



BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEASON OF CREATION – DIVERSITY SUNDAY
April 29, 2018

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“We inhabit a universe that is characterized by diversity.” - Desmond Tutu

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.)*

PRELUDE

Earth and All Stars
 BPC Handbell Choir

TIMOTHY SHEPHERD

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, you breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

With love you shaped the world in all its diversity.

Threading through it are your dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

Creator of the past, present, and future, we praise you for each moment’s blessings.

Draw near to us now as we draw near to you.

Teach us to be co-creators of a world where all belong.

Robert Dean

† HYMN No. 15 vv. 1, 2, 3, 6

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

† Please stand in body or in spirit.

† PRAYER OF APPROACH

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, your joy in diversity—diverse colors, diverse shapes, dynamic ways to move, take shelter, nurture offspring, or find nourishment—make creation vital and profound. Too often we respond to newness with fear and suspicion, holding back from the unfamiliar and using words to label or to wound. Forgive our love of sameness and the status quo. Open us to new encounters with living things and diverse peoples, for we ask in the name of your risen Son, Jesus Christ. (*Time for silent confession*)...in your mercy Lord, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYERFUL RESPONSE No. 692 v.2 *Spirit, Open My Heart*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's promises are trustworthy and true;

Your sins are forgiven!

Be at peace to serve the Lord,

And may we always be known by our love.

† GRATEFUL RESPONSE

KINGSFOLD

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth responding to God's grace.

As stewards of the earth may thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

(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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 104:1; 10-24

ANTHEM

The Heavens Sing Praises
Jonathan Elmore, *tenor*

LUDWIG VAN BETHOVEN

The heavens sing praises, O God, to your glory and all
The earth sounds forth your name. The universe tells the
Wonderful story and all the spheres our might proclaim!
You set the numberless stars in their places. And from
its tent draws forth the sun? It in the morning shines warmly
upon us, then mounts the skies, its race to run.

Then let us praise now this Lord of great glory; creation ever
sounds forth might. It tells of wisdom, of law and of order, it
tells of mercy, love and light. The stars that glitter afar in the
heavens, oh mortal, can you count them all? To God be glory
who all things created; now on your knees adoring fall.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:1-16

SERMON

"No Partiality"

Dr. Taylor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.
We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.
Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,
to order and reshape the world.
We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.
The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.
The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
In ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures.
The Lord bids us use our technical skills
for beauty, order, health, and peace.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN No. 21

Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works
Jonathan Elmore, and Judy McCord, *singing bells*;
Sam Woolsey, *drums*;
Sarah Windes, *rainstick*

LACQUIPARLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY

This is My Maker's World
BPC Handbell Choir

BILL INGRAM

†DOXOLOGY

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

**Lord of earth, sea, and sky,
we delight in what you've given.
May these gifts serve and nourish
the variety around us.
Lord of earth, sea, and sky.**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN No. 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

†CHARGE

(Iona Abby Worship Book)

This we know, the earth does not belong to us.

We belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected,

Like the blood that unites one family.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life

We are merely a strand in it.

This we know, whatever we do to the web,

We do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation.

Let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Fanfare

KENNETH LEIGHTON

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES APRIL 29, 2018

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.**

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

We are grateful for Robert Dean who is our liturgist today.

The Peace Lilies in the sanctuary this morning are sponsored by John and Diane Wilson in loving memory of his mother, Vivian Jean Wilson, who passed away April 18, 2018. A donation has been given to the BPC Malawi Partnership Ministry.

Creation Care Thought: The first law of our being is that we are set in a delicate network of interdependence with our fellow human beings and with the rest of God's creation. --Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-), *God Has a Dream*

Remember to share your special place - a patch of wilderness in our region - where you feel close to the creator. This is the Season of Creation Invitation to Act for Sunday, April 22. Tell us about it, what it means to you, how to get there, and include a photo if you can. Send or give to Sherry@blacksburgpres.org or rcdean5763@gmail.com so we can display them for others this summer. Thanks!

Art Exhibit: Come by the library to see the excellent photography of **Richard Mallory Allnutt**, a British-born photographer living in Blacksburg. He focuses primarily on portraiture, but his passions for aviation and the natural world also play a strong role in his repertoire. He has won several significant awards for his work.

The following dates for Celebration Flowers are still available: April 29, May 20, 27, June 3, July 15, Aug. 5, Oct. 7, 14, and Dec. 30. Please email Sherry at sherry@blacksburgpres.org if you are interested in sponsoring any of these dates.

Just Wages: Honoring the Worker – Sunday, April 29. Faith leaders from local Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and Unitarian Universalist communities will be exploring what each faith tradition says about wage justice. Come join us at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg. Childcare will be provided. Sponsored by the NRV Chapter of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

PJGM Statement on Gun Violence: We understand that there are church members with varying opinions about gun control policies. We (PJGM) believe that gun violence is a peace justice issue and has become a public health epidemic in America. As the executive director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins, has stated, "The menace of gun violence rampages from one coast to the other affecting almost every community... We must be advocates to members of Congress to pass meaningful gun legislation."

The PC(USA) has a strong position on gun violence as outlined in the PC(USA) policy put out in 2010 called, "Gun Violence, Gospel Values." You can find this policy by googling, "PC(USA) Social Witness Policy" and it is the first link under Criminal Justice.

As the PJGM committee, we seek to "Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

...Psalm 34:14

Faith Circle collected or purchased more than 3,500 diapers for the Valley Interfaith Childcare Center and the Baby Shop, thanks to the generous donation of the congregation. Many Thanks to Jen Stewart, Kendra Crabtree, and Julie Burger for organizing the drive. Melinda Winslow (Baby Shop organizer) said, "Craig and I just delivered Faith Circle's donations of diapers, wipes and Desitin to the Baby Shop. Our shelves are full—what a wonderful feeling! We've had a huge influx of clients this spring so everything has been in short supply. Please pass along our thanks for such generosity and thoughtfulness. We are truly grateful!"

SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: Nancy Furr **May:** Eric Mesmer
Elder of the Week: **Today:** Brian Smith **Mon-Sunday:** Melanie Smith
Prayer Room: **Today:** Melanie Smith **Next Sunday:** Heather Polikoff
Ushers: Jim Echols, Jack Call, and Chris and Jackson Lawrence
Counters: Paula Stith and Bob Hendricks

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

April 29 Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. – Gathering Space
Worship at 10:30 a.m. - Season of Creation -Diversity
Adult Ed End-of-Life Class 4:00-5:30 p.m. – HCR
Youth Group meets at 5:30 p.m. for Dinner & Discussion

May 1 Tuesday Morningstars Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. -HCR
Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. – FH
Prayer Group meets at 11:00 a.m. – Prayer Room- All are welcome!
Morningstars Bible Study at Noon - HCR

May 2 Staff meets at 9:30 a.m. – WM
Caring for the Community –9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – HCR
Adult Choir meets at 7:00 p.m.

May 3 Peace, Justice, Global Mission meets at 7:00 p.m. - HCR

May 6 Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. – Gathering Space
Worship at 10:30 a.m. - Season of Creation -Abundance
Youth Group meets at 5:30 p.m. for End-of-Year Party- FH

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

May 7 Lydia Circle meets at 12:00 noon – End of the Year Luncheon- FH
Hildegard Circle meets at 6:00 p.m. at Sandy Parson’s home, 724 Lucas Drive, Bbrg

May 10 Caring for the Community – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. -HCR

May 14 Faith Circle meets at 6:00 p.m. at Cabo Fish Taco – Annual Dinner Out

May 16 Caring for the Community

May 20 Last Day of Sunday School
All Church Spring Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

May 23 Caring for the Community

May 26 BPC Flower Committee Training- 8:30 a.m.-FH

May 28 Memorial Day – Office is closed

May 29 Session meets at 7:00 p.m. – HCR

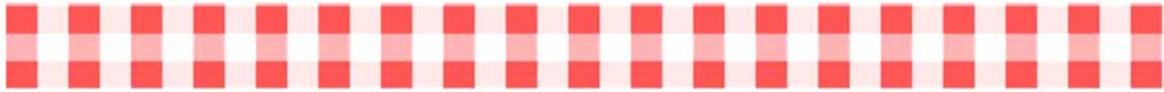
May 31 Caring for the Community

STAFF EVALUATIONS

The Personnel Ministry fosters the aims of the church by supporting the pastor and staff in their professional growth and performance. We will soon be conducting annual evaluations of Catherine and the church staff. All are welcome to submit comments, appreciations, or feedback about staff performance to me as Personnel chair. Emails may be sent to me at Personnel@blacksburgpres.org; or you can hand them to me at church; or mail them to 516 Seminole Drive, Blacksburg VA 24060.

Please respond by May 15th.

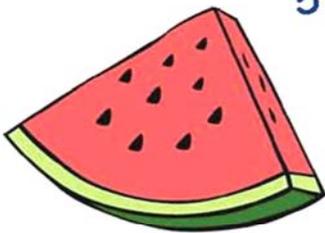
In Christ, Jimmy Ritter



Church Family Spring Dinner

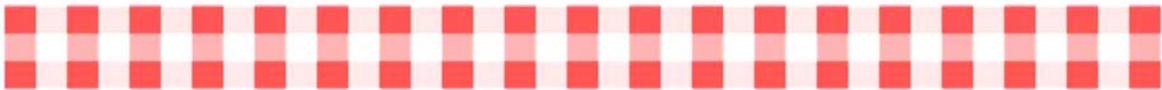
Sunday, May 20th, 2018

5:30 - 7 PM, Fellowship Hall



Come enjoy dinner (a taco bar), a church scavenger hunt, and a sweet treat!

Cost: There will be a basket for donations.



(Tear here)

Volunteers Needed for the Church Family Spring Dinner

Please complete this form and turn it into the church office. Or email your response to fellowship@blacksburgpres.org. Thank you so much!

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Email	Phone #	Set Up 5 - 6 pm	Clean Up 7:15 PM



Invitation to Act

11 Things You Can Do to Save Life's Diversity.

1. Determine new ways you can accommodate wildlife in your yard and garden.
2. Raise local freshwater fish instead of exotic species in your garden pond or aquarium.
3. Keep your cat indoors.
4. Don't buy natural products from exotic and endangered species, especially when traveling abroad.
5. Support the Endangered Species Act; know those in your region (there are 63 endangered and threatened species in Virginia).
6. Volunteer in a park or preserve.
7. Get outdoors and learn to identify our local plants and animals.
8. Vote for candidates and propositions that are conservation-minded.
9. Grow native plants and heirloom vegetables.
10. Be involved in your local community. Find local organizations and join.
11. Remember future generations; teach yourself to think through your decisions in terms of long term impact.

From William Stolzenburg, **Nature Conservancy**, July/August 1996



Church Community Builder

We are very excited to begin embarking on our roll-out of the Church Community Builder system for the whole congregation. We obtained licenses for this software to not only replace our old membership system, but to provide us with a new way to organize and communicate. (Real-time record updates, group and event coordination, volunteer sign-ups, etc.)

The goal is to keep the congregation more informed, get more people involved, and allow the ministries to focus on their important work.

This new software will also act as our church directory! Any church member who has created a login will be able to update their personal data as it changes.

In order for this software to be used to the fullest extent we need two things from you:

1. Create a login for your profile.
2. Update your profile (and family) information.

The instructions are on the back. If you have any questions along the way please contact Kendra Crabtree at kendra@blacksburgpres.org or Brian Smith at buildingsandgrounds@blacksburgpres.org.

There are many features that we will begin using more fully in the coming weeks and months with more details to come.

Thank you,

Kendra Crabtree, DCCL
Director of Communications and Church Life

And

Brian Smith
Elder and Chair of Buildings and Grounds

Church Community Builder

Set up your login:

1. Go to blacksburgpres.org
2. Click "Sign Up" under Church Community Builder Login
3. Fill out the information requested and hit submit
4. An Activation Email will be sent to you to complete login setup

If you do not receive an activation email within 24 hours please contact kendra@blacksburgpres.org.

Edit your profile:

1. Click your name in the top right corner
2. Click "Edit Profile" in the dropdown menu
3. Update "Basic" and "Address" tab then click "Save" at the bottom.

Everyone has a profile. Even kids. But don't worry, **kid's information is only visible to you the guardian and internally to church staff.** Other members can see that they are part of your family and nothing more.

To edit your children's profile:

1. Click on the "Family" tab on your profile
2. Click the name of the child you wish to edit.
3. Click on "Edit Profile" found under the heading "ACTIONS" on the right.
4. Once you have updated birthdays, allergies, school, be sure to click "Save" at the bottom.

Your information is secure and only visible to other church members.