



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Season of Creation : September 10-24

The Season of Creation is an annual liturgical season (like Advent or Lent) in which the ecumenical family around the world unites in prayer and action to protect our common home.

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church has been observing the Season of Creation since 2016. This year, our **Season of Creation will be September 10 — 24.**



Flourishing for all
SPIRITUAL POSTURES FOR LIFE

Season of Creation 2023 | Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Our theme for the season will be "**Flourishing for All: Spiritual Postures for Life.**" Each week, we will focus on a posture that will guide us in caring for creation.

Sept. 10: Hope, Jeremiah 32. The posture of hope counters despair and hopelessness; it gives us power and courage, and helps us be grateful that we know what we are doing to our world and how to face it, talk about it and respond to it. What gives you hope? **After worship**, we will have a **screening of *Chasing Carbon Zero*** (NOVA 2023), a 55-min. film which asks the question of how the U.S. can reach net-zero climate emissions by 2025, and talks with the scientists and engineers who are convinced it can be done. Lunch will be served.

Sept. 17: Simplicity, 1 Timothy 6: 6-10, 17-19. The posture of living our lives more simply makes us more free. It reduces the burden we put upon the earth, and allows us to enjoy the gifts it gives us. What can you live without, and how would it free you? **After worship**, we will hold a **Creation Care Fair**, with 8-10 centers for children and adults, providing hands-on activities and information about many topics of Creation Care, ranging from first-hand information about solar conversion, to invasive plant ID, to making take-home seedpods of flowers native to Virginia, to opportunities to contact legislators and leaders about issues of environmental justice. Snacks will be provided to hold you until lunch. In addition, look for a bulletin board with ideas about how to simplify your stuff!

Sept. 23, 9:30: Congregational Hike. Join us for a congregational hike on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 9:30am at Heritage Park with a gathering afterward at 11:30 at Rising Silo. There will be a variety of ways to participate that will be accessible for all ages and many levels of mobility.

Sept. 24: Mindfulness, Deuteronomy 30:15-25. The posture of mindfulness helps us live in the world more attentively, enabling us to make choices about our actions, no matter how small. How do we make a difference for good? How do we embody presence in each moment? Throughout the Season, we will be encouraging you to send in photos of moments of wonder or awe. They will be shown as a looping slide show on the Gathering Space screen throughout the Season (see page 3).

Thanks to the Season of Creation and the Creation Care teams for their creativity, energy, and commitment in guiding us through the Season. *(continued on page 3)*

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>

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

- for students starting a new school year, for those heading to college, especially for the first time, and for those moving into a new phase of life, and for their families, as they adjust to new situations.
- for teachers, administrators, and support staff as the school year begins.
- for our siblings in Maui, Hawai'i, whose homes and communities are damaged and destroyed by wildfires, and for those grieving devastating loss of life. We lift up their trauma and suffering, and ask for strength, hope, courage and safety.
- as we cry out for the earth and all things suffering from disasters made even more devastating and frequent from climate change. We pray for safety for those most affected, for relief, for hope, for guidance, and for unity of purpose in mitigation and reversal of the alarming trend of climate warming. We are grateful that we live in a time when we have the resources to affect it. Give us, as citizens of earth, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will, hope, and energy to do it.
- for the family of Evelyn Wolf who died on July 19, in her sleep. Let us lift Evelyn's children - Dave, Laurie, Eric, and Allan - and their families and friends in our prayers during this time of grief. A memorial service with desserts will be held on Saturday, August 19, at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at the church.
- for Ben and Sue Johnson for health concerns.
- for Clay Waite as he recovers from a significant infection.
- for Steve Drumheller and Suzanne Sanford as Steve continues to deal with significant health challenges resulting from numerous fractures to his vertebrae.
- for people throughout the world who live in one of the more than 30 countries experiencing war right now, particularly Sudan and Ukraine. 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.
- 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 have traveled 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.
- 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 our local community 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 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>



Season of Creation : Ways to Participate

(continued from page 1)

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 (Sept. 10-24).



Send your **photo(s)** to eday511@gmail.com any time between now and Sept. 18. Please send no more than two photos!

Items needed for New River Creative Reuse Center: At our **Creation Care Fair on Sept. 17**, one of our booths will feature the New River Creative Reuse Center, and the good work they do in making available all kinds of donated materials for use by local teachers and non-profits. They specialize in collecting things that would ordinarily be put in the trash, and encouraging ways to put them to re-use!

Below is a list of items we will collect that day. We will show you how some of them can be put to re-use, creating items you can take home. The remainder of the donated items will be delivered to the New River Creative Reuse Center.

- Bottle caps (especially plastic colorful ones, see photo at right)
- Sewing thread spools
- Plastic bread or onion bag clips (all colors, see photo below), rubber bands and twist ties
- Paper (full sheets or smaller pieces, not reams)- colored paper, old letterhead, scrapbook paper, art paper, tissue paper, etc.
- Leftover craft materials (pom poms, yarn, pipe cleaners, beads, buttons, fabric, felt, ribbon, craft sticks, sequins)
- Sample sizes of wallpaper, fabric, tile and paint chips
- Pie pans (clean)
- Corks
- CDs and CD cases
- Small tins such as Altoids and film canisters
- Stickers, including the freebies you get in the mail



There will be a box outside the church offices to collect these items just for **the first 2 weeks of September**. In addition, we invite you to bring them on the day of the Creation Care Fair!



BPC Choir Opportunities

Singing and Ringing and Playing

Choir and Handbell Choir begin rehearsals on August 23. Handbells meet 5:30-6:30 in Fellowship Hall and Choir meets 7:00-8:30 in the choir room. New members are welcome!

Do you play an instrument? Alice invites you to offer your musical gifts in worship. Introduce yourself and let her know of your interest.

Questions? More information? Contact Alice at alice@blacksburgpres.org or 405-314-6777.

Musical Opportunities for Children

Sunday, September 24: Children in grades 1-5 are invited to stay after worship for a snack and hand-chime rehearsal, in preparation to play in worship on Oct. 1. A second rehearsal will be at the beginning of Sunday School on October 1. The music is a random-ring selection and all children can participate even with the short rehearsal time.

During the fall semester, Sunday School for children in grades 1-5 will begin at 9am in the sanctuary with a short music time featuring songs, chimes, and rhythm instruments.

Questions? More information? Contact Alice at alice@blacksburgpres.org or 405-314-6777.



Kick Off the new Sunday school year on 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.

Four BPC youth and two adults attended the Montreat Youth Conference to explore the gift of God's Joy in the beautiful NC mountains



Join us for fellowship, good food, worship, and a chance to enjoy nature

Schedule:

- ◆ We will gather at 4:00 at Nellie's Cave Park. Come to enjoy the playground, cornhole, other games, or just visiting.
- ◆ At 5:00, a picnic supper will be provided by BPC Fellowship Ministry.
- ◆ At 5:45, those who wish will head out for a short saunter through the arboretum, with a chance to learn cool things about trees of Virginia, followed by a chance to go up to the Meadow and check out the view.
- ◆ At 6:40, we will gather for informal, intergenerational worship, followed by watermelon and brownies, and more fellowship time.

Want to help? To help with preparation, set-up and food, we invite you to **sign up** for one or more slots [here](#).

What to bring:

- ◆ Save resources by bringing your own reusable utensils, dinnerware, cups and napkins. Paper goods will be provided if you forget.
- ◆ a refillable water bottle. A jug of water will be available to fill from, and another drink will also be provided
- ◆ shoes and clothing for walking in the woods
- ◆ outdoor games—cornhole will be provided

Other notes:

- ◆ Nellie's Cave Park is located at 1900 Grissom Lane in Blacksburg: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/62/566>
- ◆ We will eat under a shelter, and can huddle there if a rainstorm comes up. Bring a chair to sit on if you want to move away from the picnic tables to visit.
- ◆ The park is wheelchair accessible, has restrooms, and bike racks.

If you plan to be there, it will help with planning if you email Melinda Winslow at mwins6@yahoo.com.



News from CEDEPCA

"Loving your Migrating Neighbor: Legal, Theological & Practical Perspectives on Immigration"

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 7:30 pm

Join us on CEDEPCA's next Virtual Journey to Guatemala as we gain theological and legal clarity together and imagine ways God is calling us to act locally on behalf of our migrating neighbors. Designed for an English-speaking audience, this virtual travel opportunity will last about an hour and will be followed by an optional 30-minute Q & A with an immigration lawyer based in Texas.

How might Christians in the United States engage in advocacy and act with love toward Central American migrants in their own communities?

Pre-registration is required, and you can do that [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A Virtual Journey to Guatemala:

"Loving your Migrating Neighbor: Legal, Theological, and Practical Perspectives on Immigration"

Wednesday,
August 23, 2023

4:30 p.m. Pacific
5:30 Mountain/Guatemala
6:30 Central
7:30 Eastern

Suggested Donation: \$11



INTERCULTURAL
ENCOUNTERS



FALL 2023 FAITH FORMATION

Sunday School

CHILDREN | YOUTH | ADULTS

Sundays @ 9am

nursery care provided for babies and children under 3

Studies & Gatherings

YOUTH GROUP | Sundays @ 5:30pm

UKIRK COLLEGE MINISTRY | Tuesdays @ 6pm

@ Cooper House, 305 Washington St. SW

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS | Sundays @ 9am,

Death with Dignity: Living our Faith in End-of-Life Planning

If you are mortal, this class is for you. We will be exploring our values and ethics around dying, as well as learning about the nitty-gritty details of medical and legal preparations. No matter your age or stage of life, you will find spiritual meaning and growth in this class. Led by Anne Campbell, Bill Hendricks, and Pastors Sarah and Emily

SUNDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY | Sundays @ 7pm

A thoughtful conversation about faith and doubt. This fall we will be revisiting the classic Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. Class does not meet on 3rd Sundays. Led by Jack Call and Russell Gregory

MORNINGSTARS | Tuesdays @ 7:30am

This group meets weekly by zoom to pray for one another and study the sermon text for the week together. Led by Pastor Sarah | Contact Sarah for zoom link

TRANSFORMING | Mondays, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30 @ 7pm,

This small group will read Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke and explore welcoming and affirming Christian perspectives for all genders. Led by Pastor Sarah

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY | Sundays after worship & Saturdays 4pm at Eastern Divide

For newbies and scholars alike, this class will survey the Bible and various ways to read it. We'll gather for lectures at BPC and conversation and fellowship at Eastern Divide. Led by Jonathan Anderson and Pastor Sarah. Watch bulletin and midweek for specific dates

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Lydia Circle: first Mondays @ 1pm

Hildegard Circle: second Mondays @ 6pm

Faith Circle: fourth Thursdays @ 7:30pm

locations vary | watch bulletin and midweek for details

MEN OF THE CHURCH

activities vary | watch bulletin and midweek for details

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
&
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

PRESENT

MUSIC

for Mission

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

4:00 PM

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEATURING

GEOFFREY HERD, VIOLIN & ANNA PETROVA, PIANO



VIOLINIST GEOFFREY HERD IS A SOLOIST AND CHAMBER MUSICIAN, INNOVATIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, AND DEDICATED PEDAGOGUE. HE IS THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE GENEVA MUSIC FESTIVAL, CURRENTLY CELEBRATING ITS 11TH ANNUAL SEASON. THE FESTIVAL IS A LEADER IN THE PROMOTION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIVERSE COMPOSERS AND MUSICIANS WHO HAVE OFTEN BEEN NEGLECTED ON THE CONCERT STAGE.



BULGARIAN PIANIST, ANNA PETROVA, IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PIANO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, KY AND PERFORMS EXTENSIVELY AS A SOLOIST AND CHAMBER MUSICIAN. IN OCTOBER 2018, PETROVA WAS HONORED AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR HER WORK WITH REFUGEES AROUND THE GLOBE THROUGH THE CARR-PETROVA DUO'S NOVEL VOICES REFUGEE AID PROJECT.

THE CONCERT IS FREE
AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO BENEFIT
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

**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.
2. Go to the [Give page](#) on BPC's website, click the Give button and select "Christmas Store Pork and Beans" in the Giving Type drop-down box.



Since 1982, the Christmas Store has served local families providing clothing, food, toys, shoes, household supplies and more. Shelves are stocked with new merchandise to offer shoppers a choice. The Christmas Store's all volunteer staff (except bookkeeping services) is close to 1,000 local volunteers who participate in stocking, assisting shoppers and much more. Together, we make a difference!

For more information and to reserve your seat, click below:
www.peakspresbytery.org/event/bus-trip-international-civil-rights-center-museum/



GREENSBORO NC
October 7, 2023

Bus will pick up riders at the following locations:

9am-- Peace Presbyterian Church
5646 Cloverdale Road
Roanoke VA 24019

10:15am-- First Presbyterian Martinsville
1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville VA 24112

11:30am-- Arrive In Greensboro NC

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum-- commemorating the February 1, 1960, beginning of sit-ins at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, by the N.C. A&T Four college students-- opened in 2010 as a comprehensive museum of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.



*Woolworth's Building,
Greensboro, NC*
by Warren Lemay
(attrib-ShareAlike 4.0, CC BY-SA 4.0)

Justice and Mercy Commission
Racial Equity Subcommittee
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Dates to Remember

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3: Sonja Anderson
7: David Haak
9: Tom Tillar
10: Joni Pienkowski, Sandy Schlaudecker
12: Larry Wyatt, Sarah Rakes
14: Lindsay Call
15: Nancy Andrews
17: Christy Savage
18: Jessica Furr, Bill Hendricks, Alice McClure
19: Jim Thompson
21: Larry Cowley, Carole Jubb
22: Mark Rakes
23: Allen Bame, Abbie Knobl, Vivian Lawrence
26: Martha Thomas, Brittany Stewart
28: Sophie Call
29: Mike Harvey, Mike McGilliard
30: Matthew Drumheller, Bill Foy, Page Foster

**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

AUGUST 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.
Adult Ed: Contact 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 August 20.



Thur., Aug. 24, 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting, Peg Warren's home
Mon., Sept. 11, 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH
Mon., Sept. 11, 6:00-7:00 pm: Hildegard Circle meeting, TBA

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.

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*

701 CHURCH ST SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060-5213

540-552-2504 FAX 540-961-5691

Email: bpc@blacksburgpres.org

Website: www.blacksburgpres.org

Rev. Sarah Wiles, Pastor: pastorsarah@blacksburgpres.org

Alice Brooks Sanders, Director of Music & Organist:
alice@blacksburgpres.org

Sarah Windes, Coordinator of Church Life: sarah@blacksburgpres.org

Susan Hunter, Director of Children and Youth Ministries:
susanh@blacksburgpres.org

Rhonda Waller, Office Manager: rhonda@blacksburgpres.org

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter:

- ◆ Parish Associate: emily@blacksburgpres.org
- ◆ UKirk, Pres. Campus Ministry: campusminister@pcusa-vt.org

Rev. Kathy Carpenter, Campus Outreach Minister:
outreachminister@pcusa-vt.org