

The SPOTLIGHT

Bridgewater Presbyterian Church

November
2023

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Thanksgiving Meals

Our 12th year! BPC continues our tradition of providing a Thanksgiving meal to several needy families with children at Pence Middle School. The counselors have identified

8 families (21 adults and 20 children)
as the recipients this year.

Find sign-up posters on the kiosk if you can provide certain items. The menu is traditional — turkey, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and desserts. As always, monetary donations will allow

us to purchase fresh items (butter, milk, etc.) and fill any gaps. Write 'Thanksgiving Meals' on the memo line of your check. Find a designated tab on our online giving page, too.

Our delivery date is Monday, November 20th before 10:00 a.m. Boxes and help with packing & delivery are needed as well. If you have questions or can volunteer, call/text Brett Johnson at

Thank You for Giving your generous support to this Mission effort!

Sunday, Nov. 5
Fall Back Breakfast
9:00 a.m.

The MEN are cooking what is always an exceptional culinary experience. You'll have an extra hour that morning so rise, shine and enjoy the fellowship.



Sunday, Nov. 12
2¢-a-Meal Pour-In

Share just 2¢ for every meal you consume to support the regional hunger efforts of Shenandoah Presbytery (75%) and assist folks in our own backyard through Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry (25%).



Sunday, Nov. 19
All Church Chat
with Pastor Kate
11:30

Stay after worship to hear a report from the Resource Team and join in a time of Financial Discernment. Snacks will be provided.



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Next Session
meeting is
Thursday,
November 16th
6:30 p.m.

*Transitional
Pastor:*

Rev.
**Kate
Rascoe**

The Story of Jesus' & The Story of the People of God



The crown, a symbol of royal authority, represents Jesus, the King of Kings. It can also symbolize the "crown of glory," the eternal reward that faithful Christians receive in heaven (see 1 Peter 5:4). Three crowns are often used to represent the wise men who traveled from the East in search of the baby Jesus.

Come to worship on Christ the King Sunday, November 26th, to experience "The Crowning of the Church Year," a journey through the seasons with scripture, music, color and symbolism.

Member Care

Just Married!! Congratulations to...

...**Cleve and Susie (Nalker) Benedict** who were united in marriage on ...at St. James Episcopal Church in Lewisburg, WV. Their address is Susie is keeping her BRC unit for convenience and her email is still



...**Luke and Katie (McElroy) Morgan** who were united in marriage on ...2023, at The American Hotel Banquet Hall in Staunton. Luke works for the finance department of Harrisonburg City as a Grants and Programs Analyst. Katie is a Behavior Technician in Augusta County Schools and is currently enrolled in Mary Baldwin University's ABA and Autism Studies Graduate Program.

"A good marriage is the union of two forgivers."
-Ruth Bell Graham

Spiritual Life

Our annual **All Saints' Observance** is Sunday, November 5th. During worship, you'll be invited to share the name(s) of loved ones who have died in the past year. Spiritual Life is providing a flower arrangement in memory of these BPC members and friends:

Janet Sonifrank— December 14, 2022

Ray Mundsinger— February 2, 2023

Sam Dagen— February 20, 2023

Mike Burke— August 8, 2023

All Saints' Day

"But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever."

DANIEL 7:18, NIV

Christian Education

The Children & Youth are *Celebrating Wonder* each week. Through characters in Genesis they are learning to fight fear with faith & joy and seeking God's blessings always. They meet in a corner of the Fellowship Hall

Adults continue a discussion of *Job*, examining how to trust God under all circumstances. *"We must trust God, not only WHEN we do not understand, but BECAUSE we do not understand."* They meet in the partitioned area of the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School Classes start at 9:30

ADULT Schedule		CHILDREN
Date	Leader(s) & Passage	Teacher
5	No class	No class
12	Glendyes - Job 25—31	Pam Bailey
19	MJ Chewning - Job 32— 37	Pam Bailey
26	Florences - Job 38—42	Pam Bailey

Birthdays

Carolina Rascoe
Gracie Florence
Austin Walker
Ellie Enterline
Bill Florence
Sean Eichlin
Dick Eichlin
Carroll Chewning
Lance Rees
Cheryl Burke
Mike Bocock

**Anniversaries**

11 Bobby & Hillary Fields (')

**Book Group's Next Read**

"Uncommon Type: Some Stories"
by Tom Hanks.

Join the discussion on Monday,
December 4th, at 7:00 p.m., at the
home of Beth Smith. []

**Men Meet
for Breakfast**

All males are invited to
breakfast at **Village Inn** on
the **3rd Saturday** of each
month at 8:30 a.m.

All ages and guests are
welcome. Our next date:
Nov. 18th at 8:30 a.m.

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

**Our Building
as a Blessing**

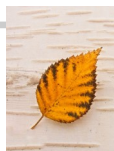
A reminder that others
use our building during the
week:

- **TOPS** meets every Tuesday
from 4:30-6:00 p.m. They
have permission to hold an
"open house" on Tuesday,
November 7th and will be
here from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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

**Backpacks**

Thank you for your faithful gener-
osity to this mission that feeds
children in our school
district. We are pack-
ing 10 bags each week.

**Worship at
White Birch**

Pastor Kate is leading
this month (1 week early).
George Anderson is playing piano.
Everyone can join in the service,
held in the dining hall at 1:30 p.m.



Meet at
**Smiley's on
Wednesday,
November 15th
at 4:00 p.m.**



VETERANS DAY, which is November 11th each year, is a holiday to honor Amer-
ica's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our na-
tion's common good. **Thank you** to all the men and women who served or are now
serving our country and we give special recognition to these members of BPC who
have worn, or are wearing, a uniform:

Navy: Dick Eichlin, George Anderson, Tom Mizell, Bill Gardner, Bill Gamble, Kristen Glendye

Air Force: Ed Sonifrank, Bill Florence

Army: Dick Wurst, Gary Adams, Steve Humphreys, Kyle Eichlin

Marines: J.C. Enterline, Jacob Simon



	Ushering and Greeting share duties with one at each door	Acolyte/ Bell Ringer	Lay Leader	Highlight /Flowers
5	David & Judy Rees	Emory	Judy Rees	Fall Back Breakfast & All Saints' Day
12	Steve & Pat Humphreys	Phoenix	Gracie Florence	2¢-a-Meal Offering
19	David & Charlette McQuilkin	Emory	Charlette McQuilkin	All Church Chat after worship—snack provided
26	Emily H. & Gracie F.	Phoenix	Emily Heatwole	Christ the King Sunday

Turkey Tacos, Fried Rice, and Asian Coleslaw

by MJ Chewning

Seven members of BPC recently traveled to Our Community Place, or OCP, in downtown Harrisonburg, to enjoy fellowship and lunch at their weekly *Friday Lunch Restaurant*.

What makes this place unique is that the restaurant workers are **homeless**.

Business was brisk with mostly regular patrons and some first timers keeping the OCP workers pretty busy. Discussions at our table centered on the unique murals and artwork displayed, and on trying to discern between who was homeless, who was a volunteer, and who was staff. Holly, our waitress, said she had been there 6 years. Symone took time to introduce herself and answer any questions. In addition, she told of her own journey from homelessness to college to being on staff. She also mentioned a few of the many items they could use such as large shampoos, bars of soap, toothbrushes, and soon hats and gloves.



OCP's vision is to be a community of hope that breaks down barriers and creates a safe, empowering environment where people can achieve their life goals, including joy, positive relationships, affordable housing, and sustainable work. Check out their website to learn more - ourcommunityplace.org.

All in all, we had a great time and hope to plan another trip in the future!

Deciding to be Grateful — a reflection by Henri Nouwen

Gratitude is the most fruitful way of deepening your consciousness that you are not an “accident,” but a divine choice. It is important to realize how often we have had chances to be grateful and have not used them. When someone is kind to us, when an event turns out well, when a problem is solved, a relationship restored, a wound healed, there are very concrete reasons to offer thanks: be it with words, with flowers, with a letter, a card, a phone call, or just a gesture of affection. . . . Every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for. Gratitude begets gratitude, just as love begets love.

*A Note from
Pastor Kate*

Scripture and religious tradition abound with reminders to show gratitude.

Psalms 30:4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Perhaps the repetition should be a sign to us: thankfulness does not come naturally, it is a practice that must be cultivated. November seems to be as good a month as any to encourage the spiritual practice of saying thanks. Not only does it include the holiday of Thanksgiving, it also is jammed with days we don't often view graciously: days with less sunlight, colder weather, elections, the oncoming crush of holiday “spirit”, and the everyday sorrows of broken relationships, illness, war, poverty, climate catastrophes...

Feeling grateful? Right. Gratitude is a practice that must be cultivated.

The glimmer of good news is that this is not tricky. Just choose a simple thing and say “thank you” for it. It can be directed at the person who held the door open. You can say thanks to your spouse for doing the dishes (yes, even if it was their turn!). Say, “thanks, God!” when the sun shines or you are able to turn left without difficulty. As author Henri Nouwen says, “Every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for.” I encourage us all to look beyond what weighs on us to what is good. As we focus on that light, we may find there is more to be grateful for than we imagined.

+Pastor Kate

Resource & Stewardship

**STEWARDSHIP WRAP UP — from Mary Kay Adams**

October 1 was Commitment Sunday and Stewardship Celebration. What a celebration we had! The four-week exploration and reflection on our personal commitments to the Lord and our church culminated in an inspiring worship service with Communion led by Pastor Kate and musicians Lacey and the choir, followed by a delicious potluck meal.

Several people committed their time and talents to the Lord's service in 2024; elders are contacting them to put their skills to good use.

32 households returned commitment cards which were blessed during the service. Pledges for next year total **\$119,134**. This unusually high level of financial commitment has caught the attention of Session. Your elders are excited to dream about ways to enhance the work we do here at BPC, in the community, and in the world. Your generosity and dedication will make many things possible. **Thank you for prayerfully considering how to answer God's call in your life and for generously sharing your gifts with us here at BPC!**

I am grateful to this year's stewardship team – Judy Rees, Tom Mizell, Jim Enterline, and Pastor Kate – who all provided strong support, energy, wisdom, and much creativity. Their fine work truly made a positive impact on stewardship season. It was an honor to work with them. **Thank you, team!** —Mary Kay Adams

**RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE**

You did it BPC! In only four months, you raised **\$59,663**! This amount covers the entire cost of the roof replacement and still provides additional money to maintain our beloved historic building. Because of you, our ministry will continue for years to come in a safe environment that is secure from the elements. Additionally, we accomplished this without obtaining a loan. **Thank you for what you did to make this possible!!!** We are humbled and deeply grateful for the loving support of your immediate response to our request for help, for your amazing and sacrificial generosity, and for your encouragement and enthusiasm throughout the campaign. Our church is richly blessed by YOU!

Kudos to the fabulous concert performers who donated their talents and raised \$2,315 (included in the total amount above). Bravo! The talented crew: Blaze (greeter/usher), Emory, Phoenix, Lacey, and Brett Johnson (technical support); Lucy Weston and Bill Gardner; Mary Kay Adams; Bev Carver (emcee); and friends Brenda Seal, Brent Holl, Rebecca Hunter, Christa Hoover, and Sharon Miller. **Special thanks to the amazing celebration reception committee:** Dana Eichlin (chair), Pam Bailey, and Betsy Glendye.

The RAISE THE ROOF Campaign is Officially Over!

Finance Reports: prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer



<i>Account Balances</i> as of September 30, 2023	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Money Market</i>	<i>Payroll</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Ed. Jones</i> (for stock gifts)
	\$ 47,230.46	\$ 18,944.11	\$ 2,150.21	\$ 1,250.23	\$ 0.00

Totals as of 9/30/23	
Income	\$ 89,172.24
Expense	\$101,172.13
Difference	\$ 11,999.99

Fund Balances as of September 30, 2023

- Youth Event Fund: \$5,291.93 (monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$1,173.17 (monies reside in Operating Account)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3:00 Raise the Roof concert THANK YOU to everyone who contributed in any way to these two events. Check out the photos on the next 4 pages!		Trunk-or-Treat 	1 7:00 Choir	2 2-3 pm Walk to End Alzheimer's BRC's Oasis	3 Office closed	Presbytery 4 at Opequon Turn Clocks Back 1 hour
<i>All Saints' Day</i> 5 9:00 Fall Back Breakfast NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:30 White Birch	6	<i>Election Day</i> 7 3:30 to 7:00 TOPS Open house in Fellowship Hall	8 7:00 Choir	9 6:30 Spiritual Life	10 Office closed	11
<i>2¢-a-Meal Offering</i> 12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13	14 4:30 TOPS	4:00 at  15 <u>Smiley's</u> 7:00 Choir	16 6:30 Session	17 Office closed	18 8:30 AM Men eat at Village Inn
<i>Bless T'giving Meals</i> 19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship All Church Chat after worship	20 Deliver Meals to Pence	21 4:30 TOPS 7:00 Choir	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	24 Office closed	25
<i>Christ the King</i> 26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	27	28 4:30 TOPS	29 7:00 Choir	30	DEC. 1 Office closed	2
<i>First Advent</i> 3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion Hanging of the Greens	4 7:00 Book Group at Beth Smith's	5 4:30 TOPS	6 7:00 Choir	7	8 Office closed	9 5:00 pm Christmas Parade

A Few Items from Sally in the Church Office:

- ♦ Pastor Kate will be away November 23—26.
- ♦ The Office is closed for Thanksgiving on November 23 & 24.
- ♦ THANK YOU to the many folks who tended the grass during the summer and are tackling the leaves as they fall.



Session News: Shenandoah Presbytery is meeting November 4th at Opequon Church near Winchester. Joe Crockett is serving as our Elder Commissioner.

Peace & Global Witness Offering totaled \$295!

THANK YOU for your generosity to the world-wide peace-making efforts of PCUSA. We have sent 40% of your gifts to aid the victims of the fires in Hawaii through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. -Brett J.



- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they "let it go" and in the spring they "turn over a new leaf."
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.