



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

SEPT/OCT 2021

Clergy and Staff

Senior Pastor Andrew Connors

Associate Pastor Michele Ward

Minister of Music Michael Britt

Christian Educator

Rachel Cunningham

Administrative Assistant

Sharon Holley

Financial Administrator

Sharon Lucas

Facilities Manager Keith Moore Sr.

Communications Consultant

Lisa Roca

Media Specialist Anastasia Kupstas

Director of Children's Music

Robert Tracy

Custodian Henry Owens

Tutoring Program Director

Martha Socolar

Tutoring Program Assistant

Director Molly Higgins

Tutoring Director of

Development Tracy Cerrato

Music Minister Emeritus

John Walker



Pastor's Reflection

By Michele Ward, Associate Pastor

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." — Jesus, Matthew 11:28-30

I find myself at a loss for words often these days. Too many tragedies in our world to name. Too many deaths from the global COVID pandemic. Too many natural disasters ravaging the continents. And yet I find myself longing for something to share with you that is hopeful, something to write that will remind us that we are not alone in these unspeakable times.

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Jesus makes the claim to his disciples that following him will be easy and unburdened compared to going their own way. But Jesus still offers them a form of work. He offers them a yoke, the wooden harness for farm animals as they work the field. Jesus compares us to working cattle and donkeys plowing on the farm—that image is quite startling, frankly, and not one that I find very comforting at first glance. I long to take him up on his invitation. I want a God that invites me into soul-rest. I want a God who sees my weariness and the heavy burdens on my back. I want a God who tells me to set them down. I want a God who is gentle. I want a God who has a humble heart. I want a God who gives me meaningful work to do that does not strain my shoulders or injure my back with its weight.

I am weary, and I imagine you are, too. I am weary of various forms of social breakdown. I am weary of feeling disconnected. I am weary of the mounting losses in our world. I am carrying heavy burdens, and I imagine you are, too. I am carrying my grandmother's death last autumn. As e.e. cummings says, "I carry your heart with me."¹ I am carrying your losses with you whenever I pray for you. As the apostle Paul says, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."² I carry you with me whenever I think of what you are holding in your work life, in your family life, in your personal life.

I will not offer you any false optimism, any hollow positivity, or any misleading claims about following God or picking up the meaningful work of the gospel to be a complete departure from the pain and suffering of life. That is a full on deception and simply not on display in the Bible. None of us are immune from the darkness and difficulty of being human. But that does not mean that we should give up and stop the meaningful work that God gives us to complete. That does not mean that we refuse the humble, gentle God that waits to give us soul-rest.

In a new anthology of feminist theology, *Contemporary Feminist Theologies: Power, Authority, Love*, the writers say "Jesus uses his unique power and authority to emphatically invite all you who are weary to find rest for their souls. Jesus ... is the ultimate source of power who welcomes all."³ Imagine that with me for a moment. Jesus uses his power as God-in-flesh to extend his arms towards us, to embrace us and give us rest. Simultaneously, the work of the gospel is still to be done. Now that we know the rest that only Jesus can give, what will we do? How will we invite others who are burdened by oppressive systems and personal struggles into rest and purpose? How will we find this rest and purpose for ourselves?

As we enter the fall program year at Brown Memorial, we have an opportunity to explore these questions together as a community. Through a variety of community spaces, Jesus invites us to explore our questions together. An Adult Forum on the suffering of God brings us together to wrestle with God and with the biblical text. Weekly service days at Rocks N Rows Charity Garden show us the persistence of God's creation in the midst of uncertainty. Spaces for children and youth to play and build relationships give members of all ages ways to connect and have fun.

Even in the midst of all the world holds and all that we are holding, we can live differently together. We can be a community who sticks with one another through these unspeakable times by deepening our ties rather than isolating ourselves. Come and rest your weary souls with us at Brown Memorial. We look forward to sharing the rest and the work Jesus promises with each of us.

1 "[i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)]" Copyright 1952, © 1980, 1991 by the Trustees for the E. E. Cummings Trust, from Complete Poems: 1904-1962 by E. E. Cummings, edited by George J. Firmage. Used by permission of Liveright Publishing Corporation. Complete Poems: 1904-1962 (Liveright Publishing Corporation, 1991)

2 Philippians 1:3-4, New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3 Sally Douglas, "The Problem with Powerlessness: Attending to Power and Authority in Matthew's Wisdom Christology," in *Contemporary Feminist Theologies: Power, Authority, Love*, edited by Cathryn McKinney, Kerrie Handasyde, and Rebekah Pryor (New York: Routledge, 2021).

Session News & Notes

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

Submitted by Laura Urban, Clerk of Session

- Received report from the Communication Committee, summarizing the congregation survey from April 11 to May 2, which had 124 respondents (28% of the number who received it). The general sentiment regarding Brown's efforts during the pandemic was very positive, particularly around the quality of the Zoom worship experience. Congregants expressed increased stress (27%) and mental fatigue (29%), and nearly half (48%) have experienced a personal loss of a loved one (from COVID or other causes). There was general appreciation for both the special services offered (e.g., Christmas pageant, Lenten boxes) and the congregation's effort to collect funds for COVID relief. Some expressed concern about how to meet internal care needs for the congregation, including wondering if the load on Deacons is too great, and what we could do to "strengthen our muscles" at the individual level to connect and care for one another.
- Received reports from the Returning to BMPA Team about the transition to in-person worship.
- Approved general plans from the Capital Core Team to launch a "Second Mile Campaign" this fall to complete the funding for the renovation activities of the Fellowship Building, South Tower, and Sanctuary improvements. (More details coming in October.)
- To provide support and oversight of the Brown Tutoring Commission, Session approved a new hiring process and procedures for the Tutoring program, which will support the Commission in identifying, recruiting, and hiring new staff. The process creates a tighter connection between the church Personnel Committee and the Tutoring Commission staff during the hiring process.
- Recommended that we stop operating the COVID Relief Fund and consider how or if to create other means to provide assistance when needed. Session will consider recommendations on how to do this in the fall.

SUMMER TIME Youth Events on the Water



MUSIC NOTES

The Music Program Offers an Array of Opportunities

By Michael Britt, Minister of Music

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir leads our congregation each Sunday in hymns and responses and enhances our worship by providing a wide variety of anthems such as spirituals, choral masterworks, and contemporary genres. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 8:45 pm in the sanctuary. We welcome new members for all voice parts.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and youth play an important role in the worship life of our congregation. Choral and instrumental ensembles are often put together to assist with our Christmas Pageant, confirmation and youth led services. We also invite them to provide instrumental pieces for preludes, postludes as well as interludes during the Time with Children.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Our Handbell Choir is open to youth and adults. The choir rings at various worship services throughout the year as scheduled. Rehearsals are often held on Sundays after worship in the labyrinth. The ability to read music is a plus, but not required. All training will be provided. I am pleased to announce that our four octave set of White Chapel Bells have recently been refurbished thanks to a generous donation from Chrystie and Doug Adams. This was given in celebration of Chrystie's 50th year in music ministry at Brown Memorial! We have commissioned a piece by renowned composer Wayne L. Wold to celebrate their refurbishment.

SOULFUL REVUE

A male choral ensemble specializing in contemporary vocal stylings, spirituals and gospel music. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed in preparation for worship. Currently, Soulful Revue is preparing music for worship on Sunday, October 17 so they cannot accept new members at this time. If you would like to join Soulful Revue for future services and events, please contact Taylor Branch at mail@taylorbranch.com.

SOULFUL SISTERS

A women's ensemble also specializing in gospel, spirituals and other contemporary musical forms arranged by renowned composers such as Barbara Baker and Rosephanye Powell. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed and are often held on Sundays following worship. For additional information, please contact Kathy Graning at kathryn.graning@yahoo.com.

BROWN INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

We welcome all those proficient on a particular instrument to share their musical gifts. This ensemble provides an opportunity for children, youth and adults to play together on special occasions, Sunday worship and other events.

A NOTE ABOUT COVID

As we continue to plan and navigate our programming through these tough times, COVID precautions and restrictions may alter the way all of these ensembles rehearse and perform. We will keep you informed of any changes that might occur during the program year. We continue to follow all recommended guidelines regarding masking while in the facilities and are investing in special masks for musicians that allow ample room around the mouth for breathing as well as preventing glasses and contacts from fogging up while performing.

Get to Know Brown Memorial's Deacons

The Deacons play an essential role within Brown Memorial: caregiving for our church family.

The following is a brief summary of the Deacons' many activities:

- Organizing and providing meals for those experiencing the need.
- Initiating prayer vigils during surgery.
- Supporting those requiring hospice care.
- Supporting families who have lost loved ones by providing prayer and meals through periods of mourning.
- Providing transportation to medical appointments.
- Acknowledging and celebrating pro-

fessional awards, the birth of children and milestone anniversaries.

- Delivering groceries.
- Praying with those who wish to receive or participate in prayer.
- Writing to and/or contacting families using church note cards.
- Contacting and praying for our college students who are away from home.
- Maintaining contact with our high school students who are seniors.
- Maintaining contacts with families who have recently moved from the area.

The Deacons are organized to provide caregiving by alphabetic assignment.

To assist you, photographs of the 2021 Deacons and email addresses are provided here to help you identify your Deacon (phone numbers are available in CCB).

You may want to reach out to your Deacon just to say hello or to discuss caregiving needs; the Deacons acknowledge that effective communication is a shared responsibility. It is their goal to be in touch with each of you in the church directory for whom they are responsible during 2021 and they expect to find additional ways to meet and get to know you. Deacons typically wear name badges on Sunday mornings during worship.



Rebecca Crew
(A-B)
rahcrew@gmail.com



David Lascu
(G-H)
dmlascu@aol.com



Page Campbell
(O-P-R)
pacerini@peoplepc.com



Ryan Moran
(C)
rbmoran22@gmail.com



Jim Cox
(I-J-K-L)
Jimcox47@icloud.com



Maureen Kelly
(S-T)
momonge63@gmail.com



Kathy Kaneda
(D-E-F)
kkaneda2@gmail.com



Kathy Arnold
(M-N)
karnold@boyslatinmd.com



Ellen Carter Cooper
(U-Z)
edccooper58@hotmail.com

Meet Your Deacons

As elected officers of Brown Memorial Church, our Deacons are available and focused on congregational care. Each member or friend of the congregation has a deacon assigned based upon your last name. The Deacons have attempted to reach out to the congregation throughout the pandemic. There have been some changes throughout the last year and the Deacon group has attempted to fill in the gaps and we hope your ministry needs have been met. You may be contacted through phone, traditional mail or electronic mail. Should you find yourself in need of additional prayers or other support please don't hesitate to reach out to your deacon as well.

REBECCA CREW joined Brown Memorial in 2007 and has volunteered with the youth group, taught Sunday School, organized with BUILD, and served on the worship committee. A Tennessee native, she works as an architectural historian and lives in Northeast Baltimore with her husband Darin, their children Eloise and Henry, and four chickens. Important facets of Rebecca's faith are helping others, being creative, and exploring and caring for God's creation. A lifelong Presbyterian, she has always seen women as leaders in the church, but as a Deacon, she has had a new appreciation for the classic dichotomy of Mary and Martha (and sees the Deacon role as combining the two).

RYAN MORAN originally from West Virginia, is a preacher's kid, raised in the Holiness Pentecostal tradition. He has attended the Presbyterian Church now for eight years, and believes in the radical inclusive love of God that binds us together. His service as a deacon is rooted in belief that it is important to care for the beloved community and meet the needs of those among us. Professionally, Ryan works at MedStar Health and oversees community and population health services for the region (Baltimore City and Baltimore County). He is an avid runner, lover of yoga, and enjoys traveling.

KATHY KANEDA has been a member of Brown since 2019 and was elected Deacon January 2021. She participates in the Handbell Choir, other music events, small groups and teaches music to 4th and 5th graders in the Baltimore County Public Schools. Prior to residing in Baltimore, Kathy took residence in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She served on mission trips to Quito, Ecuador, the Yucatan, Moscow, Lithuania, Latvia and the Caribbean Islands. These trips were sponsored by the Presbytery of the churches of which she was a member. Kathy is married to her High School sweetheart, Keith, where they live together in Pikesville.

DAVID LASCU moved to Baltimore from Michigan more than 13 years ago to embark on a new career as a Director of Education at Tesst College of Education. David transferred from Light Street Presbyterian Church where he served as Chair of Stewardship/Fundraising and Clerk of Session. At Brown he found a new spiritual home and has participated in Bible Study, Adult Education, Tutoring and an array of other volunteer activities. David is also involved with the Male Spirituality Group, Small Group Advisory Committee, Worship Committee, Diversity Committee, Anti-Racism Committee, the Return to Brown Committee, Hand Bell Choir, and now Co-Chairs the Deacon group. David is currently retired from working for over 30 years in higher education. He also previously worked as a Professional Trainer providing Professional Development and as well as worked in the social work field as a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Coordinator, before retiring.

JAMES COX came to Brown in 2006 after an invitation to sing from John Walker for a Tiffany event. He hails from Dover, North Carolina and attended North Carolina A and T State University. Prior to coming to Brown he was tenor soloist at St. James Episcopal Church where he studied with Maurice Murphy and Julius Tilghman. He joined the Deacons in 2016.

Meet Your Deacons

Continued from Page 6

KATHRYN ARNOLD has been a member of Brown for the past seven years. Kathy transferred from Grace United Methodist church where she had been the mezzo-soprano soloist for a number of years. She also was the director of the Cherub Choirs (preschool aged children) and Alleluia Choirs (elementary aged children). Kathy lives in Bolton Hill so it is a pleasure for her to attend church here and to be a part of the vibrant church community. Kathy is the director of lower school admissions at Boys' Latin. She formerly served as the head of the lower school and prior to that was an elementary school principal for Baltimore County Schools. Kathy is married to Nathan Arnold (also a Brown member) and has two adult children and four grandchildren. She feels so pleased that her son, Judson, and his wife, Anne, live in Bolton Hill and are also members of Brown. Kathy's daughter, Amanda (and family) live in Charlotte, North Carolina. Kathy is happy to serve as a Deacon and looks forward to her continuing service.

PAGE CAMPBELL'S family consists of two daughters (both of whom live in Baltimore), four granddaughters and one great granddaughter. Her career was in I.T. and statistical analysis, both in the private and public sectors. At Brown, Page participates in Bible Study, the Diversity Committee, the Green Team, BUILD, Faith & Literature, and as liturgist, greeter and usher. In the past, she has served as a Trustee. Page now serves as a Deacon because she likes to help and comfort people and it helps her live out the Christian faith.

MAUREEN KELLY grew up number six of eight children in a loving Catholic home in upstate New York. She spent the first 12 years of life attending Catholic schools and going to church every Sunday. Maureen's father, who was a teacher, attended mass every day before school, and was strict about following the Catholic doctrine and expectations. After a family tragedy as a teenager, she became angry with God, and disillusioned with the Catholic Church, and stopped attending church altogether. Maureen searched for many years for a better understanding of what belief and faith in God really meant, and how to "let God back in" and follow God. Through that journey, she believes that God has shown her in many ways the beauty of God's love and guidance. Maureen has been married to her husband Sam for 24 years, and they have two children, Ryan (19) and Natalie (15). She has works as a Clinical Social Worker for 32 years, both in the areas of Child Welfare, and Substance Use Disorder. Maureen joined Brown Memorial a few years ago and has found it to be a warm and welcoming community, and place to worship.

ELLEN CARTER COOPER has been a member of Brown Memorial since 2005. She is a retired educator who has taught English at the middle school, high school, and university levels in Baltimore, Chicago, and Detroit. Additionally, Ellen has worked as a school improvement specialist at the Michigan and Maryland State Departments of Education. Her experiences have helped her to collaborate with diverse groups of people who value family, religion, and education. Since joining Brown Memorial, Ellen has served as a two-term ordained elder and a classroom visiting reader at Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School. For several years, along with Laura McConnell, she wrote and edited the church newsletter. She sang in the alto section of the Chancel Choir directed by John Walker and sat on the interview committee that hired Michael Britt, the current Minister of Music. Currently, Ellen serves on the personnel committee. She believes that service is the rent we pay to inhabit the earth. Being a deacon will allow her to "pay her rent."

HISTORY ALIVE at Brown Memorial

By Gayle Barney

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the Fall, we will be hearing more about our history at Brown and how it is woven through the fabric of the actions we take today and how it can direct us in the future.

EDUCATION HOUR

Join us in understanding more about our Community's history at the cross-section of race through discussion and dialogue during the Education Hour. Talk about where we are today and how we can continue to grow in being a truly anti-racist congregation.

STORIES OF HOPE AND FAITH PUBLICATION

Join us we pause, reflect, celebrate and look forward, raising important questions on where we go from here, by listening to and reading the incredible Stories of Hope and Faith prepared and published during the last year. This publication contains nearly 30 stories written from interviews with members and past and present staff.

SAVE THE DATE

Lastly, mark your calendars for the Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church Re-dedication on Sunday, December 5, 2021. Be part of celebrating all that Brown has been and continues to be for each of us individually and collectively as a community in the City and world around us. The future is ours—help Brown prepare to move forward knowing our history, our strengths, where we must grow, and how we must act in the future.

BROWN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RE-DEDICATION

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group Events

By Michele Ward, Associate Pastor

SUNDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS

2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS, 5:30-7 PM, IN PERSON, ASSEMBLY ROOM

Join Michele and youth leaders for games, fellowship, and spiritual conversation: September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24 and November 7 and 21.

TACO TUESDAYS

FIRST TUESDAYS FROM 5:30 TO 7 PM

Join us on October 7, November 2 and December 7 at Papi's in Hampden located at 3820 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21211. Cost: First taco is on us.

SAVE THE DATES

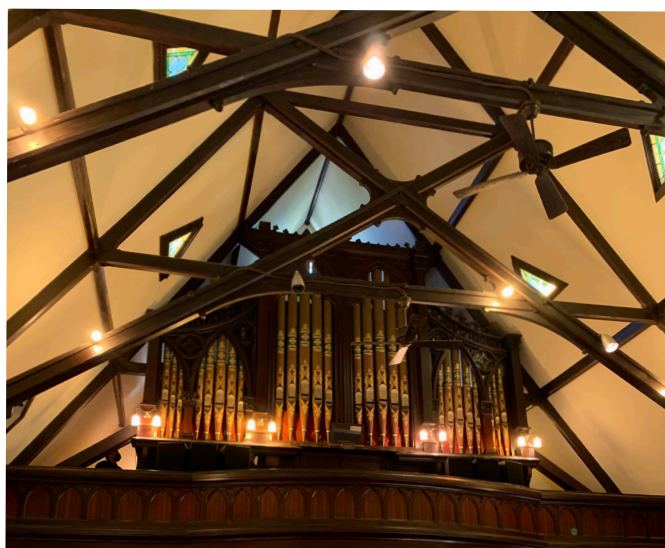
By Michael Britt, Minister of Music

150th Anniversary Holiday Program on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 11 AM**

Featuring Hymns sung at the Dedication of Brown Memorial in December of 1870 as well as holiday favorites. The program will be held at the former Christadelphian Chapel In Catonsville (600 Frederick Road). The Chapel houses Brown Memorial's original pipe organ (1870) built by Hall and Labagh in New York City (see pictures). This organ was sold to what was then Paradise Presbyterian Church (1890) so that Brown could install a larger organ built by Steere and Turner. The Christadelphian Chapel is presently being turned into an Arts Center. Details forthcoming.

Holiday Concert featuring the Brass Ensemble from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 7 PM**

The program will include selections from the classical repertoire as well as music for the Holiday season. The concert will also feature our E.M. Skinner Pipe Organ played by Michael Britt.



SAVE THE DATES

Youth Group Events 2021-2022

PROGRESSIVE DINNER CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 | FROM 5:30 TO 8 PM

YOUTH SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 AT 11 AM

Have any questions about youth programming at BMPA? Contact Pastor Michele at michele@browndowntown.org.

Green Team

Volunteer Opportunities

ROCKS N ROWS CHARITY GARDEN

Rockrose City Farm

3:30-5:30 pm on Mondays

9 -11 am on Tuesdays ,Wednesday and Thursdays

BMPA sponsors the Rocks N Rows Charity Garden, a Baltimore City Farm in the Woodberry neighborhood located at 3713 Clipper Road Baltimore MD 21211.

The produce serves food programs in Baltimore City with a focus on providing vegetables for Stillmeadow Community Fellowship's food ministry. To volunteer on Monday and Wednesdays email McKay Jenkins, BMPA garden lead at mckay@udel.edu. Contact Derrick Weston, Rocks N Rows garden manager, to volunteer on Tuesday and Thursdays at dweston80@gmail.com.

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Sunday, September 12 from 3 to 6 pm

October 10-12 from 7 to 8 pm

This training is designed to teach you about the Environmental Human Rights Amendment and prepare us to be ambassadors for it this fall and during the legislative session.

The goal is to empower us with the knowledge we need to go out into the world and get people talking about environmental human rights with their family, friends, co-workers, members of congregations, and importantly, their elected officials. We will gain the ability and confidence to:

1. Explain the fundamental elements and unique value of the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.
2. Communicate the importance of the amendment to the public and your elected officials.
3. Encourage others to support the amendment through ambassadorship and political action.
4. Perform meaningful actions to advance the amendment, such as using social media, writing letters of support, getting endorsements, etc. Will you join the BMPA Green Team and take action? [RSVP here](#).

CIVIC WORKS RICKY MYERS DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, October 2 from 9 am to 12 pm

Registration begins at 8 am in the parking lot at the Jones Falls Trailhead. Open to all ages. Please wear close toed shoes, clothes to get dirty and bring water and snacks. To sign up email Rev. Michele Ward at michele@browndowntown.org.

September Birthdays

09/01	Catherine Sewell
09/02	Monica Rakowski
09/02	Greg Trimble
09/03	Hilda Imhoff
09/04	Jim Cox
09/04	Ang Robinson
09/08	Amy Dahl
09/09	Nicole Mitchell
09/10	Jackie Cole
09/10	Micheline Manus
09/11	Kathy Arnold
09/12	Alex Norton
09/12	Susan Stroupe
09/13	Emma Fesperman
09/14	John Burton
09/14	Youngmi Song
09/16	Nannette Mitchell
09/16	Karen Nelson
09/16	Jody Shaw
09/16	Linell Smith
09/18	Amy Munds
09/20	Trevor Bishai
09/21	Kirk Fulton
09/22	Lynn Clippinger
09/22	Dylan Smith
09/24	Luke Clippinger
09/24	Barbara Hull Francis
09/24	Ed Richardson
09/25	Mia Davis
09/25	Sabine Davis
09/25	Grace Peng
09/26	Salvatore Pappalardo
09/28	Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.
09/28	Donna Senft
09/28	Jim Veatch
09/29	Lisa Hoffberger

October Birthdays

10/01	Brantley Davis
10/01	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	Anne Holland
10/16	Daryl Plevy
10/15	Jayne Mauric
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 Luljak
10/21	Peter Luljak
10/21	Matt McNabney
10/23	Paul Fletcher-Hill
10/24	Bill Ryan
10/24	Caitlin Schneider
10/26	Deondra Asike
10/26	Sarah Cook
10/26	Daryl Smith
10/28	Nadia Hensley
10/30	Mary Peeler
10/31	Julie Hanks



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

Tutoring Program

2021-2021 School Year

By Tracy Cerrato, Tutoring Director of Development

WELCOMING NEW STAFF

The Brown Memorial Tutoring Program is pleased to share that we recently hired Molly Higgins to be the Assistant Director and Tracy Cerrato to be a part-time Development Director—a brand new position added this past spring. Molly, who has been a tutor in the program for the last three years, worked as a preschool teacher in Chicago, and before that as an ICU Nurse and Nurse Educator. Tracy, who has her Master's in Social Work, has more than 25 years of development/nonprofit experience, most recently at a Baltimore City adult literacy organization. They are both excited about their new roles and being part of such a wonderful program and community!

OPENING DAY

Molly Higgins and Martha Socolar have hit the ground running to prepare for the new tutoring year that is fast approaching. On September 8, Brown Memorial Tutoring hosted its Opening Day for volunteer tutors. The keynote speaker was Kate McElderry, a tutor at The Odyssey School, who spoke to the importance of fostering a growth mindset in children, especially in those who struggle to learn to read and write. She also discussed the positive attributes of individuals with learning differences, and the unique gifts they bring to the world.

Opening Day was followed by new tutor orientation on September 9 and Orton Gillingham Training takes place on September 22 and 23. The Orton Gillingham Approach is a phonetically structured and multisensory way to teach literacy when reading, writing, and spelling does not come easily.

PREPARING THE TUTORING CENTER

Martha and Molly have also been busy getting the Tutoring Center ready with the hope that most of the children will be in-person (following BCPSS and BMPA COVID-19 Safety Protocols) for tutoring in October. Each year the Tutoring Program staff picks a theme to study and develop throughout the year with the goal of expanding the knowledge base of their students, as well as to provide writing and reading incentives. The theme for the 2021-22 year is the Seven Continents and they are very much looking forward to “travelling the world” with the children!



BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

HYBRID 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 both in-person and virtually, each week gathering for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship.

SUNDAY MORNING: Join us for Hybrid Worship at 11 am followed by Coffee Hour Outside and Breakout Rooms on Zoom. Visit browndowntown.org to learn more about our Hybrid Worship and access Zoom links, passwords, and dial-in phone numbers. Links are also provided for the hymns and bulletins.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS RETURN FOR ALL AGES: Join us on Sunday morning as our fall education programs return in hybrid format. Visit the website calendar for the zoom links and more details to participate.

ADULT EDUCATION HOUR AT 9:45 AM

- September 12, 19, 26, Pandemic, Suffering and our View of God: a 3-part series facilitated by member and ICJS Protestant Scholar, Matt Taylor.
- October 3, 10, 17, 24, Race, Caste, Brown, Baltimore: a 4-part series facilitated by the Anti-Racism Task Force.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Kids Zoom on Sundays at 9:45 am
- The Meditation Circle Sundays at 10 am
- Tweens Zoom Sunday school at 10:15 am
- Youth Small Groups on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:30 pm in the Assembly Room

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

Tidings

*Good News from Brown
Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church*

1316 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, MD, 21217.
410.523.1542.
browndowntown.org

Andrew Connors,
Senior Pastor

Michele Ward,
Associate Pastor

Lisa Roca,
Editor

*To submit Tidings articles,
email Lisa Roca at
lisa@browndowntown.org.*

*Sign up for our e-newsletter, This
Week @ Brown, on the home page
at browndowntown.org.*

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**BROWN
MEMORIAL
PARK AVENUE**