

*I love you
without knowing how,
or when,
or from where . . .*

July 30, 2023

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

Pastor – Rev. Sarah Wiles
Director of Music & Organist – Alice Brooks Sanders
Director of Music – Dr. Larry Wyatt
Director of Children & Youth Ministries – Susan Hunter
Coordinator of Church Life – Sarah Windes
Office Manager – Rhonda Waller
Parish Associate – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Campus Minister, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech – Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter
Virginia Tech Campus Outreach Minister – Rev. Kathy Carpenter
Mission Partner in Malawi – Dr. Arie Glas
Mission Partners in the Philippines – Cobbie Palm & Dessa Quesada-Palm
Mission Partners in Guatemala – Betsey & Eric Moe

Service is also livestreamed and is available at www.blacksburgpres.org.

If you are new to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and would like more information or to join our email list, please contact the church office at 540-552-2504 or email bpc@blacksburgpres.org.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 30, 2023

❖ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ❖

Thought for Meditation:

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where,
I love you directly without problems or pride:
I love you like this because I don't know any other way to love,
except in this form in which I am not nor are you,
so close that your hand upon my chest is mine,
so close that your eyes close with my dreams. – Pablo Neruda

Prelude: "Après un rêve"

Charlie Wyatt, cello

Gabriel Fauré

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Sarah Wiles & Sarah Windes

Centering Music: "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place"

Larry Wyatt, cantor

Lanny Wolfe

(Cantor sings once, joined by congregation the second time.)

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings;
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

❖ **Call to Worship**

William Ducker

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

**We need not look up to find God,
we need only look around:
within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

We need not listen for distant thunder to find God,
we need only listen to the music of life,
the words of children,
the questions of the curious,
the rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

❖ **Hymn 681:** "This is the Day the Lord Hath Made"

NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET EHR'

**This is the day the Lord hath made;
the hours are all God's own.
Let heaven rejoice; let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne.**

**Hosanna to the anointed King,
to David's holy Son!
Help us, O Lord; descend and bring
salvation from the throne.**

**Blest be the Lord, who comes in power
with messages of grace,
who comes in this accepted hour
to save our sinful race.**

**Hosanna in the highest strains
the church on earth can raise!
The highest heavens in which God reigns
shall now resound with praise.**

❖ **Psalm of the Day**

This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

It is good to give thanks to God;
God's goodness will last forever.

Open the gates of righteousness
that I may praise my Maker.

I thank you, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

This is the work of God;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Deliver us, God, we pray;
supply our deepest needs.

Light has shone on our darkness:
celebrate this in the house of prayer.

You are my God, I give you thanks;
offering praise and worship.

This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Call to Confession: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 475 (v. 3)

**O to grace how great a debtor
 daily I'm constrained to be!**

**Let that grace now, like a fetter,
 bind my wandering heart to thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 prone to leave the God I love;
 here's my heart; O take and seal it;
 seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayer of Confession

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

❖ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of 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

Sarah Windes

(Children in 1st grade age and up are invited to remain in the sanctuary. Children in kindergarten or younger may stay in the sanctuary or go downstairs to God's Garden or the nursery for nurturing and care. Please complete a sign-in sticker for each child.)

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit,

You're present all the time.

**Awaken us to that reality,
 so that we may**

see you,

feel you,

know you,

follow you. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 24, selected verses

For the Wisdom of God in scripture,
for the Wisdom of God among us,
for the Wisdom of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon: Gracious Love

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Hymn 19:** "God of Great and God of Small"

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea,
God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power,
yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound,
God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night,
God whose love turns wrong to right,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth,
God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before,
God who reigns forevermore,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.
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Call to Offering

Offertory: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

set by Daniel Burton

❖ **Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

❖ **Hymn 703:** "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

ST. CATHERINE

Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

❖ **Benediction**

Postlude: "Nooksack River Psalms No. 1"

Frederick Frahm

And while they dance, people sing:

"The source of my life comes from you." --Psalm 87:7, CEB



Citations: Call to Worship from *Touch Holiness*. Psalm adaptation from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

This is a space for everyone. No matter who you are, no matter what your story is, no matter what--you are welcome here. May this be a time where your breathing slows, your heart opens, and you connect with the Holy One. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to explore some of what happens in the life and ministry of this community.

Serving: **Church Opener:** Tom Pospichal

Ushers: Ben, Helen, and Clara Corl; Jack Call; and Jennifer Grover

Elder Serving Refreshments: Paula Stith

The flowers for the sanctuary today were provided by Anne Wright to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Larry Wright.

Nursery and God's Garden Sign-in Stickers (one per child): Complete information about each child and parent(s) on the sign-in sticker.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available. Speak to an usher to use them for the worship service.

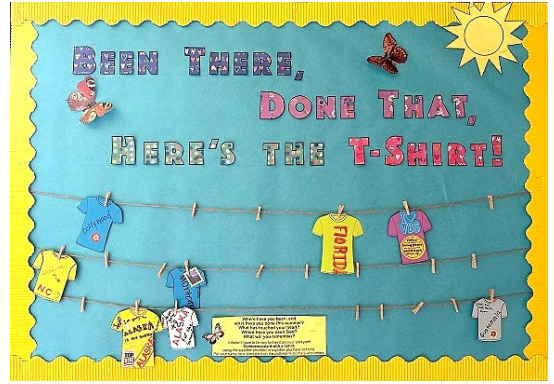
You can send prayer requests for Prayers of the People in Sunday worship and/or to be added to the *MidWeek Update* and website prayer list to Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

Text or QR Code to Give: To give by text, send keyword **bpcva** and an amount to phone number **77977** (e.g., bpcva 20). If it is your first time, there will be a brief registration process. To give via QR code, use the camera app on your phone and follow instructions. Thank you for your support of BPC's ministry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Moments of Grace: Celebrate something you have done, people you have seen, a place you have been or a moment of rest or beauty this summer by decorating a small paper t-shirt to commemorate it. Check out the BPC Community Bulletin Board as you enter the Gathering Space from the stairway. Stickers, markers and other supplies are provided for decorating your t-shirt (several colors to choose from). Be sure and put your name on it before you hang it on the line!



Next meeting of the Interfaith Reading Group will be Sunday, 08/06/23 at 4:00 pm. Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1301 Gladewood Dr. We will discuss chapters 5 and 6 of *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel Mikva.

'I'm Gonna' Sing When the Spirit Says Sing . . . and Ring When the Spirit Says Ring!

Announcing a potluck for ringers and singers--"newbies and oldbies" invited!

It's time to begin tuning your vocal chords for adult choir and your wrists for handbell choir. All who have an interest are welcome. We will start the year with a potluck and social **gathering on Wednesday, August 16th, at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share. (A simple bag of potato chips counts!) This is your opportunity to meet and welcome Alice Sanders, hear about her plans for the choirs, and share your input. Spouses are welcome to attend. If you have friends who might be interested in singing or ringing, please share this invitation with them!

So, whether you are a long-time member or are just curious about playing bells or singing, please join us to see what has kept some of us involved for so long. We love to welcome new folks!

If you want more information before we meet, Alice will be happy to answer questions (alice@blacksburgpres.org). The first rehearsals for each group will be **Wednesday, August 23rd: 5:30 for bells and 7:00 for choir**. We hope you join us!



Support the Baby Shop - Specific Donations Needed! The Baby Shop gives a book to each child, from birth to age 6, who receives items from the shop. They are running low and would appreciate your **donation of gently used books**. They are also in need of **pajamas in size 5**. Please place donations in the Baby Shop collection box across from Hatcher Conference Room near the church offices. The Baby Shop serves low-income families with clothing, diapers, shampoo, etc., once every six weeks. Additional Baby Shop shortages can be viewed by clicking the Baby Shop Needs List on Amazon below. Choosing the Baby Shop's gift registry address when checking out allows direct delivery to the shop. For more details, you can email Elva, a Baby Shop volunteer, at elva.miller@comcast.net.

Amazon link for the Baby Shop Needs List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Z4AWVK2TLKOB?ref_=wl_share

THIS WEEK

FH-Fellowship Hall, **HCR**-Hatcher Conference Room,
WM-Westminster, **SNC**-Sanctuary, **GS**-Gathering Space

Sun., July 30:

- 10:30 am: Worship Service, SNC

Mon., July 31:

- 5:30-8:00 pm: Hildegard Circle Potluck Social, Martha Dillard's home (270 Ross Lane, New Castle, VA)

Tues., Aug. 1:

- 9:30-2:00 pm: Quilters, FH

Thur., Aug. 3:

- 5:00-6:00 pm: Thursday Hangout Hour at Rising Silo Brewery (2351 Glade Rd). Feel free to show up at the meeting time or contact the church office.

Fri., Aug. 4:

- 5:00 pm: First Fridays Peace Vigil, downtown post office, 118 N. Main St., Bburg

Sun., Aug. 6: Communion Sunday

- 10:30: Worship Service, SNC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thur., Aug. 10:

- 3:30-4:30 pm: AIM meeting, Zoom

Wed., Aug. 16:

- 6:00 pm: Choir Potluck Social Gathering, FH. See announcements for details.

Thur., Aug. 17:

- 4:00 pm: Community Ministries meeting, Zoom

Sat., Aug. 19:

- 2:00 pm: Memorial Service for Evelyn Wolf with reception to follow. WM & FH.

Wed., Aug. 23:

- 5:30 pm: Handbells rehearsal resumes, FH
- 7:00: Choir rehearsal resumes, choir room

Sat., Aug. 26:

- 4:00-6:30 pm: Dialogue on Race Summer Summit, Christiansburg Huckleberry Park, 300 Peppers Ferry Rd., NW. For more info: thecommunitygroup.org

Sun., Aug. 27:

- 4:00-6:00 pm: End-of-Summer Shindig, Nellie's Cave Park. More details to come.

Sun., Sept. 10: Kick-Off Sunday!

- 9:00 am: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults begins. More details to come.
- 10:30: Worship Service. Season of Creation begins and will continue through the next two Sundays. More details to come.

Sun., Sept. 17:

- 3:00 pm: Mark your calendar! Music for Mission Series begins with its first concert: Geoffrey Heard, violinist, and Anna Petrova, pianist, SNC (free admission with offering taken to support local community ministries). More details to come.