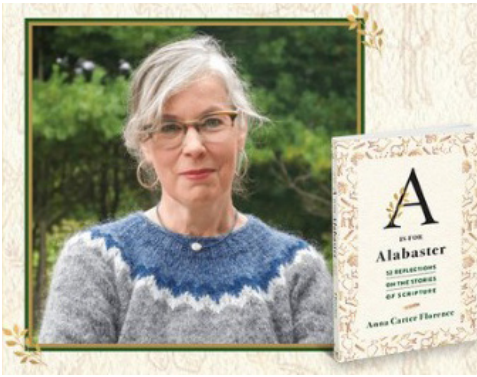




# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2024



**On Epiphany, January 7**, we are thrilled to have The Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence preach in FirstLight (8:45 a.m.) and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Anna is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia and married to our own David Carter Florence. Anna will share excerpts from her new book, *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*. There will be a question and answer time during the Faith Formation hour in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m.

## **Koinonia Class** with Jeannie Dubose **The Human Journey**

So much happens between the time we're born and the time we die. Whether you consider yourself young or old – or somewhere in-between – come explore your "one wild and precious life" through a variety of lenses, including Scripture, images, music, and theological reflection.

### **JAN 14 The Landscape of Loss and Opportunity**

Any life cycle includes interludes of loss and grief, as well as phases of satisfaction and opportunity. With our faith tradition as our guide, we will explore healthy strategies for navigating the inevitable vicissitudes of the human journey and how to live from the center of who you have been born to be, not who you have been told to be.

### **JAN 21 Portals into Wonder and Awe**

What are your portals into wonder and awe? Or put another way, what are your portals into feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit alive in you and others? Gain clarity about the circumstances, habits, and activities, which usher you to the threshold of the numinous.



## **New Sermon Series** **Revelations of Light**

**January 14–February 11**

Coming out of the Christmas season and into Epiphany, we hear the prophet Isaiah tell us, "Arise, shine, for your light has come." Likewise, a new year is ripe with possibilities. As we prepare to rededicate our sanctuary, we will be preaching on symbols of our faith, how they are integral and thoughtfully placed in our sanctuary, and how the light of Christ is revealed through these symbols.

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# JANUARY

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

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<p><b>Red Cross Blood Drive January 4</b> Donors get a free t-shirt! Sign up at <a href="http://redcrossblood.org">redcrossblood.org</a></p>	<p><b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Church office closed</p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b> 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>4</b> 1:30-5:45p Red Cross Blood Drive</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty &amp; Soul</p>
<p><b>7</b> 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1p ECare Book Study 2:15p ECare Team 4p Worship, CL Team 5p Strategic Planning 5:30p Property 7p Faith Form., H&amp;W, Mission, Personnel</p>	<p><b>9</b> 12p Book Club 1:30p Staff Mtg 5:30p Girl Scouts 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10a Finance Team 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>11</b> 6p Mens' Group</p>	<p><b>12</b> Youth Retreat to Tennessee (through Sunday)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty &amp; Soul</p>
<p><b>Deadline for the February Window newsletter Tuesday, January 16</b></p>						
<p><b>14</b> 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12:30p PW Gathering 2p Handbells</p>	<p><b>15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</b> Church office closed</p>	<p><b>16</b> 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal 7:30p Mama's Group</p>	<p><b>17</b> 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>18</b> 3p Book Club with Ina Hughs</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty &amp; Soul</p>
<p><b>21</b> 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 4p Route 45 2p Youth</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1p Earth Care Book Study 6p Session</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:30p Staff Mtg 5:30p Girl Scouts 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b> 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty &amp; Soul</p>
<p><b>28</b> 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b> 12p Potato Lunch 2p Handbells</p>	<p><b>29</b> 1p Earth Care Book Study 7p Burns Night at White Horse</p>	<p><b>30</b> 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b> 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Star words</b> You can pick up your star word for 2024 on Epiphany Sunday, January 7. Stars will be available outside fellowship hall throughout the month of January.</p>		

# Spaghetti Dinners return on Wednesday, January 24!

Weekly help is needed for set-up, cooking, serving, washing dishes, and clean-up. There is a suggested donation of \$5/per person, \$3 for children ages three and under, or \$20/ per family. However, it is a pay what you can event and everyone is welcome. The meal consists of spaghetti with meat and meat-free sauces, bread, salad, vegetables, and dessert. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available. Please RSVP weekly online, on the sign-up sheet outside fellowship hall, or by calling the office (669-2725).



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Jeannie DuBose is an award-winning author and illustrator of two memoirs: *The Mother Daughter Dance* and *Tending the Fire: The Story of a Marriage*. Her compelling presentation style is marked by humor, insight, and vulnerable reflections on her own life.

### **Faith Builders** led by Pat Tuttle and friends

This faith formation class will be doing some planning and a Bible game on **January 14**. This is a great time and opportunity to learn what this class is all about! There is always room for new members; everyone is welcome! This class will begin Amy-Jill Levine's study of the Gospel of Mark on **January 21**.

## **Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering in fellowship hall Sunday, January 14 after church at 12:30**

All PW circles will join together to enjoy yummy homemade soups, cornbread, and desserts after which we will have a lesson taught by our own wonderful Karen Austin. While together, we will vote on our slate of officers for next year. We will be collecting mittens, gloves, and socks for SVCN, so please bring a pair or more to share with those in need. Remember to bring your own soup bowl, plate, and soup spoon. If you are not already in a circle, this would be a great time to join us! Please let Barbara Brinson know that you are coming before January 7 at Bbrinson51@gmail.com so we can have a place ready for you at the table.

### **Western North Carolina Presbyterian Women Scholarships**



Available for graduating seniors or students enrolled in a 4-year undergraduate degree program at a college or university

\$3000 available for one year, with a one year renewal if student maintains eligible GPA

1 scholarship available each year, along with a renewal scholarship for qualifying students

**Scholarships are awarded on the basis of**  
**Financial need**  
**Scholastic ability**  
**Leadership in church, school, and community**

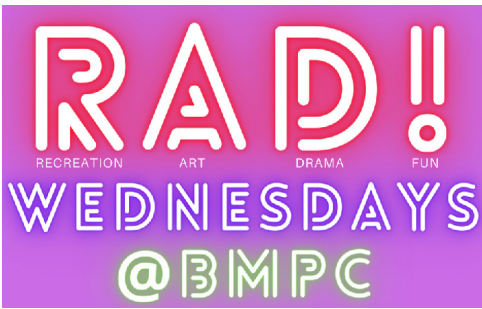
Applications must be postmarked by February 15 for awards to apply to that year's fall entrance date.

#### **Forms and contact information available at**

[https://www.presbyterywnc.org/  
ministry/presbyterian-women](https://www.presbyterywnc.org/ministry/presbyterian-women)

Elizabeth Barbee, Scholarship Facilitator, can be reached for questions at ebarbee@charter.net or (828) 645-6239.

**Our regular schedule of circles, Bible study, and coordinating team returns in February.**



## starts January 24

Winter 2024 start date has been pushed to Wednesday, January 24 due to church renovations. This winter we will be learning about people who met Jesus. Registration is open on [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org).

## Family Worship

**Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.**

This year we are changing things up a little bit. On the second Sunday of the month beginning in January, parents have the option to drop off their children during this time for a hands-on Bible lesson, while they have a chance to sit and connect with one another in a small group setting led by Ken Kelly in the parlor.



## ROUTE 45

**monthly pre-youth program for fourth and fifth graders**



## Sunday, January 21 Launch Trampoline Park

We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m.

Cost is \$22/pp which includes 1.5 hours of jump time and an \$8 arcade card. Pick-up will be 5:15 p.m. at the church.

# BMPC YOUTH

The youth continued service projects during December including filling 650 Christmas Stockings for a group in Burke County, making ornaments for residents at Highland Farms, and adopting teens in the SVCM Johnny Raines Christmas Cheer program. Thank you to church and community members who attended our Breakfast with Santa fundraiser. We raised \$801 for service projects, fellowship events, retreats, and conferences!



*Thank you to the members of the church for your support during breakfast with Santa.*



*Our youth invited Route 45 and St. James youth group to help us fill the Christmas stockings.*



*At our youth Christmas party we enjoyed delicious food, a hot chocolate bar, and games including wrapping our advisors as presents since they are truly gifts to our group!*

## January 2024

- WED 10** Small Groups 6:30-7:30pm
- FRI 12-14** Youth Retreat Gatlinburg, TN
- WED 17** Small Groups 6:30-7:30pm
- SAT 20** HS Midnight Manna 7-10pm
- SUN 21** MS Launch 2-5:15pm
- WED 24** Small Groups 6:30-7:30pm
- SUN 28** Potato Fundraiser 10am-1pm
- WED 31** Small Groups 6:30-7:30pm



Thank you to the youth for their hard work during our fundraiser!

**All 6th-12th grade students are welcome to join us for any and all activities. Bring a friend! Our winter/spring calendar is available on our Facebook page and at [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org).**

## Church bus drivers needed

The Sunday morning run to Given Highland Farms for the 11:00 worship service is an important ministry to our seniors! Drivers commit to be a substitute from time to time or to take one month of the year. Many hands make light work and you will get to know some fantastic and appreciative folks! Please contact Bob Tuttle or Dave McClintock for more information.



## 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 where we recently delivered 257 cans of food! Director Kevin Bates, parent of a Weekday School child, shared what the ministry is all about with the children. We find 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 collected new children's socks, underwear, hats, gloves, and pajamas for SVCM who distributed them to families for Christmas. This allowed us to help our children know that they 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.





# It's a New Year! Try these suggestions from your Earth Care Team

This week	Act for spiritual growth	Get Information	Take steps forward	Bonus steps forward	Take action for the world
<b>Try a new activity</b>	Use a devotional focused on creation. Try a Google search with the words “devotional, creation, environment.”	Learn about the “Circular Economy;” the benefits of both buying AND using recycled products.	Take a walk. Ride a bike. Take the stairs. Park in a central location and walk to your destinations.	Go through your closet. Instead of buying new, think about how you can repurpose what you have.	If the things in your closet no longer work for you, give them a new life by donating them.
<b>Reduce your consumption</b>	Pray for those who have too little: the poor, the refugees, and the exploited.	Learn how reducing meat consumption benefits your health and that of the planet	Take the “Window” and other subscriptions by email. Use a reusable water bottle.	Try “Meatless Mondays”, or maybe “Falafel Fridays”?	If you must buy a new item, make sure it's energy efficient.
<b>Reduce your impact</b>	Seek out faith-based environmental groups. Start with the BMPC Earth Care Team.	Start a 12-month running total of your utility bills. Watch the impact as you change your habits.	Support local businesses & farmers. Shop locally, especially for seasonal fruits & vegetables.	Ask a friend what they're doing to reduce impact. Share ideas!	Consider alternatives to fuel-intensive vacations. Use modes of travel with less impact.
<b>Take positive steps</b>	Pray for decision makers and those working for a better world.	Read a book or a magazine article on an environmental topic. Your Earth Care Team can make suggestions.	Turn climate anxiety into climate action. Talk about climate change.	Give time or money to a local group working to clean, protect, or preserve public land.	Contact decision makers, join with activists, and VOTE.

## LIFETIME Solar Panel Report, August 3, 2016 – November 30, 2023

Energy captured from the sun **126,350 kWh** / Money saved at 11 cents per kWh **\$13,899** / CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere **102,400 lbs.**

**Note:** Coordinated by the Earth Care Team, church members donated approximately \$40,000 in 2016 to install the panels as a statement of our commitment to stewardship of God's creation. As a result, church members have installed panels at home, and we have sponsored seminars and shared at the Presbytery level our process for installing panels.

## Solar Panel Report, November, 11/1-11/30 2023

Energy captured from the sun **1,590 kWh** / Money saved at 11 cents per kWh **\$175** / CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere **1,288 lbs.** /

Duke Energy bill, October 10–November 8, **\$1285.41** *(Total electric bill for all buildings and outdoor lights.)*



## Does anyone still make New Year's Resolutions?

I suppose that the stars handed out at the beginning of each year with characteristics such as gratitude, perseverance, patience, etc., could be counted as a resolution to have more of that particular quality. It is certainly a worthwhile endeavor.

However, I want to suggest another resolution for you to make this year. Read a book from the BMPC library this year. In this age of technology, where one can read a book online, I suppose it is much easier to click on the computer than it is to take an object (book) in your hands and turn pieces of paper (pages) to find information or to enjoy a plot or to feel inspired. So what is the advantage of checking out books?

Perhaps, we bibliophiles are becoming out of date, but for me, there is a great satisfaction in holding a book and seeing what treasure it may hold. May I suggest that you come into the newly renovated library and look at various categories, which are listed on each shelf. Maybe, you would like to begin the year with a new daily devotional practice. There is a section labeled **Devotions**. Another, **Christian Living**, would also work to provide inspiration. There are numerous biographies in the library. While a large number of these are religious figures, there are many accounts of other people who lived productive lives; some may be well known, but are not famous at all.

One of the most popular categories are the commentaries. For those of you who are in a study group or who simply want to explore for yourselves the background of Scriptures, you will find an immense variety from both the Old and the New Testaments. In addition to the commentaries, there are other reference books, such as atlases and dictionaries.

**Please consider a new resolution to drop by the BMPC library  
...and see what treasures it holds.**

# January birthdays

- |                         |                             |                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>4</b> Levi Hall      | <b>10</b> Carey Jo Elam     | <b>24</b> Dusty Lindsey   |
| <b>5</b> Carol Tyson    | Sloan Price                 | <b>25</b> Rick Lindsey    |
| Valorie Speeple-Snell   | Nell Summerlin              | <b>26</b> Bill Straughan  |
| <b>6</b> Becky Peterson | <b>12</b> Charlie Edwards   | <b>27</b> Clare Davenport |
| Nancy Thomas            | Becky Hughes                | <b>28</b> Maggie Ray      |
| Ayla Maidment           | Karen Hagwood               | Judy Gregory              |
| <b>7</b> Kate Nelson    | <b>13</b> Sara Owen         | Joyce Massey              |
| Jeff Ruppert            | <b>16</b> Scott Gregory     | Ann White                 |
| <b>8</b> Kim Fisher     | Michelle Ferguson           | <b>29</b> Travis Childs   |
| Susan Banzhoff          | <b>17</b> Katherine Stanley | Sam Maynard               |
| <b>9</b> Cammy Holt     | <b>21</b> Steve Imig        | <b>31</b> Nan Higgins     |
| Wyatt Lehman            | <b>22</b> Christa Corwin    | Suzanne Money             |
| Bill Caruso             | <b>23</b> Lucas Dodson      | Porter Reece              |

**Mama's Group**  
gathers monthly on the third Tuesday at the church house at 7:30 p.m.

## Extended Communion

If you would like Communion served in your home on January 7 or another time, please contact Bob Tuttle.

## 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.

“This vehicle will allow me to arrive at work promptly and reduce the stress of finding rides. I am so excited to see how I can give back to my community by supporting people as I have been supported. Thank you!”

– Brianne, referred by OnTrack



“This car will make a huge difference for not only me, but my family too. My sister and I both need transportation back and forth from school. This will really relieve stress on my family. Thank You!”

– Navante, referred by OpenDoors of Asheville



“My family is working hard to build a stable life. Since COVID, we’ve been struggling to support our babies. Our lives will dramatically improve with the stability of owning reliable transportation. Thank You!”

– Alexandra, referred by Mountain Projects





# BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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[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*



**MATTHEW 25**



Thank you to everyone on the Worship Arts Team for creating the beautiful artwork for Advent and Christmastime. Pictured here is chair of the Worship Arts Team, Ellen Phillips Smith and her husband Stephen.