



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

OCT/NOV 2019

Christian Ed Hour
Sundays at 9:45 AM

New Faith Topics Series

October Series: Ecotheology & Social Responsibility

Members of the Green Team will lead the following special topics-based classes.

Oct. 13: History of the Land & Jones Falls Watershed

Oct. 20: Trees, Community Health, and the Psalms

Oct. 27: Native Gardening and God's Food Web at Brown

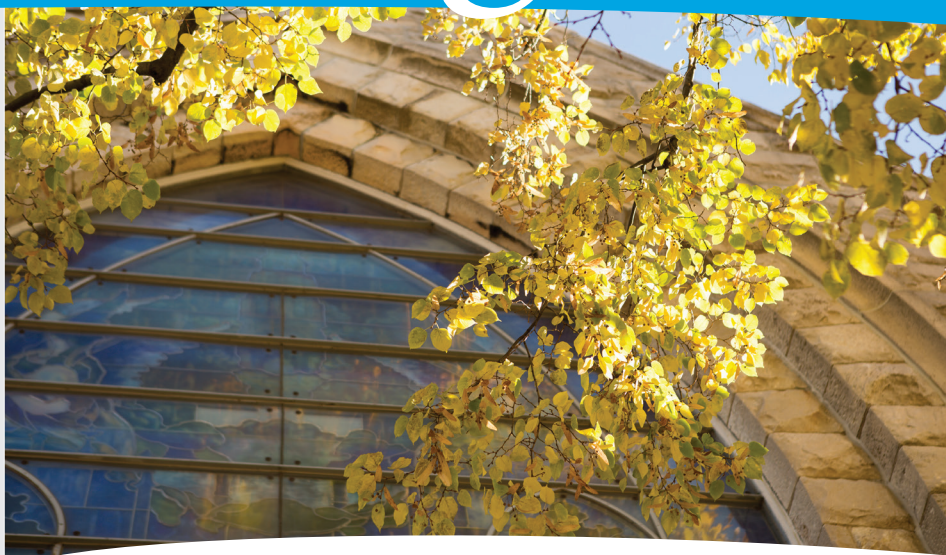
November Series: Stewarding Your Life

An adult education series on holistic stewardship and Christian spirituality loosely based on a collection of essays called *Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship*. This book covers stewardship of 10 areas: time, work, money, body, mind, spirit, community, technology, privilege and life. The class will focus on three of the 10 areas of stewardship, with Brown members discussing these areas.

Nov. 10: Stewarding Your Life—Finances & Family

Nov. 17: Stewarding Your Life—Privilege & Power

Nov. 24: Stewarding Your Life—Technology & Time



Pastor's Reflections

Finding moral clarity through stewardship

by Andrew Foster Connors, Senior Pastor



When one of my children was young, I remember asking her if she knew where strawberries came from. "From the freezer," she replied. I laughed at the time, but also felt the sting of awareness at how disconnected we were from the land. My mother grew up with her feet in the soil of the farm, as did her mother before her. The work was hard, and for my grandmother the farm life was not the liberal utopia that some city dwellers would later imagine it to be. She sometimes went hungry. She pursued and obtained a first college education well before most women of her generation, spurred, in part, by her desire to be freed from the poverty of the rural south. Even so, I doubt she could have imagined that her great grandchild would one day make the experiential observation that strawberries

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Beyond the Elevator: Learn about removing barriers to worship. See page 3.

Are You Connected? There are many small groups to choose from. See page 3.

Picture Page: Scenes from Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp. See page 5.

Tutoring Corner: Help fulfill the Tutoring Program's needs. See page 7.

Pastor's Reflections

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have their genesis in the freezer.

Our dislocation from the earth has come with some bitter consequences for the planet. Wendell Berry noted that as human beings shifted their thinking from the world as creation to the world as machine, we also experienced a loss of spiritual clarity. "So must the shift in our perceived relationship to nature from that of steward to that of absolute owner, manager, and engineer. So even must our permutation of 'holy' to holistic."

I'm happy, then, that we will be starting stewardship season early, welcoming to the pulpit and post-worship lunch on Oct. 6 Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, one of Baltimore's great environmental stewards, theologians, and advocates. Michele and I will pick up on her environmental themes and continue with a sermon series on the topic before transitioning toward the more usual stewardship expectations of money. And the adult Sunday School will focus on what we can do. Actually, this sermon and educational series was never intended to be a focus on "stewardship," but something more like eco-justice or creation care.

Yet, as we get close to the church's annual season of stewardship, I'm considering again how important it is for us to reclaim this word as more than just the churchy substitute for "fundraising." Stewardship is a profoundly spiritual word that gives moral clarity to our place in the world. We are not owners of any land. The land belongs to God, as does our lives. Berry put it this way: "We are the belongings of the world, not its owners" and "it will survive us, bearing the results. . . We must learn to co-operate in its processes, and to yield to its limits."

In this way, stewardship is also a prophetic advocacy that challenges the human greed that has led us to the destruction of so much of our planet and the life that it supports.

For that reason, I'm glad that our environmental series will be followed by the more traditional focus on monetary giving. Alex Hagen will lead a Sunday School series on this topic. The two are absolutely connected. As we lessen our use of resources, we lighten our treading on the land. Berry thought that this still wouldn't be enough. "I cannot think of any American whom I know or have heard of, who is not contributing in some way to destruction," he observed. "The reason is simple: to live undestructively in an economy that is overwhelmingly destructive would require of any one of us, or of any small group of us, a great deal more work than we have yet been able to do."

Yet even though his observations are stark, I find his focus on the work to be exciting and exactly the sort of work that church was designed to do. I hope you will come with your energy and urgency as we put our shoulders to the plough, together, and see what God will do. [1] ♦

[1] Wendell Berry quotes are from *What I Stand On: The Collected Essays of Wendell Berry 1969-2017*, edited by Jack Shoemaker.



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@pulpit



Inquirers Classes

Interested in becoming a member of Brown Memorial? Inquirers Classes are regularly held for anyone interested in church membership. The classes include Presbyterian history and polity, Brown Memorial's history and missional commitments, plus the meaning of church membership, the way we organize ourselves as a church, and how to get involved. The class will meet on the first floor of the Church House.



**The next Inquirers Classes take place on Sundays
October 6, 13, and 27 from 9:45 to 10:40 a.m. in Andrew
Foster Connors' study.**

Extending the Welcome Removing Barriers for People with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions

**Learn more during the "Beyond the Elevator Lunch"
Oct. 20, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room**

Have you thought about what worship is like for a 19-year-old on the autism spectrum who prefers routine and low sensory stimulation? Have you wondered how best to support someone who is blind during worship, or someone who is in a wheelchair who wants to join the choir or come to a small group dinner?

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To help mark this milestone, Brown's Diversity Committee has been working with Michele Ward to plan a year of activities designed to enhance different aspects of accessibility for people with mobility, hearing, visual, mental health, developmental or other types of disabilities and chronic health conditions.

Join us on Oct. 20 after worship for lunch and a listening session designed to learn about some of the barriers experienced by individuals and families in our congregation, and brainstorm strategies for removing or mitigating the impact of these barriers.

We are hoping this lunch will attract broad participation from across the congregation. Disability is a big category that affects individuals and families in numerous ways, and removing barriers can involve a variety of strategies, including:

- Providing qualified sign language interpreters for a deaf person.
- Describing what is happening during worship for a blind person.
- Using plain language that is accessible for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Having large print bulletins for people with low vision.
- Providing an accessible bus to and from accessible parking.
- Asking people to refrain from wearing fragrances so the environment is accessible for people with multiple chemical sensitivity.
- Rethinking worship for people on the autism spectrum.
- Letting people with mobility impairments go first in a buffet line.

You don't have to be a disability expert or dealing with a disability issue yourself or in your family to participate and help us think about how best to draw the circle wide and include all who wish to be part of our community. ♦

Are You Connected?

Connecting through small groups is an effective way to really get to know people. The more time you spend with people the more you get to know them. Here is a list of new and existing small groups to consider joining. Meeting dates and times vary. Contact group leaders or visit browndowntown.org/calendar for more information.

Contemplative Hiking: A group centered around monthly hikes in the Creator's sanctuary. Contact Doug Adams, douga42@gmail.com; (443) 474-2201.

Families of Faith: A group of families with young children who gather together for food and fellowship. Contact Matt Taylor, matthew.david.taylor@gmail.com; (202) 758-5989, or Lyndsay Taylor, lyndsay.beth.taylor@gmail.com; (202) 255-3997.

Literature & Faith: A group that comes together to read and discuss a variety of short narrative and poetic selections that feature religious themes and allusions. Contact Elden Schneider, bonnieeldens@verizon.net; (410) 925-5511.

Male Spirituality: A group for men, and all who identify as such, to explore their individual foundation of spirituality, what it means, and how it affects their lives in community. Contact Fred Cogswell, cogswelf@gmail.com; (425) 681-1419, or David Lascu, dmlascu@aol.com; (443) 805-8351.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Knitters and crocheters alike of varying skill levels meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month for mutual support and fellowship as they work on Prayer Shawls to be offered to others in need. Contact Carol Graves, graves.c824@gmail.com; (410) 366-4662, or Dianne Ross, rossinbalt@verizon.net; (310) 530-6261.

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Youth News

FALL YOUTH EVENTS

Middle School Game Night: Friday, Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.

Game night at middle school leader Anne Arnold's house (107 Club Rd, Baltimore, MD 21210).

High School Night Out: Friday, Nov. 15, 7-9 p.m.

Dinner out for high school students and youth leaders at Golden West Cafe. Cost \$15 (cash preferred).

Advent Greens & Donuts: Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Prepare the Advent wreaths by cutting greens together. Finish off with games and cocoa.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Pumpkin Carving: Sunday, Oct. 27, 6-8:30 p.m.

Memorial Episcopal Church

Join us for our annual pumpkin carving contest and dinner. Bring your own pumpkin. Carving tools and prizes provided.

Friendsgiving Feast: Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, 6-8:30 p.m.

Brown Memorial

Create a Thanksgiving feast together.

Save the Date: Sunday, Dec. 8, 6-8:30 p.m.

Youth Group Progressive Dinner

Location for our Christmas tradition TBD. We will travel to three different houses for appetizers, dinner and dessert as we play games and exchange gifts. Bring a gift worth \$10 or less to exchange (the sillier the better).

Pictured: The middle school youth (top) at the Massenetta Conference in Virginia and the high school youth (bottom photos) at the Montreat Conference in North Carolina.



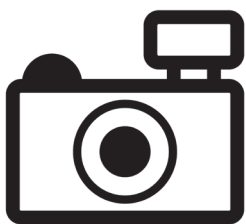
Creating a Safer Church for Our Children

On Sept. 7, 15 volunteers who work with children attended a mandatory Child Safety training. The training, led by Michele Ward and licensed social worker Maureen Kelly, covered the Child Safety plan for Brown Memorial, including mandatory reporting requirements, common mental health challenges among adolescents and policies that keep children safe in all activities at Brown.

As of the Session meeting on Sept. 18, Michele and Maureen have successfully trained 100 childcare providers, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, tutors and staff with the newly updated Safe Church Policy. Including our Brown volunteers who opted for the online version, that brings us up to roughly 100 adults who interface with youth as tutors or with the congregation who are successfully trained and better equipped to provide caring and safe environments for our young people.

PICTURE PAGE

In August, members of Brown Memorial, Hunting Ridge, Laurel and Springfield Presbyterian churches attended the annual Pejuhutazizi Family Learning Camp with our Native American partners in the Upper Sioux Community in Granite Falls, MN.



Photoshoot Taking Place in Church, October 27

A professional photographer will join us on Sunday, Oct. 27, to capture candid photos of the day's activities. The photos will be featured on the website, newsletters and other communication material. For those uncomfortable being photographed, the back pews on the lectern side of the sanctuary (the right side of the sanctuary if facing the pulpit) will be off-limits to photography. You can also email Jennifer Michael, communications consultant for Brown, if you don't want to be photographed - jmichael@browndowntown.org.



October Birthdays

10/01	Brantley Davis
10/01	Al Fisher
10/03	Yabi Wagener
10/04	Nicholas Forward
10/04	Morgana Kinlan
10/07	Katie Artes
10/07	Hannah Munds
10/08	Judy Jones
10/09	Jennifer Michael
10/11	Will Fletcher-Hill
10/11	Diane Schaming
10/12	Gayle Barney
10/12	Darin Crew
10/12	Amalie Nohe-Moren
10/14	Anne Holland
10/15	Jayne Mauric
10/16	Daryl Plevy
10/17	Cal Jackson
10/18	Paul Dagdigan
10/20	Hannah Murphy Buc
10/20	Harper Ruckman
10/20	Liam Ruckman
10/21	Matias Calderon
10/21	Peter Kirchgraber
10/21	Julia Luljak
10/21	Peter Luljak
10/21	Matt McNabney
10/23	Paul Fletcher-Hill
10/24	Yani Robinson
10/24	William S. Ryan
10/24	Caitlin Schneider
10/25	Jeremy Snyder
10/26	Deondra Asike
10/26	Sarah Cook
10/26	Daryl Smith
10/28	Nadia Hensley
10/28	Sue Hughes
10/31	Julie Hanks



To have your birthday listed in the *Tidings*, contact Sharon Holley, church secretary, 410-523-1542, or sharon@brown-downtown.org.

MUSIC NOTES



Tiffany Series Concert Oct. 27, 3 p.m.

The 2019-2020 Tiffany Series begins Oct. 27 with a concert in the sanctuary by renowned organist Mickey Thomas Terry. Terry is known for his “extraordinary skill” (*The Washington Post*) and the fact that he plays entire concerts from memory. He has performed throughout the United States and the Caribbean, and has been featured on Public Radio International’s “Pipedreams” several times. On the faculty of Howard University’s Department of Music, he is Director of Music at St. Joseph’s on Capitol Hill in Washington. Terry is also the editor of the critically acclaimed *African*

American Organ Music Anthology, whose ninth volume is about to appear.

This concert will be video streamed onto the big screen at the front of the church during the event.



Silent Film & Organ Concert Nov. 15, 7 p.m.

Enjoy a silent film classic in our sanctuary—the 1926 film “The Strong Man,” starring Harry Langdon. An original organ score by Michael Britt will accompany the film.

Admission is by suggested donation at the door—\$15 general, \$10 students/seniors, and \$25 for families. All proceeds benefit Brown Memorial’s Capital Campaign.

Are You Connected?

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Singing for the Soul: Sing and experience a variety of inspirational chants, folk music and classic tunes, including melodies from the Taizé Community in France. Contact Barbara Cates, catesbf@gmail.com; (410) 908-0824.

The Bible’s Delectable Next Course: An invitation to a group biblical culinary adventure utilizing Margaret Feinberg’s book, *Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers & Fresh Food Makers* as a guide. Contact David Lascu, dmlascu@aol.com; (443) 805-8351, or Jeanne Thomas, rjthomas4@verizon.net; (443) 243-2295.

Theology on Tap: Theology is really just a fancy word for “God-talk,” the way we think and talk about our religious beliefs. This discussion group meets monthly at Blue Pit BBQ. Contact Chip Morgan Riegel, cmorganriegel@gmail.com; (443) 909-0366, or Kelsie Riegel Morgan, kelsie.riegelmorgan@gmail.com; (443) 904-1407.

Brown Memorial Tutoring Program

A New School Year Has Started

On Oct. 7, the beautiful third-floor tutoring space in Fellowship Hall came alive again with energetic young students and tutors reuniting for another school year of weekly lessons designed to develop lifelong skills and joy in reading. The start of the tutoring year always reflects an abundance of hours in planning, a tremendous amount of hard work that is about to occur, and deep appreciation for the generous support by so many devoted individuals in our congregation and in our community. Aspects about the program, and essentials our students need to succeed are shown below. Join us! Learn more at browntutoring.org. ♦

Building Blocks of Literacy

CHILD CENTERED

- Focus on young underperforming students struggling with learning challenges
- Individual teaching spaces to maintain student focus
 - Nurturing relationship with designated tutor
 - Pre- and post-diagnostics
 - Customized lesson strategy for each student
- Sequential, multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham teaching approach
 - Focus on key literacy skills: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension, Spelling, Writing, Verbal Expression
- Wide variety of teaching resources and literacy games

COMMUNITY DEPENDENT

- Strong partnerships with school principals
- Transportation from schools to caring, predictable environment
 - Volunteer tutors trained by reading specialists

Wish List of Essentials

- \$35 – Gift books for one student
- \$50 – Healthy snacks for one week
- \$100 – Personal workbooks for 10 students
- \$250 – School staples: markers, pencils, writing pads
- \$500 – Partial cost of tutor training
- \$1,000 – Engaging new educational materials
- \$5,000 – Van service for one-half of school year



November Birthdays

11/01	Anne Heuisler
11/01	Julianna Lucas
11/02	Andrew Hughes
11/04	Michaela Murphy-Buc
11/05	Alex Reichelt
11/07	Barbara Cook
11/09	Miranda Hall
11/10	Lily Shields
11/10	Laurie Wolfe
11/11	Danny Flores
11/11	Spencer Scaglione
11/12	Kate Foster Connors
11/13	Warner Brockman
11/14	Bruce Curtis
11/14	Jonathan Hensley
11/14	David Luljak
11/16	Betsy Nix
11/16	David T. Urban
11/17	Jamie Cunningham
11/18	Jason Murphy Buc
11/18	Shirley Parry
11/18	Bert Schmickel
11/19	Willard Graves
11/19	John Walker
11/20	Kevin Cross
11/20	Bonnie Schneider
11/20	Jennifer Rakowski
11/21	Claire Inglesby
11/23	Marcos Calderon
11/24	Patrick Riorda
11/25	Beth Gregory
11/25	Deborah Richardson
11/25	Ally Vitale
11/26	Peter Jackson
11/26	Maureen Kelly
11/28	Luke Inglesby
11/28	Natalie Kelly
11/29	Eva McNabney
11/29	Carolina Mills
11/29	Amanda Slagle



BMPA Calendar

Visit browndowntown.org/calendar for more details.

*Alive in the City
and the World*

SUNDAYS:

Mediation Circle 9:45 a.m. • Education Hour 9:45 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.

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.

Oct. 2 & Nov. 6, Singing for the Soul, 5:30 p.m. *Details on pg. 6.*

Oct. 5, Doors Open Baltimore, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The sanctuary will be open to the public for this citywide event. Learn more at doorsopenbaltimore.org.

Oct. 6, 13, 20, Inquirers Classes, 9:45 a.m. *Details on pg. 2.*

Oct. 6, Potluck Lunch, 12:15 p.m. Assembly Room. Join a discussion with environmental activist Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin. Bring a dish to share.

Oct. 13 & Nov. 10, Families of Faith, 4:30-7 p.m. *Details on pg. 3.*

Oct. 15 & Nov. 19, Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m. *Details on pg. 6.*

Oct. 16 & Nov. 20, Family Night Dinner@Memorial Episcopal, 6:30 p.m. A monthly dinner with Memorial Episcopal to talk about parenting topics. October: Harry Potter, and is magic really "satanic?" November: How do we talk to our kids about violence? Open to families with children 0-11. Children's programming and childcare provided.

Oct. 17 & Nov. 21, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 p.m. *Details on pg. 3.*

Oct. 20, Beyond the Elevator Lunch, 12:15 p.m. *Details on pg. 3.*

Oct. 26 & Nov. 23, Contemplative Hiking, 9 a.m. October: Appalachian Trail - Crampton Gap to Harpers Ferry. November: Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. *Details on pg. 3.*

Oct. 27, Tiffany Series Organ Concert, 3 p.m. *Details on pg. 6.*

Nov. 3, Community Potluck, 12:15 p.m. Assembly Room. Betsy Nix will give a talk titled "Decline by Design: A History of Structural Racism in Baltimore."

Nov. 15, Silent Film & Organ Concert, 7 p.m. *Details on pg. 6.*

Nov. 17, Beyond the Offering Plate Lunch, 12:15 p.m. Assembly Room. We'll hear from several members on stewardship in Ignite format—short presentations accompanied by visual images.

Nov. 16 & 23, Advent Banners, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Assembly Room. Decorate the Advent and Christmas banners.

Fall Youth Activities: *Details on pg. 4.*

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browndowntown.org

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Due dates this year: **Dec. 1** (Jan./
Feb. issue), **Feb. 10** (Mar/Apr. is-
sue), **Apr. 10** (May/June/July issue)

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Week @ Brown, on the home page
at browndowntown.org.



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**BROWN
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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)