



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

October 2023

Our Response to Grace

During this month of October we celebrate our little spot in the Story of God. In gratitude and awe we pause to consider the great things that have been handed down to us and placed in our hands here at Black Mountain Presbyterian. This beautiful belonging of being church together, sharing life together, standing with each other in suffering and joy: loving, serving, hoping for, and praying for a world that we're called to stand with and for as well. This mysterious and amazing thing that can't be grasped, but can only be shared, that in some way we are connected with all that has gone before and all that is to come by the steadfast love of God, which never ceases, and by which we seek to be defined.

I recognize and respond to this grace and generosity from God with all that I am and everything that I do. I recognize that none of this belongs to us, really, this is God's Story, God's ministry. These people sitting alongside you, they are God's people. This building, this community we're planted within, the strangers who walk by on the sidewalk or come do yoga in our courtyard, or talk about town planning, this earth and it's aching and abundance – it all, they all, belong to God. The word "stewardship" means having the responsibility to care for something which belongs to somebody else – and that is what we do. We have been invited to care for what belongs to God – alongside God, along with God – to be stewards of the ministry of God, and also, as Paul says, of the mysteries of God.

In October, we'll have the great opportunity to respond to all of this through our generosity emphasis. **Pick up your packet at church on October 8.** Read through the letter. Consider your **pledge** to our mission budget next year. And join me in helping to care so beautifully, so tenderly, for the world that **God loves so much.**



Generosity
my response
to grace

Mary Katherine

OCTOBER

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

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 2p Blessing of the Animals	2 1p Earth Care Book Study 2:15p EC Team	3 PW Circles (see p4) 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets	4 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth	5 5p Karate with Tanner	6	7 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
8 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Adult Faith Formation Classes 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 2p Walk For Neighbors	9 1p EC Book Study 4p Worship 5p Cong. Life, Strategic 5:30p Property 7p Faith Form., H&W, Mission, Personnel	10 1:30a Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg Lydia Circle 7p Prophets	11 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal	12 5p Karate with Tanner 5:30p Fellowship Night at Phil's BBQ	13	14 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
15 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Adult Faith Formation Classes 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells	16 1p Earth Care Book Study	17 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Mama's Group 7p Prophets Rehearsal	18 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal	19 3p Book Group 5p Karate with Tanner 6p Mens' Group 6:30p Conversations at St. James	20 5:30p Kids Night IN	21 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
22 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Adult Faith Formation Classes 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells	23 1p Earth Care Book Study 6p Session	24 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal	25 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal	26 5p Karate with Tanner	27	28 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
29 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Adult Faith Formation Classes 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 2p Trunk or Treat	30 1p Earth Care Book Study	31 1p PW Coordinating Team 2:15p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets	Fellowship Night at Phil's BBQ Thursday, October 12 – 5:30pm			

Deadline for the November Window newsletter Monday, October 16

Walk for Your Neighbor

Sunday, October 8, at 2:00 p.m.



The annual 'Walk for Your Neighbor' fundraising event for the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry is Sunday, October 8, at 2:00 p.m. The walk is important as it raises funds to provide crucial support to our neighbors in need with food, gas vouchers, and rental assistance. We are all in this together!

It will be a fun event in which we and hundreds of other participants will walk through the heart of Black Mountain. We live in an interesting little town and it's hard to walk a step without bumping into history.

- Did you know that the furniture company sits on a site that used to be a bowling alley?
- Did you know that the Dripolator was originally a funeral home, and the big pane-glass windows were used to display their artistry?
- Did you know that the magnificent bookstore at the Cherry Street & Sutton intersection used to be Brown's Livery Stable?

We encourage you to participate in this event. You can sign up online at svcmblackmountain.org or the sign up sheet outside fellowship hall. Please call Austin Brown at 828.242.0941 if you have questions about the event.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS!

Come and get your BMPC Directory Photos updated! We welcome photographer Lindsay Higgins who will be providing all members an opportunity to get your photo taken so that we can update our church directory. You will also have the option to purchase a digital copy of the photo for \$20. All non-members are also welcome to come and get your photo taken for purchase.

Sunday, October 22
appointments available
between 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25
appointments available
between 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 5
appointments available
between 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please sign-up for a date and time.



Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women

Sunday afternoon, October 22, 3:00

Fellowship Hall

All current circle members are invited and other women in our church who would like to come are urged to join us as well!

This is our Thank Offering Program when we will learn more about where our PW monies go to help people in need around the world. We will enjoy homemade desserts from each circle. Getting to know one another better in an informal setting is always a good thing, too!

Discovery Class

Sunday, November 5 – 12:00 p.m.

at the church house

Learn more about BMPC and what it means to become a member. Lunch and childcare provided.



Spaghetti Dinners

Wednesdays through November 8, 5:30 p.m.

Suggested donation – \$5/per person or \$20/per family.

Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available. Please sign up each week online, on the sign-up sheet outside of fellowship hall, or by calling the church office (669-2725).



Presbyterian Women

PW Circles meet
Tuesday, October 3

Dorcas

10:00 a.m. Church House

Esther

10:30 a.m. Carol Cauthen
6 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

Naomi

3:00 p.m. Church House

Priscilla

10:00 a.m. Church House

Ruth

1:30 p.m. Highland Farms
Marketing Room

Tuesday, October 10

Lydia

6:30 p.m. Church House

For questions or more information, contact
Barbara Brinson (716) 307-9054
Ann Wilde (713) 851-5418

*Putting faith in action
is what we do!*

www.presbyterianwomen.org

Ancient Echoes of God's Hand

Sunday, October 15
6:00 p.m.

The Congregational Life Team is sponsoring a potluck dinner followed by a presentation by Tommy Wilkinson titled "Ancient Echoes of God's Hand."



photo by Tommy Wilkinson

Tommy is an active member of our church currently serving on our session as chairman of the Mission Team. Join us to discuss and explore the wonders of God's universe as we enjoy deep space images captured from our own backyard right here in Black Mountain. This is a program for the whole family – an event you don't want to miss. Come at 6:00 with your favorite dish and your own utensils. You are encouraged to submit questions in advance! Email Tommy at thwilkinson6@gmail.com or text 828-551-2292.



Sunday, October 29

2:00-4:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

How you can help:

- Decorate your vehicle and hand out candy
- Donate individual wrapped candy prior to the event – collection in the parlor
- Volunteer to help with set-up, traffic control, clean-up, etc.

Volunteer Sign-Up:



Family Worship

Sunday mornings

10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us in the courtyard (weather permitting) or fellowship hall for this informal worship service with music, prayers, stories, and fellowship.



Mama's Group

third Tuesdays

7:00 p.m.

All moms are welcome!
We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the church house.

B M P C Y O U T H G R O U P

Kids Night In Fundraiser

YOUTH LEAD GAMES, CRAFTS,
DANCE PARTY & DINNER

AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE

LEAVE THE KIDS WITH US FOR A
FUN-FILLED EVENING WHILE YOU
ENJOY A WELL-DESERVED BREAK

\$20

QUESTIONS?
KATIE@BMPCNC.ORG

REGISTER HERE: 

OCTOBER 20TH | 5:30-8:30PM



New monthly program
for 4th & 5th graders.

Route 45

New monthly pre-youth program for fourth and fifth graders. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Each meeting will have a Bible study followed by an activity like field games, bowling, or making something.

October 15 – Geocaching

(drop-off and pick-up will be at the church house.)

YOUTH

All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us for any and all activities.



SUN 1 Blessing of the Animals
at Town Square 2pm

WED 4 Small Groups 6:30-7:30

FRI 6 Lock In 6:00-11pm

WED 11 Small Groups 6:30-7:30

SUN 15 Mario Kart 2:00-4pm

FRI 20 Kids Night IN 5:30-8:30pm

WED 25 Small Groups 6:30-7:30

SUN 29 Trunk or Treat 2:00-4pm



We had Tons of fun playing Paint Wars at Welch Field on Sunday, September 24, and we enjoyed a weekend of fellowship including games, an alpine coaster, and a waterfall hike in Banner Elk September 15-17.

Youth wish list

As our youth program grows, these items can help to enrich the lives of all who attend.



RAD!

RECREATION ART DRAMA FUN

WEDNESDAYS

@BMPC



Summer of 2023 a Wake-Up Call?

Friends, we have seen the headlines all summer:

“Record heat wave illuminates plight of poorest Americans”

“101F in the ocean off Florida”

“Phoenix marks 31 days with 110F”

“Smoke from hundreds of Canadian wildfires blankets northern U.S. cities with air pollution”

“US leads the world in weather disasters”

“Asheville airport sets passenger record in 2022”

“Vulnerable Greenland ice portends bad news for us”

“Hottest days on record: Tuesday tops all-time world high set a day earlier”

“Study: Carbon dioxide in air hits new peak: Levels in atmosphere highest in 4 million years”

In our all-church read last spring, Katharine Hayhoe told us exactly what we can do:

First, talk about the climate crisis. If we are already talking with each other, great! But the country needs a huge groundswell from the public – from people who are suffering and from church members on behalf of people and critters who are suffering. To achieve this, we need to talk especially to government officials and leaders of organizations.

Second, live more simply. If we are already using the many tips we shared during our discussions last spring – changing thermostat settings, hanging laundry, and so on – great! But every one of us can challenge ourselves more, even if it’s inconvenient. Drive less. Fly less. Buy less. Sacrifice something. Our grandmothers were right: “Use it up, wear it out, just make do, or do without.”

Third, become politically active. Politicians don’t actually lead in doing hard things. The people have to lead, then politicians follow. We lead by flooding legislators with calls, postcards, letters; and by VOTING.

BMPC Solar Panel Report energy captured in August, 2023

Energy captured from the sun: **2,170 kWh**

Money saved at 11 cents per kWh: **\$239**

CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere:
1,758 pounds

Duke energy bill 7/11-8/8, 2023: **\$2,295.64**
(total bill for church building, church house, and parking lot lights)

BMPC Responds

Our petition to reduce single-use plastics and styrofoam containers, with 114 signatures, was delivered to Town Council at the September 11 meeting. The Council adopted the resolution and sent it to the Buncombe County Commissioners, to be considered at their September meeting. Your support helped make this happen – **thank you!**

We are also sending postcards to Rep. Chuck Edwards urging him to support the “Food for Peace” program included in the 2023 Farm Bill. We plan to have outreach actions like these after church on a regular basis, and we invite you to join us!

*Submitted by Jeannie Franklin
for the Earth Care Team*

Fall Adult Faith Formation

Join us. We welcome all who are interested.

Faith Builders 9:45-10:45 upstairs **Pat Tuttle (828-777-4054)**

Faith Builders class (upstairs, first room on left) will study the series *The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi: Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine, New Testament and Jewish Studies Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, AJ, as she is called, invites us to reconsider several familiar parables from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and to discover how challenging these stories are. She will give us the Biblical and historical context of the stories and show us how to situate the parable in its original form, how first century Jewish listeners might have heard it as Jesus told the story. We will explore both the meaning in its original form and how we might interpret that story for us today and be challenged by it.

Class members will need to order the Participants Guide online or at your local bookstore. Come join our class for study, discussion, fellowship, and lots of laughter.

Because this is a class led group, members who choose and feel comfortable facilitating will sign up for a session. The church will provide the Leaders' Guide, (written by a Presbyterian minister) as well as the DVD with AJ giving us the context for us to wrestle with and for folks to use as a reference. There is plenty of material for facilitators to work from and lead discussions.

Koinonia Class 9:45-10:45 in CR1 **Dr. Corrie Werner Greene**



Dr. Corrie Greene, former Montreat College religion professor, received her PhD in Medieval Literature in 2022. She is a C.S. Lewis Scholar and will share her most recent work on the Chivalric tradition and how it has manifested itself in the Christian Church.

October 1

I Look at the Cross; Then I Look Away:
Chivalry's Tangled and Far-Reaching Roots

October 8

You Gotta Be Hard; You Gotta Be Tough; You
Gotta Be Stronger . . . Mitigating Chivalry's
Physical Burden

October 15

They Pay Me to Love 'Em and Leave 'Em and
Tear 'Em to Pieces: Chivalry's Religious Burden

October 22

Give Me Something to Break . . . Come and
Get It: Chivalry's Toxic Social Burden

October birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Nick Murphy | 17 Kyle Holt |
| Mary Knight | Gayle Petty-Johnson |
| Mary Scott Robinson | Autumn Hollifield |
| Will Chilton | 19 Allen Bell |
| Sarah Berglund | Aidan Nalley |
| 2 Austin Greenwalt | Ella Farish |
| 3 Stephen Smith | Steve Riley |
| 4 Jesse Lehman | 21 Carol Cauthen |
| 6 Grace Stitt | 22 Linda Stroupe |
| Tonia Allen | Donna Drake |
| 7 Lewis Galloway | Jade Baker |
| 8 Craig Cooley | 24 Mary Brueggemann |
| Delores Spielman | 25 Ellen McClintock |
| 9 Dave Johnson | 26 James Huggins |
| 10 Gayle Shelton | 27 Bill Janes |
| 11 Daryl Fisher | Reid Pomeroy |
| Kristi Morgan | 28 Olivia LaMotte |
| 12 Arthur Lindsay | Jonathan Donnell |
| Bill Waterstradt | Max Cogbill |
| David Carter Florence | Libba Fairleigh |
| 13 Josie Munn | 30 Leslie Carreiro |
| Anna Carter Florence | 31 Billy Banks |
| 16 Hannah Webber | Susie Watson Burns |

Hand in Hand of the Swannanoa Valley thanks the BMPC congregation for partnering with us for the Backpack Program.

Your generous donations allow our local school children to have the items they need to fully participate in school and this was one amazing haul! The items were collected and sorted at Grove Stone Baptist Church and distributed to our Owen district schools on August 25 in anticipation of school starting on the 28th. Each school has a closet in the counseling area where supplies are kept. When a teacher sees a need they notify the counselor, who can then help children get these necessities discreetly. Hand in Hand has fundraisers throughout the year to help with our valley's children and their continuous needs. Thank you so much! Jennifer & Kyle Holt

Extended Communion

If you have been unable to get to church lately and would like Communion brought to you or a family member – just let your deacon or a pastor know! BMPC is bringing back a program of extending the sacrament on Sundays that we celebrate Communion. When requested, deacons will make an appointment for that day (or another day if more convenient) and you will be served by intinction in your home. We understand if you have been unable to gather with us in person, but we miss you! Contact your deacon or a pastor if you would like the Lord's Supper and it will be a privilege to bring it to you.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
co-sponsored by Black Mountain Counseling Center

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19
SCREENS & SOCIAL MEDIA:
A GUIDE FOR HEALTHY USE

6:30-7:30 p.m.
in the nave at St. James



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



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL EDUCATION, PRACTICE & CONNECTION

and  **BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church**

The Feast of St. Francis
**CELEBRATING THE BLESSING
OF
THE EARTH & ALL CREATURES**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

2:00 pm | Black Mountain Town Square

All creatures are
welcome!
Please keep them
leashed / safe

Farm animals from
Mimosa Hills
Farm will
be on site!

