



Outreach and Mission with an update on Afghan Refugees

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

– Hebrews 13:2

During February we highlight Outreach and Mission in worship. Through our local, national, and international mission partnerships we seek to:

- **Practice a Living Faith**
- **Grow outward as we serve our neighbor**
- **Witness to the message of Christ through our actions**

We are continuously assessing how we might deepen service to our neighbors in Black Mountain and the Swannanoa Valley through the multiple hands-on service opportunities we are already committed to. Even as we move outward, at the same time we intentionally strive to make our church community feel open to all people.

We are humbled by the wave of support by our congregation to welcome and support The Amire family. To open your hearts and homes to strangers and refugees speaks to the love our community has for those most

in need and fulfills are common calling to embody the love of Christ to the world.

On March 1, "Fat Tuesday," we are partnering with St. James Episcopal and Rotary to hold a Drive-through Pancake Dinner at BMPC and a Benefit Concert at the White Horse music venue next door. All funds received will go to benefit the Love your Neighbor Fund. This is a fund that will provide housing for the Amire family. Please save the date and look for upcoming flyers and communications about this event.

All of the children in the family have started school and the adults are attending English classes at AB Tech. Please continue to pray for all Afghans who are seeking refuge, for their families, friends, and loved ones back home as we live out our call to show hospitality to those most in need.

Faithfully –

Mary Katherine David

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<p>Deadline for the March Window newsletter Tuesday, February 15</p>		<p>1 Weekday School registration opens PW Circles (p. 5) 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>2 10a Hearing Aids 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 8:30a AARP tax help</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>6 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation 1:30p Youth</p>	<p>7 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 5:30p Welcome & Hospitality 7p Earth Care</p>	<p>8 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Faith Formation 6p Sacred Circle 6:30p Lydia 7p Prophets 7p Sacred Circle</p>	<p>9 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 8:30a AARP tax help 6p Men's Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>13 SOUPER BOWL 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation 1:30p Youth 5p Taizé Worship</p>	<p>14 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls</p>	<p>15 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>16 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 6:30p Strategic 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 8:30a AARP tax help 3p Ina Hughs Book Group 7p Thursday Night Live</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>20 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation 4p Finance</p>	<p>21 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 6:30p Mission</p>	<p>22 1p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:15p PW Coordinating Team 6:30p Lydia 7p Prophets</p>	<p>23 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 8:30a AARP tax help</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>27 9a FirstLight 9:45a Church School 11a Worship 12:15p Confirmation 1:30p Youth 1:30p Hike 5p Take 5 at 5</p>	<p>28 8a Sacred Circle 1p Earth Care Book Study 5:15p HS Girls 6p Session</p>	<p>SAVE THE DATE Tuesday, March 1, 5:30 p.m. Fat Tuesday Pancake Drive-through benefitting Love Your Neighbor Fund</p>				

Hearing Aids in Worship

Wednesday, February 2, 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Beth Fountain and church director of operations Sam Webber will be conducting a class of sorts on how best to use several different types of hearing aids in the BMPC sanctuary. Dr. Fountain is an audiologist who keeps clinic hours at Highland Farms. Any who have or are thinking about getting hearing aids are encouraged to attend.



Thursday Night Live returns on a High Note!

Join us for an evening with Aaron Price, our interim music director, on **Thursday, February 17**, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in fellowship hall. Aaron will offer some live music and speak about his life in music and about music's role in our daily lives. Light refreshments "to go" will be available after the program.

Reminder: masks are required to enter the building, spaced seating will be provided.

Sunday Evening Worship Services

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Taizé Worship

February 13 and thereafter on the second Sunday of each month through June. We will usually meet in the sanctuary, but sometimes outdoors or in the fellowship hall.

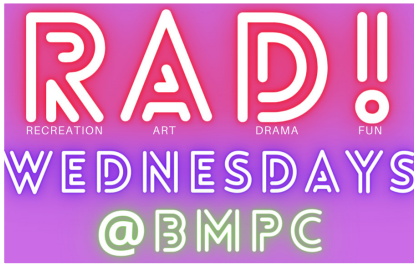
Take Five at Five

February 27 and thereafter on the fourth Sunday of each month through June. This is a time for poetry, innovative scripture and music in the sanctuary.

The numbers are in!

Your Outreach team is thrilled to report that Alternative Gifting raised \$16,225 to benefit our mission partners.

We know the difference these donations can make. Thank you, church family, for your generosity. If you want to get involved in projects like Alternative Gifting, learn more about our partnerships and work with a team of folks dedicated to local and global mission, please contact Tommy Wilkinson. We meet on second Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, for now.



Want a time for your kids to connect and play? Join us for RAD! Wednesdays!

This is a time for recreation, arts, drama, music, and fellowship for children in grades PreK-5. We will meet after school on **Wednesdays February 23 – May 4 (no RAD! on April 13)**. Registration is required. All children attending will need to bring a water bottle and mask.

Parents, grandparents, or guardians are required to volunteer at least one Wednesday. We also welcome others from the church who would like to come and volunteer.

Schedule

3:30-4:00 drop-off, snack, play time

4:00 story, prayer, song

4:00-5:30 breakout stations – arts & crafts, recreation & movement, drama, music, and mission

We will spend extra time on the playground or playing games.

Contact us with questions

Brittany – brittany@bmpcnc.org

Pastor David – david@bmpcnc.org

[Register here](#) or visit bmpcnc.org.

If you are not a member of BMPC, please contact Brittany or David prior to registering.



Presbyterian Women



Circle Meetings

Tuesday, February 1

DORCAS

10 a.m. on Zoom

PRISCILLA

10 a.m. in the Parlor

ESTHER

cancelled due to Covid

NAOMI

cancelled due to Covid

RUTH

1:30 p.m.

at the home of Margaret Fouse

Tuesday, February 8

LYDIA

6:30 p.m. in the narthex



PW Leaders

Tuesday, February 22

Bible Study

1 p.m. in the Library

Coordinating Team

2:15 p.m. in CR1

MEET & EAT

Are you Covid-weary? Are you people-starved? Do you like to eat? Will you be fully vaccinated by March 5?

Your Congregational Life team is organizing small lunch or dinner groups to begin in March. Here's how this will work. The first lunch or dinner event will occur on Saturday, March 19. Groups will consist of eight adult members and will meet once a month during March, April, and May. Each group will decide when and where to meet and how to proceed – gather in homes, pot luck, meet at a restaurant, bring in take-out or a combination. Members in each group will designate someone to be the point person for basic communication and reminders.

Participants will have three ways to sign up and indicate whether they prefer a lunch or dinner gathering and the number in their party.

1. [Sign-up online](#)
2. Contact Gay Ferguson
(704-451-3097 or gwenflfe@gmail.com)
3. Call the church office (828-669-2725)

Saturday, March 5, is the deadline for signing up for the first round. After the deadline, the staff will look at the participants and put them in groups of eight.

New groups will be formed for the months of June, July, and August and again for September, October, and November. Sign-ups will be available before each of these three-month periods.

We are hoping that covid cases will be trending down by mid-March and are adhering to covid guidelines by limiting the number to eight people.

Join in by signing up today. This is the perfect opportunity to form real relationships with other members of our congregation beyond just saying a brief “hello” at church events. I'll be the first to be added to the list!

Gay Ferguson, *Congregational Life chair*

Mallory McDuff's Book Surveys End-of-Life Choices

Many Americans believe that our choices when we die are either embalming before burial or cremation, both of which are harmful to the Earth. However, several other choices exist in our area. Mallory McDuff, environmentalist and educator at Warren Wilson College, addresses these in her newest book, *Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives To Protect the People and Places We Love*. Her findings are of interest to us as members of an Earth Care Congregation, if we are to make environmentally informed decisions.

McDuff spent a year investigating sustainable end-of-life choices available in Western North Carolina: "I visited funeral homes and crematories, attended home funerals, volunteered at a conservation burial ground, explored neighborhood cemeteries, shopped for coffins and shrouds, and even observed a university lab that handles body donations."

Environmental costs matter greatly to McDuff, as well as costs in dollars, and she focuses on both as she creates her own "death plan." Of course, decisions about how and where we die, and what to do with our bodies after death, are deeply personal, depending on our culture, family traditions, religion, race, ethnicity, finances, and more. But in the end, these decisions have impacts beyond our individual lives — on other people and on the Earth — and should be made before the end of life arrives.

McDuff compares our culture's handling of death and dying to our handling of the climate crisis. Both are hugely important topics that we seldom talk about. She cites climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, who says that one of the most important things we can do about climate change is to talk about it. McDuff writes, "Just as it's important to talk about the climate emergency, since most people don't hear friends and family discuss it, we must also talk about death in everyday life. The two are deeply connected."

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McDuff addresses interesting questions: Will a certain method of burial promote healing of the land? Is it legal to be buried in a pine box without embalming? Is it possible to prepare a loved one's body at home and transport it to a cemetery yourself? What exactly are the state laws regarding cremation, embalming, and burial? We will learn that if we wish to scatter ashes, thinking we are helping the soil, ashes must be mixed with amendments — nutrients to neutralize the alkalinity of the ashes.

By far the costliest form of burial, to the family and to the Earth, is embalming and burial in a coffin within a concrete vault. Cemeteries which require vaults desire smooth, green lawns where graves are uniform and mowing is easy. Cremation is less costly in dollars and is more sustainable than burial in a vault, yet cremations in the United States produce "250,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year, the equivalent of burning 30 million gallons of gas." Does one person's choice make a difference? The fossil fuel used to burn one body for two hours "produces 250 to 350 pounds of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of a thousand-mile car trip."

Green options include "a natural burial that allows life to continue after death," a form of resurrection. This is a burial, with no embalming, in a shroud or casket of all natural materials, either in a traditional cemetery which permits green burial, or in a conservation cemetery. One example, Carolina Conservation Sanctuary in Asheville, offering burial sites in meadows, woodlands, or creekside, "is committed to perpetual conservation of the environment as each burial becomes part of the living landscape."

McDuff concludes, "I saw the possibility of planning for death as my last best act for my children in a warming world," and she ends her book with her own end-of-life plan. — *Jeannie Franklin*

Help Celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday February 13

by helping those in our
community who need help



This year we are collecting donations for SVCM to help people pay their rent and utility bills. You can donate online at <https://onrealm.org/BlackMountainPr/give/SouperBowl>

Calling All BMPC Artists!

This year's Lenten theme is
Awake my Soul.

Please show us through your art what that theme might mean to you using the medium of your choice. As we begin our Lenten journey on March 2, these art pieces will be hung on the art wall in the narthex. You have until February 28 to create your contribution.

Please contact Gayle Mudge
(gmudge1@gmail.com or 828-808-2507)
with questions and/or to confirm
your participation.

HOW TO SET-UP YOUR REALM ACCOUNT FOR BMPC



1. CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Open your email with the subject line "{Your Name}, Your BMPC Realm Invitation..." to find your invitation link.



2. CLICK THE LINK

Each link is unique to each person. Everyone with an email in our system will get a different link to set-up your own account profile in Realm.



3. CREATE/UPDATE ACCOUNT

There are a few steps that you will need to follow in-order to set-up your account. We want to make sure only you have access to your account.



DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Search for "Realm Connect" in the app store on your phone or tablet. Download the app and login with your email and password.



QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

If you did not receive an invitation email, we may not have your information correct. Please contact the Church Office and we can add you and help with any other issues you are having with Realm.



Library News

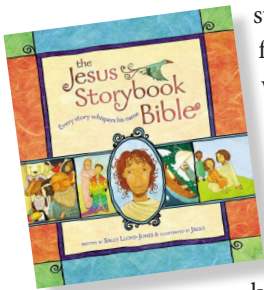
Most people probably think of a church library as containing only books on the Bible, theology, and church history. That is definitely not true of the library at BMPC. While it certainly contains a large number of these, it also has fiction, children's literature, biographies, and books on a variety of subjects, such as social justice issues, different kinds of art, faiths other than Christianity, and many other topics. Some recent additions to the library reflect a few of these topics.



The Esther Circle has donated a novel by Elizabeth I. Acree, who is a member of that circle. The novel, *Liza's World*, centers on a young woman whose world consists of her small town, her mother, and her job at the library. The plot revolves around Liza's gradual self-discovery and the realization

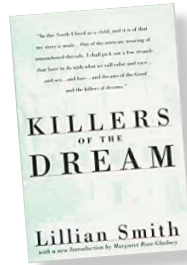
that her world can be enlarged with other relationships and more education. This is Ms. Acree's first novel, although she has been published in several magazines and journals. Thanks to the Esther Circle for their contribution to the library's collection.

A new children's book, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, is another recent donation. It contains stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Two aspects of this storybook are particularly fascinating. One is the author's way of rendering Jesus' teachings in dialect that may appeal to children better than the usual translations. For instance, the Lord's Prayer begins like this: "Hello, Daddy! We want to

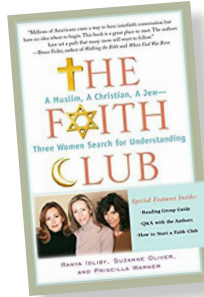


know you. And to be close to you." The other aspect is the way the author illustrates the stories. The characters exhibit diversity in ethnicity, and the people and situations look nothing like the older-style pictures that so many of us grew up seeing. This is a great way to help children appreciate the Bible.

In the social justice area, *Killers of the Dreams* by Lillian Smith has a slightly different approach to racism. The original manuscript was first published in 1949; the revised, updated version was published in 1994. The author is a white Southern woman who writes of her upbringing in what she realized more and more was a racist society. However, she analyzes the politics, social mores, religion, and other aspects of the South and the North with an



attempt at being both critical and fair to both sides. Her recounting of the first incident when she realized the evil of racism is poignant. Her parents had agreed to foster a girl with whom the young Lillian quickly formed a bond. To her horror the girl was removed from the family when someone discovered that, in spite of her appearance, the child had Negro blood. I highly recommend this book as a slightly different approach to the problem of racism.



Finally, a big thank-you to whoever put in the narthex a great display of books related to Islam. The selection is varied with both fiction and non fiction and even includes a children's book. I especially recommend *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. These three women met as mothers of children attending the same school and discovered that each represented a different branch of monotheistic faith. They began with a decision to explore each other's beliefs, a decision which evolved into a strong friendship. Informative and readable, this is an excellent way to learn of both the similarities and differences of these three prominent religions.

Remember the freebies in the library - books, bookmarks, and mask extenders for those with hearing aids. Come and visit!

– Sally Woodard

Winter can be a great time to put a puzzle together. There are puzzles you can borrow from the BMPC library. Take one home and keep it as long as you like and feel free to donate puzzles you have at home.



Adult Church School

Sunday mornings: 9:45-10:45

BECOMERS in the library and on Zoom

Rev. Dr. George Thompson continues to lead a close reading and exploration of the gospel of Mark. We believe that our spiritual growth is dependent on our understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ revealed in the Old and New Testaments. We encourage adults of all ages and levels of knowledge to join us.

BIBLICAL EXPLORATIONS 2.0 upstairs

Resumes February 6. See next column for February plans.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES in CR1 and on Zoom

We seek to grow in Christian fellowship, faith, and practice by sharing and hearing stories of life and ministry from members and guests, by addressing current issues in church and society together through the study of the Bible and by discussion of our response as we are led by the Holy Spirit. We warmly invite you to join us! Led by John Van Osdall

FAITH BUILDERS upstairs in the education building

Led by Ellen McClintock, Susan Jumper, Pat Tuttle

Biblical Explorations 2.0

How do you feel when someone suggests reading the Bible or, better yet, asks you to reflect on a biblical passage? Do you look for the back pew where you can hide in a particularly thoughtful verse from an open hymnal? Or do you look around for an “expert” to tell you what to think? Have you felt inadequate when you count the number of biblical scholars, seminary professors and ordained ministers in our midst? What if you could feel empowered to study the Bible yourself and with a group of similar amateurs.

Biblical Explorations is casting off the “teacher” and is handing the power to study the Bible to the “people.” We will read scripture and use what we know as natural storytellers to find meaning as we read. No one is expected to come to class with a prepared lesson (including class facilitators). While regular participation is always encouraged, drop-ins and fellow explorers are always welcome.

Some of the stories, mostly from the Gospel of John, will come from the Year Four Narrative Lectionary used for this year’s sermon topics. Others will be chosen from what we want to know more about.

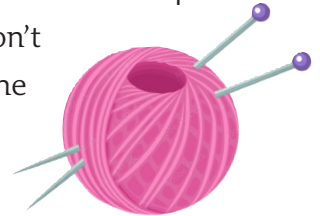
Bible Explorations 2.0 is a new, frankly untried, approach that invites you to puzzle out meaning with fellow seekers. We are borrowing unapologetically from Rehearsing Scripture by Anna Carter Florence, but we are also flying like loose balloons as we attempt to find ways to enjoy becoming readers of the Bible.

We hope you will join us in our adventure.

Let's Knit Together

The Congregational Life Team has formed a fun new group since there are lots of people in our congregation who like to knit or crochet. We will meet on the **Third Friday of every month in the parlor from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m.** where we can visit while we work on our projects. Come whether you are just beginning to knit or are an expert. You can work on your own project or knit for Project Linus. You don't need to sign up for this group. Just show up. This will be a great time to socialize and make new friends. Feel free to bring a friend!

– Gay Ferguson, Chair of Congregational Life



Poems for a Dangerous Time: A Gathering Around the Psalms

*Montreat conference in honor of the
teachings of Pat Miller*

**Sunday and Monday evening
February 20-22, 2022**

We will explore the varied ways
in which the psalms give voice to the
cries of believers in anger, lament,
praise, and rejoicing.

LEADERS INCLUDE

Brent Strawn, Nora Tubbs Tisdale,
Aisha Brooks Johnson, and Marin Tel.

For more information and registration:

www.montreat.org/psalms.

Commuter rates are available.

A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Every year our community comes together to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his legacy of justice and equality. **You all are invited to our virtual program beginning on Saturday, February 12, at 9:00 a.m. on the Swannanoa Valley Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial Corporation website: svmlk.org.**

Donations go towards scholarships for deserving Owen High School and Community School seniors. Last year was our best yet with \$10,500 received. Some of our own BMPC students have received this award.

Thank you for your part in making a difference in our community. If you have any questions please call Barbara Gaw (828-775-4463), BMPC Mission team and SVMLK Board.

February birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Bobbi White | 14 Henry Griffin
Nolan Atkins |
| 3 Torey Todd
Lynn Jostes | 15 Charles Massey
Cole Roy
Ernie Banzhoff
Sam Webber
Joe Covert |
| 4 Ina Hughs | 16 Cailyn Hollifield
Ann Wiig |
| 5 Netsanet Solomon
Pat Newbold
Gay Van Osdall
Jillian Munn | 17 Chloe Munn |
| 6 Dee Cox
Jim Griffin | 18 Clay Hile
Sarah Akin
David Castello |
| 7 Betty Walker
Gracyn Fisher | 21 Leila Cox
Alex Carver
Charlie Cappelli |
| 8 Jo Majka
Skylar Hollifield | 22 Austin Brown
Jolie Atkins |
| 9 Guy Campbell | 23 Mylo Morgan |
| 10 Rock Ward
Carson Campbell | 24 Art De Jong
Sue Cauthen |
| 12 Matt Begley
Kay Salmon
Charles Sandy
Gay Ferguson | 25 Dan Davis
Wayne Mullis |
| 13 Campbell Cauthen | 27 Paul Scouten
Andy Gwynn
Rebecca Askew |
| 14 Mike Ballard | |

Happy
Birthday

THE BLESSING BOX

You can now sign up online for a week to keep the Blessing Box stocked. You can always add food items whenever you see the need and feel inspired to do so.

Dear BMPC,

I want to let you know what I'm doing and thank you for your support. I am currently in El Paso, Texas volunteering with Annunciation House. We are working with refugees who have entered the US, the majority have spent time in a detention center and have been released to make their way to their sponsor. We are able to give them a safe place to stay, food, and showers and clean clothes. We help them make calls to their sponsors so they can make travel arrangements and then help them get to the airport or bus station.

I've been here since January 15 and have been told that there are times when there are 200+ people here. Covid has slowed that down, so far we have had about 70 at a time. There is a constant change of guests and there is always something to do. My Spanish is getting much better (anything is better than almost nothing) and I can use my Creole/French a little.

I will be updating my blog at least once a week (www.travelcontinued.blogspot.com). I will be back in Black Mountain in mid March.

peace,
Jessi Stitt

Mental Health Support Group

As people have been vaccinated and been able to return to some normal activities, participation in the Mental Health Support Group has decreased. Therefore the group will take a break from meeting during the winter months. In the Spring we will re-evaluate the future of this group.

Please be assured that our congregation remains committed to supporting those who struggle emotionally themselves or with loved ones. If you need support, please contact Bunny Alexander (317-517-0334), one of the BMPC pastors, or Black Mountain Counseling Center.



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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www.bmpcnc.org

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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



TAKE A HIKE WITH US!

Our monthly hikes are open to all ages and your well-mannered dogs on the fourth Sunday of each month.

We usually meet at the trailhead around 1:45 or at the church at 1:30 (when Covid is not a problem we can travel together on the church bus).

Stay tuned for details. Margie Stansell and David Carter Florence will coordinate these hikes for intergenerational fellowship and appreciation of God's great sanctuary of nature.

