



August 27, 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 & Organist – Alice Brooks Sanders  
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](http://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](mailto:bpc@blacksburgpres.org).*

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❖ *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  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 27, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

**Thought for Meditation:** "There is no normal life that is free of pain. It's the very wrestling with our problems that can be the impetus for our growth." - Fred Rogers

**Prelude: "Hymn" (Psalm 42:8)**

Douglas Wagner

Yet the Lord will command His loving kindness in the daytime,  
and in the night His song shall be with me.

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

**Centering Music (Hymn 626): "As the Deer"**

AS THE DEER

❖ **Call to Worship**

Andrew Warren

When your back aches and your bug bites itch,  
**when you've traveled many miles – body or soul,  
and have the limp to prove it,**  
when you grapple with hope and despair,  
fear and trust,  
life and death,  
**this is the space for you.**  
To worship the Living God is to wrestle  
and risk being changed.  
**Come, let us worship God!**

❖ **Hymn 415: "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"**

RESTORATION

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity, love, and power.**

**Refrain:**

**I will arise and go to Jesus;  
he will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome;  
God's free bounty glorify,  
true belief and true repentance,  
every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all. (Refrain)**

**Let not conscience make you linger,  
nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness he requireth  
is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

As a deer longs for streams of cool water,  
so my heart longs for you, O God.

**I thirst for you, the living God.  
When shall I know you are near me?**

Tears have been my food, day and night,  
while tormenters ask, 'Where is your God?'  
My heart breaks whenever I remember  
how I once went with others to God's house.  
I would lead the joyful procession  
singing and shouting God's praise.

**Why am I sunk in deep misery?  
Why am I lost and distressed?  
I shall put my hope in God,  
in the One who is my deliverer.**

My soul is troubled within me  
therefore I will remember you.

**Deep calls to deep in confusion  
and all your waters sweep over me.**

**Yet by day God's love assures me;**  
come night, a song leaves my lips,  
a prayer to the God of my life.  
I ask God, 'Why have you forgotten me?'  
Why should I walk like a mourner,  
being taunted, 'Where is your God?'

**Why am I sunk in deep misery?  
Why am I lost and distressed?  
I shall put my hope in God,  
in the One who is my deliverer.**

**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**

*(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. Emily Rhodes Hunter

*(Children in 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Holy Spirit,

You're present all the time.

**Awaken us to that reality,**

**so that we may**

**see you,**

**feel you,**

**know you,**

**follow you.**

**Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22-31, CEB

22 Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River's shallow water. 23 He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. 24 But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. 25 When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. 26 The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking." But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me." 27 He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." 28 Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel,[a] because you struggled with God and with men and won." 29 Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name." But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. 30 Jacob named the place Peniel,[b] "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." 31 The sun rose as Jacob passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh.

For the Wisdom of God in scripture,

for the Wisdom of God among us,

for the Wisdom of God within us,

**thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** Gracious Struggle

Rev. Sarah Wiles

**Hymn 833:** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

ST. MARGARET

O Love that wilt not let me go,

I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,

that in thine ocean depths its flow

may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,

I yield my flickering torch to thee;

my heart restores its borrowed ray,

that in thy sunshine's blaze its day

may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,

I cannot close my heart to thee;

I trace the rainbow through the rain,

and feel the promise is not vain

that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,

I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I lay in dust life's glory dead,

and from the ground there blossoms red

life that shall endless be.

**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.

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory:** "Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door"

Spiritual, set by Myra Schubert  
Linda King and Alice Sanders, piano duet

❖ **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
Hymn 609

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

**Commissioning of Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter**

❖ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ❖

❖ **Hymn 733:** "We All Are One in Mission"

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

❖ **Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Little David, Play on Your Harp"

Spiritual, set by Myra Schubert



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Citations: Psalm of the Day from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, revised edition.

Art: *Israel* by Mike Moyers, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://dilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57141>. Original source: Mike Moyers, [www.mikemoyersfineart.com/](http://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/).

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## 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:** Brent Opell  
**Ushers:** Sandy Power, Greg Campbell, Bill Hendricks, Anne Campbell  
**Elder Serving Refreshments:** ElizAbeth Day

**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* and website prayer list to [rhonda@blacksburgpres.org](mailto: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.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### End-of-Summer Shindig Activities

- 4:00 games and fellowship
- 5:00 picnic supper provided
- 5:45 group saunter
- 6:40 informal worship & dessert

**Remember to bring** your own reusable utensils, cups, napkins, and dinnerware; a refillable water bottle; a chair if you'd prefer; and outdoor games, if you like.

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### Pork and Beans Collection Time for the Montgomery County Christmas Store

**September 2023:** It's time for our annual donation for The Christmas Store! Once again, our goal is 1,200 cans of pork and beans. Monetary donations will be used to purchase cans from Kroger in bulk and any additional funds will be used to fill other donation needs. You can contribute two ways: 1) Mail a check to BPC (701 Church St SE) or drop it in the offering plate on Sundays. Please write "Pork and Beans" on the memo line, or 2) go to [blacksburgpres.org/give](https://blacksburgpres.org/give), click the Give button, and select "Christmas Store Pork and Beans" in the Giving Type drop-down box.



Season of Creation 2023 | Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

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### Season of Creation (Sept. 10-24) Moments of Wonder and Awe - photos

**needed:** When and where have you experienced wonder and awe in the natural world? We invite you to send in up to two photos to share on a slide show of wonder and awe that we will be showing in the Gathering Space throughout the Season of Creation. Send your photos (no more than two) to [eday511@gmail.com](mailto:eday511@gmail.com) any time between now and Sept. 18.

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**Kick Off the new Sunday School year, Sept. 10 at 9:00 a.m., in the sanctuary!** Children ages 3 and up, youth, and adults are invited to gather in the sanctuary before meeting teachers and heading to individual classes. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Milestones will be recognized in worship at 10:30 a.m. for children and youth in kindergarten and grades 3, 6 and 9. Youth Group for grades 6-12 will begin with a potluck dinner with families at 5:30-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. A planning meeting will take place after dinner.

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**Blacksburg Presbyterian Church's Music for Mission Series begins with two concerts this fall:**

- Sept. 17, 4:00 pm: Geoffrey Herd, violinist and Anna Petrova, pianist. Both are members of the music faculty at the University of Louisville.
- Oct. 15, 3 p.m.: Fr. Sean Duggan, pianist, winner of the International Bach Competition, music faculty at State University of New York, Fredonia.



The concerts are free with an offering taken to support local community ministries. The September concert will benefit the Women's Resource Center.

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THIS WEEK

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

**Sun., Aug. 27:**

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC
- 4:00-7:00 pm: End-of-Summer Shindig, Nellie's Cave Park. See announcements.

**Mon., Aug. 28 – Mon., Sept. 4:** Church office hours will be abbreviated and will vary while Rhonda is on vacation.

**Mon., Aug. 28:**

- 1:00-3:00 pm: Knitwits, WM

**Tues., Aug. 29:**

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

**Wed., Aug. 30:**

- No *MidWeek Update* this week.
- 5:30 pm: Handbells rehearsal, FH. If interested in handbells or choir, please contact our music director, Alice Sanders, at [alice@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:alice@blacksburgpres.org).
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal, choir room

**Thur., Aug. 31:**

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour, Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up or contact Melanie or Scott Smith at [melscofam@gmail.com](mailto:melscofam@gmail.com).

**Fri., Sept. 1:**

- 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

**Sun., Sept. 3:** Communion Sunday

- 9:00 am: Youth & Children Sunday School Teacher Orientation meeting, FH
  - 10:30: Worship Service, SNC
  - Interfaith Book Group meeting is postponed until Sept. 10. See below.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon., Sept. 4:** Church office is closed, Labor Day

**Tues., Sept. 6:**

- 7:30-9:00 am: Morningstars Bible Study resumes, Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah for the link.

**Sun., Sept. 10:** Kick-Off Sunday!

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins, SNC
- 10:30: Worship Service. Season of Creation begins. More details to come.
- After worship: Season of Creation film – *Chasing Climate Zero* (NOVA-PBS), FH
- 4:00 pm: Interfaith Book Group, Location TBA, Discussion will cover chapters 10 and 11 in section 3.
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Youth Group Family Potluck Dinner and planning meeting, FH

**Mon., Sept. 11:**

- 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH
- 6:00: Hildegard Circle meeting, TBA

**Thur., Sept. 14:**

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom

**Sun., Sept. 17:**

- 4:00 pm: Music for Mission Series begins this fall with the first concert featuring Geoffrey Herd, violin, and Anna Petrova, piano, members of the music faculty at the University of Louisville. The concert is free. An offering will be taken to benefit the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.