

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.



Grace and peace! All are welcome here!

Embodying the Love of Christ, we are joyfully called to be a church in the heart of Black Mountain where the welcome never ends! We seek to share the love of Jesus Christ by inspiring worship and faith formation, nurturing authentic relationships, equipping disciples to serve, and being a welcoming and inclusive community to all.

We invite all to join us on the journey!



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

Please silence all communication devices. This sanctuary incorporates a hearing assistance loop; to engage this system, set hearing aids to the “t-coil” setting.
† indicates to stand, if you are able. The congregation is invited to join in where the liturgy is marked in bold.



BELL PEAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Katherine Robinson

VOLUNTARY

Nocturn on Adeste Fideles

Charles Callahan

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

† CALL TO WORSHIP

○ God of creation, who was before there was . . .

**We gather to praise your holy name
and to celebrate the revelation of yourself to us.**

○ God of light and life, who was before there was . . .

**It is through your true Light that we are able to see
the truth of your saving love.**

○ God of silence and sound, who was before there was . . .

**We thank you for your eternal Word,
who speaks to us in our acts of worship.**

○ God of time and eternity, who was before there was . . .

Come afresh, come anew, come again, come now.

O come, O come, Immanuel!

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carter Florence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We could offer welcome,
but we often choose judgment.
We could choose action,
but we often choose silence.
We could choose advocacy,
but we often choose comfort.
We could choose truth,
but we often choose ignorance.
We could choose God,
but we often choose ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for the moments when we chose poorly.
Open our hearts to choose you,
to choose community, to choose love.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe this good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† RESPONSE TO PARDON *O Holy Child of Bethlehem*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:1-18

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN NO. 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

**Offertory *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow/John Marks**

† **The Doxology**

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

† **Prayer of Dedication**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN NO. 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

While we sing this hymn, you are invited to come forward
with your 5 Cents A Meal offering for hunger relief in our community.

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† CHORAL BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

† VOLUNTARY

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Wilbur Held



Connect with us on our website: bmpcnc.org

Visitors: let us know of your interest or questions about BMPC.

Members: share prayer requests, pastoral concerns, or updated contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Kim Wood Colby, Johnnie Wood's daughter, hospitalized while being treated for leukemia

Family and friends of Candy Donnell who died on December 13

Jim Elam, recovering from surgery at home

Rejoice with Neil and Cathy McMillan at the birth of their great-grandson, Ian Immanuel,
on December 19 in Germany.

Elissa Suzanne, daughter of Barbara Gaw and Paul Willison, prayers for healing of cancer

Joe Standaert, cancer treatments

Leigh Stiles, Robin and Tom Stiles' daughter-in-law, entered God's church triumphant December 18

Our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: **John McCall** in Taiwan;

Dan & Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar; Outreach Foundation: **Frank Dimmock**;

Seminary Students: **Emily Beaver**, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia;

Levi Bannerman, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia;

Susie Burns, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina;

Our partner Presbytery and partner church, Ebenezer, in Guatemala

Please remember in prayer these people with ongoing concerns:

Nada Barnett, Ron Botsford, Chad Carlton, Paul Carreiro, Sandy Cheatham,

Jane Collins, Ellen Gibson, Doris Hogle, Becky Hughes, Eleanor Landers, Mary McElrath,

Jerry Newbold, Margaret Rada, Betty Rand, Penny Sampson, Renee & Charles Sandy,

Callie Shaffer, Richard Speegle, Katherine Stanley, Heath Tuttle,

Paul Willison, Barbara & Gene Witherspoon, Jack Wynn

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.

Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Prayer of the week composed by Joe Walker

WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Greeters Hospitality & Welcome • **Welcome Table** Rosie Johnson

Bus Driver Dave McClintock • **Head Usher** Perry Sprawls

Sunday, December 26

ONE SERVICE ONLY

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 27

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 28

Church office closed

Wednesday, December 29

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 30

3:30 p.m. Caregiver Group

Friday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Church office closed

Saturday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. FirstLight Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

As this year comes to a close, it is important that we remember how essential our financial contributions are for the church's life and ministry. **Please sacrificially and prayerfully consider what your year-end giving will be to ensure that Black Mountain Presbyterian Church fulfills all of our commitments.**

The IRS requires donations be received (or postmarked) by December 31 to receive credit on your 2021 Contribution Statement. The church has installed a secure dropbox-style mailbox next to the belltower for last minute dropoffs. If you would like to give stock, please contact Sam Webber (sam@bmpcnc.org) for more information.

new book group begins January 11

A book group focused on Southern literature, led by Annie Hall and Carolyn Crowder, will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The group will begin with the work of Flannery O'Connor. Sign up with Trudy Winstead (gswinstead@aol.com)

Our Church's Vision

Embodying the Love of Christ

Inspiring through Worship and Faith Formation • Nurturing through Fellowship
Equipping to Serve • Welcoming to All

Session

Mike Ballard, clerk

Class of 2021
Liesl Case
Dave Johnson
Deb Mullis
Bill Straughan

Class of 2022
Ellen Begley
Austin Brown
Daniel Wiggs
Cheryl Wilson

Class of 2023
Alison Banzhoff
Gay Ferguson
Jonathan Kadau
Margo Smith
Tommy Wilkinson

Deacons

Class of 2021
Yvette Ballard
Carey Jo Elam
Kiersten & Weston Hall
Franklin Harris
Cathy & Neil McMillan
Gayle & Peter Mudge
Kay & Mike Salmon
Margaret Waterstradt

Class of 2022
Susan & Ernie Banzhoff
Kay & Jim Layman
Susan McElrath
Mary & Don McMahill
Martha Jane Petersen
Delores Spielman
Janine & Russ Spiller

Class of 2023
Karen Austin
Alex Carver & Joe Carreiro
Edie & Joe Covert
Margaret Fouse & Craig Cooley
Diane Ginther
Jeannie Maidment
Margie Stansell

Ministers: Every Member Of The Congregation

Mary Katherine Robinson Pastor/Head of Staff
David Carter Florence Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation
Bob Tuttle Parish Associate
Alice Patton Director of Preschool Ministry
Sam Webber Director of Operations
Brittany Williams Director of Congregational Life and Children's Ministry
Jackie Kerr Director of Communications
Betsy Ray Interim Youth Director
Aaron Price Interim Music Director
Ednae Fisher Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director



QR code
for giving

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road | Black Mountain, NC 28711 | 828-669-2725 | bmpcnc.org



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth

