



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

February 2023

Lenten All Church Read with small discussion groups

As pastors we inevitably encounter hard topics in our conversations, and we find the need to create dialogue that is safe, respectful and invigorating. We are encouraged by our BMPC members and your willingness to face tough topics. As we approach the Lenten season, we are very excited about an All Church Read starting on February 26 and continuing for the five weeks of Lent. We've chosen the book *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe.

Dr. Hayhoe presents us with not only the pressing issue of climate change, but also with thoughtful and sensitive methods to talk about it, so that everyone can be part of the conversation. Katharine Hayhoe grew up in an evangelical Church in Canada, and that faith foundation forced her to reconcile her theology with her profession. As a climate scientist she works with data, with a record of undeniable climate change - global warming to be more precise. When confronted by evangelical Christians in Texas where she taught climate science, she decided that our approaches to these topics were not working because of the lack of a conversation dynamic between various factions in our polarized country. We've been living in culture wars as long as most of us can remember. Wouldn't it be great to discuss and to practice ways that bring about healthy dialogue and hope for healing?

As we take time during Lent to grow closer to God and one another, we hope and pray that every member will read along with us in this All Church Read and join in on the discussion where everyone's views, values and experiences will be honored.

SMALL GROUPS

February 26-March 29

SUNDAYS

10:00-10:45am

Church House

(bring coffee!)

MONDAYS

Noon-1:00pm

Church House

(bring packed lunch)

WEDNESDAYS

6:00-7:00pm

upstairs in the
Education Wing

Highland Farms

Gathering - TBD

Books can be purchased at a bookstore or online. Copies will also be available at the front desk of the church office.

FEBRUARY

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

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<p>Swannanoa Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Gathering to feature Rev. Scott Burgess Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and fellowship hall</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased at svmlk.org for the in-person event. adults, \$15 • children 12 and under, \$10</p>			<p>1 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 5:30p One Great Story 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9a MLK Prayer Gathering 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>5 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 11a Worship Service 2p Child Protection Training 4:30p Youth</p>	<p>6 1:15p EC Book Study 2:30p Earth Care Team</p>	<p>7 PW Circles (see page 4) 11a Worship Planning 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>8 11:30a Fellers Lunch 11:30a One River, Many Wells 5:30p One Great Story 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner</p>	<p>10 6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11 9a Moving Day 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>Deadline for the March Window newsletter Wednesday, February 15</p>						
<p>12 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship Service 2p Youth</p>	<p>13 1:15p EC Book Study 4:30p Congr. Life 5p Strategic Team 5:15p Worship Team 5:30p Property 7p FF, H&W, Mission, Personnel Teams</p>	<p>14 11a Worship Planning 12p Book Club 1:30p Staff Mtg 6:30p Lydia Circle 7p Prophets</p>	<p>15 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 5:30p One Great Story 6p Youth 6p Deacons 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 10a Guatemala Partnership 3p Book Group with Ina Hughs 5p Family Fellowship 5p Karate</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul 10a Youth Sunday practice</p>
<p>19 Youth Sunday 9:30 Youth Breakfast 10a Faith Formation 10a Youth Breakfast 10a Discovery Class 11a Worship Service</p> <p>4p Finance</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:15p Earth Care Book Study</p>	<p>21 11a Worship Planning 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p HS Dinner 7p Prophets 7p Young Mom's Group</p>	<p>22 Ash Wed. 11:30a Old Fellers 11:30a One River, Many Wells 6p Ash Wed. Service 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 5p Karate with Tanner 6:30p MS/HS Mom's Group 6:30p Gun Safety</p>	<p>24 6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>26 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 10a Discovery Class 11a Worship Service</p> <p>1:30p Youth</p>	<p>27 1:15p Earth Care Book Study 6p Session</p>	<p>28 11a Worship Planning 1p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:15p PW Cor. Team 6:30p Lydia Circle 7p Prophets</p>	<p>New Member Discovery Classes Sundays – February 19 and 26 in CR1, 10:00-10:45 a.m. <i>(becoming a member is not required)</i></p>			

Guatemala Trip

The first month in this year saw our Guatemala team carry out its mission trip to visit our covenant sister church Eben Ezer in San Antonio, Guatemala. This inter-disciplinary and inter-generational team stoked the relational fires of shared ministry with our Central American siblings!

Upon our arrival there was a large group of Eben Ezer congregants waiting to welcome us with hugs, tears, songs, and a brief prayer service. Aldo and Zoily, our capable translators, helped us get situated with our host families. Our group leaders rolled up their sleeves for session meetings while the rest of us spent time getting acquainted.

Worship services began with congregants taking turns leading hymns as Domingo, Francisco, or Thomas played along on guitar or marimba (no pianos or organs to be found). The music epitomized the making of joyful noise to our God. Aaron was often asked to supply a special piece of music and usually obliged with an Appalachian-style hymn tune. Jane and Annamarie led the children in a rendition of *Spirit of the Living God* complete with signed gestures. Weston preached a sermon on Sunday and Pastor David addressed children and youth, recognizing the unique gifts each of them has in their hearts – gifts given by God.

Indeed, each and every one of the children (Guatemalan *and* American) are blessed by God. Timidity and shyness gave way to luminous smiles, wordplay, and the honest quest to share names, favorite foods, word games and songs. Kids lined up to strum the guitar with Aaron's pick and he taught them "De Colores," a Spanish language song many Americans learned on Walk to Emmaus retreats. Only a few Guatemalan adults were already familiar with the song, but it became a group favorite!

Mary Carroll's leadership and grace were also blessings. Her cheer, organization, and fluency of language created genuine opportunities for meaningful mission. Whether lining up social trips to take with Eben Ezer members, or arranging tours of weaving and coffee cooperatives, she created opportunities for everyone to grow, find their niche within the group, and to enjoy the natural beauty of Guatemala.

We felt and appreciated all the prayers the congregation offered before and during our trip. We look forward to building this mission and strengthening these ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.

RENOVATION UPDATE

On December 27, 2021, our Session signed a contract with Church Interiors of High Point, NC, to renovate our church building. Phase two will cover renovations to the fellowship hall, kitchen, CR-1, parlor, library, and bathrooms and should begin no earlier than February 27. Phase three will cover the sanctuary, the sacristy, and the narthex and begin two weeks after Phase two ends, probably mid-July. We will present drawings, pictures, and more information about what our renovated spaces will look like at a congregational gathering next month.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Before renovations can begin, we must move all furniture and items from the fellowship hall, kitchen, CR-1, parlor, library, and closets. We need your help on the following dates.

Saturday, February 11, 9:00am

We will box up items in boxes that we provide and move furniture to CR-1. Volunteers should bring any dollies and hand trucks you may have. Eat an extra bowl of Wheaties this morning.

Saturday, February 18, 9:00am

We will move all boxes and furniture into POD(s) located in the parking lot and into the basement of the Church House. Bring your dollies, hand trucks, trailers, and pickups. Eat two extra bowls of Wheaties this morning.

Earth Care as Spiritual Practice: An Invitation to Read Together

As part of our congregation's observation of Lent, join us in reading *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by Katharine Hayhoe. The book is available at the church front desk, and copies will be available at a discount through the Earth Care team. Details about ordering will be available soon.

Perhaps you have never read an entire book about climate change. Maybe you just want to brush up on the subject or talk with fellow Christians about it. But whether you read the entire book or not, we hope you will join in the meals, events, and activities through which we explore caring for the Earth as a spiritual practice, or path, for Christians.

When talking to groups, Hayhoe begins by showing a picture of the Cross, which she says represents "God's great gift to us of Jesus Christ." Then she shows a picture of the Earth, which she calls "God's second great gift to us," adding that we aren't doing a good enough job of caring for it: "Fossil fuel use and its cascading impacts on heat, pollution, water, food, disasters and security affects our health in a myriad of ways... ..What we believe as Christians, about being good stewards or caretakers of the planet and caring for those less fortunate than us, is exactly why climate change matters to us."

Dr. Hayhoe, a Canadian, now a professor at Texas Tech, is chief scientist for The Nature Conservancy and has been named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People. Her TED talk *The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change: Talk About It* has been viewed over five million times. She is also the daughter of missionaries; when she was nine, her family served as missionaries and educators in Colombia. She credits her father, also a climate scientist, as inspiring her to understand that science and religion do not have to conflict with each other. She never heard of climate change denial until she was hired at Texas Tech.

In *Saving Us* Hayhoe's purpose is to show us how to communicate, especially with those who are unfamiliar or resistant to the science of climate change. We'll see how to go beyond the facts in discussing climate change with family and friends. She believes that small conversations can have astonishing results and shows us how to initiate them.

We welcome you to contact us at earthcare@bmpcnc.org for information about this study as well as our other activities.

"One of the biggest reasons our actions matter is that what we do and say changes us. And the other big reason is that what we do and say changes others, too. . ."

— Climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, *Saving Us*

Solar Panel Report – Energy Captured in December, 2022

- Energy captured from the sun – 1150 kWh • Money saved at 11 cents per kWh – \$126.50
- CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere – 920 pounds

Helping Hands

Right before Covid struck, the Congregational Life committee launched a program called Helping Hands. We now want to reinstitute that program.

We know that there are many different types of needs within our church family at Black Mountain Presbyterian. Helping Hands is a ministry designed to connect those who NEED help with those who CAN help.

Here are a few suggestions of what a member might need that a volunteer could provide on a one-time basis

- a ride to the doctor, grocery store, pharmacy, etc.
- a ride to church events when a member no longer wants to drive at night.
- a small handyman job (changing hard to reach lightbulb, replacing batteries in smoke detector...)
- moving a piece of furniture
- providing a meal
- help with minor computer or smart phone issues, activating Zoom.
- programming a TV remote
- help with knitting/crocheting or sewing projects (hemming pants, sewing on buttons, etc.)
- other similar services

Under Special Circumstances

- baby sitting
- dog walking
- cutting grass or simple yardwork
- light housekeeping

If you have any services you are willing to provide, please send them to gwenflfe@gmail.com or look for the insert in the February 26 Sunday bulletin.

If you have already submitted services from when we previously launched Helping Hands, you don't need to sign up again. We still have the list of services submitted when we first launched this program

February YOUTH Calendar

WED 1 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

SUN 5 Youth in Worship
Progressive Dinner
4:30pm

WED 8 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

SUN 12 Chocolate Olympics
2:00-4:00pm

SUN 15 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

WED 18 Youth Sunday
Practice, 10:00am

SUN 19 Youth Sunday
Breakfast, 10:00am

TUE 21 HS Dinner
6:00p

WED 22 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

THU 23 MS/HS Mom's Group
6:30pm

SUN 26 Bowling 1:30-4:30pm

“Grief Share” what does that mean?

“Grief Share” is simply a place of hope-filled healing for all who are struggling with the heaviness of grief – both named and un-named.

Grief isn't just about death... it's a heaviness that makes its home within us. Grief is also about relationships, broken promises, no longer being able or willing to do what was once easy and comfortable; it's feeling lost, living with a frightening diagnosis, a lost job, a sense of isolation. Grief is pain with many, many names.

Sharing grief in a safe, sacred circle honors grief and allows it to no longer define us. Sharing grief can open us to “resurrected” life with all its hopes, promises, joys and dances.

When we share one another's burdens and joys, we can begin to discover light in the immense darkness – joy, peace, hope and love.

Let us share the journey together!

Join John Snell and Beverly Thompson on Sunday, February 5, following Worship for an organizational/orientation gathering that may help you decide if this could be a safe, sacred space for you.

Feel free to contact either of us:

Beverly Thompson
drbeverlythompson@gmail.com

John Snell
jlsnell123@ gmail.com

Child Protection Training

February 5, 2:00-4:00pm, CR-1

The congregation of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. Our child safety policy reflects our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter and as a place in which all people can experience the love of God through relationships with others.

All leaders and volunteers within our Faith Formation programs are expected to participate in both an online and in person training session prior to beginning service. Our next training is Sunday, February 5, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. All volunteers and staff with children and youth, new elders, and volunteers who were trained in 2018 or earlier and will be working with our children and youth in the upcoming year, should plan to attend.

Your service is appreciated and we look forward to working together as we learn our church policy and expectations for all who serve to nurture and protect our children and youth. You can register online by clicking [HERE](#). If you have questions or need help signing up, contact Brittany in the church office for additional information. For additional questions, contact Pat Tuttle, 828-777-4054.

February birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Bobbi White | 16 Cailyn Hollifield |
| 3 Lynn Jostes | Ann Wiig |
| 4 Ina Hughs | Tanner Kelly |
| 5 Netsanet Solomon | 17 Chole Munn |
| Pat Newbold | 18 Clay Hile |
| Gay Van Osdall | Sarah Akin |
| Jillian Munn | David Castello |
| 6 Jim Griffin | 21 Leila Cox |
| Aaron Price | Mark Allen |
| 7 Betsy Walker | Alexandria Carver |
| Gracyn Farish | Charlie Cappelli |
| Parker Donaldson | 22 Austin Brown |
| 8 Jo Majka | Jolie Atkins |
| Skylar Hollifield | 23 Mylo Morgan |
| Eliza Cullen | 24 Art DeJong |
| 9 Guy Campbell | Sue Cauthen |
| 10 Rock Ward | River Edwards |
| Carson Campbell | 25 Dan Davis |
| 12 Matt Begley | Wayne Mullis |
| Kay Salmon | 27 Paul Scouten |
| Charles Sandy | Andy Gwynn |
| Gay Ferguson | Rebecca Askew |
| 13 Campbell Cauthen | 28 Cynthia Keever |
| 14 Mike Ballard | |
| Henry Griffin | |
| Nolan Atkins | |
| 15 Charles Massey | |
| Cole Roy | |
| Ernie Banzhoff | |
| Sam Webber | |
| Joe Covert | |



SVCM NEEDS

queen sheets • bath towels
blankets of all sizes

Dear BMPC,

I want to thank you for your continued support. I am returning to El Paso, TX, to volunteer with immigrants at Annunciation House. I will be volunteering there from January 28-March 4 and appreciate the moneys given to me by the Mission Committee (and therefore all of you) as well as the prayers that you send with me. I will continue to update my blog (travelcontinued.blogspot.com) while I am there. – Jessi Stitt

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to any circle.

Tuesday, February 7

DORCAS 10:00 a.m., CR1

PRISCILLA 10:00 a.m., Church House

ESTHER 10:30 a.m., Connie Schimpf
341 Natures Bend, HF

NAOMI 3:00 p.m., Church House

LYDIA 6:30 p.m., Church House

Tuesday, February 28

LYDIA 6:30 p.m., Church House

Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

Coordinating Team 2:15 p.m.

During the renovation of the library, Biblical commentaries will be available upstairs in the education wing classroom.



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

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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



FEBRUARY FIESTA GUATEMALA STYLE

The Guatemala group will host a gathering with dinner and a program for anyone who would like to attend to learn more about our partnership with Guatemala and our recent trip.

Wednesday, February 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall

Sign up at bmpcnc.org