



THE MESSENGER

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15

APRIL 2024 EDITION

BLACKSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH 240 Watson Avenue Blacksburg, VA 24060 540-552-4810



Well, now we can have the things we gave up for Lent, the eggs have been found and the busyness of Holy Week is over for

this year. As Sarah and I began this work week on Monday, we celebrated a great Lenten season. Thanks be to God first and foremost, but also thanks to all of you for showing up and stepping out in faithful service to God and our church when opportunities have arisen.

This month we enter a new season of transition at BCC; and we welcome aboard a new team member at Blacksburg Christian Church. Linda McMurray will be filling the role vacated at month's end by Sarah St. Jean. Sarah has served this church for over 15 years and will be retiring from her current role as our administrator. She will, however, continue to manage our social media and website remotely. I want to acknowledge that her tenure here at BCC has been as important to the church's mission and ministry as Gary's tenure or mine has been. There have been countless times in my 6 years here when she has made me look a lot better than I actually am just by doing what she does. Sarah truly has a heart for God as is evident by all the things she has done for this church. Words seem inadequate to thank her for her time and service. But I am confident that Linda will keep this momentum going. And we will, Lord willing, add another new team member in a few months as we seek to secure a new Youth Minister. As we enter this new season as a church, I reflect on the words of Hebrews 10:24-25, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but encouraging one another." As we gain new team members, drop them a note, get to know them and wish Sarah well as she embarks upon a new season in her life.

My hope and prayer is that even though Lent and Easter are over and things are changing, your zeal

and love for the Lord and for this church will continue as they have in the past and you will continue to meet together with us as a church family encouraging one another. Our fellowship opportunities are abundant, and I hope that everyone will continue to enjoy the company and fellowship of one another and make those that are new among us feel like family as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Peace,
J.B.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group April schedule

Sun April 7th - Sunday school 10am

Worship 11am

Elementary Youth 6pm

Sun April 14th- Sunday school 10am

Worship 11am

Roanoke Rescue Mission 3pm

Sun April 21st - Sunday school 10am

Worship 11am

Family Activity Hike to Hanging Rock 2pm

Sun April 28th - Sunday school 10am

Worship 11am

No Youth Group

Summer Camp

- Nature Camp - June 23rd - 28th
- **New Covenant - June 23rd - 27th**
- Special Camp - June 30th - July 5th
- CAMPDD (Culinary, Art, Music, Photography, Dance, Drama) July 1st - 6th
- **Triple 1 Camp - July 7th - 12th**
- Triple 2 Camp - July 14th - 19th

Campers from BCC will attend New Covenant Camp and Triple 1 Camp.

Craig Springs Camp Registration is now open! Please go to the following link. When prompted, make sure to indicate that Blacksburg Christian Church will pay 100% of your camp fee. **Please let JB know when you have registered for camp.**

[Click here to register for camp](#)

→ Registration Deadline is May 15th, 2024

2024 Higher Education Scholarship

Any church member or active participant in the church family who is planning to further their education by attending an accredited two-year community college, trade or business school, or four-year college or university for undergraduate or graduate study may apply for the **2024 Blacksburg Christian Church Higher Educational Scholarship by May 1, 2024.** Application forms are available on our website (blacksburgchristian.org) to download, print, and fill out. Or applications may be picked up in the narthex or may be requested through the church office at (540) 552-4810 or blacksburgchristian@gmail.com

Rescue Mission Sunday April 14th at 3pm



Four youth from BCC went to the Rescue Mission on Sunday March 3rd where we served 200 people dinner. Some of us also got to do some cooking, and even a little tasting. The trip was a blessing as always and we enjoyed a pizza dinner on the way home. **Plan to join us Sunday April 14 when we serve again.**

March Game Night



Twenty folks young and old showed up on Saturday March 9th for our Family Game Night. We learned some new games and played some classics. We also enjoyed the best spread of food around, thanks to all who participated and brought their yummy favorites to share.



Youth Sunday

About 12 of our youth led worship on Sunday March 3rd. They led us in prayer, moments with children, song, and scripture. Many thanks to all who participated and thanks to all the parents who made it possible and thanks to all those who attended Youth Sunday worship to support the future of our church.



Vacation Bible School

Cindy Dowdy has agreed to serve as our 2024 VBS Director! Thank you, Cindy!
Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School on **Tuesday June 11th – Friday June 14th in the evenings**. Our theme this year will be **“Breaker Rock Beach – God’s rock-solid truth in a world of shifting sands”**.

Easter Egg Hunt

Over 50 folks showed up for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 30th. We enjoyed pizza and chips and then hunted for what seemed to be thousands of eggs. After all the eggs were found, the kids enjoyed taste-testing all the candy found inside the eggs. A good time was had by all participants - young and old. Thanks to the crew who stuffed all the eggs with candy, and thanks to all the older youth who helped hide the eggs and all the adults who helped serve food.



See Cindy Dowdy soon to volunteer your time, gifts, and talents to serve during the week of VBS!

Registration will be open

**Monday April 15th –
Sunday June 2nd**

Keep a look out on our website.

April Family Activity

**Hike to the Hanging Rock Raptor
Observatory**

Sunday April 21st 2pm

We'll leave the church at 2pm and drive about an hour to the parking area. Then a one-mile hike from the Hanging Rock parking area will take us to the raptor observatory, sitting high atop Peters Mountain on the Eastern Continental Divide. From this vantage point, visitors have a 360-degree view of the surrounding areas and an eye-level view of migrating raptors. The site is situated along a popular, southern migration path so raptor

viewing is best in the autumn, but the hike and the view are great all year long. This trip is "Weather Permitting". We'll stop for supper in Pembroke on our way back to the church and return by about 7pm. Please sign up at the link below if you plan to go.

[Click here](#) to sign up for the hike



Spring Trip to Carowinds Saturday May 11th 7am – 7/8pm

The church family is heading to Carowinds Amusement Park in Charlotte, NC for the day on Saturday May 11th. We'll meet in the church parking lot to caravan and carpool together at 7am. We'll stop for a group photo before heading into the park for the day. The church will provide group rate discounted tickets. Please bring money for lunch and supper (note the park is cashless). Let's fellowship and have fun building friendships spending the day together.

[Click this link for information about the park](#) and what to bring etc.

You must register for tickets on our website. Click the link below. (Deadline to register is Monday April 22nd)

[Click here for Carowinds tickets](#)

WORSHIP NEWS

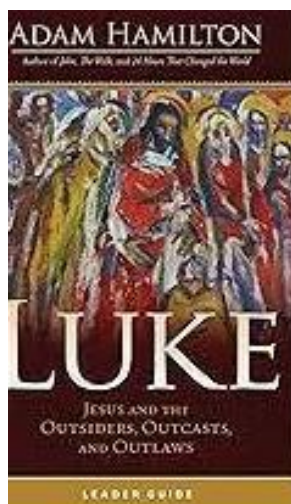
Next Board meeting:
Sunday April 21st
@ noon

Elders' Meeting
Monday April 8th
6pm

Notes from March 24th Board Meeting

Bank Balance as of 3/21/2024	\$ 133,347.10
Edward Jones Account 2/23/24	\$1,341,246.59
Total Membership	403
Participating Membership	329
Non-Participating Membership	74
Average worship attendance in Feb	122
Average worship attendance in Mar	127

Brown Bag Bible Study



Our next Brown Bag Bible Study will begin Wednesday April 10th at 6pm. We'll study Adam Hamilton's book on the gospel of Luke titled "Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws". Jesus came to uplift the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

This study will run for 6 weeks. (We will not meet on April 26th). The study will conclude on Wednesday May 22nd. After that, we'll take a break over the summer and begin again with a new study in September.

Please plan to join us for the next 6 weeks!

Maundy Thursday



Forty-five folks showed up to partake in our Maundy Thursday simple meal of beans, corn bread, slaw, and cookies. Fifty-five people joined us for worship during which we walked through the final hours of Jesus' life ending with a

foreshadowing of his crucifixion. Thank you to all who participated in the meal and worship, and thanks to all who brought corn bread and desserts, and thank you to those who helped serve and clean up afterwards. It takes a village!

Easter

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, Jesus rose from the dead and... on this past Easter Sunday some of our finest men rose early enough to make us a breakfast of sausage gravy, sausage, hash browns, apples, and pancakes. About 95 folks showed up to help us eat Easter breakfast and good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Following breakfast, 210 folks joined us for our Resurrection worship service. Special thanks to all who made Easter Day and all the events of Holy Week such a wonderful blessing to all who participated.

Congregational Meeting Sunday April 14th Immediately after worship

There will be a Special Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday April 14th after worship for the purpose of approving the board's recommendation to offer Kerby Dalton the position of Youth Minister.

OUTREACH NEWS

The **Disciples Easter Special Offering** was collected on March 24th and 31st. The total collected was \$1225. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

During March the church family collected groceries with an estimated value of \$562 for the **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously! If you would like to volunteer the first Tuesday of the month between 4 - 5:30pm at the Interfaith Food Pantry please contact Jean Brickey at jbrikey@vt.edu or 540-552-8713.

During April, the Disciples Women's Ministry and the church family will be collecting diapers and children's underwear and socks for the **Valley Interfaith Childcare Center**. There is a table set up in the hallway for your donations. Thank you!

Red Cross Spring Blood Drive Friday April 19th 11am – 5pm



You may make an appointment to be a blood donor, by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=2670>

Or you may contact Robert Metz at mrobert9@vt.edu, or (540-449-1394).

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

March Bus Trip

Fifteen folks set out on the trip to Hamrick's on March 14th. A great morning of shopping was had by all and some much needed and wanted treasures were purchased. Unfortunately, when we got back on the bus, the bus did not cooperate and wouldn't go in gear as it was having mechanical difficulties. Fortunately, our passengers were transported safely back to Blacksburg by James Smith, Gary Smith, Doris Caldwell's daughter-in-law, and the Smart Way Bus! Unfortunately, Robert did not get to go to

K & W but there's always next month. Thanks to all alternate transporters! The bus is now fixed and anxiously awaiting the April bus trip. Due to the difficulties, I was unable to get a picture of this most supportive crew. Thanks to all for their assistance and their patience!

April Bus Trip to WVTF Radio

Thursday April 18th 10am

Ever wonder how radio stations work? how they're set up? how they are funded? Then this is the trip for you! On April 18th at 10am we will head to WVTF radio station in Roanoke for a tour of the station and explanations of how they are completely publicly funded. Afterward, we will again attempt to eat at K&W cafeteria before returning to Blacksburg between 1 and 2pm.

[Click Here to register](#)

Baked Potato Fellowship Lunch



On Sunday March 17th St. Patrick's Day, 84 folks gathered at our Baked Potato Luncheon. The theme was "green". There was everything from Key Lime Pie to green Rice Crispy Treats to green Baby Yoda

deviled eggs and everything was delicious. Thanks to all who participated in this fun creative culinary event and thanks to pastor Gary who baked all the potatoes.

April Old-Fashioned Potluck



Old-fashioned Potluck Supper

Sunday April 14th

Following worship

**Bring a meat dish, side dish, salad,
or dessert to share**

Rolls and Drinks will be provided

[click here](#) to sign up to bring a dish

*Dear Blacksburg Christian Church family,
Thank you for all the love and support during this difficult time. Ronnie loved this church family so much. You have all been such a blessing to our family.*

*Thank you,
Becky Alls and family*

Congratulations to

*Samantha Mahoney and Roy Hughes
on the birth of their daughter*

Layla Grace Hughes

on Monday March 11th

6 lbs and 7 oz

18 ¾ inches

Welcome to the world Layla!

Please keep in prayer those who have recently lost loved ones

Carolyn Agnew who lost her husband Ben

**May Taco Lunch
Sunday May 5th
following worship**



Sunday May 5th is the date for our May fellowship lunch. The menu will be tacos! The church will provide taco meat (beef and chicken), hard taco shells, soft tortillas, cheese, and drinks. **YOU BRING**, sour cream, salsa, guacamole, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, tortilla chips, or dessert.

Folks in our church family who need our prayers:

Joe Albert Heritage Hall Villas #208 3610 S. Main Street Blacksburg, VA 24060	Fleta Dowdy Commonwealth Sr Living Room 112 201 Wheatland Court Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phyllis Blevins English Meadows Sr. Living Apt. #230 3400 Southpoint Drive Blacksburg, VA 24060	Mary Jane Early Highland Ridge Rehab Ctr Room #302 5872 Hanks Ave Dublin, VA 24084
Bonnie Boatwright English Meadows Sr. Living Apt #104 3400 Southpoint Drive Blacksburg, VA 24060	Tony Kohler Waddell Nursing & Rehab Room 11 Main Floor 202 Painter St. Galax, VA 24333
Jane and Scott Carr English Meadows Sr. Living Apt. #108 (Scott) Apt. #H-115 (Jane) 3400 Southpoint Drive Blacksburg, VA 24060	Vivian Long Kroontje Health Center The Cove #310B 1000 Litton Lane Blacksburg, VA 24060
Anna Mae Croy Spring Oak Assisted Living A Hall Room #3 1140 West Main Street Christiansburg, VA 24073	Ira and Joan Manross 1608 Hawthorne Ridge Blacksburg, VA 24060
Iris Cruise Kroontje Health Center Cove 314B 1000 Litton Lane Blacksburg, VA 24060	Annette Perkins Springtree Health & Rehab Room 505B 3433 Springtree Drive NE Roanoke, VA 24012

Disciples Women's Ministry

DWM next meeting
Tuesday April 16th
10 am

DWM Bake & Plant Sale



BAKE SALE

**Sunday April 28th
after worship**

The DWM welcomes your donation of baked goods – both whole cakes, pies, and loaves of bread as well as individually packaged brownies, cookies, cupcakes, etc. Also, if you have any healthy young plants that you would like to donate – these will be appreciated as well!

The DWM together with the church family will collect diapers, children's underwear, and children's socks all during the month of April for the Valley Interfaith Childcare Center.

Save the Date

**We Are Stronger Together
Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church in Virginia**

**May 31st – June 1st
University of Lynchburg
Friday pre-assembly
Saturday 10am – 3pm**

Upcoming dates:

May:

- 1st – Scholarship Application deadline
- 4th – Craig Springs Work Day
- 5th – Graduate Recognition Sunday 11am
– Taco Lunch noon
- 11th – Trip to Carowinds
- 12th & 19th – Pentecost Special Offering

June:

- 1st – Regional Assembly in Lynchburg
- 2nd – VBS Registration deadlines
- 11th – 14th – VBS
- 14th - Church family Cookout
- 24th – 28th – J.B. at Nature Camp
- 30th – 5th Sunday Breakfast 9:30am

July:

- 7th – 12th – Triple Camp
- 14th - Camp Sunday
Church family Cookout
- 19th – Red Cross Blood Drive 11am

August:

- 11th – Baptism Sunday at the New River



Welcome to Linda McMurray – our new Administrator!

As Sarah prepares to step back at the beginning of May from her current position as Church Administrator, we welcome Linda McMurray to the Blacksburg Christian Church family! Linda began training with Sarah on Monday April 1st. Sarah and Linda will spend all of April working together while Sarah shows Linda the ropes. Please stop by to visit one afternoon and say hello to Linda!

Pastor J.B. will be on vacation from Tuesday April 23rd through Saturday April 27th. He will be traveling to Texas with his family. During this time both Sarah and Linda will be in the church office if you need assistance. And you may contact your assigned elder or any elder for assistance.



Find us online at www.blacksburgchristian.org

or on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/blacksburgchristian

Pastor – J.B. Beane

blacksburgchristianpastor@gmail.com

Administrator – Sarah St. Jean

blacksburgchristian@gmail.com

BLACKSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Choir 6pm	4  Charlotte Hungate Doug Hungate	5  Virginia Butler Ellie McCoy Ralph & Kathy Johnston 	6
7 Sunday school 10am Worship 11am  Patricia Olsen Elementary Youth 6pm	8 Elders' Meeting 6pm	9  John & Christy Hopler	10 Brown Bag Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm  Betty Moore	11  Ralph Johnston	12	13  Jeff Caldwell Dana Payne
14 Sunday school 10am Worship 11am Congregational Meeting noon Potluck Lunch noon Roanoke Rescue Mission 3pm	15	16 DWM 10 am	17 Brown Bag Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm  Jerry Jones Pam Kazee	18 Bus Trip 10am  Kenny & Karen Nelson	19 Blood Drive 11am - 5pm  Brody Caldwell  David & Helen Heavener James & Judy Smith	20 Roy & Brenda Hughes 
21 Sunday school 10am Worship 11am Board Meeting noon Colton Sult  Family Hike Hanging Rock 2pm	22 Deadline to register for Carowinds trip	23  Buster Smith JB vacation =>	24 No Brown Bag Bible Study Choir 7pm  Jamie Huffman JB vacation =>	25 JB vacation =>	26  Alison Hughes JB vacation =>	27 JB returns
28 Sunday school 10am Worship 11am DWM Bake & Plant Sale noon Carole Braine  Vanessa McCoy	29  Judy Smith	30  Mathew Olsen Jennifer Slusser	1 Scholarship Application Deadline			