

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



BEGINS
WITH
EACH
OF US.

SEPTEMBER 3–OCTOBER 1, 2023



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

INTERNATIONAL MISSION MONTH - OCTOBER 2023

World Communion Sunday & Peace and Global Witness Sunday, October 1, 2023

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's Peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace.

Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us...we are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

Our gifts to the **Peace and Global Witness Offering** are helping our neighbors in need nearby and across the globe. 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. This year we have chosen the New River Valley Chapter of Moms Demand Action as the recipient of our offering. Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence.

25% of the Offering goes to our mid-council to support peacemaking work in our region. 50% of the Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe, such as work to prevent human trafficking, work to address the effects of climate change, and work to address structural racism and other systems of injustice. *(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 Bill and Mary Jane Henika as he undergoes testing this week.
- for healing for Mary Lee Hendricks' brother, Bob Alderson, who was injured in a fall.
- for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Morocco and devastating floods in Libya. We pray for strength, hope and courage for the survivors, and for the world community we pray for the will and wisdom to know how to help.
- for Kindra Kohl, friend of BPC and U-Kirk, as she receives treatment for leukemia.
- 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 members of our congregation and community as many are coping with COVID.
- 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 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 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 all those struggling to have enough to eat, to live in safety, to feel loved, and to have hope.
- for Steve Drumheller and Suzanne Sanford, Sue and Ben Johnson, 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.

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>



INTERNATIONAL MISSION MONTH

OCTOBER 2023

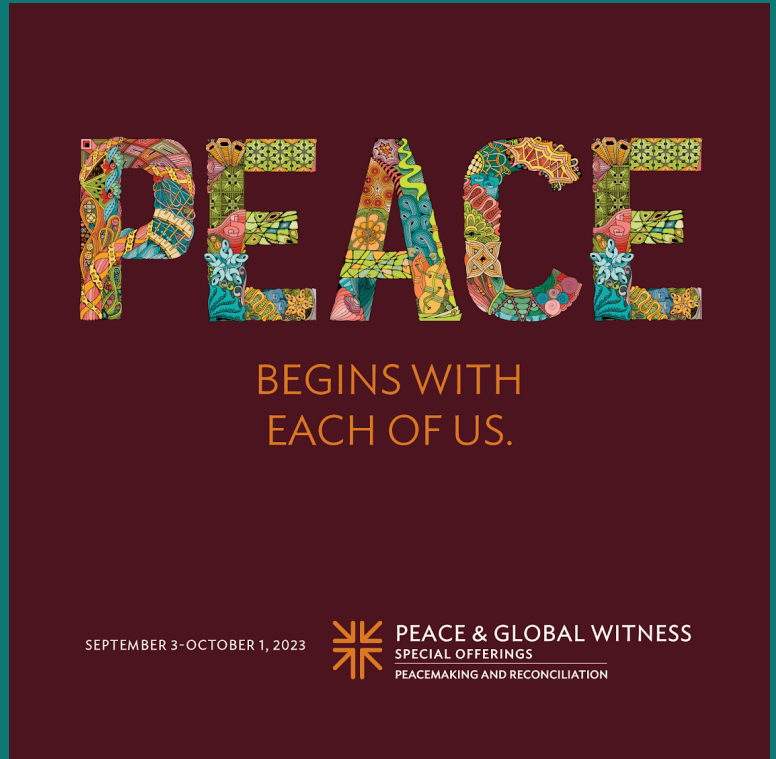
Sunday, October 8

**Focus on the Philippines with a
Minute for Mission**

Sunday, October 15

**focus on CEDEPCA in Guatemala
with a presentation by Beth Mattson
on her trip earlier this year to visit
CEDEPCA with a group of other folks
from Virginia**

11:45 in Fellowship Hall



Sunday, October 22

Malawi Luncheon: Past accomplishments and our Future

11:45 in Fellowship Hall

Please join the Malawi Partnership for a light lunch and presentation of past accomplishments in Malawi and the church's future participation. Malawi is a landlocked country located in southeastern Africa which consistently ranks as one of the 10 poorest countries in the world. It is a predominantly Christian nation known as The Warm Heart of Africa for its warm temperatures, beautiful scenery and the friendliness of its people.

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church has been involved with our Malawi partners for almost twenty years and in that time, we have accomplished many good things: scholarships for day school students, nursing students and most recently two medical school students. We have also helped the Mulanje Presbyterian Mission Hospital with solar panels, medications and the Sustainable Livelihoods Program. Please join us to hear about the ongoing Malawi projects and discussions on how the church plans to continue this partnership. In particular, some of our most energetic supporters are ready to hand off the baton to others, so this is an opportunity to hear whether you would like to volunteer.

Please come on October 22, directly after worship, and listen to the past accomplishments and help decide the future of our Malawi Partnership. A light lunch will be served.

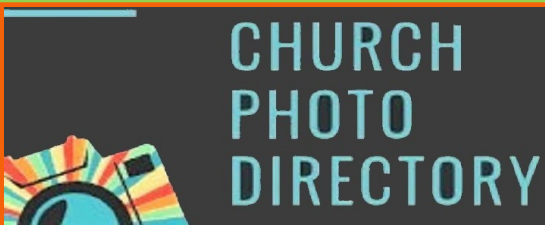


Musical Opportunities for Children

Beginning, 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.



The compiling, editing, and creating of the 2023 BPC Pictorial Directory have been completed!

The next step is a final review, then printing, and making available online.

Check the *MidWeek* over the next few weeks for an update when paper copies will be available.



Celebrate fall with Pumpkin Carving

and light lunch after worship on October 29 at 11:45 am-1:00 pm.



BYOP = Bring your own pumpkin!

Light lunch and carving tools will be provided.

Outside on the patio or, in case of rain, in Fellowship Hall

All ages!

BPC CARES

Community Holiday Outreach

SEPTEMBER: MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRISTMAS STORE-FUNDS FOR FOOD

OCTOBER: BLACKSBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

NOVEMBER: WOODCHUCKS CHRISTMAS BASKETS

DECEMBER: MONTGOMERY COUNTY BABY SHOP

Interfaith Food Pantry - Holiday Food Bags

For the upcoming holiday season, the Interfaith Food Pantry would once again like to provide families with a special bag of food for a holiday meal. Participating families will receive this bag of food along with a turkey or ham at Thanksgiving and Christmas. In order to make this happen, the food pantry has reached out to supporting churches and other organizations throughout the community requesting help with this effort. Along these lines, our Community Ministry Team would like to ask for your support through donations of canned green beans. Our goal is 500 cans.

If you would like to contribute, please leave your donations in the designated collection box just outside of the church office no later than October 15. If you would prefer to support this initiative with a monetary donation, please do so at www.blacksburgpres.org/give. THANK YOU!



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.



For more information and to reserve your seat, click below:

www.peakspresbytery.org/event/bus-trip-international-civil-rights-center-museum/



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

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
&
THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

PRESENT

MUSIC

for Mission

SUNDAY, OCT. 15

4:00 PM

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEATURING
FR. SEAN DUGGAN, PIANO



FR. SEAN DUGGAN, PIANIST, IS A MEMBER OF ST. JOSEPH ABBEY IN COVINGTON, LOUISIANA. HE OBTAINED HIS MUSIC DEGREES FROM LOYOLA UNIVERSITY IN NEW ORLEANS AND CARNEGIE MELLON. HE OBTAINED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY FROM NOTRE DAME SEMINARY IN NEW ORLEANS. FROM 1988 TO 2001 HE TAUGHT LATIN, MUSIC AND RELIGION AT ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY AND WAS ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC FOR ST. JOSEPH ABBEY.

IN SEPTEMBER, 1983 HE WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR PIANISTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND AGAIN IN AUGUST, 1991. HAVING A SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR BACH, DURING THE BACH YEAR OF 2000 HE PERFORMED THE COMPLETE CYCLE OF BACH'S KEYBOARD WORKS EIGHT TIMES IN VARIOUS AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CITIES.

THE CONCERT IS FREE
AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO BENEFIT
THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY



100% Voter Commitment! Blacksburg Presbyterian has signed up with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy as a 100% voting congregation. Learn about the importance of this year's state legislative elections, and sign up to get involved below:

virginiainterfaithcenter.org/get-involved/civic-engagement.

Make a plan to join us in voting on November 7!



Virginia Department of Elections (vote.elections.virginia.gov)

- ◆ Find your polling place
- ◆ Confirm voter registration (or update with a new address)
- ◆ Register to vote
- ◆ Request an absentee ballot.



Virginia Public Access Project (vpap.org)

- ◆ Type in your address.
- ◆ Find information about your new district.
- ◆ Find information about candidates.



News from CEDEPCA

CEDEPCA's Disaster Ministry Works with Self-Development of People PC(USA) to Reduce Poverty

"I have learned to make bread and to sell it, and, with the income, I have paid for my studies and I've helped my mother. I lost my father to COVID. My mother and I were very worried about supporting ourselves, but this project has allowed us to move forward. I am very thankful for the opportunity provided to me with this project." Eunice Perez (UTZPAN)

In Guatemala, 61.6% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty according to the World Bank. Factors for multidimensional poverty include income of \$2.15 per person per day; at least one elementary or middle-school-aged child is not enrolled in school; no adult has completed elementary school; and/or the family has lack of access to basic infrastructure – clean water, sanitation, electricity.

The Disaster Ministry of CEDEPCA is working with the PCUSA Self Development of People to reduce these aspects of poverty. They are doing this through different projects aimed at helping people to start small businesses. The projects have generated income, contributed to a sense of dignity in the lives of those living in poverty, helped to reduce the need for migration, increased self-esteem in the participating groups, and lowered the vulnerability of the families and communities.

One such project is UTZPAN in Mixco, Guatemala, on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Through this project, people were trained to prepare and sell different types of bread. The quote at the beginning of this article is from a participant in this project. *(Photo: A group of young men and women from UTZPAN are preparing bread to sell.)*



Along with helping to start businesses, the Disaster Ministry also strengthened relationships with these groups by providing workshops to strengthen resilience to confront the many crises that life presents.

Together with our partners at CEDEPCA, we at BPC are part of this ministry which is lifting people out of poverty.

Dates to Remember

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**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1: Jim Hardell, Brandon Spencer
5: Katharine Cleland
7: Garland McKenzie
8: Bradley Hertel, Jaya Erickson,
9: Kate Byron
14: Janet Rakes, Rick Furr
15: Heather Evans, Sam Woolsey
16: Alex Rascher
17: Lynn Klappich, Richard Turner
18: Jesse Parson, Chereese Weaver
19: Helen Corl, Karen Watson
22: Miles Hunter
23: Phil Bailey
24: Colleen Drumheller, Gavin Faulkner, Judy Crowgey
27: Ben Bailey
28: Jeff Call
29: Nancy Alexander, Juan Espinoza, Patti Giles,
Bill Rascher
31: Marcia Parks



The building is open during 8:30-4:30. 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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 — Recurring Meetings:

Monday: Staff meeting, 10:30 a.m., HCR
Deacons meeting, second Monday at 12:00 p.m., HCR. Next meeting on October 9.
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 am, various rooms
Contact Susan Hunter, Dir. of Children & Youth Ministries at susanh@blacksburgpres.org.
Adult Ed: Contact adulted@blacksburgpres.org.
Youth Group, 5:30-7:30 pm, FH
Session meeting, third Sunday each month, 7:00 pm. Next meeting is on October 15.



Thur., Sept. 28, 7:30-9:00 pm: Faith Circle meeting, Sarah Woolsey's home
Mon., Oct. 2, 1:30-3:00 pm: Lydia Circle meeting, FH
Mon., Oct. 9, 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