



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

A Loving Lent

A Loving Lent has begun!

Make intergenerational community your practice for Lent. A Loving Lent kicked off this past Sunday, 02/25, and continues through the next three Sundays. Come for some of it or come for all of it. There is something for everyone and every schedule.

- **4:30-5:30pm: activities for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade** (nursery care provided)
- **5:30-6:30 potluck dinner for all**
- **6:30-7:30 youth group & adult education** (childcare provided for kids up through 5th grade)

There are two adult education opportunities at 6:30pm each week: the Sunday Night Discussion Group and the Loving Lent Series:

- The Sunday Night Discussion Group (see right) will be exploring *Jesus and the Gospels: An Understanding of Jesus for a Complex World*, using Great Courses video lectures by Luke Timothy Johnson, followed by discussion facilitated by Russell Gregory and Jack Call.
- The Loving Lent series includes the topics *Loving Our Neighbors* (Mar. 3) with a presentation from the Dialogue on Race, *Loving One Another* (Mar. 10) as we interact with people holding differing theological and political opinions, and *Loving the Church* (Mar. 17) by learning more about UKirk at VT featuring a spirited game of trivia during dinner!



A Loving Lent

Sundays in Lent

Feb 25, Mar 3, 10, 17

4:30pm | activities for children
age 3 - 5th grade

5:30 - 6:30pm | dinner for all

6:30pm - 7:30pm | youth group
& adult classes

childcare provided throughout

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Blacksburg Presbyterian
Sunday evening
discussion group
beginning Feb. 25, 6:30pm

Jesus and the Gospels

An Understanding of Jesus
for a Complex World

with lectures by Luke Timothy Johnson
from The Great Courses



Scroll for more information about Lent and Holy Week events

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 Jeananne Bame as she continues to improve from recent health challenges. She is at Kroontje rehab receiving physical therapy and is up and moving around well.
- for Amy Mauldon and her family, whose father died in January.
- for Luke Phillips as he deploys to the Middle East.
- for Lynn Logan Hull, a former member of our church, and her family whose home was totally destroyed by fire. She was married at BPC quite a few years ago, and has been living in Fairbanks, Alaska, for several years with her husband and their five children. Everyone is safe. For information, please [click here](#).
- for the people of Guatemala as they are hopeful for positive change with their new presidential leadership.
- for people who are lonely and weary, may they find peace and comfort in God's presence.
- for peace in Palestine and Israel: Give us hearts open in compassion for all of those suffering in the present violence, for all who have lost loved ones, all who have fled the fighting, all who lie down in fear at night. We hear voices vowing even more violence, and we too want to kick at the darkness, fight the horror it brings, embrace revenge. Yet we know that, in the words of Martin Luther King, "Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction". Forgive us when we respond with violence, and strengthen us to be grace-filled and wise in our work for justice and peace. (excerpts from a prayer from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship)
- 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. 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. We are overwhelmed and exhausted by the brokenness of your world. We pray that your longed-for reign of peace will become a present reality for all people.
- for our country, we pray that we find a way out of political turmoil in a way that honors everyone's right to have a voice and to be treated with compassion and justice.
- 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 partners and friends in CEDEPCA in Guatemala, and for our co-workers, Betsey and Eric Moe and their family.
- for our friends in Mulanje, Malawi, working to meet ongoing health, educational and food-producing needs.
- 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. We pray for those preparing to travel to visit the Palms in the Philippines in May.
- 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 all those struggling to have enough to eat, to live in safety, to feel loved, and to have hope.
- for Barbara Michelsen, Steve and Marcia Andrews, Sandy Parson, Mary Jane and Bill Henika, Stan and Janne Mathes, Renee Lahn, Nancy Alexander, Wilmoth O'Dell, and Bill Foy,
- for those in the military: 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>



Palm Sunday, March 24

- 10:30am: Morning worship with palms
- 11:45am: Montgomery County African American Legacy Driving Tour with program. Lunch will be provided. More details to come.

Palm Sunday



Holy Week Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday

Maundy

Thursday

March 28, 6:00pm

**Congregational meal and
communion, for all ages**

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall
around tables to break bread,
fellowship, and worship.



Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

MARCH 29

Worship Service

7:00pm

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Good Friday

Continued on next page

Holy Week Calendar of Events, continued

Celebrate Easter

at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

9am Breakfast for all
(provided by Men of the Church)

10am Easter Egg Hunt
(bring a basket)

10:30am Worship
(bring flowers for flowering the cross)

Easter
Sunday

Easter Lily Order and/or One Great Hour of Sharing Donation Form

If you wish to place a lily in the sanctuary for Easter or to make a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing in honor/ memory of someone, please fill in the form below and place it in the offering box or return it to the church office. You can also pay online at our website (click Give and choose either OGHS or Easter lily from the dropdown menu) www.blacksburgpres.org/give. The price of a lily is \$25.00 each. The lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, and you can take them home after the service.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

If you pay/donate via the website, please email Rhonda (rhonda@blacksburgpres.org) to let her know how you would like the information printed in the bulletin. **Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 10.**

Given by: _____ Email: _____

I want to sponsor a lily.

_____ Number of lilies ordered

Amount paid (\$25 each): _____

Circle one: Check, Cash or Online



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

I want to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Amount donated: _____

Circle one: Check, Cash or Online

All lily purchases and/or OGHS donations in memory or honor of someone will be printed as an insert in the bulletin for **Easter Sunday, March 31** (please indicate below):

In memory of

In honor of

BPC Philippines Mission Trip May 25–June 4, 2024!

You can help the ministry by . . .

- Praying for BPC and our mission partners
- Checking out the bulletin board in the hallway outside Westminster to offer financial support
- Coming to a scholarly talk at BPC about fisheries (see below)
- Sponsoring Parents' Night Out at BPC (see flyer at right)

Join us on **Sunday, April 7** after worship, to support the Philippines Mission trip with donations for lunch and an illustrated talk about indigenous fisheries, like the ones in the Philippines, by VT professor, [Dr. Eranqa Galappaththi](#).



PARENTS Night Out



*Drop off your children aged 1-10
 *Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, door near the back parking lot.
 *Friday, March 1, 2024
 Time: 5:30-8:00
[Link to sign up!](#)

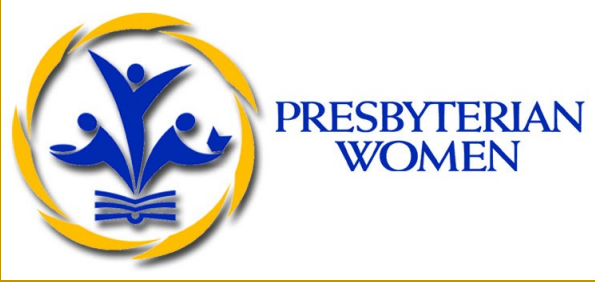
Activities :

- Games Crafts
- Dinner

This event is hosted by members of the church attending a mission trip to the Philippines. The trip will be led by Cobbie and Dessa Palm

\$20 Donation per child suggested

The purpose of the trip is to strengthen BPC's relationship with our mission co-workers. We will learn about water safety, YATTA (Youth Advocates through Theater Arts), and climate change. We will visit peacemakers at Silliman University, mountain farmers, and island fisher-folks. Nine adults and five youth from BPC are taking this trip.



Honorary PW Life Membership Presented to Pastor Sarah Wiles

At their Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, Presbyterian Women presented Pastor Sarah Wiles with an Honorary Life Membership. This honor is bestowed in recognition of faithful service to the Presbyterian Women organization and to the church. Sarah exemplifies the very essence of this award. Her loving care and support is making a positive impact on PW members. Described as a master multitasker, Sarah freely shares her time and talents with PW, as well as all BPC members. Under her leadership, our church community is continuing to grow in our faith.



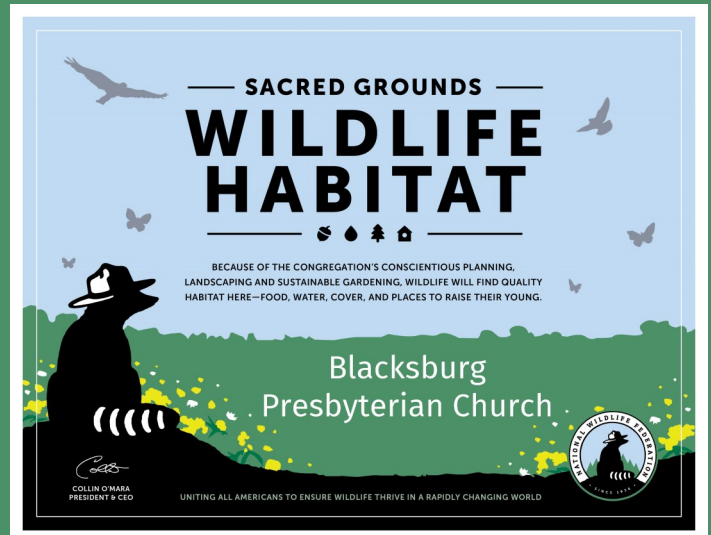
The meeting also included the election and installation of new PW leaders.

Coordinating Team Members for 2024

- Moderator:** Natasha Lowe
- Vice Moderator:** Judy Davis
- Recording Secretary:** Mary Ann Bowling
- Treasurer:** Sarah Woolsey
- Corresponding Secretary/Moderator of Search:** Jenny Fairchild
- Historian:** Jan McGilliard
- Faith Circle Leader:** Angela Anderson
- Hildegard Circle Leader:** Sarah Windes
- Lydia Circle Leader:** Anna Bach

Sacred Grounds™

Sacred Grounds™ is a National Wildlife Federation program that recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities who both create wildlife habitat and actively link faith practices and caring for the environment.



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church has recently been recognized as Sacred Grounds.

Soon you will see this designation posted on the grounds of the church.

Healthy habitats and healthy communities go hand in hand.

The mission of the Sacred Grounds program is to promote the installation of native plant gardens that connect people to nature and provide access to nature for all. Particularly in urban communities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have less access to nature and safe green spaces than white folks in the same cities. Native plants are not only a foundation for healthy ecosystems and wildlife, but also play an important role in mental, physical, and social health by providing opportunities for people to connect to nature in their neighborhoods and communities. Native plants can also help to manage stormwater and reduce flooding, support local food cultivation, improve water quality, and enhance community resilience.

The pollinator/Creation Care garden on the parking lot side of our property is the native plant garden that qualifies us for this designation. We are hoping to continue to develop our property as sacred grounds, using it to educate and engage the community, as we contribute to a network of accessible natural spaces and habitats.



Engaging Our Gifts in Community

Beginning **Feb. 25 and ending March 17**, we will be holding our annual focus on engaging our gifts of talent and time in the BPC community.

During worship, we will hear each week from a person who engages their gifts in the BPC community, and how it gives them joy.

We invite you to complete our Engagement Questionnaire, which has been updated for 2024. It is an assessment of where your interests and abilities lie. It is a way of acknowledging your offering as a part of the community, just as you fill out a financial pledge every year. The leaders of all the ministries and groups at BPC use the data from this questionnaire to determine who to invite to participate.

Just because you mark an interest in the questionnaire does not guarantee that you will be asked (although it usually does), nor does it mean you are expected to say yes. However, the intent is that those are the things you will be asked about first, so you have a chance to become involved, or renew your involvement, in the areas that would give you joy! In addition, those who are doing the asking know that you are interested in at least discussing the opportunity. In a big congregation where it is really hard to know everyone, this is a great way to involve a wider number and variety of people in the wonderful work we do around here.

Look for the online questionnaire (preferred method) on the [BPC website](#) starting Feb. 25, or complete a paper copy, which can be mailed to you or picked up in the Gathering Space window starting Sunday, Feb. 25. It will likely take 10 minutes or less to complete.

This year, we will have a new feature: If you completed an Engagement Questionnaire in 2023, you will have the option of defaulting to last year's questionnaire, and converting to the same answers for 2024.

We encourage your participation in discovering and engaging your gifts!

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 1, 2024
6:00 pm

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Led by Church Women United in Montgomery County and teamed with the Religious Affairs Committee of the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP, along with local faith communities, this year's event is planned by Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Glade Church, and the Church on Main, and is based on a program written during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic by an ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women.

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The entire offering will go to World Day of Prayer, which uses some of it for future programs and the rest for grants to help women and children around the world.



Dates to Remember

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Matthew Ducker
- 2: Thomas Ducker
- 4: Travis Eschenmann, David Harder, Bill Neely
- 7: Phyllis Albritton
- 6: Sarah Wiles
- 8: Anne Campbell
- 9: Airlie Harder, Kyle Knobl
- 11: Anna Bach
- 13: Tom Booth
- 14: Ken Schor
- 15: Mary Jane Henika
- 16: Susan Hunter
- 17: Ben Harder, Griffin Warren
- 18: Madeleine Evans, Linda Pospichal
- 19: Sam Dickinson
- 20: Susan Bailey
- 21: Jordan Boffen
- 22: Lisa Smith
- 24: Garrett Knobl
- 25: Mary Fain
- 28: Cynthia Wimberley
- 30: Judie Reemsnyder

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Suzanne Ducker, John Phillips
- 2: Jackson Lawrence, Luke Phillips
- 7: Angela Anderson
- 11: Søren Anderson, Stuart Hunter, Courtney Roberts
- 12: Geoff Knobl
- 16: Rylan Pospichal
- 19: Joann Boles, Carolyn Drumheller
- 20: Jan McGilliard
- 22: Jama Green
- 24: Ginsey Thompson
- 25: Allison Kruckow
- 27: Todd Rakes
- 28: Kara Espinoza
- 29: Linda Waskey



The building is open during 8:30-4:30. Please hold each other in prayer and continue to look out for one another. Say healthy, safe, and kind.

BPC's Calendar

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024 — Recurring Meetings:

- Monday:** Deacons meeting, second Monday at 12:00 p.m., HCR. Next meeting: March 11.
Knitwits, fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m., WM
- Tuesday:** Staff & 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 adulsted@blacksburgpres.org.
Youth Group, Sundays, FH (see below)
Session meeting, third Sunday each month, 7:00 pm. Next meeting: March 17.



- Thur., 02/29 pm:** Faith Circle meeting, Jen Stewart's home
- Mon., 03/04, 1:30-3:00 pm:** Lydia Circle meeting, FH
- Mon., 03/11, 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.

Youth Calendar:

- Sun., 03/03, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Dinner and discussion, FH
- Sun., 03/10, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Dinner & discussion, FH
- Sun., 03/17, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Dinner & discussion, FH
- Sun., 03/24, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Dinner & discussion, FH

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