



June 11, 2023

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Mission
Proclaiming God's Word
Growing in faith and understanding
Welcoming all
Extending comfort and grace
Working for justice and peace
Nurturing creation
Being generous stewards of God's gifts

Pastor – Rev. Sarah Wiles
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt
Organist/Pianist – Amanda Raymond
Director of Children/Youth Ministries – Susan Hunter
Coordinator of Church Life – Sarah Windes
Office Manager – Rhonda Waller
Parish Associate – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Virginia Tech Campus Outreach Minister – Rev. Kathy Carpenter
Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Arie Glas
Mission Partners in the Philippines – Cobbie Palm & Dessa Quesada-Palm
Mission Partners in Guatemala – Betsey & Eric Moe

Service is also livestreamed and is available at www.blacksburgpres.org.

If you are new to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and would like more information or to join our email list, please contact the church office at 540-552-2504 or email bpc@blacksburgpres.org.

❖ *Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 11, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation: "Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart."

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

Prelude: "Adoration"

Florence B. Price

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

❖ **Call to Worship**

The God of New Beginnings has called us to this place.

We come celebrating the life that is made new every day.

Let your joy ring through the universe,
and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

**We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God's light
wherever we go. Praise God for this day!**

Søren Anderson

❖ **Hymn 65: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

❖ **Prayer of Approach**

Maker, Savior, Spirit,
You have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

You have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though anxious of heart, today I believe.

You have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

You have always spoken
when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now, today I believe.

(Pause)

We will be still,
and if we do not take off our shoes,
we will yet remember that this is Holy Ground
because you have promised to be
where your people meet in Jesus' name.

**So we wait; patiently or impatiently,
we wait for Jesus, and today we believe. Amen.**

Call to Confession: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 475 (v. 3)

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayer of Confession

**God of our journeying,
inviting us to travel with you,
forgive us when we cling to outworn security,
afraid to let go of what is safe and familiar.**

**Give us courage
to take the risk
of answering your call
into joyous adventure.**

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

❖ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(Worshippers may exchange signs of God's peace, and children may come forward for a time of sharing faith together.)

❖ HEARING THE WORD ❖

Sharing Faith with Children

Rev. Sarah Wiles

(Children in 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Children in kindergarten or younger may stay in the sanctuary or go downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurturing and care. Please complete a sign-in sticker for each child.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

Common English Bible

1 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."

4 Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. 5 Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. 8 From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord's name. 9 Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: A Gracious Blessing

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 697 (vs. 1-2, 5-6): "Take My Life"**

HENDON

**Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "Toccata in C Major"

Johann Pachelbel

❖ **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

❖ Hymn 543 (vs. 1-4): "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

GREEN TYLER

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

❖ Benediction

Postlude: "Go in Peace"

Kenneth B. White



Citations: Call to Worship from *Flames of the Spirit*. Prayer of Approach from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. Prayer of Confession from *Bare Feet and Buttercups*. Art: *Dark Path* by Jakub Schikaneder (public domain)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

This is a space for everyone. No matter who you are, no matter what your story is, no matter what--you are welcome here. May this be a time where your breathing slows, your heart opens, and you connect with the Holy One. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore some of what happens in the life and ministry of this community.

Serving: Church Opener: Anne and Greg Campbell

Ushers: Phil Bailey, Heidi Swartzwelder, Susan Bailey, Marcia Parks

Elder Serving Refreshment: Marilyn Hutchins

Nursery and God's Garden Sign-in Stickers (one per child): Complete information about each child and parent(s) on the sign-in sticker.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available. Speak to an usher to use them for the worship service.

You can send prayer requests for Prayers of the People in Sunday worship and/or to be added to the *MidWeek Update* and website prayer list to Rhonda, (rhonda@blacksburgpres.org).

Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number 77977 (e.g., bpcva 20). If it is your first time, there will be a brief registration process. To give via QR code, use the camera app on your phone and follow instructions. Thank you for your support of BPC's ministry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you to Amanda Raymond: Today is Amanda's last Sunday with us as our organist and pianist. We are so grateful for her ministry among us and the ways she has enriched our worship over the last two and a half years. Amanda will be moving at the end of July to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Michigan. We wish her all the best and we will have a celebration for her on July 23 following worship.



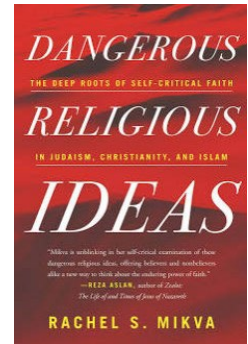
Dinner with the Moes, Sunday, June 18, 5:30

Join our mission coworkers from Guatemala, Betsey and Eric Moe, to hear how their first few years in Guatemala have gone and their plans for the future!

We will have dinner with various types of pupusas provided by Pupuseria Mari in Christiansburg, along with salads, and tres leches cake. It is thought that pupusas are from El Salvador but are a popular dish now throughout Central America and now in the U.S. (To learn more, go to elmeson-santafe.com/the-origins-of-the-pupusa-a-traditional-salvadoran-dish). There will be musical entertainment by Eric Moe who is a jazz trumpeter. Donations are appreciated to cover the cost of dinner.

To find out more about Betsey and Eric Moe go to presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/betsey-and-eric-moe/.

Interfaith Reading Group, July 9, 4pm: BPC is excited to be partnering with several other congregations and the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center to begin an interfaith reading group. Our first book will be *Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* by Rachel Mikva. The initial meeting will be Sunday, July 9, at 4pm at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, and we recommend you read the first chapter for the first gathering.



Seeking Leaders: Do you know someone at BPC who you admire? Who you'd like to hear more from? Who you've noticed is particularly gifted in a specific area? The nominating committee is seeking suggestions for members who would like to serve as elders. Any member is eligible to serve as an elder. If you'd like to suggest a name or indicate your own interest in serving, you can find a nomination form here: www.blacksburgpres.org/elders. You can also find a paper version in the Gathering Space window which you can complete and then place on Rhonda's desk in the church office. You may also contact any of the members of the nominating committee: Heather Lawrence, Jim Rakes (chair), Andrew Warren, Melinda Winslow, and Pastor Sarah (ex officio).

THIS WEEK

FH-Fellowship Hall, **HCR**-Hatcher Conference Room,
WM-Westminster, **SNC**-Sanctuary, **GS**-Gathering Space

Sun., June 11:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 5:30-7:45 pm: Vacation Bible School begins, June 11-14, FH. Dinner is provided, and donations are appreciated to cover that cost.

Mon., June 12:

- 12:00-1:30 pm: Deacons meeting, HCR

Tues., June 13:

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars with Pastor Sarah, Zoom
- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

Thur., June 15:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries, Zoom
- 5:00-6:00: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up at the meeting time or contact the church office.

Sat., June 17:

- 4:00-8:00 pm: Juneteenth 2023: Black Empowerment, Joy & Legacy, Christiansburg Industrial Institute, 140 Scattergood Dr., Cburg. From CII: "We invite you to join us in celebrating Juneteenth this year, on the sacred land of CII, in remembrance of the generations that came before - and the many gathered here now pushing forward, together, for justice today." (christiansburginstitute.com/juneteenth-2023)

Sun., June 18:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 5:30 pm: Gathering and dinner with Betsey and Eric Moe, our mission partners with CEDEPCA, FH. See announcements for details.
- No Session meeting in June. Session will meet next on July 16, 7:00 pm, HCR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., June 19: Juneteenth - church office is closed

Mon., June 26:

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM
- 5:30: Creation Care Team meeting, HCR

June 27-June 30: Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference

Sun., July 2: Communion Sunday

Thursdays in July, 7:00-8:00 pm: 2023 Summer Arts Festival, Thursday Night Indoor Concerts, BPC Sanctuary. Free admission. (More information about these performances and other events can be found here: performingarts.vt.edu)

- 07/06: Aurora Martin, soprano, and Richard Masters, piano
- 07/13: Bach and Friends with Fiona Hughes, violin
- 07/20: Alma Ensemble
- 07/27: Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* - Community Sing, conducted by Dr. Larry Wyatt. (To participate in the community sing, visit bit.ly/SummerArtsHaydn23)

Sun., July 9:

- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Reading Group, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. See announcements for details.

July 9-15: Montreat Youth Conference