



November 18, 2018

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Proclaiming God's Word

Growing in faith and understanding

Welcoming all

Extending comfort and grace

Working for justice and peace

Nurturing creation

Being generous stewards of God's gifts

Ministers - All Members

Pastor - Catherine Taylor

Director of Music, Organist – Steve Lawrence

Director of Children and Youth Ministries - Susan Hunter

Director of Communication and Church Life - Kendra Crabtree

Office Manager - Sherry Ingham

Custodian - Viola Howery

Acting Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Kathy Carpenter

PMA Mission Co-worker in Guatemala – Rev. Elaine Menezes

PMA Mission Co-workers in Bangladesh – Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan

Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Ruth Shakespeare

**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

“We are called to live now, allowing the promises of God about the future to infuse our every present moment.”
--The Reverend David Lose, former president of Lutheran Seminary

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

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

Now Thank We All Our God

JEFFREY HONORÉ

† CALL TO WORSHIP No.

Beth Mattson

We gather to give witness to the enduring realities of life,

To affirm that life is a gift, that the gift is good, and that it comes from God.

We gather to renew our hope in Jesus Christ,

To find God in our present and past, and to trust God’s love in our future.

The same God guides us all the way, every day of our lives, and beyond life.

Let us worship with our whole hearts, and entrust our lives to God’s hands.

† HYMN No. 367 vv. 1-3

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

† PRAYER OF APPROACH

Eternal Giver, as we thank you for the wondrous gift of life, we are aware of how time slips through our fingers. Caught up in yesterday’s dreams and tomorrow’s hopes, we pass by the opportunities of today. Grant us courage to meet the challenges of today motivated by the vision of your reign, which is coming into being every moment. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, Giver of all that makes life good, we give you our thanks. Yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness: What we have we take for granted, and we grumble about what we lack. We have squandered your bounty with little thought for those who will come after us. Forgive us, O God. In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving, and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; through the grace of Jesus Christ. ... *(A time of silent confession follows.)* In your mercy, Lord. **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† Please stand in body or in spirit.

✠ GRATEFUL RESPONSE No. 367 v.4

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come, praise the glorious harvest home!**

✠ 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 READING

1 Samuel 1:4-20

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing?

ROBERT LOWRY

Danny Fritsch, tenor

arr. ALLAN BULLARD

My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation;
I hear the far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult, and the strife,
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul,
How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars,
I know my Saviour liveth,
Although the darkness binds me close,
Deep in the night sweet songs he giveth.
His inner peace makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:1-8

SERMON

"Hold On"

Dr. Taylor

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠ HYMN No. 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Congregation

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY

Soon and Very Soon

CROUCH/SCHRADER

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more dying there, We are going to see the King;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

† DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN No. 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

SIGRIED KARG-ELERT

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

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
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ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES
NOVEMBER 18, 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 Beth Mattson who is our liturgist today.

The Peace Lilies are in worship today and a donation has been given to BPC Malawi Partnership Ministry in loving memory of Don Michelsen by his family.

The Celebration Flowers last Sunday were delivered to the wrong church, so the flowers today are sponsored by Nancy Ann Williams in loving memory of her parents K.T. and Helen Williams.

Cents-Ability: Eating alone is a disappointment. But not eating matters more, is hollow and green, has thorns like a chain of fish hooks, trailing from the heart, clawing at your insides. Hunger feels like pincers, like the bite of crabs; it burns, burns, and has no fur. Let us sit down soon to eat with all those who haven't eaten; let us spread great tablecloths, put salt in all the lakes of the world, set up planetary bakeries, tables with strawberries in snow, and a plate like the moon itself from which we can all eat. For now I ask no more than the justice of eating. —Pablo Neruda, Chilean poet. Please place your donations in the small manila envelopes located in the pews and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

Creation Care Thought: Single-use plastic bags. A trillion plastic shopping bags are used worldwide every year, and 100 billion in the U.S. alone — that's almost one per person per day. The average Dane, in contrast, where a bag tax was passed in 1993, goes through 4 single-use bags per *year*.

—source: National Geographic June 2018, p. 91 Can you help promote bans or taxes on single-use bags in our community?

Book Drive: Faith Circle is collecting new and (very) gently used children books for NRV CARES and the Montgomery County Christmas Store. **We need books for reading levels Pre-K through 12th grade.** Please contact Julie Burger (juliaburger@gmail.com) if you have any questions. **The deadline to drop off books is November 25th (next Sunday)!**

The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food. (Please remember they cannot accept expired food items). Checks will be happily welcomed, just put Interfaith Food Pantry on the memo line.

SERVING TODAY

Church Opener: Today: Craig Woolsey

December: Dale Wolf

Elder of the Week: Today: Jimmy Ritter

Mon-Sunday: Sarah Woolsey

Prayer Room: Today: Sarah Woolsey/Robert Dean

Next Sunday: Andrew Warren/Phyllis Albritton-Webb

Ushers: Jim Echols, Emma Grace and Sam Woolsey, and Natalie Green

Love Thy Neighbor - December 2nd at 2pm, Church St between Roanoke and Lee St.

A neighborly event for all congregations and religious communities in Blacksburg to fellowship with one another and build community bonds. After the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and the senseless murders of two African Americans at a grocery store, it is clear that we need to jump-start this process. The best way to combat the rising hate and rhetoric against people of different faiths, lifestyles, and identities is to build a stronger, more united community.

On December 2, we plan to block off Church Street in front of the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center and Blacksburg United Methodist Church between Roanoke and Lee Streets. Bring your folding tables and chairs into the street and a dish to share. Come break bread with your neighbors and build community bonds. We have brought together friends from a variety of faiths and backgrounds to facilitate the afternoon events. Come meet your neighbors from other congregations and groups, share some delicious food, and help make our community even stronger.

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

- Nov. 18 Sunday School for all at 9:00 a.m.
 Shift Small Group at 9:00 a.m. - WM
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. – Gathering Space
 Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Cents-Ability Collection at BPC
 Youth Grp. volunteering at Mont. Co. Christmas Store, 1:00-3:00 p.m.. 30 W. Main, Cburg
- Nov. 20 Session meets at 7:00 p.m. - HCR
 Morningstars Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. -HCR
 Quilters meet at 9:30 a.m. – HCR
 Prayer Group meets at 11:00 a.m. – Prayer Rm Every Tuesday- All are welcome
- Nov. 21 No Caring for the Community
 No Handbells Rehearsal & No Adult Choir Rehearsal
- Nov. 22 & Nov. 23 – Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov. 25 No Sunday School today & No Youth Group
 Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. – Gathering Space
 Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Pork & Bean Collection for Montgomery County Christmas Store Deadline

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Nov. 26 KnitWits gather at 1:00 p.m. – WM
 University Ministry meets at 5:30 p.m. - HCR
- Nov. 28 Caring for the Community meets at 9:00 a.m. –HCR
 Malawi meets at 5:00 p.m. –HCR
 Stewardship Ministry meets at 7:00 p.m.- HCR
- December 2 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 Advent Workshop and Alternative Gift Fair 9:00 a.m. – FH
 Fair Trade Items Available (Last day!)- Reduced prices
- Dec. 3 Lydia Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. - FH
- Dec. 5 14th Annual Gingerbread Potluck 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Kid's Fun Day 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.-Register by Dec. 2
- Dec. 11 Hildegard Circle meets at 6:00 p.m. –at Marti Snyder's home-609 Kelly Lane, Bbrg
 Master Chorale Sing-Along at BPC at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 Faith Circle's Cookie exchange at 7:30 p.m. – Julie Burger's home-911 Draper Rd. SW

It's time to order

WHITE POINSETTIAS & PINE

Help make our sanctuary glorious for the holidays. Sponsoring the poinsettias also goes toward the purchase of wreaths for the doors. You may purchase one or more poinsettias, and take the opportunity to honor or remember someone special.

A booklet listing all of the poinsettia sponsorships will be published in December as part of the bulletin.

Deadline for orders is Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018.

If you have any questions please contact Sherry at sherry@blacksburgpres.org or 540-552-2504.

Name: _____

Yes, I/We would like to sponsor _____ (#) poinsettias and greenery for the sanctuary.

In Honor /or In loving memory of (Please circle one):

___ Yes, I will be taking the poinsettia(s) with me. I will take it/them after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on December 23, 2018.

___ No, I will not be taking the poinsettia(s) with me.

Cost of poinsettias is \$16.00 each.

Total number ordered _____

2019 CELEBRATION FLOWER RESERVATION

Celebration flowers glorify God, and add beauty and a sense of hospitality to our worship services. Flowers are often are given in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special event in our lives. To give everyone a chance to participate, all Sundays, except those dates with an "X" during Lent and Advent, are available to be reserved on a first requested basis. If you would like to sponsor the celebration flowers for any of the following dates in 2019, please complete this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	3			2			1			X
6	10	X	X	5	9	7	4	8	6	3	X
13	17	X	X	12	16	14	11	15	13	10	X
20	24	X	21	19	23	21	18	22	20	17	X
27		X	28	26	30	28	25	29	27	24	29

Choice of dates: First : _____ Second: _____ Third: _____
 (Please indicate optional choices in case your first choice is no longer available.)

Sponsor's name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Flower/color preferences: _____
 (If no preference is specified, the florist will select flowers/colors from the best available.)

TO BE PRINTED IN BULLETIN: "Flowers given by _____

_____ in loving memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ other _____

After church (please check one:

_____ Sponsor will take arrangement(s) home

_____ Deliver to shut-in(s) (names) _____

_____ Other _____

**The cost for two arrangements will continue to be \$50 for 2019,
 Payments will be made to "BPC".**

**Special flower are requests may increase the cost-
 you will need to contact Gates Flower Shop directly for these arrangements.**

***Up-Coming Advent Activities at BPC:
Advent Workshop and Alternative Gift Fair
December 2nd, 9am***



The workshop includes activities for young and old, including an Advent wreath making station (suggested donation of \$10). The funds from the items sold at the Alternative Gift Fair will go to support global mission partners and local organizations.

The Presbyterian Women will have cards available to support a variety of local and global organizations. Homemade items from the Quilters and KnitWits will also be available.

The Alternative Gift Fair will also take place on Dec. 9th.

Advent Wreath Greenery Needed! We need greenery for the Advent wreaths we will be making at the Advent workshop. Most desirable items are small boxwood and cedar tree branches, holly with berries, dusty miller and nandina. If you can prune some and bring it on Sunday morning, Dec. 2, please talk to Sarah Windes at swindes@vt.edu by Nov. 25, or leave a piece of paper with your offer in the offering plate. We like knowing how much to expect, so we don't start to worry that we won't have enough. Even a little goes a long way!

14th Annual Gingerbread Potluck

December 5th, 5:30pm-7pm



The 14th Annual Gingerbread Potluck is sure to be a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and food! Bring a dish to share and a bag of candy or another gingerbread house decorating item and be ready for lots of icing!

Gingerbread Bakers Needed!

If you are able to make gingerbread for the houses, please have it returned to the freezer in the kitchen by December 2nd. Click the link for the recipe or grab a copy from the Welcome Window in the Gathering Space.

Kid's Fun Day! December 8th, 9am-12pm



Want a free morning to do Christmas errands? Sign your kids up for Kid's Fun Day! Hosted by the Fellowship Committee, this morning will be full of play, snacks, and crafts. Children up to 5th grade can participate. Kid's must be registered by December 2nd to participate. Register online at blacksburgpres.org/KFD or at the welcome window in the Gathering Space.



**Canned Pork and Beans Collection for
Montgomery County Christmas Store runs Sunday, Nov. 4-Nov. 25, 2018.**

BPC's goal for the annual canned food drive for the Christmas Store is 1,000 cans of pork and beans.

The Christmas Store serves about one thousand low-income households, enabling them to celebrate a dignified Christmas holiday. Please bring your cans of Pork and Beans to the church, and deposit them in one of the large green plastic containers located near the office and downstairs hallway. Monetary donations will also be accepted and used to purchase cans to help meet our goal. Please mark "Pork and Beans" on checks left in the offering plate or office.

The Baby Shop Tree December 2-30

The Baby Shop Tree helps us stock up on items we are in need of to meet the needs of our clients. Please take a tag (or two or three). Once you have purchased the items, bring your tag and items back and place them under the tree in the Gathering Space at BPC. They do **NOT** need to be wrapped.

The Baby Shop is located in Christiansburg and is a ministry of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Christiansburg and Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. The Shop serves families in Montgomery County and Radford City who have at least one child and qualify for certain social services. We are a donations-based project run by community volunteers.

Woodchucks Food Baskets Collecting Donations November 15 – December 15

During the cold winter months, supporters of the BPC Firewood Ministry, Woodchucks, are busy delivering firewood to those who can pay and to those who cannot. During this season, we would like to provide some additional warmth and cheer to the neediest of our recipients in the form of food, and you are invited to participate in this ministry to our community. Collection bins have been placed around the church for your donations. This is an opportunity for everyone who can and cannot run a chainsaw to show the love of Christ.

Suggested items:

- Boxed dinners such as mac-and-cheese
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meat such as tuna
- Dry pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Cereal
- Pop tarts
- Powdered milk in individual packets
- Dried beans



2018 Advent Alternative Gifts

This year, on **December 2nd at 9am and December 9th**, you will have the opportunity to participate in BPC's Advent Workshop and Alternative Gift Fair. Presbyterian Women will offer alternative gift giving options. Card for mailing will come with all donations.

The list below offers a brief description of each of the organizations you will have the chance to support through donating in someone's memory or honor.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase items made and donated by the KnitWits and Quilters. All proceeds from those sales will go to the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.



Bread for the World is a nonpartisan non-profit Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad. One (1) in five (5) American children live in a family that struggles to put food on the table. Studies have shown that, in developing countries, malnutrition can cause stunting and other problems in the bodies and brains of children. The risks are the same for children in the U.S.



CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization headquartered in Guatemala. Its ministries are far-reaching, including working to eliminate violence against women and children and educating community leaders about how to deal with natural disasters. CEDEPCA contributions this year will be used to purchase water filters in Guatemala. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of rivers, lakes, and streams are contaminated with bacteria of fecal origin. Over half of the population does not have access to clean water. One (1) of every five (5) children does not reach the age of five (5) because of an intestinal infection.

2018 Advent Alternative Gifts

Women's Resource Center's mission is to implement individual and social change for a violence-free community in the New River Valley region of Virginia, by providing programs and services to adults and children who have experienced sexual or domestic violence, and by providing education, training, and prevention programming to the public and to allied professionals.

From its inception, providing board members, volunteers, funding, and much needed everyday items necessary for the care of the children.



The KnitWits have made shawls, cowls, headbands and fingerless gloves, and the Quilters have made aprons, coasters, zipper and snap pouches, pillows and fabric stars to decorate your home for the holidays. Prices will range from \$3 to \$40.

2018 Advent Alternative Gifts



ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is part of the only global network dedicated to protecting children from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Tens of millions of vulnerable children, women, and men worldwide are captured, sold, and held against their will for forced labor, including sexual service and fighting wars.

Tassa Tags, which are ECPAT International luggage tags (or may be used on any kind of bag) are made at The Regina Center in Nongkhai, Thailand. They are a fair-trade product and directly support the women there at risk for sex trafficking, keeping them employed, able to support their families and send their children to school. PW will offer a free Tassa Tag to anyone donating \$12 or more.



be used on Thailand. there at risk families and



Malawi is a BPC partnership and ministry with involvement in particular at the Mulanje Mission. Funding provides aid to the hospital, primarily for medicines; which are in short supply; aid to the Public Health Program; and aid to the Food Security Program. Donations also provide medical scholarships at the Mulanje College of Nursing and further medical training for employees at the hospital, as well as scholarships for students at Mulanje Secondary School

where education is not free.



Micah's Backpack is a non-profit 501(c)3 faith community initiative that provides direct food assistance for children in low income families. Every Friday during the school year, identified students receive a backpack filled with two breakfasts, two dinners, snacks, juice, milk boxes, and an educational piece. Friday mornings volunteers deliver the

bags and the partner schools distribute them to the students. Currently, a number of children in Blacksburg schools receive a gift of healthy food during the academic year and during the summer break. In addition to Micah's Backpack and Micah's Mobile Backpack, the program incorporates Micah's Soup for Seniors and Micah's Closet.

2018 Advent Alternative Gifts



To Our House is a non-profit 501(c)3 group of interested citizens, faith communities, and social service professionals who have joined to provide temporary shelter for single, homeless men (and now women) in the New River Valley from November through March. Local faith communities host the shelter, providing meals and fellowship, through many volunteers. Blacksburg Presbyterian Church is a host church. Participants have stated that they have the feeling of being a part of a family and have even called it a life-saving experience.



UKirk Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech (Cooper House) partners with the Presbytery of the Peaks and four area churches, one of which is Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Students gather for dinner, fellowship, worship, discussion, and for planning participation in mission activities locally and globally. Pastoral care is offered following its mission “to nurture the faith development and discipleship of the students, respond to human needs regardless of ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, and promote peace and justice as Christ teaches us.”



VICCC (Valley Interfaith Child Care Center, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 organization that serves children of low-income families. With special support from New River Valley faith communities, VICCC’s goal is to create high-quality, affordable, educational, and nurturing care for young children (ages 0-5) of low-income working families in the New River Valley. BPC has been supportive of this endeavor from its inception, providing board members, volunteers, funding, and much needed everyday items necessary for the care of children.