

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

At this table
there's room for all.

Maundy Thursday
April 6, 6pm
An all-ages meal
and worship experience

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday Worship
Fellowship Hall
April 6, 6:00 pm

Worship will include dinner and communion as part of the service.

Thinking about the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends, this dinner will have a Mediterranean theme.

Food will be served family-style at each table to avoid long buffet lines during worship. This should be a meaningful, interactive service for all ages.

Celebrate Easter at
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Wonder & Joy

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

9am Breakfast for all

10am Easter Egg Hunt
(bring a basket)

10:30am Worship
(bring flowers for flowering the cross)

Newsletter Deadlines: We look forward to your items for the newsletter. Please have all items submitted to Rhonda by the **15th of each month** for the upcoming month's issue. Items may be submitted by email to Rhonda at the following: rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

Don't forget our newsletter is available on our website: <https://www.blacksburgpres.org/newsletter>

Prayer Concerns

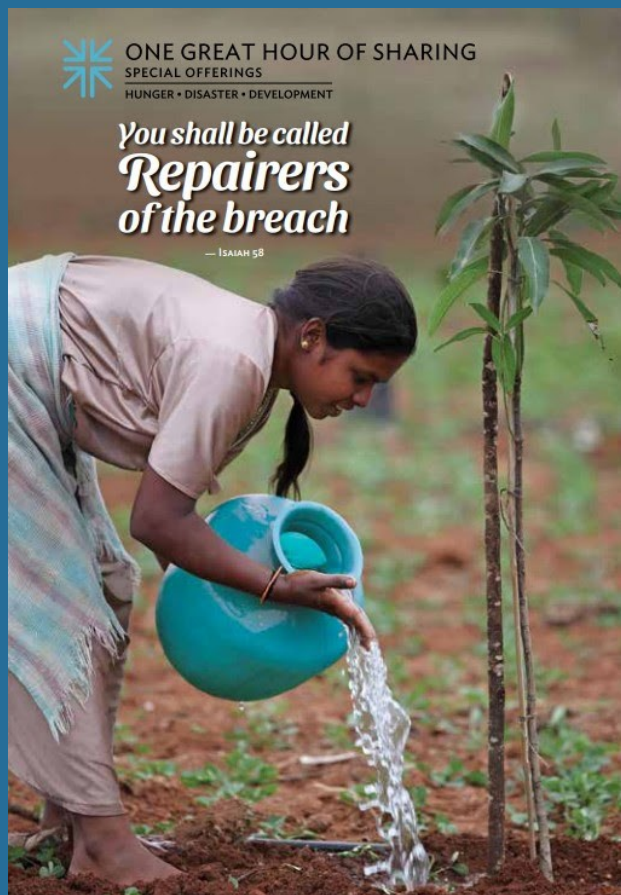
Trusting in God's presence, grace, healing, and care, we pray . . .

- for Steve Drumheller as he recovers from recent knee replacement surgery.
- for Renee Lahn as she recovers from recent surgery and other health complications.
- for the people of Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar, especially our partners in Mulanje, Malawi, suffering from extreme devastation and loss of life from Cyclone Freddy.
- for our community, and especially the members of the Blacksburg Jewish Community, as we respond to vandalism and hate. Help us to support each other as we oppose racism and antisemitism.
- as we struggle with gun violence once again, the knowledge that our prayers alone are not enough, the hurt that is beyond speech, and the fear that we do not know a helpful way forward. We have been here before, too many times. We pray for justice and peace.
- for victims of police violence and for all of us reckoning with issues of police brutality, racial inequity, and fear and lack of trust in the whole system.
- for political upheavals and challenges in Iran and the Middle East, and people struggling with hope and courage as they seek peace and compassion.
- for Jan McGilliard, Stan and Janne Mathes, Nancy Alexander, Wilmoth O'Dell, Bill and Sally Foy, and for those in the military: Luke Phillips, Eden Elizabeth Lawson, and Joel Hunter.
- for our partners and friends in CEDEPCA in Guatemala, and for our co-workers, Betsey and Eric Moe and their family in Guatemala.
- for Dessa Quesada Palm and Cobbie Palm, our mission partners in the Philippines.
- for our partners and friends in Malawi, working to meet health, educational and food-producing needs.
- for equitable, worldwide distribution of COVID vaccines, tests, and treatments, and for continued understanding of how to cope with the persistence of the virus.
- for those suffering from increasingly alarming effects of climate change and for all of us feeling dread about what is to come. Give us the courage and will to labor with hope as we act on opportunities to mitigate and reverse the ongoing climate crisis.
- for all those struggling to have enough to eat, to live in safety, to feel loved, and to have hope.

You can send prayer requests to Rhonda (rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) to be shared in three ways listed below:

- ◆ Prayers of the People in Sunday worship
- ◆ In the MidWeek Update
- ◆ Our prayer ministry page: <https://www.blacksburgpres.org/prayer>





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

*You shall be called
**Repairers
of the breach***

— ISAIAH 58

One Great Hour of Sharing Sundays, April 2 and 9

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry,
and Empowering the Oppressed

Bring the money you've collected (and/or your fish boxes)
through the One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten
Gratitude Calendar

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), to promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and to assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Over the years, the offering has provided the following:

- \$3.1 million was granted for disaster assistance in the U.S. and 15 countries by PDA
- 80 grants for hunger assistance to 23 countries by PHP
- Over 3,000 people trained in food production
- 191,182 Gifts of the Heart Kits and Blankets distributed

To learn more, go here:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

BPC bulletin inserts and envelopes will be available in the pews for both Sundays to provide more information.

Join BPC youth's journey on the
Road to Emmaus
as they lead the
Youth Sunday worship service on
April 23 at 10:30 am.

Youth will share their gifts of music,
prayers, preaching and a skit.



MATTHEW 25

"Our work is not to try to find a way to make people feel guilty, so that out of their guilt and shame, they will engage, all of a sudden, in some feverish activity, because what we un-

derstand is that there is a kind of cycle of outrage that takes place in the United States."

"You know what? This cycle at some point has to end, and I think that cycle ends when people say, 'It doesn't matter if I'm personally guilty or not, but my personal honor and my love for God and my love for humanity will not allow me to see others suffer from legacies that actually prop me up and give me a platform, so that my hard work amounts to something while others are always working at a deficit,' and so we hope to engage people on that level of their love for humanity and their personal honor, where they can see a need and see a possibility and jump into a position of collaboration and camaraderie with other human beings."

—The Rev. Anthony Jermaine Ross-Allam,
director of the new [Presbyterian Center
for Repair of Historical Harms](#)

Malawi after Cyclone Freddy - How We Can Help

Earlier this month Cyclone Freddy struck the southern part of Malawi, killing hundreds and wiping out basic support systems for thousands of people, including homes, latrines, crops, roads and bridges.

The storm first struck Madagascar in late February then southern Mozambique and continued to Malawi with continued torrential rains, damaging winds, floods, and mudslides. As has been highlighted on the internet and in the news, the damage and loss have impacted thousands. You can access an update of the current status and response from Dr. Arie Glas in Mulanje [here](#). (above, photo courtesy of ACT/NCA/DCA - PCUSA)



Mulanje Mission Hospital
Sustainable Livelihoods Program
BOLOLO MODEL VILLAGE/ SC CHIKUMBU
INTERVENTIONS (NTCHITO ZOMWE ZIKUGWIRIDWA)

- IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES (ULIMI WAMAKONO)
- VILLAGE SAVINGS & LOANS (KUSUNGA NDI KUBWEREKETSA)
- IRRIGATION FARMING (ULIMI OTHILIRA)
- LIVESTOCK PASS-ON PROGRAM (ULIMI WA ZIWETO)
- IMPROVED NUTRITION (CHAKUDYA NDI KADYEDWE KABWINO)
- IMPROVED SANITATION (UKHONDO)

THE GOOD LITTLE COMPANY | BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Fane Valley Growing Better Systems

We invite you to consider donating special funds to provide direct support from our congregation for our partners in Malawi. Our Malawi Partnership will serve as a conduit directly to Dr. Arie Glas, medical director of Mulanje Presbyterian Mission Hospital. Arie has requested that our funds go to support the hospital's highly

successful Sustain-able Livelihoods Program (SLP), which BPC has supported for ten years. Alongside the hospital's health promotion outreach (the service area includes approximately 700,000 people), the SLP supports numerous activities aimed at enhanced food crop production, improved agricultural techniques (such as small-scale irrigation) and tree planting, animal husbandry, and income-producing activities such as bee keeping, milk sales, small livestock development, nutrition, etc. Our donations would assist with the recovery of these programs.

To contribute to this special need, you may write a check to BPC and write Malawi Partnership 4200.1 on the memo line, and send it to the church office or place in the offering plate. A member of the Malawi Partnership will match total individual contributions up to \$1,000.

In addition, you may send your donations through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is helping out more broadly in all the countries impacted by Cyclone Freddy. Send contributions to the church office or place in the offering box with the designation "PDA DR000158--Southern Africa Countries" in the memo line on your check. You can also donate via BPC website's [Give page](#) and choose the PDA item from the drop-down menu.

CEDEPCA:

A Year of Challenges, Adaptation, and Recovery

2022 was a year of recovery for the staff of CEDEPCA. In the summary of the year, Judith Castenada, the executive director writes, "This year, 2022, was a recovery year for each one of our programs. It was a year of challenges and adaptation in the educational processes that we held, and also a year of recovering the health of many of our students, teachers and staff." (Photo below: CEDEPCA USA Board Meets with Corazon de Mujer as part of their meeting in February.)



It was a year of challenges and of learning to do ministry in a new way. And yet, in the midst of all of this, their ability to minister to the people of Guatemala was remarkable. In the past year, 5,495 people were served through their humanitarian aid programs, workshops, virtual journeys and classes. 2,793 people received humanitarian aid through water filters, seed kits, egg laying chickens, small entrepreneurship and psychosocial and pastoral accompaniment. 7,702 people participated in different courses, workshops, talks and virtual journeys.

Through our partnership with CEDEPCA, we are able to bring the love and justice of God to the people of Guatemala. Peaks Presbytery will be taking another delegation to Guatemala in April through CEDEPCA's Intercultural Encounters Program. Beth Mattson from BPC will be joining this delegation. They would be happy to share what they experience when they return.

For more information, contact, Kathy Carpenter, olekack@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who supports the amazing work of CEDEPCA.





THE TIME IS NOW TO CHERISH CREATION

Two earth care items are coalescing this April:

The **first** is processing the dismaying dire report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The **Synthesis Report** can be found here: cleantechnica.com/2023/03/21/the-ipcc-synthesis-report-is-out-it-offers-a-faint-glimmer-of-hope/, and a 3-minute video about it can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9CeECpxtx8

In the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, "This Report is a clarion call to massively fast track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every time frame. In short, our world needs climate action on all fronts—EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE! The transition must cover the entire economy. Partial pledges won't cut it. The climate time-bomb is ticking." and in the words of Katharine Hayhoe, Christian and Climate Scientist of the Nature Conservancy, "If we have the will to do so, we can accomplish it. The problem we have today, though, is, we still, many of us, don't really understand how this issue affects us here and now. And we don't understand that the majority of the solutions we need are already in our hands . . . The only question at this point is, what are we waiting for?"

The **second item** is that **April is Earth Month, culminating in Earth Day on April 22**. Look in your *Midweek* updates for Earth Month and Earth Day actions you can take.

The PCUSA General Assembly overture approved in 2022 calls on the church to take a variety of actions which truly make a difference, summarized in a letter from Bruce Gillette, the moderator of Presbyterians for Earth Care:

1. Repent of our role in driving the "planetary ecosystem to the tipping point of unsustainability for humans and mass extinction of other species."
2. Direct that all financial investments of the PC(USA) be withdrawn from industries that contribute to the production of the two major greenhouse gasses (CO2 and methane). Our denomination is doing this now, and is encouraging congregations to take similar action.
3. Direct the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation to increase investment in sources of low-carbon renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage, and sensitively support "policies that transition workers in our present fossil fuel industry into employment in green and sustainable energy sectors."
4. Members and congregations are encouraged to study past GA papers and current overtures. To start, look at one of the 2022 overtures at www.pc-biz.org/#/ by typing into the Search "investing in a green future."
5. Churches, educational institutions and individuals are urged to "walk the talk" by doing "the needed, faithful change we seek by being carbon neutral, net-zero, or even climate positive by 2030."
6. Our advocacy offices (in DC and UN) are called to work in partnership with ecumenical and international groups, to "assist economically developing and emerging countries* with carbon use mitigation and adaptation."
7. Recognize "climate debt" - the debt said to be owed to developing countries by developed countries for the damage caused by their disproportionately large contributions to climate change.
8. Support the carbon dividend (as the 2018 GA did). Check out the Citizen's Climate Lobby at citizensclimatelobby.org/ of which we have a local chapter.



Dates to Remember

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Suzanne Ducker, John Phillips
- 2: Jackson Lawrence, Luke Phillips
- 7: Angela Anderson
- 11: Søren Anderson, Stuart Hunter, Courtney Roberts
- 12: Geoff Knobl
- 16: Rylan Pospichal
- 19: Joann Boles, Carolyn Drumheller
- 20: Jan McGilliard
- 22: Jama Green
- 24: Ginsey Thompson
- 25: Allison Kruckow
- 27: Todd Rakes
- 28: Kara Espinoza
- 29: Linda Waskey



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Gracie Byron, Nicholas Bundren
- 2: Bill Drummond, Zachary Swartzwelder
- 3: Jason Pospichal
- 4: Quin Spencer, Melinda Winslow
- 5: Jim Schlaudecker, Lucy Schor
- 7: Craig Woolsey
- 9: Janne Mathes, Reece McFall
- 11: Rick Davis, Isaac Haak, Elizabeth Day
- 12: Lilian White
- 13: Betsy O'Brien, Emma Grace Woolsey
- 17: Elise Bailey, Suzanne Sanford, Francisco Slagel-Perry
- 18: Martha Dillard
- 21: Peg Warren
- 22: Steve Drumheller, Nancy Phillips
- 23: Billy Evans, Craig Winslow
- 28: Sandy Parson, Ben Wyatt
- 30: Greg Campbell, Sallie Drumheller, Joey Zobel

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

The building is open during 8:30-4:30. Signing in is still required of everyone. Masks are optional. Meetings are in person and virtual. Please hold each other in prayer and continue to look out for one another. Say healthy, safe, and kind.

BPC's Calendar

APRIL 2023 — Recurring Meetings:

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 10:30 a.m., HCR
Deacons meeting, second Monday at 12:00 p.m., HCR. For April, meeting is Monday, 04/17.
Knitwits, fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m., WM
- Tuesday:** Worship Planning Team, 10:30 a.m., HCR
BPC Quilters, 9:30 p.m., FH
- Wednesday:** Helping Neighbors by phone
- Sunday:** Sunday School for youth and children, 9:00. Contact Susan at susanh@blacksburgpres.org.
Adult Ed: Contact adulted@blacksburgpres.org.
Youth Group, 5:30-7:30 pm, FH
Session meeting — April 16, 7:00 pm, HCR

Presbyterian Women Circles — upcoming meetings:



- Lydia Circle: 04/03, 1:30-3:00 pm, FH
- Hildegard Circle: 04/03, 6:00 pm, Paula Stith's home
- Faith Circle: 04/27, 7:30-9:00 pm, TBA

The Church office will be closed on Good Friday, 04/07, and Easter Monday, 04/10.

Youth Calendar:



- 04/02, 5:30-7:30 pm: dinner and discussion FH
- 04/09: No Youth Group — Happy Easter!
- 04/16, 5:30-7:00 pm: Dinner and discussion, FH
- 04/22, 10:00-noon: Youth Sunday rehearsal, SNC
- 04/23, 9:00 am: Youth Sunday rehearsal with worship at 10:30, SNC (no evening meeting)
- 04/30, 5:30-7:30 pm: dinner and discussion
- **Save the date!** VBS, June 11-14, 5:30-8:00 pm

Please remember to contact the church office in advance to schedule room use and avoid conflicts.

Meeting Room Key: HCR—Hatcher Conference Room, FH—Fellowship Hall, WM—Westminster Hall, SNC—Sanctuary, GS—Gathering Space

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 CHURCH ST SE
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060-5213

*change service requested

BPC offers both in-person and livestream worship services with both beginning at 10:30. You can access the livestream via BPC's [YouTube channel](#).

Bookmark the page for easy access. The video will be available after Sunday worship if you missed the live service.

Subscribe to BPC emails today!

To join the email list, click [here](#) or contact Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

Check out our website, www.blacksburgpres.org, for more information about BPC and church activities.

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
*A Vibrant Congregation of
Welcome, Worship, and Outreach*

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