPC section of the library are either memoirs or biographies of people who have associations with the Black Mountain Church. BMPC has been blessed over the years with numerous authors, many of whom have lived exciting lives. This month I want to highlight a few of these. Among them are quite a few who have been missionaries in places other than the U.S.

Kenneth Scott, Sr.'s *Around the World in Eighty Years* recounts his time as a medical officer in the China-Burma-India Theater during WWII, as a teacher of medical skills in Korea, and as director of a Christian Medical College and Hospital in India. The book contains both accounts of exciting adventures and personal details of his life and those of some of the well-known figures he encountered in a fruitful life, which blessed so many.

Mariella Talmage Provost's *I Gave You to the Lord* is another inspiring account of someone who felt the call of God to minister in another country. As a descendant of missionaries – her great grandfather served in China, and she grew up in Korea as her father served there – she too was inspired to go to Korea. The title of her books reflects the reason. As she

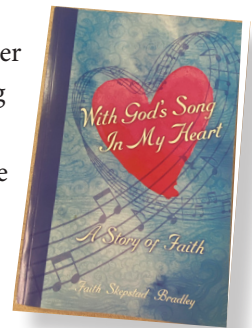
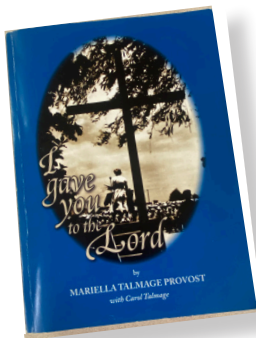
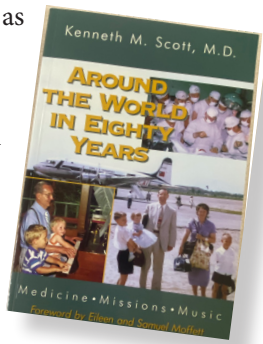
tells in the beginning, her mother said that when Mariella was born she gave her to the Lord. Much of her concern was with children, especially Korean orphans and, after her return to Black Mountain, students at the Ebenezer Institute.

A sidelight about these two books is the intersection of the lives of the Scott family and the Provost family. Ken Scott tells of how the bedrooms of the Provost and the Scott homes were often used as delivery rooms since both Mariella and his wife Ann were excellent nurses. He adds that his daughter Betsy was born in one of those bedrooms.

Another third generation missionary, whom most of us know, is still in service. Faith Bradley sings in the choir, plays handbells, and is active in PW. Her memoir *With God's Song in My Heart* describes her childhood in China, including escaping from Japanese invasion, her young adult time in the U.S. as she prepared to go to the mission field, and her own service in Taiwan, where she met Blake Bradley.

Faith's description of mission among the Bunum people is graphic and poignant. This is another testimony to the incredible lives of service among the congregation of BMPC.

These books will be on display for checkout during the month of December, as will a few of the Christmas books in the library. Even during the busy season of Advent and Christmas, find some time for rest and enjoy a book from the library.





Five members of the BMPC Chancel Choir also sing in the Asheville Choral Society, an auditioned choir of more than 100 singers directed by Dr. Melodie Galloway. Bill Arens, Austin Brown, Donna Drake, Linda Sperath, and Russ Spiller invite you to attend the Choral Society's 2022 holiday concert, Yuletide Candlelight.

**Friday, December 2 – 7:00pm**

**Saturday, December 3 – 2:00pm**

First Presbyterian Church of Asheville  
40 Church Street, Asheville

\$25 Adult Ticket, \$15 Student Ticket

[ashevillechoralsociety.org](http://ashevillechoralsociety.org) for tickets and information.

tickets will also be available at the door.



## Do you have an extra car that needs a new home?



Imagine how difficult your life would be without a car! Working Wheels repairs and recycles donated vehicles, transforming them into working wheels for working families. The process is simple, the donation is tax-deductible, and the impact is real. To donate, volunteer, or learn more, please visit [www.workingwheelswnc.org](http://www.workingwheelswnc.org) or call 828-633-6888.

"I am a single parent with two boys that are into sports! I'm an advocate for my children, and I need reliable transportation to get back and forth to work and school. I want to show my boys that giving up is not an option. There are people that care and are willing to help low-income families. I call this being blessed and very thankful!"

– Sheminiqua, referred by Community Action Opportunities

"This car will allow me to not have to rely on others to get to work. It will also allow me to attend AA and NA meetings and church gatherings. Thank you!"

– Kenneth, referred by the Re-Entry Council of Buncombe County

"I've been working on getting back on my feet after an abusive relationship. This car makes my employment and housing possible. I can't thank Working Wheels enough for their help with making sure my kids and I have a safe vehicle. Also, to the donor who selflessly donated this vehicle, you've touched our hearts and helped my sons and I so much! Thank you!"

– Brittney, referred by Helpmate

# December birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Erin Van Note  | <b>19</b> Sheila Ellington<br>Stacy Hana                        |
| <b>3</b> Martha Jane Petersen<br>Elizabeth Mailander<br>Mike Salmon<br>Emily Carter | <b>20</b> Joseph Matthews                                       |
| <b>4</b> Sally Richardson   | <b>24</b> Micah Davis   |
| <b>5</b> Nancy Sprinkle<br>Teresa Owen<br>Wilson Davis                              | <b>25</b> Glenda McDaniel                                       |
| <b>6</b> Annie Hall<br>Frank Cappelli   | <b>26</b> Susan McElrath<br>Adeline West<br>Gayle Mudge         |
| <b>7</b> Carolyn Konnert<br>Carrie Coward   | <b>27</b> Marcy Buchan  |
| <b>8</b> Savannah Lindsey   | <b>28</b> Gene Schimpf<br>Debbie Dunn<br>Luisa Cullen           |
| <b>11</b> Cayden Bemis<br>Charlie Wilson<br>Barbara Brinson                         | <b>29</b> Kevin Brandon<br>Chirs Mailander                      |
| <b>14</b> Jim Poling  | <b>30</b> David Bell<br>Ken Kelly<br>Frey Hall                  |
| <b>16</b> Sydney Ford<br>Sheryl Schlegelmilch                                       | <b>31</b> Anna Banzhoff<br>Russ Spiller<br>Ellen Phillips Smith |
| <b>18</b> Sally Pollard<br>Lisle Garrity  |   |
| <b>19</b> Scott Watson Burns<br>Jack Williams                                       |   |



You can add information to your profile in our database, *Realm*, at any time. You can also find phone numbers and addresses of your BMPC friends. Contact Brittany or Sam for help with this. If you prefer a paper copy of the directory, stop by the church office and we will print one for you.

## FREE TAI CHI CLASSES AT BMPC

I felt relaxed, centered, and slightly damp with sweat. That's because I attended my first ever Tai Chi class with Karl Ginalski here at the church. Bounty & Soul has partnered with us and with Karl to offer free Tai Chi classes at our church, upstairs in the education wing, every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. I had never done Tai Chi before and did not know what to expect, but with Karl's calming instruction, I learned different movements and breathing techniques that were not particularly physically challenging to any one muscle group, but are designed to help with balance and stability. It's free and it's a great way to stay in shape – I hope to see you at one of Karl's Tai Chi classes some time soon!

– Sam Webber

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are ready to begin having nursery volunteers again. We are consistently having three to four children ages six months to two years old, and have more babies who are ready to begin using the nursery. We are in need of one nursery volunteer each week to assist our paid nursery workers during our 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to come in and meet our families and serve as a volunteer once every few months, please contact Alice Patton.

## name tags

If you ever need a name tag, please email [jackie@bmpcnc.org](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org) with your name the way you want it on your tag. Thank you!





# BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727  
[www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org)

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

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**



an Earth Care Congregation



**BMPC Child Protection Policy**

*providing a safe environment for children & youth*



*Each year during Advent, BMPC encourages all  
to reflect on the coming gift of Emmanuel, God,  
and consider how to share His love with the world.  
One way to do that is by participating in Alternative Gifting.*

*Visit the church narthex through December 18 for a  
catalog with order form, beautiful Christmas cards, and brief  
descriptions of the eight agencies you can help support.  
Send these to friends and family so they know you have chosen  
a special gift that will meet a need in this world.*

*Anyone can participate.*

*Thank you for your participation in this wonderful  
Advent tradition at BMPC!*