



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

# Tidings

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2019

## News from the Session

by **Laura Urban**  
Clerk of Session

**Each year, Session uses its one-day retreat to meet a mix of goals: To deepen relationships with one another, to receive instruction on leadership and the life of the church, and to do some concrete planning.**

This year our day in March focused on relationships, given our recent update to the Mission Statement, stating “we focus our common life together around five relationships.” (See the “Get Involved” brochure presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting and located in the blue Welcome Folders in the Sanctuary pews and on the “Newsletters” page at [brown-downtown.org](http://brown-downtown.org)).

The day began in the kitchen, where elders, clergy and program staff gathered around Brown’s shiny new island to make three loaves of bread together by hand. While we took turns kneading, we also took turns sharing a story of when we each felt energized as a leader.

Next, Andrew Foster Connors led the group in instruction of what he has learned from community organizing (as taught by the Industrial Areas Foundation) for leadership. Andrew also challenged us to ask ourselves four key questions as we seek to build a relational culture. For example: Where are we creating a

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## Pastors' Reflections:

Andrew and congregation will focus on team building during upcoming sabbatical summer

by Andrew Foster Connors & Michele Ward

In case you haven't already heard, Andrew is going on sabbatical this summer. Sunday, May 5 is his last Sunday with us before he begins “The New Wineskins Clergy Renewal Sabbatical Program” that Andrew and the Session applied for, and received, from the Lilly Endowment.

The Lilly Endowment “seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor’s heart sing.”

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**Tutoring Corner:** Spotlight on Martha Socolar. See *page 8*.

## Pastors' Reflections

*Continued from Page 1*

Toward that end, Andrew and the Session have planned a sabbatical program that deals with the heart of some of our contemporary challenges—namely how we organize ourselves as a congregation (our habits, structures and culture) around relationships that lead to community—the “new wineskins” that we need in a post-Christian context to thrive as church.

While Andrew will be pursuing a number of activities that get at this question in fun-filled, renewing ways, the grant exploration is designed to be shared with the congregation. For example, Sunday, June 9, an Ignite Talk on team building will take place. The Ignite Talk series includes short 5-7 minute talks from different speakers to provide many perspectives and insights on the same theme. This Ignite talk will feature members of the congregation sharing their experiences in forming teams, being on teams and leading people to build relationships and fulfill common goals.

Two top-notch preachers will be with us on June 23 and August 4. The Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart from Philadelphia will preach and lead a post-worship workshop on June 23. She will discuss the intersection of community organizing, ministry and advocacy. She is an ordained UCC minister, the Faith Work Director at the National LGBTQ Task Force, and an adjunct Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University.

On August 4, The Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood from Tualatin, Oregon, will preach on team building through examples of the Early Church. He is the

pastor of Tualatin Presbyterian Church, a keynote speaker at NEXT Church 2019 in Seattle, and is the author of two books on church leadership. Afterward worship he will give a presentation about his book *The Irrational Jesus: Leading the Fully Human Church*, which the Session will read and use excerpts as devotional material during the sabbatical season.

Members of the Session, the Worship Committee and the Sabbatical Team are preparing an outdoor worship service for Sunday, July 21, at 10 a.m. during Artscape weekend. The Sunday morning experience will be complete with challenge games and events exploring the process of team building.

The summer reading group will read books that, in part, deal with team building. Andrew will read these books alongside the book group as we explore the sabbatical theme together.

For his part, Andrew is going deep into the process by which individuals form teams. In May he will attend a two-week timber frame building course in Washington, Massachusetts, literally building a physical structure alongside strangers. While the combination of a hammer, chisel and the Berkshires makes his heart sing, he'll observe the process of this team formation with church on his mind.

Later, he will travel, alone, to Taizé, France, to observe how strangers committed to social justice—most of them youth—gather from around the world to form Christian community across language, race and clan. From there he will join his family in Norway, where, for three weeks, they will work

as a team to accomplish some of the most difficult and spectacular hikes in the world. Back at home, Andrew will interview people from a variety of disciplines—from the theater to the corporate world—to gain their insights on how they shape individuals into teams of people who need each other to fulfill their callings.

While Andrew is away, Michele serves as the acting Head of Staff. Michele's current responsibilities will remain intact during the sabbatical, including leadership of summer trips with our emerging adults.

The Lilly Endowment enabled Michele to bring the Rev. Gretchen van Utt on board as part-time clergy support. Rev. van Utt will preach a few times, provide some pastoral care, and share her years of wisdom and training with our deacons.

Michele is excited about this sabbatical period as an opportunity for the congregation and for herself. She has organized a team to collaborate in the transition to make sure that we meet the congregational goals the Session envisioned for the sabbatical. This team includes John Walker, Christy Macy, China Boak Terrell and Rebecca Crew.

Andrew will be fully released from pastoral duties during this season of renewal and reflection. On May 19, he will be present as a father on confirmation Sunday and a Sunday when graduating seniors are recognized. He will return on August 25. Andrew and Michele are excited about this sabbatical period and invite you to look for opportunities to participate! ♦



**Rev. Gretchen van Utt**



**Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart**



**Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood**

## Welcome Sabbatical Support Clergy & Preachers

### Rev. Gretchen van Utt

The Sabbatical Support Team is excited to announce the Rev. Gretchen van Utt is joining us at Brown this summer as sabbatical support clergy from May to August. Gretchen's first Sunday will be May 12. Her role includes worship leadership, supporting the deacons in congregational care and facilitating Bible study.

Gretchen grew up on the Connecticut shoreline and received her bachelor of arts degree from Kirkland (Hamilton) College and her M.Div. from Harvard. Following a stint as Visiting Chaplain at Hamilton, she came to Maryland in 1977 to serve as Chaplain and Co-Director of the First Year Program at Goucher College, and later as University Chaplain at Johns Hopkins. She then served as Interim Minister of three churches in the Baltimore Presbytery before accepting a call as Pastor of Springfield PC.

In 2005, Gretchen returned to interim ministry and served three more churches before retiring in early 2012. She has served the Presbytery in a variety of capacities, including member of the Vision Committee and Council, and Co-Moderator of the Commission on Spiritual Leader Development.

After 35 years in the ministry, Gretchen began seeking a more holistic approach to caring for others (and herself!), an approach that honors the body as well as the mind and spirit. The search led her more deeply into her own practice of yoga and to the completion of her 500-hour Yoga Teacher Training certification and additional certification to teach yoga for arthritis and chronic pain. She currently teaches at Baltimore Yoga Village and in her home studio.

### Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart will preach Sunday, June 23. She will lead a conversation with Taylor Branch—Brown Memorial member and civil rights historian—on race, community organizing and team building in the Assembly Room, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., after the 10 a.m. service.

Naomi, a daughter of Detroit, is the Faith Work Director for the National LGBTQ Task Force, the country's oldest national LGBTQ justice and equality group. In that role, she coordinates the Task Force's public faith messaging and advocacy and leadership development work in faith communities. Naomi is also an adjunct professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University.

Before joining the Task Force, Naomi was a faith organizer for POWER, a multi-faith, multi-racial network of congregations in metro Philadelphia. She also served as Co-Pastor and Minister of Music at the Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. An ordained minister, she earned the Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2016 and is proudly affiliated with the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

Naomi delights in singing with the Philadelphia Threshold Singers, a choir whose mission is to bring audible comfort and kindness at the bedsides of people living in hospice care. She also serves on the Mayor's Commission on LGBT Affairs and the Mayor's Commission on Interfaith Civic Affairs in Philadelphia.

Naomi shares her life with her wife, Kentina, a chaplain and religious educator. Together, they are raising a curious, energetic, future Oscar-winning middle-schooler.

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## Welcome

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### Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood

Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood will preach on Sunday, August 4. He will lead a book talk immediately following worship in the Assembly Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on his newest release, *The Irrational Jesus: Leading the Fully Human Church*.

Tualatin Presbyterian Church (suburb of Portland, Oregon) called Ken in September 2004. He earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and his Doctorate from Duke University where he studied the intersection of behavioral economics, game theory and theology.

Ken serves the larger denomination in various roles, and when he's not doing all of this, enjoys hanging out with his three children, reading, backpacking, running and eating great food all around Portland. ♦

## Sabbatical Schedule

### MAY 5

New Wineskins & Liturgy of Leavetaking

### MAY 12

Support Clergy, Rev. Gretchen van Utt starts

### JUNE 9

Ignite Talk: Stories about Teams/Team Building

### JUNE 23

Guest Preacher & Workshop Leader:  
The Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

### JULY 21

Church in Leakin Park, Artscape Weekend  
Team Building Games and BYOP - Bring Your Own Picnic

### AUGUST 4

Guest Preacher & Book Talk:  
The Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood

### AUGUST 18

Rev. Gretchen van Utt's final Sunday

### AUGUST 25

New Wineskins & Liturgy of Return

## Session News

Continued from Page 1

culture of relationship where we know each other's founding stories? How do we need to act differently as leaders to nurture that culture?

By late morning, two members of the Sabbatical Planning team, Christy Macy and China Boak Terrell, joined the group to plan activities to be held during the 16-week "team building" campaign from May to August—the congregation's focus in Baltimore will mirror Andrew's focus during his 16-week Sabbatical, studying and living the same theme.

After lunch, the group discussed how we can organize both ourselves and others to participate in the groups and ministries of the church. The day ended with the group sharing Communion with the fresh bread, still warm from the oven! ♦



(Above and on page 1) During their retreat in March, members of Session baked bread together and shared stories about what energizes them as leaders.

# SUMMER AT BROWN

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. No Education Hour.



## Summer Schedule

Mark your calendars. We are switching to our summer schedule Memorial Day weekend. Worship will move to 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 26, through Sunday, September 1. Education classes will take a break during this time. Also, plan to enjoy cookies and lemonade after worship each Sunday during the summer.

## Paperback + Pastor: Sabbatical Edition

Join Michele Ward and others for a summer book group based on the material Andrew Foster Connors will be reading while on sabbatical. We will meet in one another's homes to discuss the books. You can join for as many as your summer schedule allows. If you are interested in participating in the book group, please join the "Paperback + Pastor" small group on CCB, the church's internal website and send a request to join. Visit [brown-downtown.ccbchurch.com](http://brown-downtown.ccbchurch.com).

### Wednesday, June 19, 7-9 p.m.

**Book:** *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, Susan Cain

**Host:** Cogswell Family (9930 Isabelles Way, Ellicott City)

### Wednesday, July 24, 7-9 p.m. (tentative)

**Book:** *The Fisherman*, by Chigozie Obioma

**Host:** Wagner Cavallon Family (5504 Normandy Place)

### Tuesday, August 13, 7- pm

**Book:** *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber

**Location:** Brown Memorial Church House



## Music on the Front Steps

Enjoy hymn sings and lemonade at 6 p.m. on the church front steps, **Wednesdays June 5 and July 3 and Friday, August 2**. Hymn requests are played on a vintage reed organ. We are also holding a Friday Evening Summer Concert Series, with music scheduled on the church front steps **July 12 and 26 at 7 p.m. On July 19 at 7 p.m.**, view a classic 1927 silent film, "The Kid Brother," in the Sanctuary, with Michael Britt accompanying on the Skinner pipe organ. More information to come.

## Church in the Park, Workshops and Book Talks

**Post-Worship Events:** On **June 9**, church members will share their experiences building and participating in teams. On **June 23**, Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart will lead a conversation with Taylor Branch on race, community organizing and team building. On **August 4**, Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood will lead a book talk about his newest book, *The Irrational Jesus: Leading the Fully Human Church* (see page 10 for more details).

### Church in the Park, July 21, 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. in Leakin Park

**10-10:30 a.m.** - Worship service with Scripture, song and prayer. Michael will play his traveling pump organ!

**10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.** - Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound will facilitate team building games and activities for our congregation.

**12-12:30 p.m** - Bring Your Own Picnic (BYOP). Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for ease of mobility and participation. Picnic, picnic blankets and lawn chairs encouraged.



# Church Partnership Solidified

Brown Memorial officially connects with a church in Camajuani, Cuba.

by Deb Baer

**F**rom February 15-22, 2019, 20 people from the Presbytery of Baltimore went on a trip to Cuba called “the Encuentro,” a gathering held every other year with our partner Presbytery in central Cuba. Among the 20 was a six-person, multi-generational delegation from Brown Memorial—Andrew Foster Connors, Deb Baer, Michael Reed, Nick Reed, Peter Kirchgraber and Taylor Stewart

We visited our partner church in Camajuani, Cuba for the first four days, continuing a church-to-church relationship that we have been developing for the last four years. We were excited to have the opportunity to meet with the Session of our sister church to craft a partnership agreement. That agreement was signed by our two pastors. We were given a beautiful banner made by our friends at the church in Camajuani as a symbol of the connection between our two Presbyterian faith communities.

While in Camajuani, we were treated with deep hospitality, and had the opportunity to worship together, visit church members in their homes, and participate in a fiesta with the entire community. Andrew and the pastor at Camajuani, Marielys Cabrera, shared the pulpit at the Sunday worship, and Andrew gave his sermon in Spanish!

We brought prayers from our community at Brown, and our partners prayed for our congregation.

At the church in Camajuani, we found that we had deep commonality as Presbyterians. We also were all deeply gratified to be part of a healing connection between our two countries, which has a complicated history. The U.S. embargo, which prevents American businesses from conducting trade with Cuba, has been very hard on Cuba. American travel to Cuba has also been extremely restricted. The Cuba team at Brown is part of a growing effort to heal the divide between our two countries through the reconciling love of our faith.

At the end of the four days, we traveled by bus to a resort in Hanabani, Cuba, with 20 of our friends in the El Centro Presbytery, as well as our entire group from the



**Andrew Foster Connors, Michael Reed, Nick Reed, Deb Baer, Marielys Cabrera and Taylor Stewart.**

**“At the church in Camajuani, we found that we had deep commonality as Presbyterians. We also were all deeply gratified to be part of a healing connection between our two countries, which has a complicated history.”**

**- Deb Baer**

Presbytery of Baltimore. The relationship between our two Presbyteries has been an important global partnership for more than a decade. We get to live out relational mission, where we get to know each other and do not try to change each other.

If you have an opportunity to join us on one of our trips, you will get to experience global mission in a profound and deeply satisfying way. Our next Brown Memorial trip to Cuba will be in early 2020. Join us! ♦



**THE BOARD OF PENSIONS**  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

## A Theology of Benefits Seminar, June 5

On behalf of The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Church Consultant Martha Reisner will lead a “Theology of Benefits” seminar at Brown Memorial on Wednesday, June 5 from 7-9 p.m. in the Assembly Room. This seminar is part of the “Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations” educational program of the PC(USA), and is a good fit for anyone interested in learning more about:

- the financial realities of those who answer God’s call to congregational ministry;
- appreciating the role justly compensating their pastors, including benefits, plays in the vitality of the Church; and
- how to better care for, and support, their pastoral leadership, whose well-being is essential to congregational well-being.

Please RSVP to Michele Ward ([michele@browndowntown.org](mailto:michele@browndowntown.org)) if you plan to attend.



## Brown Memorial Tutoring Program

# Spotlight on the Director: Martha Socolar

by Diana Cohen

**G**rowing up in Baltimore with her early years spent in the Bolton Hill neighborhood, Martha Socolar is very familiar with Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian and its work in the community.

"I have fond memories of going to the Brown Memorial Nursery School and playing with my friends in the tot lot," Martha recalls.

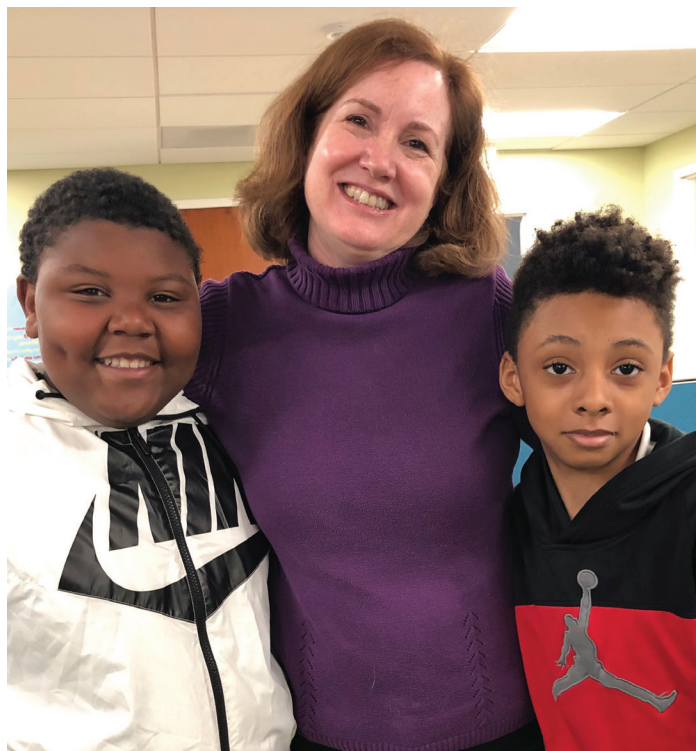
You could say that Martha and the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program, which began in 1963, have grown up together.

Martha has been actively involved with the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program for about 18 years. In 2001, after working at the Maryland Historical Society and the Baltimore City Life Museums, she realized how much she enjoyed working with school children who came to the museums on class trips. She felt she wanted to spend more time working as an educator, really getting to know the children and encouraging their learning.

She returned to school to earn a graduate degree in elementary education. Around the same time, she volunteered as a tutor at the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program. Two years later, she became the program's assistant director. Since 2008, Martha has been the director of the Tutoring Program.

Martha is an experienced program administrator, juggling multiple tasks that include student assessments, volunteer tutor training and maintaining good communication and strong relationships with partnering schools and program supporters. One of the first things most people notice when meeting Martha is her warm and ready smile. The next is her infectious laughter. She is a caring person and this is felt by the children who come to the program and the tutors who work with them.

"Over nearly 20 years of being involved with the tutoring program, seeing children read for the first time, or sharing after months of feeling too shy or embarrassed, it absolutely never gets old," Martha says. "This program is a



gift to the students, to the tutors and to the staff."

Over the past 50 years, the Tutoring Program has played a vital role for many children in Baltimore who have struggled in school. The students who are referred for tutoring have fallen behind in grade level reading, based on school assessments. After more assessment is done by Martha and Assistant Director Amy Munds, an individual tutoring plan is developed for each child. Currently, 89 first through fifth grade students are enrolled in the Tutoring Program from four Baltimore City public schools—Mount Royal, Eutaw-Marshburn, Dorothy I. Height and the Baltimore Montessori School.

At the beginning of the school year, each student is paired with a tutor who provides one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing and other skills. Currently, about 72 volunteers serve as tutors. Tutoring at Brown Memorial is based on the Orton-Gillingham phonics method but, as longtime tutors will attest, so much more is shared with the



students. In addition to providing reading instruction, a tutor is a reliable caring adult presence in a student's life, helping expand the student's worldview and promoting self-confidence.

Every year Martha organizes training for tutors using the Orton-Gillingham method and other reading programs. In addition, throughout the year tutors and staff share a lot of information. An extensive collection of educational resources is also available, including games and a wonderful library. And it's all located in a newly renovated space with an elevator to the third floor of the Fellowship Building!

Martha and Amy are both educators who are sensitive to the needs of the children who come to the Tutoring Program. In an effort to help the students feel relaxed and ready to learn, each tutoring session begins with a mindfulness exercise during which students say, "I am calm, I am peaceful, I am safe, I am loved." It's a mantra that tutors share with the students.

To learn more about how to make a difference in a child's life by helping them become a confident reader, contact Martha Socolar at 410-523-1542, ext. 108. She'll be glad to talk with you. ♦



## Tutoring Program Supporters Recognized

On April 7, the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program staff, tutors and commission members held a re-opening party to celebrate the program's newly renovated tutoring space on the third floor of the Fellowship Building.

During the event, attendees heard remarks from Porsche Johnson, Child First Community Liaison from Dorothy I. Height Elementary. The Tutoring Program also recognized its many supporters, including the France-Merrick Foundation for its generous contribution to purchase new furnishings.

From left to right: Mary Obrecht, Commission Chair, Martha Socolar, Director, Porsche Johnson, Elizabeth Rice, France-Merrick Program Officer, and Kristin McGuire, France-Merrick Program Officer.



## May Birthdays

05/01	Laura Urban
05/02	Aaron McNabney
05/04	Tom McManus
05/04	Teddy Obrecht
05/05	Elizabeth Reichelt
05/06	Ashley Boumgarden
05/07	David Rollison
05/08	Julian Finney
05/08	Grace Hand
05/09	Charlie Obrecht
05/10	Barbara Clippinger
05/10	Sue Galusha-Bobango
05/11	Khoa Nguyen
05/13	Josephine Finney
05/14	Diane Hodges
05/16	Patreena Parsons
05/17	Margaret McManus
05/17	Andrew Ross
05/18	Caroline Anderson
05/19	Daniel Burton
05/20	Carolyn Marks
05/20	Anna Marie Brennan
	Taylor
05/21	Art Hall
05/21	Mary Jane Sokol
05/22	Michael Asike
05/22	Nancy Bradford
05/23	Page Campbell
05/25	Emily Reed
05/26	Laura McNabney
05/27	Ellen Carter Cooper
05/27	Jackson Mills
05/28	Landon Reiman
05/30	Kim Beers
05/30	Andrew Winters
05/31	Christopher Brennan
	Taylor
05/31	Jim Edrington
05/31	Kim Norman



## June Birthdays

06/03	Mary MacLeod Kelly
06/04	Will Brockman
06/04	Sarah Reiman
06/05	Emy Urban
06/06	Lorrie Liang
06/07	Lydia Beasley
06/09	Kelly Knock
06/10	Erika Brockman
06/10	Exel Estrada
06/10	Cal Riorda
06/11	Loretta Byers
06/11	Caleb Brennan Taylor
06/12	Erin Emerick
06/12	Abby Jackson
06/12	Mary Obrecht
06/13	Gregory Brightbill
06/13	Will Coulson
06/13	Robert Marshall
06/14	Fado Yoon
06/15	Justin Garcia-Bunuel
06/15	Jacob Thompson
06/15	Noah Todd
06/18	Madison Riorda
06/19	Rain Hall
06/19	Trevor Hoffberger
06/20	Jakob Lucas
06/21	Lily Bradford
06/21	Joe Schindler
06/21	Dale Terrill
06/22	Nancy Bandiere
06/22	Peter Coulson
06/22	Rebecca Crew
06/22	Taylor Jackson
06/22	Tom Stewart
06/22	Jihar Williams
06/23	Paul Forward
06/23	Rachel Forward
06/23	Max Palmer
06/24	Patti Flowers-Coulson
06/26	Graham Bishai
06/26	Emmett Dahl
06/26	Madora Henson
06/26	Kerry Johnston
06/28	Maggie Johnston
06/28	Jack Mitchell
06/28	Ella Palmer
06/28	Nancy Warner
06/29	Judson Arnold
06/30	Paul Newill-Schamp

## Book Discussion August 4

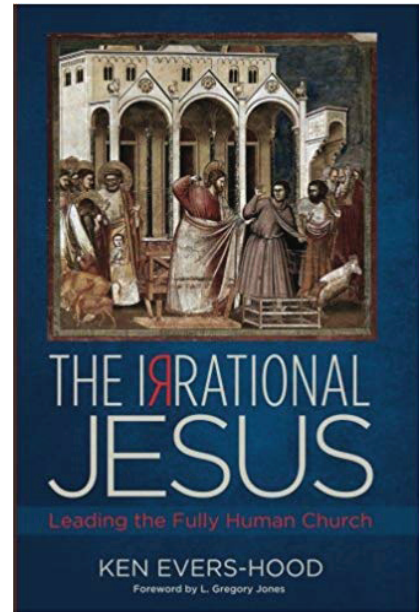
### *The Irrational Jesus: Leading the Fully Human Church*

On August 4, Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood will be our guest preacher during worship and afterward, in the Assembly Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., he will lead a discussion of his book, *The Irrational Jesus: Leading the Fully Human Church*.

Behavioral science books are popping up on bestseller lists: Predictably Irrational; Thinking, Fast and Slow; Nudge; Decisive. Even the White House launched a Behavioral Insights Team to match the British Ministry of Nudges. Conspicuously absent from this conversation is the church.

*The Irrational Jesus* bridges this gap.

Ken Evers-Hood looks at Jesus through the lens of cognitive heuristics (mental shortcuts) and biases (blind spots) and makes the case that a fully human Jesus is predictably irrational—just like all of us. Find out how the Apostle Paul's community building mirrors a prison-



er's dilemma game and how this makes Paul an irrational leader, too. Discover how playing better games in church can foster hopeful, flourishing communities. Improve your decision-making; learn when to plan for irrationality and when to live into it.



## LGBTQ Fellowship Night, May 29

Join LGBTQ+ Presbyterians from 15 other churches in the Presbytery of Baltimore—including Brown Memorial—for fellowship, food and more on May 29, 7-9 p.m., at Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Avenue.

This is an intergenerational event for LGBTQ+ persons, middle school and above. Allies welcome. Contact Roland Park Presbyterian Church for more information, 410-889-2001.



# YOUTH EVENTS

## May 19: Confirmation Sunday, 11am

Celebrate our confirmands as they join the church, hear their faith statements, and experience their worship leadership. Stay afterwards for a reception in the Assembly Room to congratulate and welcome them!

## May 31-June 2: Senior High Backpacking Trip

Our fall backpacking trip was such a hit that we are bringing it back for the spring. Join us for a weekend of exploring the Appalachian Trail. Cost is \$75. Contact Michele Ward if interested ([michele@browndowntown.org](mailto:michele@browndowntown.org)).

## June 9: Sunday Night Live, 5:30-8pm

Our final SNL of the school year will take place at the Reichelt home (109 St. Albans Way, Baltimore, MD 21212). Play games, grill, and kick off the summer together!

## June 16: Youth Fundraiser: Car Wash & Cook Out, 11:30-12:30 pm

Stay after worship for a cookout and car wash to assist our emerging adults in fundraising for their week at Pejuhutazizi and at Montreat!

## SUMMERYOUTH EVENTS

### June 20-23: Massanetta Middle School Youth Conference

A middle school youth conference in Virginia for rising 7th to graduating 9th graders. Approximate cost is \$350. Scholarships available upon request.

### July 27-August 3: Baltimore Dakota Learning Camp

A learning camp with our Native American partners at the Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

### July 28-August 3: Montreat Youth Conference

A high school youth conference in North Carolina for Rising 9th-Graduating 12th graders. Approximate Cost \$650. Scholarships available upon request.

## The Balcony is Open!

Two of our younger members safely enjoyed the view from the balcony on Easter Sunday thanks to renovations to the existing railing which was too low. In the picture here, the original railing would have stopped at their waists!



## July Birthdays

07/02	Parker Matthews
07/03	Howard De Hoff
07/03	Peter Hoffberger
07/03	Lehn Robinson
07/03	Jennifer Simmons
07/03	Tom Waldron
07/05	Will Fesperman
07/06	Michael Britt
07/06	Joyce Edington
07/06	Hannah Milcarek
07/06	J. D. Robinson
07/09	Charlie Obrecht
07/10	Chuck Brown
07/12	Anna Connors
07/12	Rose Glorioso
07/13	Andrew Babb
07/14	Eric Echols
07/15	Whitney Boles
07/15	Dan Hale
07/16	Ann Teaff
07/18	Rachel Emerick
07/19	John Boumgarden
07/19	Rachel E. Clark
07/21	Hilbert Byers
07/22	Wells Obrecht
07/24	Doug Adams
07/27	Ellen B. Williams
07/28	Erin Bobango
07/29	Ian Munds
07/30	Matthew Dahl
07/31	Valerie Hinkle



To have your birthday listed in the *Tidings*, contact Sharon Holley, church secretary, 410-523-1542, or [sharon@browndowntown.org](mailto:sharon@browndowntown.org).



# BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City  
and the World*

## Summer Schedule Begins Sunday, May 26

Worship will move to 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 26, through Sunday, Sept. 1. Education classes will take a break during this time.

**Every Sunday, "MOTHRAA" Meditation on the Hill Reading Alcoholics Anonymous**, 6 p.m. Church House parlor. A meditation/AA big book study style meeting open to anyone, whether or not one identifies as an alcoholic.

**Every Monday, Meditation on the Hill for Women-AA Meeting**, 6:15 p.m. Church House parlor. An open Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

**Every Wednesday, Bible Study**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Church House. Join us for this topical bible discussion.

**Every Thursday, Prayer Service**, 5:30-6:15 p.m. A time of prayer, worship and community in the Sanctuary.

**Every Thursday, Meditation on the Hill**, 5:30 p.m. Church House Parlor. An open Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

**Every Friday, Hope on the Hill AI Anon Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. Church House Parlor. Open to family and friends of problem drinkers.

**May 16, Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy support and fellowship while making prayer shawls for those in need. Contact Dianne Ross, rossinbalt@verizon.net for more information.

**June 5, Theology of Benefits Seminar**, 7-9 p.m. Assembly Room. *See page 7 for details.*

**June 5, July 3, Aug. 2, Hymn Sing and Lemonade**, 6-7 p.m. Church front steps. *See page 5 for details.*

**June 9, Post-Worship Ignite Talk: Teams & Team Building**, Assembly Room. *See page 5 for details.*

**June 16, Youth Car Wash & Cook-out**, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Church front steps. *See page 11 for details.*

**June 23, Workshop & Lunch with Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart & Taylor Branch**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Assembly Room. *See page 5 for details.*

**June 24-27, Soaring Eagles Learning Camp**, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School. A summer enrichment program to bridge the summer vacation academically. Contact Chrystie Adams if interested in volunteering or contributing food/supplies, cladams22@verizon.net.

**July 19, Silent Film & Organ Concert**, 7 p.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**July 12 & 26, Summer Concert Series**, 7 p.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**July 21, Church in the Park**, 10 a.m., Leakin Park. *See page 5 for details.*

**Aug. 4, Book Talk & Lunch with Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Assembly Room. *See page 5 for details.*

**July 27-Aug. 3, Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp**, Upper Sioux Community Center, Granit Falls, MN. Brown Memorial members participate in a summer enrichment camp for Upper Sioux Community children. Learn more at baltimoredakotalearningcamps.org.

**July 28-Aug. 3, Montreat High School Conference**. *See page 11 for details.*

## Tidings

*Good News from Brown  
Memorial Park Avenue  
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