



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

# Tidings

NOV/DEC 2020

## Pastor's Reflections

**Rev. Michele Ward**

Associate Pastor



It's time to  
dream fierce  
dreams, like  
Mary did.  
Brave dreams,  
like Joseph did.  
New dreams,  
like Jesus did.

'Cause those who dream  
change ev'rything. Those who  
dream change ev'rything.

—Lyrics from “Those Who  
Dream” by The Many

I have never developed the knack for remembering my dreams; at least, the ones I have at night. On the other hand, I had a particular habit of day-dreaming in class (once I finished my work, of course). Putting me next to the window was the worst decision my second grade teacher could make; I would stare at the birds flying from branch to branch, watching the clouds as they changed shape and shade. To this day, I do my best dreaming during the daytime, but now it is more than writing short stories in my mind or the deep curiosity I had about the natural world.

In BUILD (Metro Industrial Areas Foundation Chapter), we talk about ‘the world as it is’ and the ‘world as it should be.’ We live in a world moti-

*continued on page 2* ➞



## Brown Memorial Turns 150

Marking the December 4th Anniversary

The year 2020 marks Brown Memorial's 150th year anniversary. The celebration of a milestone anniversary is an opportunity to involve the church in discovering and sharing the history together.

To capture movements and narrative that represents our collective stories, a group has been interviewing long-standing members of our faith community and writing their stories. The project, Brown Downtown Turns 150—Stories of Hope and Faith, captures the moments and stories in time and invites us to journey back in history together as well as guide us forward to a shared future.

Now as we move through the weeks of Autumn we are excited to release a few of these short stories. In this issue of the Tidings we highlight reflections from Gilly Babb and Sally Robinson's Story. Look for more stories in the church e-newsletter “This Week @ Brown” each month. Later in 2021, you will receive your own personal copy of the story collection.

*continued on page 11* ➞

### — INSIDE —

**Exploring Racial Equity.** Learn more from the Tutoring Program. See page 3.

**Anti-Racism Guide 3-Part Series.** Join the December sessions. See page 4.

**Rockrose Farm Spotlight.** Learn what is growing in winter. See page 5.

**Advent Activities.** Dates and details on participating. See page 7 and 8.

## Pastor's Reflections

*Continued from Page 1*

vated by self-interest, what drives and motivates each of us to take action in the world. That cannot change. But in the places where self-interest leads to further disenfranchisement, corruption, and abuse of power, God asks us to dream of a better and bolder world. A world where self-interests are not selfish, but motivating, where people of all kinds realize the power they see others using lives inside of them, too. A world where the conception of the social order reverses—a world where unwed mothers, carpenters, and sheep farmers have as much as anyone else.

That is the world God asks us to dream into being—the same world that we enter every time we celebrate Advent and Christmas. I immediately thought of this concept as the Worship Committee prepared for the upcoming Advent series, “Those Who Dream.” I think

of this as ‘the world as we live it’ and ‘the world as God dreams it.’ We cannot imagine a future without dreaming together first. And unlike day dreaming by myself, dreaming together takes work. It takes risk. It takes a willingness to own our desires for the world God invites us to create. I can sit around all day staring out the window, allowing my mind to wander, looking at the birds as they fly from branch to branch. Or I can find other like minded people whose self-interests align with mine and dream together.

Will you join me in dreaming together this Advent? The kinds of dreams that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus have for the world? As the Christian band The Many sings, “those who dream change ev’rything.” May it be so for us this Advent season. ♦



[michele@browndowntown.org](mailto:michele@browndowntown.org)

## Session News & Notes

**The following are recent actions taken and reports received by the Session.**

Submitted by Laura Urban, Clerk of Session

■ Received a report from the Anti-Racism Steering Committee, chaired by Taylor Stewart. The committee has retained consultant Durryle Brooks, Ph.D., to lead a three-part Anti-Racism Workshop for the congregation, which will give an introduction to the following topics:

(1) Understanding Identity, (2) Examining Systems Of Power Animating Individual + Collective Identities, and (3) Introduction To Love & Allyship. Workshops will be Tuesday, December 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Saturday, December 5 from 10 am to noon; and Thursday, December 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

■ Session participated in a pre-training workshop, led by Taylor Stewart, to prepare for the congregation-wide program later this December.

■ Considered how and when to re-open the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship. The Worship committee and staff recommended that we continue to use Zoom only, due to the challenges of staying safe in the building. Session concurred with their plan to remain on Zoom.

■ Received a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to make changes in benefits for staff, including changing some payments on medical benefits, adding short-term disability benefits, allowing each employee to roll over unused annual sick leave to the next year to create a “bank” of up to 20 unused sick days.


■ Approved motion from the Diversity Committee to hang a 3 x 5 foot “Black Lives Matter” banner outside the Sanctuary.

■ Received report from the Stewardship Committee to focus on the theme of “Money Stories” for the stewardship season.

■ Received a report from the Nominating Committee with a slate of officers to be presented to the Congregation for election on October 25th: Elders: Amy Bonitz Palmer, Bill Sheridan, Lyndsay Taylor, Vi Thorpe, and Andi Zumbrum. Youth Elder: Aidan Connors. Deacons: Rachel Clark, Kathy Kaneda. Trustee: Barbara Christen. Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Reichelt, John Walker.

# BROWN TUTORING

## Exploring Racial Equity and Identity

 ne recent Wednesday evening, members of the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program snapped on their computers and described their intersectional identities. Intersectional identity is another way of saying what social and political factors combine in a person's identity to create different modes of discrimination and privilege.

For example, one tutor said her intersectional identity was female, a nature lover, an introvert, and lover of children. While another described hers as wife, mother, grandmother and teacher. The intersectional identity exercise was an ice breaker, an early component of the racial equity training program that the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program commission members and many of its tutors have volunteered to undertake.

Led by Ateira Griffin, a native Baltimorean and experienced equity consultant, and funded by a generous grant from the Goldseker Foundation, the program consists of a four-part training series that provides racial equity training grounded in the Baltimore landscape. In addition to exploring the concept of intersectional identity, the program seeks to have tutors write profiles of the daily lives of their students, to digitally tour Baltimore neighborhoods, and to develop racial equity action plans.

Activities like these are part of the journey for the Tutoring Program to integrate racial equity more intentionally into its strategic development and its work with students. Simply defined, racial equity is the result achieved when you can't predict an advantage or disadvantage by race, said Taylor Stewart, senior director at Leadership for Educational Equity, who helped design the training program and led a kick-off training session on the History of Structural Racism in Baltimore City Schools. While it might be simple to define, she said, racial equity has complex connections to institutional habits.

The idea of the training, Stewart said, is to develop a shared understanding of the forces that have led to racial disparities. If racism is baked into our systems and institutions, she said, we must figure out how to address it. This work will support the tutoring program's commission and current tutors in continuing to create safe, affirming environments for their students, who currently all identify as Black, to learn and grow. Other recommended goals for the tutoring program are ensuring that its leaders and tutors are well versed in the nuances of racial equity, and that the program uses materials that are culturally relevant to its students. As well as, working to diversify the commission and the tutoring pool so that students also engage with educators who share their identity. These efforts are key to upholding the program's mission to build a lifelong love of learning and reading.

Starting the training program now is propitious, said Mary Obrecht, head of the Brown Memorial Tutoring Commission. The racial reckoning moment we find ourselves in is a good time to take a hard look and a deep listen into how race affects the education of our students, she said. We have to think critically about ourselves, our city and our program, she said.

In the big picture, Obrecht said, we are asking what our organization needs to be doing to advance racial equity. What are the consequences if we don't do it? And what are the possibilities if we do. ♦

# Anti-Racism Trainings

by Taylor Stewart

**O**ur goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives. —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Tuesday, December 1 our church will embark on a learning journey to explore race equity in our relationships with each other and how antiracism can guide our mission together in our city and world. Dr. Durryle Brooks will be leading us through a three-part series where we will begin by exploring our individual identities and creating some shared language on race, then we will consider how our individual identities create a collective, shared identity as a congregation and explore the power dynamics and systems within that collective identity, and finally we will evaluate and practice love and allyship and what these mean to our social justice work within and outside the church's walls.

## A Little More About Our Facilitator

Durryle Brooks, Ph.D is an interdisciplinary researcher and a scholar-practitioner from Baltimore, MD. He has a B.A. from St. Mary's College of Maryland in Religious Studies, a M.A. in Sexuality Studies from SF State University, and a Ph.D. in Teacher Education and School Improvement from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a concentration in Social Justice Education.

Having grown up in poverty with multiple intersecting marginalized identities, he was intimately aware at an early age the cumulative impact of oppression on his over-all well-being. Early experiences with religious oppression, homophobia, and heterosexism deeply impacted his ability to thrive.

Because of this reality, Durryle has spent the last 15 years examining complex social issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty, religious oppression, and various other forms of social oppression and its impact on historically marginalized populations in order to mitigate those effects.



Dr. Durryle Brooks

Durryle realized that it was not enough to merely learn about oppression, but instead needed to move into a space of thinking and acting deeply for liberation. Dr. King's notion of a "Love That Does Justice" inspired him to explore social change work through a variety of civic engagement strategies. Additionally, his current research on contemporary discourses of love has informed his approach to pedagogy, social change, and liberation. You can learn more about Durryle and his practice at [www.loveandjusticeconsulting.com](http://www.loveandjusticeconsulting.com).

## Training Information

The training will take place over three 2 hours sessions in the first two weeks of December. All of them will take place virtually over Zoom and links will be included our weekly email, "This Week @ Brown," and on the church calendar prior to the date.

## Dates

Tuesday, December 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday, December 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All of the sessions have different content that builds understanding so you are strongly encouraged to attend all three sessions. But, if you can only make one or two of the dates, we still hope you will join us and participate when you can.

## What's Next

After the series, the antiracism Steering Committee and the Session will be working together to lead a discernment process on our next steps as a congregation. If you have thoughts or resources on our church's pursuit of racial justice in our city and the world, please send to church staff members or reach out to Taylor Stewart at [taylormckinney@gmail.com](mailto:taylormckinney@gmail.com). ♦

# Rockrose Farm

## Green Team News

**A** group of Brown Green Team volunteers, including Rev. Michele Ward, Kathy Kaneda, Christy Macy, Amy Bonitz Palmer, Sam Jonas, Natalie Kelly, Liam McConnell, Peter Kirchgraber, Rev. Kate Foster Connors, David and Lori Rawle, Katherine and McKay Jenkins have been working hard for months at the Rockrose Community Garden in the Woodberry neighborhood, across the Jones Falls from Hampden.

Brown Memorial's Green Team has hosted multiple groups this season which featured Dreams and Visions ELCA Church, Civic Works, Maryland Presbyterian Church, Friends School, and Westmoreland Congregational UCC.

Interested in joining the Brown Green Team at the farm? Volunteers are always welcome on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 11 am Contact Derrick Weston, master gardener and farm manager at [dweston80@gmail.com](mailto:dweston80@gmail.com) or McKay Jenkins, Green Team member at [mckay@udel.edu](mailto:mckay@udel.edu).

“One hundred percent of the produce we are growing — including (this winter) collard greens, sweet potatoes, kale, and lettuce — is donated to various networks supporting Baltimore food security, such as the Baltimore Farm to Stoop Project, one of our community partners.”



## ADVENT 2020

### Those Who Dream

*In our study of this season's lectionary scriptures, the opening lines from Psalm 126 jumped off the page: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.*

*This theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.*

*Week One: Those Who Dream Keep Awake  
Week Two: Those Who Dream Prepare the Way  
Week Three: Those Who Dream Sow Joy  
Week Four: Those Who Dream Are Not Alone*

— A Sanctified Art

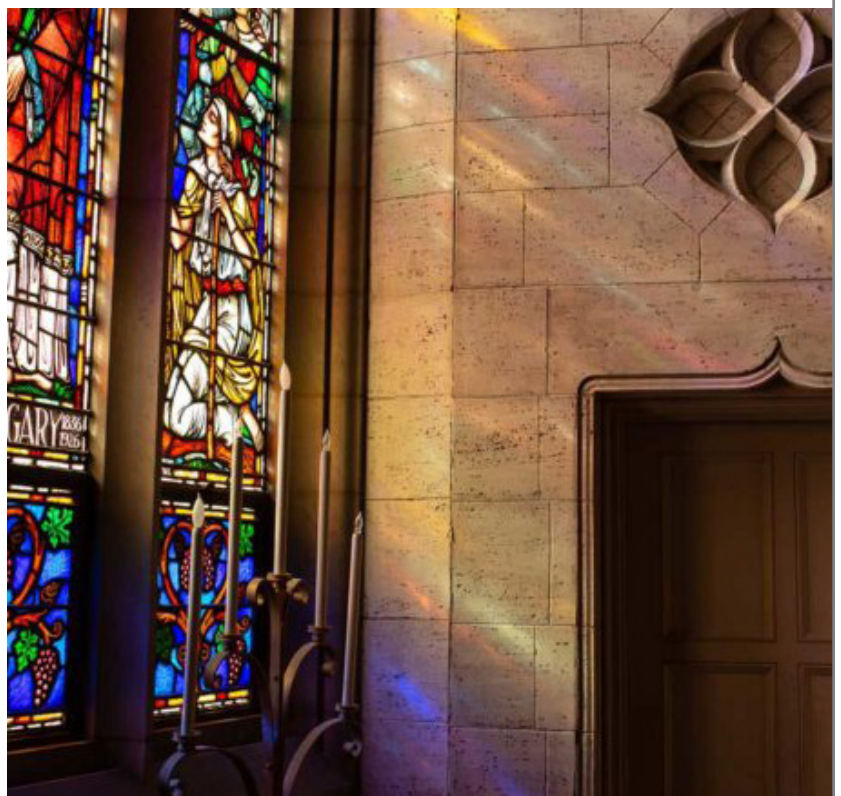
## TOUR THE SANCTUARY

### ANYTIME, FROM ANYWHERE

Even if you can't be with us in person, you can still visit Brown Memorial and learn more about the windows, organ, and wood carvings in the sanctuary using our audio tour— 410-630-4298. View photos for each audio tour stop at [browndowntown.org/tour-the-church](http://browndowntown.org/tour-the-church).

The highlight of the tour is Brown's collection of early 20th Century American art glass, including 11 Tiffany windows. Two of the Tiffany windows—one in each of the church's transepts—measure 16 feet wide by 32 feet tall and are believed to be among the largest windows created for a church by the Tiffany Studios. The audio tour allows listeners to step close to the windows and learn about the biblical themes they explore, as well as the artistry that went into their creation.

In addition to stops at each of the church's windows, the audio tour takes visitors through the sanctuary chancel filled with carved oak and where the 3,000-pipe organ built by the Skinner Organ Company in 1931 is housed. Listeners can also walk the church's cork labyrinth, consisting of seven concentric circles.



# Advent Activities

## Youth Advent Greens

**Saturday, November 28 at 10 am**

Prepare the greens for Advent wreaths at the Cook household (17 Jonathans Court Cockeysville, MD 21030). RSVP to Pastor Michele at [michele@browndowntown.org](mailto:michele@browndowntown.org).

## Advent Wreath Making

**Sunday, November 29 from 1 pm to 3:30 pm**

Our annual advent wreath making event is still taking place the 1st Sunday of Advent following worship. To meet a variety of comfort levels families may either make a wreath in person in the sanctuary or pick up materials to make a wreath at home. Enjoy a mini Christmas concert played by Michael Britt while you work or pick up your materials. In person wreath making will be in three 45-minute shifts limited to eight families each. We will provide wreaths, greens, and candles (one per family). We have some gloves but suggest bringing your own if you have them. Gloves will be single use and clippers will be wiped down between shifts. A \$10 per wreath donation is appreciated to help us cover our costs. As in years past, we will also have devotional materials and spiritual practice ideas available to enhance your Advent experience. Masks should be worn at all times while in the sanctuary as well as social distancing. Visit the church calendar to sign up for an in-person spot.

## Meditation Circle

**November 29, December 6 & 13 at 9:45 am**

**Visio Divina with Pastor Michele**

Reflect on the lectionary readings and corresponding art from A Sanctified Art with Pastor Michele.

## Adult Education Class

**November 29, December 6 & 13 at 9:45 am**

**Mary, Mother of God with Dr. Matthew Taylor, ICJS Protestant Scholar and Brown Memorial Member**

Mary and the God of Justice: Listening Anew to the Magnificat (November 29)

Mary in the Islamic Tradition: Memories from the Qur'an (December 6)

Re-forming Our View of Mary: Finding Catholic and Protestant Space for Agreement (December 13)

**Please note, the Education Hour and Meditation Circle will not meet on December 20 or December 27. They will resume on January 3, 2021.**

## Mid-Week Prayer Service

**Thursdays, December 3-17 from 5:30 to 6:15 pm**

Take a moment to pause during the busy season of Advent and join us at our weekly prayer service, a time when we come together to hold the community and the world in prayer. All are welcome.

## Secret Santa Unboxing Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 6 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm**

All Middle and High School youth are invited to buy a cheap/junk/joke wrapped gift and deliver it to the home of their Secret Santa recipient by December 5. We will unbox our Secret Santa gifts together online and try to guess who our Secret Santas are. Please spend less than \$10.

RSVP to Pastor Michele at [michele@browndowntown.org](mailto:michele@browndowntown.org).



# Advent Activities

## **Christmas Concert and Silent Film**

**December 13 at 7 pm**

Program to include popular and classical holiday music performed by organist, Michael Britt followed by the silent film short "Big Business" starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. Join us in-person or via live stream. In-person seating is limited and by pre-registration only.

## **Longest Night Gathering for A Holiday Service of Remembrance & Grief**

**Monday, December 21 at 7 pm**

There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth" (1 Samuel 2:10, The Message Translation). Join us to sing, to pray, and to share our grief with God and one another. To fully experience this service we suggest bringing the following supplies: a small wire or wooden wreath frame, strips of cloth, four candles of the same height, one candle of a taller height, and a black marker.

## **Christmas Pageant for Everyone**

**Sunday, December 20 at 11 am**

The show will go on! Join us over Zoom for this annual

event which will be both familiar and new. Watch for more specific details, in worship and in the weekly emails, for how you can participate at home.

## **Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24**

**"We Are Those Who Dream"**

**Lessons & Carols Service of Worship at 5:30 pm**  
(Prelude begins at 5 p.m.)

This year our candlelight service retelling the Christmas story will be in a hybrid fashion, health and safety permitting. Live carols will be interspersed with recordings from past. Lessons & carols services and new recordings from our Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir and Soloists. Whether you attend virtually or in-person this service will be a beautiful remembrance of the birth of our Lord and Savior. In-person seats will be limited, pre-registration is required. See the church calendar for more details on how and when to register.

## **First Sunday After Christmas**

**"Those Who Dream Will Not Keep Silent"**

**Sunday, December 27 at 11 am**

This year, the Sunday after Christmas falls just two days after Christmas Eve. This liturgy is designed to offer rest for church leadership so they can also be present with their families and loved ones throughout the Christmas season. Come lift your voice with us in this interactive worship service that will include many of our favorite Christmas carols, including recordings from the congregation. We invite you to submit a video recording of your family singing their favorite Christmas carol to Rachel Cunningham at [rachel@browndowntown.org](mailto:rachel@browndowntown.org) by Sunday, December 20, to be included in this service of worship.





## October Birthdays

10/01	Brantley Davis
10/06	Al Fisher
10/04	Morgana Kinlan
10/05	Ronnie Doyle
10/06	Bob Pownall
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	Ann Holland
10/16	Daryl Plevy
10/15	Jayne Mauric
10/17	Cal Jackson
10/18	Paul Dagdigian
10/20	Hannah Murphy Buc
10/20	Harper Ruckman
10/20	Liam Ruckman
10/21	Matias Calderon
10/21	Peter Kirchgraber
10/21	Julia Christen Luljak
10/21	Peter Christen 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	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](mailto:Sharon@brown-downtown.org).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2021

## EPIPHANY STAR GIFTS SUNDAY

"Those Who Dream Persevere"

January 3, 2021 at 11 am

What are Star Gifts? Star gifts are a prayer practice connected with Epiphany and the new year. You will receive your Star Gift through the mail in late December but don't open it. On Epiphany Sunday we will open our gifts together in worship. Your star gift will contain a word to guide your prayers and intentions for the coming year. Just as the Magi followed a star, so will we. Once opened, we encourage you to place your star somewhere that you will regularly see it throughout the year to allow for continual reflection on how God has and is moving through, around or in connection to your word.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 17, 2021 following worship

On Sunday, January 24, 2021 following worship, friends and members of the congregation are invited to stay on Zoom to discuss Brown's year ahead. Learn about upcoming events for the 150th anniversary and how to get involved.

# YOUTH EVENTS

## SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!

January 17, 2021 from 5:30 to 7 pm

Monthly youth group gathering on Zoom for spiritual fellowship, and fun. The youth group is ecumenical and includes churches from around Baltimore City. Check out the church calendar for information on how to join.

## WINTER DAY-LONG RETREAT

Saturday, January 30, 2021, Grades: 6-12 Cost: Free

10 am to 2 pm: Outdoor activities at Patapsco State Park (weather permitting)

7 pm: Virtual Worship and Prayer Stations

8 pm: Virtual Minute to Win It

## YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 11 am

Annual Sunday when the youth of Brown Memorial lead the worship service. The offering this Sunday will go towards funding scholarships for summer trips to Montreat Camp and Conference Center and the Upper Sioux Community. Stay for break out room 'reception' afterwards to celebrate our middle school and high school members.

# Church Photographs

Brown Memorial's Handbell Choir multi-generational ensemble rehearses together.



Just married bride and groom share family moments on the beautiful front steps of Brown Memorial.



## *November Birthdays*

11/01	Anne Heuisler
11/01	Julianna Lucas
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	Shirley Parry
11/18	Bert Schmickel
11/18	Louise Wagner
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	Maureen Kelly
11/28	Ileana Imhoff
11/28	Luke Inglesby
11/28	Natalie Kelly
11/29	Eva McNabney
11/29	Carolina Mills
11/29	Amanda Slagle



## December Birthdays

12/01	Lynda Burton
12/01	Nicholas Imparato
12/0	Evangeline B. Lozada
12/02	Matthew Mickel
12/03	Cheryl Finney
12/03	Maggie Phenicie
12/0	Adam McNabney
11/04	Michaela Murphy-Buc
12/05	Eloise Jennings Crew
12/05	Jenny Williams
12/07	Warren Grayson
12/07	J. Courtland Robinson
12/07	Brough Schamp
12/08	Nancyellen Brennan
12/10	Viviane B. Thorpe
12/11	Cal Buikema
12/11	Katie Rhodes
12/11	Sally S. Robinson
12/11	Samuel Todd
12/11	Gerald Versey
12/13	Audrey M. Brown
12/13	Stewart Finney
12/15	Augie Brown
12/15	Matt Mitchell
12/16	Nate Hubler
12/16	Chip Morgan Riegel
12/16	Henry Taylor
12/18	Nicki Artes
12/18	Caroline Cross
12/18	Stephanie Shapiro
12/19	Jair Williams
12/20	Gillian Babb
12/21	Sam J. Kelly, III
12/22	Judith Arnold
12/22	Narka K. Ryan
12/23	Lorna Carr
12/25	Robert Gorham
12/25	Kelsie Riegel Morgan
12/25	Matthew-Daniel Stremba
12/26	Carole Tayman
12/27	Juliette Goodwin
12/27	Martha Thomas
12/2	Josh Boak
12/29	Rachel Cunningham
12/3	Phyllis McIntosh

# Brown Downtown Turns 150

## Stories of Hope and Faith

[Read Their Entire Story on our Website](#)

### Excerpts from Gilly Babb's Story

My first memory of Brown Memorial Park Avenue Church was waiting for my mother to come pick me up from the nursery, which back then was located in the now lovely living room to the right when you walk into the church house. When I started going to Brown Memorial, there were three generations of us Mocks/Brents/Obrechts in the church – my parents and grandparents were all members, as well as David Mock and Jill Brent. Today there are four generations; and it truly is a blessing to have such a long history at Brown Memorial.

As a life-long member of Brown Memorial Church, I have a deep and abiding love for our history, those who have served this church, my fellow parishioners, and our community's passion for outreach. I am proud of the fact that we remain dedicated to social justice issues, and that our congregation values promote all types of diversity. I am proud of Dr. John Middaugh, who was our minister when my parents were newly married, who along with my grandmother picketed and was arrested fighting against segregation. I'm proud to have known the Taylors, who were missionaries committed to expanding the church's global mission. I'm proud of Rev. David Malone for his interest in and commitment to enhancing Christian/Jewish relations within our church. The trip he led to Israel with twenty-five members from both our church and Beth Am Synagogue was life-altering for me and many others. I'm proud of Rev. Roger Gench, who guided us through the tumultuous process of becoming a More Light church. Lastly, I'm proud of Rev. Andrew Foster-Connors for his devotion to our city, his ability to attract so many wonderful new members, and his understanding of the importance of ecumenical work. My family has been blessed to have been part of this amazing church community.

### Excerpts from Sally Robinson's Story

Court and I first joined Brown Memorial in 1964 when we were missionaries in Korea with the United Presbyterian Church. Brown had been one of our supporting churches, and they kept in touch with us when we were in Korea. When we came back to the U.S., we said that the logical thing to do was join the church.

I am proud of the fact that we've survived downtown and begun to grow again—the fact that we're as involved as we've ever been in the city. We believe that we are meant to be in the city, and we still are. I would say at one time our great focus was overseas mission. I am less interested in that now because we're a long way away from it. The fact that we still care about the world and the issues of the world and the fact that we are who we are — we're very proud of that. The two of us and several of the others, the old timers, were there at the right time and we stayed at the right time.



# BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City  
and the World*

## VIRTUAL WORSHIP and GATHERINGS

The Church, in its most basic, original incarnation, is the web of relationships that God brings together across time and distance. Please join us as we bridge this distance virtually, each week, and continue to gather for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship.

**SUNDAY MORNING:** Join us live on Zoom via your computer or phone for the Education Hour beginning at 9:45 am followed by Worship at 11 am. Visit [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org) to access the Zoom links, passwords, and dial-in phone numbers. Links are also provided for the hymns and bulletins.

**PAST SERMONS:** In addition to joining us live every Sunday, you can read, watch or listen to past sermons at [browndowntown.org/sermons](http://browndowntown.org/sermons), or visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel at [browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org).

**OTHER GATHERINGS:** Visit our website to view our full calendar and sign up for our weekly email, "This Week @ Brown," for the latest news and Zoom links for small group and committee gatherings.



## SAVE THE DATE

### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ERNEST M. SKINNER PIPE ORGAN

On Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 3 pm this celebration will include a recital by Michael Britt who will premiere a commissioned work by Alfred V. Fedak. The program will also feature an interview with Peter Scott, the grandson of Ernest Skinner by Tom Hall and a presentation by Jonathan Ambrosino, a world renowned Skinner historian. More details forthcoming.

## Tidings

*Good News from Brown  
Memorial Park Avenue  
Presbyterian Church*

1316 Park Avenue,  
Baltimore, MD, 21217.  
410.523.1542.  
[browndowntown.org](http://browndowntown.org)

Andrew Foster Connors,  
*Senior Pastor*

Michele Ward,  
*Associate Pastor*

Lisa Roca,  
*Editor*

*To submit Tidings articles,  
email Lisa Roca at  
[lisa@browndowntown.org](mailto:lisa@browndowntown.org).*

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