

The SPOTLIGHT

Bridgewater Presbyterian Church

February
2023

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On Feb. 12th Let's Tackle Hunger!

Now that we know the Chiefs and Eagles will be playing for the Super Bowl title on February 12th, break out your favorite soup recipe! Immediately after worship, plan to stay for the **Souper Bowl of Caring, our annual pre-big game lunch**. We will be **collecting monetary donations as well as canned goods and non-perishable items** that will go to the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall for bringing soup, sandwiches, sides or sweets. Even if you have plans to watch the game, we will make sure you still have plenty of time to make your world famous hot wings for kick-off later!

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nation-wide effort to reduce

hunger. Participating groups encourage members to **bring \$1 or a can of food** to share with their local distribution center. Since 1990, over \$175 million has been reported donated to local food charities across all fifty states with over 305,000 unique groups participating. Every dollar donated to Souper Bowl of Caring creates over \$18 for food charities. We unite all communities to Tackle Hunger.



All Church Chat with Pastor Kate

Be a Part of the All Church Chat on Feb. 5th

After worship, Pastor Kate will guide us through a Transitional Talk about **“Leadership Competencies: What do we have? What will we need?”** A search for a new leader begins with self-understanding.

A congregation must assess its strengths, gifts, and abilities before knowing what might be needed in new leadership. For example, a congregation with a large deaf population would probably look for a leader fluent in ASL. A congregation with a strong lay-led children's ministry might want a pastor whose strengths would be with older adults. Utilizing the definitions of Leadership Competencies used in the search process, we will creatively explore what BPC already has and what we may or may not need moving forward. Snacks are provided.

INDOOR YARD SALE

Saturday, March 4th - 7:00 am to Noon.

Place items in the room next to the nursery, or contact Brett Johnson for pick up. There are boxes in the Fellowship Hall for you to take, fill & return!

Spread the word! We need donors AND shoppers!

If you are on Facebook, be sure to like and share our posts.



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✂
Next Session
meeting is
Thurs. ,
✂

*Transitional
Pastor:*

Rev.
**Kate
Rascoe**



The Shepherds

will meet briefly **after worship on Feb. 19th** to reorganize and revitalize. Please join us if you are interested in strengthening our church family by communicating with and assisting individual members with life's joys and sorrows.

Spiritual Life

"Questions are a sign of growth, curiosity, and wonder. We expect that children as they grow will ask thousands of questions about the world around them, not because they are suspicious of it but because they are drawn to it. Being drawn toward a deeper faith, and toward God at its center, will naturally come with questions, big questions that dwarf our simplistic answers. ... questions are an invitation into deeper faith.

They are an invitation for the Spirit to move within the wonder, in the space between the question and the answer. This Lent, let us seek good questions rather than easy answers."

— Rev. Anna Strickland, *A Sanctified Art*



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

This Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, and through the 5 weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter, we will **engage in the spiritual practice of Seeking**. As the characters in many of our scriptures do, we will be encouraged to ask the kind of questions that help us deepen our faith. We will go deep in worship on Sunday, and will offer more opportunities to sit with scripture with curiosity and openness, both individually and as a community. The Spiritual Life Committee and I hope you will take advantage of what we have planned. Materials for personal devotions and families will be available by February 22nd.

Mid-week no-prep Bible studies will meet on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., beginning March 1st. —Pastor Kate

Member Care



June White turns 93 Feb. 12th!

Help her celebrate with cards.



Emory Johnson presents his Cello Recital, Suzuki Book 3, Friday, Feb. 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! A pizza dinner follows. Please let Lacey or Brett know if you are staying to eat.



"Thank you all for the numerous calls, cards, prayers and other expressions of support during Jim's emergency surgery and recovery. Your long distance embrace was very comforting."

—**Jim & Ellie Enterline**

"Thank you church family for the encouragement and support before and after my hip replacement. It means a lot! I'm looking forward to a walk on the Appalachian Trail this spring!"

—**Bev Carver**

Ray Mundsinger

passed away February 2, 2023. He served BPC as an Elder from 2003 to 2007. We express our sincerest sympathy his family and friends.



A time of visitation is planned on Sunday, Feb. 5th, beginning at 3:00 p.m., at Johnsons Funeral Service, followed by brief memorial service at 4:00. Ray will be buried in his beloved Pittsburgh.

Christian Education

ADULT Sunday School Schedule

Date	Discussion Leader
5	Carroll Chewning
12	Bill Florence
19	Tommy Glendye
26	Start Lent study

It's **BYOB** for three weeks (*bring your own Bible*) for discussion of a passage of scripture chosen by the leader. We start a Lenten Study on Feb. 26.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

KINGDOM unit

CHILDREN Sunday School Schedule

Date	Leader & Aide
5	Mary Kay Adams
12	Emily Heatwole & Gretchen
19	Betsy Glendye
26	Emily Heatwole

**Birthdays**

Alison McElroy
Ruth Rascoe
Jennifer G. Hartzler
Ben Gardner
Arayia Jordan
Bill Gardner
June White
LeeAnn Gardner
Darlene Newman
Linda West
Ryan Boshart

**Anniversaries**

23 Tom & Suzanne
Mizell (

**Book Group's Next Read**

"The Blackout Book Club"

by Amy Lynn Green

They will gather for discussion and snacks on **Monday, Feb. 27th**, at **7:00 pm** at the home of Mary Kay Adams [

**Men Meet for Breakfast**

All males are invited to breakfast at Bob-a-Rea's on the **3rd Saturday** of each month at 8:30 a.m.

All ages and guests are welcome. Our next date:

February 18th at 8:30 a.m.

If you need a ride, or can provide one, contact
Carroll Chewning

Our Building as a Blessing

A reminder that two groups & one member use our building during the week:

- **TOPS** meets every Tuesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and ...

- **Friends Café** (formerly *Memory Café*) gathers on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for a brown bag lunch. Plus...

- **Katie McElroy** gives piano lessons on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00.

For everyone's safety and privacy, whenever possible do not come to the building during their designated times.

**Backpacks**

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of this vital ministry to **9** families in our school district. We are stocked through February! Donations always welcome.

**Ice Cream at Smileys!**

Fresh ice cream is a perfect treat no matter the weather! Join your church family (you are encouraged to bring friends) at **Smiley's on Thursday, February 16th at 3:30.** Flavor of the Month:

Red Velvet Cake!

**VPAS Café in Bridgewater**

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where: Houff Community Center at Bridgewater Retirement Comm. (Blue Ridge Room)

Who: anyone age 60+

What: programs, lunch and exercise; do all or some
New programs each month.

Registration is required:

Call VPAS at 540-615-5341 and check online at

www.vpas.info/calendar



Feb. 5th after worship. Snacks provided.

This month's topic is:

"Leadership Competencies:

What do we have? What will we need?"

	Ushering and Greeting share duties with one at each door	Acolyte/ Bell Ringer	Lay Leader	Highlight /Flowers
5	Merrill Simon & Mary Kay Adams	Hagan E	Jon DeVier-Scott	All Church Chat / Pam Bailey
12	David & Charlette McQuilkin	McKinley S	Mary Kay Adams	Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch / open
19	Steve & Pat Humphreys	Emory J	Betsy Glendye	Communion
26	Tommy & Betsy Glendye	Phoenix J	Emily Heatwole	1 st Sunday of Lent / Peggy Wurst



Finance Reports: prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer

<i>Account Balances</i> as of Dec. 31, 2022	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Money Market</i>	<i>Payroll</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Ed. Jones</i> (for stock gifts)
	\$ 47,837.25	\$ 56,251.36	\$ 1,513.65	\$ 1,872.65	\$ 17.90

Totals as of 12/31/2022	
Income	\$ 130,993.02
Expense	\$ 127,606.78
Difference	\$ 3,386.24

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2022

- Youth Event Fund: \$4,793.26
(monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$576.70
(monies reside in Operating Account)
- Memorial Fund: \$51,458.10
(monies reside in Money Market)

Giving Statements for 2022 were mailed January 24th. Contact Sally if you have questions or if you have not received a letter/statement.

Session News



Office Hours

For decades, the office hours for the Church Secretary have been five weekday mornings, September through May, then changing for the summer months to four days until 1:00 p.m. In an effort to maintain consistency, the Session approved **changing the Church Secretary hours to Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm year-round**. This means that the church office will be closed on Fridays. This change will go into effect on Monday, February 6, 2023.

-Gretchen Collins, Resource Chair



A Note from Pastor Kate

The end of 2022 and January of 2022 were, for me at least, a little chaotic. It is just now, as the season of Epiphany draws to a close, that I am settling into a strong sense of new beginnings. The leadership of the congregation is taking new shape with the call of new elders and the shifting of some committee oversight. Spiritual Life is planning a meaningful Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. New partnerships with our neighboring congregations are giving new reach to mission efforts. I can feel the entire congregation stretching and growing. Your willingness to test your flexibility, try new things (even at the risk of failing!), and to participate in some tough conversations is a joy to witness. BPC really is a special group of disciples! I can't wait to see what blossoms next.

+Pastor Kate

March All Church Chat: March 5 - Resources Needed for a Search

Save the Date - Saturday, April 1 - Serving Open Doors

We will be serving dinner to the guests of Open Doors while they are sheltered at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Plan now to be a part of this special moment for mission to those experiencing homelessness in our area. More details coming in March.

The mission of Open Doors is to provide shelter, compassionate support and access to services for those who are experiencing homelessness in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community. It is a 'low-barrier' emergency shelter, meaning all who are homeless and over the age of 18 are welcome when they have nowhere else to go. Open Doors has partnerships with other community organizations, to ensure that all guests receive the required services including the Suitcase Clinic, which provides in-house services to guests each Wednesday evening.

In mid-2022, the City of Harrisonburg purchased the former Shenandoah Presbytery property and announced that the grounds would be home to the City's first permanent low-barrier shelter. Construction will occur in a phased approach, with an estimated operational date of November 2023. Until then, Open Doors continues a rotating model through the '22-'23 thermal season.



The children recently joined in *recycled storytelling*. This fun idea came from a book found in the nursery several years back. Can you guess the story?



Left to Right:
Phoenix Johnson, Blaze Johnson & Emory Johnson

It isn't hard to find lots of smiles at Smiley's Ice Cream!
Join the fun Feb. 16th at 3:30



Mizells, Chewnings, Rees,
Eichlins, Pat Humphreys &
Pastor Kate all came!



That's Judy & David Rees'
Grandson, Theodore





Jesus calls us:
By thy mercies, Savior,
may we hear thy call;
Give our hearts
to thine obedience;
Serve and love thee
best of all.

Written by Cecil Frances Alexander
Anglo-Irish hymnwriter and poet
(four in our hymnal!)
Read more about her at:

[Cecil Frances Alexander - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecil_Frances_Alexander)

Got a door that is
dragging the
floor? Just call
Chewning &
Glendye
Maintenance
Services
(&Tackle Shop)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 Choir	2	3	4
<i>5th after Epiphany</i> 5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 All Church Chat	6	7 4:30 TOPS	8 Sally leaves at 11:30 7:00 Choir	9	Office closed 10 6 pm Emory's cello recital	11
<i>6th after Epiphany</i> 12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Souper Bowl of Caring & 2¢-a- Meal offerings  11:30 Soup & Sandwich luncheon	13	14 11:30 a.m. Friends Café 4:30 TOPS	15 7:00 Choir	 16 3:30 Meet at Smiley's 6:30 Session	Office closed 17	18 8:30 AM Men eat at Bob-a-Rea's
<i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> 19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Shepherds Gathering	20 Presidents' Day	21 4:30 TOPS	<i>Ash</i> 22 <i>Wednesday</i> 7:00 Choir	23	Office closed 24	25
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	27 Newsletter deadline	28 Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery 4:30 TOPS	MAR. 1 6:00 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Choir	2	Office closed 3 World Day of Prayer YARD SALE SET UP?	4 YARD SALE 7—NOON
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 All Church Chat	6	7 4:30 TOPS	8 6:00 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Choir	9	Office closed 10	11

A Few Items from Sally in the church Office:

- ⇒ If you like the blue weekly envelopes and want to continue using them I've altered some unused ones. Contact me if you would like a set. There are generic 'welcome' envelopes in the pews, too, just be sure to write your name on it.
- ⇒ **SNOW**— If Rockingham County Schools are closed or late due to weather, the church office is also closed/open late.
- ⇒ **THANK YOU** to the Session for making the church office hours consistent year round. Just stating them again: The church office should be open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The office will be closed every Friday. There will be times I need to leave early - such as Wednesday, Feb. 8th when my church secretaries group meets. Thank you all for giving me that time for 'professional development.'
- ⇒ If you would be interested in helping proof-read Session minutes before they are reviewed by Presbytery in March, give me a shout!

