

PRELUDE

Jesus, We Are Here

PATRICK MATSIKENYIRI

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Howard

No matter how far from God we seem to be, we do not lose heart:

For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.

No matter how many obstacles we face in life, in the church, we do not lose heart:

For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.

No matter how hard it is to continually pray and work for justice, we do not lose heart:

For the days are surely coming, says the Lord,

when I will forgive and restore my people;

when I will equip them for every good work;

when I will grant justice, for I hear their cries day and night.

✠ HYMN No. 472

Kum ba Yah

KUM BA YAH

✠ PRAYER OF APPROACH

Elva Miller

God of grace and steadfast love in Jesus Christ, you taught us to pray—stubbornly, relentlessly, faithfully—crying out for justice night and day. Hear our prayers for the world you made. Give us the patience, strength, and hope to love and care for one another as you have loved and cared for us—stubbornly, relentlessly, faithfully—until justice reigns and peace prevails at the coming of Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Denson Moore

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We stake out positions of privilege and push aside the oppressed. We seek the favor of the powerful and refuse to welcome the poor. Forgive us, God of grace. Show us your way of mutual love and hospitality to all, so that we may dwell in your house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ... (A time of silent confession follows.) In your mercy, Lord, Hear our prayers. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mary Denson Moore

Christ came searching for us,

calling us by name, leading us into God's kingdom.

In Christ, we become new people:

broken, we are made whole; lost, we are found;

We are restored to new life.

Thanks be to God!

✠ GRATEFUL RESPONSE No. 582

Glory to God

GLORY TO GOD

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

Marquita Hill

The Peace of our Lord Jesus 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

Diane Wilson

(Children 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Parents may take kindergarten and younger children downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurture and care.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Perumpral

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, I solemnly urge you:

proclaim the message, be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable, convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.

For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires...

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carrying out your ministry fully.

ANTHEM

Listen, God Is Calling

NENO LAKE MUNGU

Adult Choir

Text may be found at Hymn No. 456.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:1-8

John Perumpral

SERMON

“Persistent Partnership for Justice”
Barbara Michelsen and Charles Good

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠ HYMN No. 792

There Is a Balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elva Miller

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

Mary Denson Moore

OFFERTORY

Prayer for Partnership
Adult Choir

TOM MITCHELL

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment,
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge said with care,
bring new pow'r and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's dear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never falt'ring,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Janice Woodard

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN No. 853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

SIYAHAMBA

†CHARGE

Barbara Michelsen

†BENEDICTION

Charles Good

Each of us has been given a gift,
a portion of Christ's bounty to employ for one another.
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord,
persisting as partners in justice and grace.

†POSTLUDE

Siyahamba

SOUTH AFRICAN TUNE

*please recycle your bulletin in the wooden bins on either side of the front doors.

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Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 16, 2016

SPOTLIGHTING MALAWI

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Rocks need no protection from the rain. --Malawian proverb

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

The Prayers of the People are written by the congregation and read aloud as our corporate prayer.

If you want to take part, write a one sentence prayer on the cards provided.

No signatures, please. The cards will be collected during the second hymn.

Together we pray whatever is on our hearts.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kendra Crabtree

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. ... (All are encouraged to sign the Friendship Pad in the pews. If you are a first-time visitor and leave an address, we can welcome you more fully.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

October 16, 2016

Mulunguzi Primary School Graduates:

Support four students who graduated from Mulunguzi Primary, now attending secondary schools in the Zomba area. They all passed their exams this year and hopefully we will be seeing them through to graduation next year. These students are mentored by two former VT grad students and members of BPC, now working at home in Malawi – William Susuwele and Wotchiwe Kalande.



Alec Good and the Mugho Family

Education/Building:

- Built latrines at both Mulanje Primary School and Mulunguzi Primary School.
- Built a beautiful large classroom at Mulunguzi with bricks made by the local people. It has desks and white boards!

Externs:

- Sent four externs (members who were students who had recently graduated from college) to Malawi for from 6 weeks to 4 months. All taught at local schools.

Contributions:

- Sent money to the Hospital at Mulanje in response to recent flooding and later resulting hunger. Again, all directly from member donations.

The use of all funding sent to Mulanje Mission, and formerly to Mulunguzi School, has been determined by the staff of the Hospital, Food Security Program, and Schools.

MALAWI PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY MEMBERS

Scott Bailey	Tom Howard	Winnie Myers	
Don Barber	Barbara Michelsen	John Perumpral	
Charles Good	Elva Miller	Patti Talbot	
Marquita Hill	Mary Denson Moore	Ashley Taylor	Diane Wilson

FORMER MALAWIAN STUDENTS AT VT AND BPC

Chrissie Chawanje ('93)	Wotchiwe Kalande	Edith Mmela
William Susuwele	Ndalapa Mhango	Absalom Phiri (deceased)
Simeon Gwayi	Denis Khasu	Mapopa Sanga and his wife Salome
Jones Masly	Keith Lipato	Lucy Maseko

EXTERNNS

Sandy Evans	Annie Moore	Emma Hayes Nickel	Alec Good
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Welcome to all who gather for worship today. May each of us know something of God's grace and be moved toward deeper faith, sincere love, and service following Christ. No matter who you are, or what you are seeking, you are welcome here. **If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore all that happens in life and ministry in this church.** We are delighted that so many are visiting our church. Please greet warmly all those you may not know, and encourage them to take part in our lively congregation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jan McGilliard at 953-1366, or email her at janmcgilli@gmail.com. You can always contact the church office at 552-2504.

HEADSETS for the HEARING IMPAIRED are available. Speak to an Usher or Gavin Faulkner to use them for the worship service.

THE CELEBRATION FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given by Julie Burger and Ben Corl in honor of Helen Corl's 5th birthday.

Flower Correction from Sunday, Oct. 9- The flowers were sponsored by Deb and Jack Call in honor of their sons, Jeff and Scott for their birthday month. Apologies for the deletion.



Today is our Cents-Ability Collection. Global food systems impact climate change. More than half of greenhouse gas emissions come from food production, processing, transportation, retail and waste. In addition, much of the excess CO2 in the atmosphere results from farming practices which deplete the soils.

Climate change impacts food systems and increases hunger. Increases in temperature and extreme weather events have multiple implications for food safety and public health, including transmission of food and waterborne illnesses, in addition to decreased crop yields, damaged crops, even the nutritional content of food. In addition water scarcity and competition for water resources has an impact on food quality and production.

What you can do: Do not waste food. Do not waste water, including in the preparation of food. Eat organic food. Grow some of your own food. Advocate for environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. Support Presbyterian Hunger programs and Cents-Ability

source: the PHP Post spring 2015

If you would like a Cents-Ability coin collector for your table or would like a label to attach to your own homemade recycled container, look for a basket in the Narthex or in the Gathering Space.

Worship Note: The hymn *Kum ba Yah* was suggested for today by former BPC member and graduate student Ndalapa Mhango because it is often sung in Malawian churches and reminds us of those who are in need. The Hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead* is also one of his favorites. The final hymn, *We Are Marching in the Light of God*, was one BPC visitors to Malawi sang in church often. After worship in the Gathering Space, the Malawi Partnership will be serving orange Fanta (a Malawian favorite!), fruit, and snacks.

Sunday, October 16, 4-6 PM - Come celebrate the imminent arrival of an 8-member family from Syria to Blacksburg. We will gather on Sunday, October 16 (this Sunday!) from 4-6 PM at Blacksburg United Methodist Church (111 Church St.). All supporters are welcome! We'll tell you a little about the family and discuss volunteer opportunities as we prepare to meet the needs of this refugee family. If you would like to be added to the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership mailing list in the future, or have a question, send a message to blacksburefugeepartnership@gmail.com. Visit our website to make a donation: www.blacksburefugeepartnership.org



**Blacksburg CROP Hunger Walk
TODAY!! Sunday, October 16th
World Food Day 12:00pm – 5:00pm**

Begin your walk between 12:00 and 4:00. CROP Walk takes less than an hour! Please check in at the Blacksburg Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Community Room (on the corner of Miller & Draper Road) before walking up the Huckleberry Trail 1 mile & back. 25% of the donations will benefit the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry & 209 Manna Ministries the Wesley Food Pantry at VA Tech. **Please bring non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Pantry.**

All are invited to come to BPC's Fallapalooza on Sunday October 30 at 4:00 p.m. We'll carve pumpkins. The Youth Group will be hosting a spaghetti dinner to raise money for CROP Walk for Hunger. So bring a pumpkin and a friend and come enjoy the fun and fellowship! (Don't forget to bring your donation for dinner!)



SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: John Perumpral
Elder of the Week: **Today:** Julie Burger **Mon-Sunday:** Anne Campbell
Ushers: John and Diane Wilson, Nancy Alexander, and Cherry Pelt
Counters: Greg Campbell and Bob Hendricks
Coffee Hosts: Cherry Pelt **Next Week:** Peggy Kincaid

THIS WEEK AT BPC - HCR-Hatcher Conference Room, WM-Westminster, FH-Fellowship Hall

Oct. 16 Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:30 a.m. – Spotighting Malawi
 CROP Hunger Walk at the Blacksburg Public Library – 12:00 -5:00 p.m.- Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry.
 Youth Group meet at 12:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library-bring a bag lunch
 Blacksburg Refugee Partnership meeting 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, 111 Church Street. All are welcome!

Oct. 17 Deadline to submit items for the November Newsletter to:sherry@blacksburgpres.org
 Oct. 18 Tuesday Morningstars Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. – HCR
 Quilters gather at 9:30 a.m. – FH
 Prayer Group meets (**New time**) at 11:45 a.m.in the Prayer Room- All are welcome!

Oct. 19 Handbell practice at 6:00 p.m.
 Adult Choir practice at 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 20 Caring for the Community at 9:00 a.m.- HCR
 Oct. 23 Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
 Prayers with Elder/Deacons in Prayer Room following worship

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BPC

Oct. 24 KnitWits gather at 1:00 p.m. – WM
 PWCT meets at 3:30 p.m.- WM

Oct. 26 Caring for the Community- 9:30 a.m. – HCR
 Oct. 29 Choir Retreat at Marilyn Hutchins' home-9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Oct. 30 Fallapalooza with pumpkin carving and youth sponsored dinner for CROP
 Bring a pumpkin to carve and a donation for dinner. All are welcome!
 Oct. 31 Older Adult Ministry- Game Day at BPC- 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Work of the BPC/Malawi Partnership Since 2004



Medicine:

- Money is wired yearly to Mulanje Mission Hospital for medications
- One-year of funding to supplement the salaries of medical staff
- Supported one student in a two year RN program
- Currently supporting a student in a three year degree program for OB/GYN
- Purchased new laundry machine for the hospital, plus solar panels for the laundry room.

Agriculture:

- Annual funds for the Food Security Program run under the auspices of the Hospital for teaching villagers how to set up sustainable personal and community gardens. Also animal projects of goats and chickens. Most recently BPC money went to buy a dairy cow to produce milk for hungry children.
- Obtained a grant of \$2-4,000 for the last few years from our Presbytery Hunger Program.

Education/Scholarships:

- Mulanje College of Nursing: Supported five students for nurse/midwife/technician degrees. Currently four more students attending with BPC support.
- Mulanje Day Secondary School: Supporting five students who could not attend school otherwise. We have helped support ten others.



All Funding for these scholarships comes directly from personal gifts from BPC members to the Malawi Partnership.