

# Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

*Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind*

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Ways to Experience Summer Growth & Grace

### Interfaith Reading Group

in partnership with Blacksburg churches, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center

We will be reading **Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** by Rachel Mikva

**July 9 | 4pm | Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road**

The group is reading **Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** by Rachel Mikva.

Used copies in good condition are available in the office. If you are able, a \$9 donation will cover the cost of the book, but if cost is a barrier, please take one as a gift. If you have time to read the first chapter before our first gathering, that's great, but if not, please come anyway.



### Savoring Sacred Music Sundays, July 9, 16, 23, 9:00 am Westminster

Larry Wyatt will be leading a three-week class on sacred music. Each week will focus on a different element of appreciating and understanding classical music used in worship (see topics for each class below). Whether you are a musician or a listener, well-versed in musical theory or completely new to the dynamics of music, this class will deepen your spiritual engagement with sacred music.



Make a joyful noise!  
SAVORING SACRED MUSIC

Led by Dr. Larry Wyatt  
Sundays 9am | July 9, 16, 23  
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

**Upcoming topics:** July 9: Handel's *Messiah*  
July 16: Expression in Music – It's Not Just a Pretty Tune  
July 23: A Very Big Picture - History of Hymns

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](mailto:rhonda@blacksburgpres.org).

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

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

- for the family of Larry Wright who died on July 5. Let us lift Anne, his wife; children Marcia Parks and Allison Kruckow; and their family and friends in our prayers during this time of grief.
- for Nancy Furr's sister Linda who underwent surgery for breast cancer in late June. By God's grace, it was found early.
- for Steve Drumheller and Suzanne Sanford as Steve continues to deal with significant health challenges resulting from numerous fractures to his vertebrae.
- for Jon Hutchins, Marilyn's son, as he continues to recuperate from injuries sustained while hiking in early May.
- for the Women's Resource Center, and their work of counseling, shelter and advocacy, and for the women and children they support and protect.
- for our partners and friends in CEDEPCA in Guatemala, and for our co-workers, Betsey and Eric Moe and their family in Guatemala, as they travel around the PCUSA sharing stories of their work.
- for Dr. Arie Glas and our partners in Mulanje, Malawi, working to meet ongoing health, educational and food-producing needs, while recovering from the extreme devastation wrought by recent Cyclone Freddy.
- for our mission partners, Dessa Quesada-Palm and Cobbie Palm, in the Philippines, and their work with water access, theater ministry, pastoral seminars and peace advocacy
- for those friends and members of BPC, and in our community who are struggling with physical and mental health challenges. May they and their loved ones feel comforted and supported.
- for people throughout the world who live in one of the more than 30 countries experiencing war right now, though Ukraine and Russia have the most casualties and the most headlines. We pray especially for women and children who bear the biggest burdens, for military and political leaders who need to hear the voices of peace, and for church leaders as they speak out against violence and for security and an end to fighting.
- as we struggle with gun violence again and again, and know that our prayers alone are not enough, though we cannot seem to find a helpful way forward. We pray for justice, peace, and societal wisdom.
- 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 our local and global community to support each other as we oppose racism, antisemitism, bigotry, and oppression.
- for victims of police violence and for all of us reckoning with issues of police brutality, racial inequity, and a system which engenders fear and lack of trust in many people.
- for Stan and Janne Mathes, Renee Lahn, Jan McGilliard, Nancy Alexander, Wilmoth O'Dell, Bill Foy, and for those in the military: Luke Phillips, Eden Elizabeth Lawson, and Joel Hunter.
- for equitable, worldwide distribution of COVID vaccines, tests, and treatments, and for continued understanding of how to cope with the continued persistence of the virus. We pray that we will learn from what we have experienced in these three years, in ways that will have a positive effect on our church and society.
- 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](mailto: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>



# Dialogue on Race



## 2023 Summer Summit

In-Person

**Summer Summit Theme:**  
**Understand What You're Voting For:**  
**Budget Impacts on Services We Count On**

### Program

**Panel of Local Leaders**  
**Montgomery County Administrator,**  
**Blacksburg and Christiansburg Town**  
**Managers, MCPS Deputy Superintendent for**  
**Finance, Montgomery County Emergency**  
**Services Coordinator**

**Issue Groups Dialogue Sessions**  
**for Reflection and Insights**

[Click here to register!](#)

**Bring a Friend! Bring a Neighbor!**  
**Saturday, August 26, 2023**  
**4:00-6:30 pm**  
**(3:00 pm open for sign-in)**

**Christiansburg Huckleberry Park**  
**300 Peppers Ferry Rd NW,**  
**Christiansburg, VA 24073**

The Dialogue on Race Summer Summit is a great occasion for community members to convene, renew acquaintances, build new relationships, and share in doing the work of building a stronger, self-help community that works for us all! Invite friends and neighbors. All are welcome.



## News from CEDEPCA

### Women Find New Life in Bible Classes

CEDEPCA has helped thousands of women learn that they are beloved children of God through the study of scripture. In Guatemala, women are often told that they are worthless and should stay in the house. Yet, through these Bible classes, women are learning to read the Bible in the context of their own lives, removing the barriers of patriarchy and culture and finding self-worth. They are hearing for the first time that they are children of God, loved by God and can bring change to their families, churches and communities.

One participant, Roasario, said that “there is no way I can repay you for what you have given me, not only the classes that have opened my heart, but you provided the cost of my transportation, which I do not have and also something to eat. I did not understand the value of learning, but I have overcome that and I am so happy.”

Another woman told us that now her children, her girls, go to school.

The indigenous Mayan women who come to these classes do not pay, cannot pay. They do not have access to money even for bus fare. Thanks to CEDEPCA and your support, they can study and discover hope and a new future.





**Presentation by the Moes is now available by video!**



**ERIC AND BETSEY MOE**  
MISSION CO-WORKERS IN GUATEMALA

Betsey and Eric Moe visited us on Sunday, June 18. After a delicious dinner of pupusas, salad and tres leches cake, Eric first played his horn for us, then he and Betsey showed slides and talked about their work with CEDEPCA in Guatemala. Here is the link to the presentation:

<https://youtu.be/Xp9ACjIBPFc>

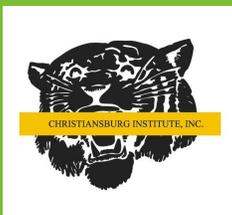
**Summer Moments of Grace**

Celebrate something you have done, people you have seen, a place you have been or a moment of rest or beauty this summer by decorating a small paper t-shirt to commemorate it.

Check out the BPC Community Bulletin Board as you enter the Gathering Space from the stairway. Stickers, markers and other supplies are provided for decorating your t-shirt (several colors to choose from). Be sure and put your name on it before you hang it on the line!



**It's a perfect time to take the African American Legacy Tour of Montgomery County! curated and presented by [Christiansburg Institute, Inc](#)**



The African American Legacy Tours provides tourists with the opportunity to not only read about Black history and stories, but see what they've become today, engaging with local history and the hidden stories of our community. Some sites are now only open fields or are on private property. A few can be walked around on foot, but it is not necessary to do so to appreciate the tour. Tourists will visit historic New Town and Wake Forest, each illustrating a nuanced insight into African American life in Southwest Virginia. Additional tour sites include schools, churches, businesses, cemeteries and former plantations.

To take the Montgomery County tour and download the brochure, [click here](#). There are 18 stops, 9 stops in Blacksburg and 9 stops in Christiansburg. We recommend doing the Christiansburg and Blacksburg sections on different days and allowing plenty of time (up to two hours per section if you read all the fascinating info and watch the brief videos).

Please download the tour brochure for addresses and brief descriptions of each site. The brochure has a QR code that's linked to a digital map, which can also be accessed from the CI website. This story map provides historical images and videos and provides additional information about each site. One must use the brochure in order to get exact addresses to use for navigation, as those addresses are not given on the phone version of the story map.

The Legacy Tours series will gradually incorporate additional African American sites of memory and cultural significance that are located throughout the counties, towns, and cities of Southwest Virginia, providing a unique, visceral, and honest pathway for community members to reinvestigate Black histories and experiences in rural Appalachia from Slavery to Civil Rights.

More information is available on their website and Facebook page or contact Sarah Windes at [sarah@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:sarah@blacksburgpres.org), who has experienced the tour. If you do the tour, let us know how it went!



### Congratulations to the 2023 BPC Confirmands!



Charlie Wyatt, Heidi Swartzwelder, Sophia Warren and Jaya Ericksen

Charlie (cello), Heidi (piano), and Sophia (spoken word) shared their gifts with the residents and visitors of Showalter in May.



### BPC Youth explored Psalm 23 during the Massanetta Springs Middle School conference on "Welcome Home" including lots of outdoor fun!



2023  
VBS



# Dates to Remember

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2: Wyatt Eschenmann  
3: Andrew Warren  
10: Lois Doherty, Laina Stewart  
11: McKenna Slocum  
12: Nora Green, Roy Jones, Sharon Watkins  
14: Diane Wilson  
15: Dave Snyder  
19: Steve Jones  
22: Darrell Bosch  
23: Charles Goodsell  
24: James Harder  
26: Jonathan Anderson  
27: Tom Howard, Circe Roberts  
28: Connor McFall, Kyle White  
29: Natalie Green  
31: Susan Miller, Lynn Thye



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1: Meg Laing  
3: Trish Haak, Heidi Swartzwelder  
4: Nancy Furr  
5: Lois Price  
7: Buddy Russell  
10: Malcolm Laing  
12: Les Myers  
13: Samantha Haak  
17: Jim Rakes  
18: Ed Spencer, Sandy Power  
19: Abigail Call, Deb Call  
21: Stewart Laing  
22: Bob Pienkowski  
23: Clay Waite  
24: Jennifer Grover, Forrest Thye  
26: Russell Drumheller, Henry Evans  
27: Wilmoth O'Dell, Lily Rascher, Henry Stewart  
28: Natalie Rascher  
30: Chris Bundren  
31: Rob Kincaid

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

### JULY 2023 — Recurring Meetings:

**Monday:** Staff meeting, 10:30 a.m., HCR  
Deacons meeting, second Monday at 12:00 p.m., HCR. Next meeting on June 12.  
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 will resume September 10.  
Contact Susan at [susanh@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:susanh@blacksburgpres.org).  
Adult Ed: Contact [adulted@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:adulted@blacksburgpres.org).  
Youth Group, 5:30-7:30 pm, FH, will resume September 10.  
Session meeting, third Sunday each month, 7:00 pm. Next meeting is on July 16.



**Mon., July 24, 11:30 am:** Lydia Circle Get-Together at shelter 2 at the Blacksburg Municipal Park (Caboose Park). Bring your own lunch and let's spend time connecting with each other. Visitors are welcome

**Mon., July 31, 5:30 pm:** Hildegard Circle Potluck Social, Martha Dillard's home.

Please contact your Presbyterian Women Circle leader for information about any other summer meetings that may occur.

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.

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**Subscribe to BPC emails today!**

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

Check out our website, [www.blacksburgpres.org](http://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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