



Good News from Brown Memorial Park Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Tidings

FEB/MARCH/APRIL 2022

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Minister of Music Michael Britt

Christian Educator

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Tutoring Program Assistant

Director Karlin Scudder

Tutoring Program Director of

Development Tracy Cerrato

Music Minister Emeritus

John Walker



Full to the Brim An Expansive Lent

The scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise — these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's

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—INSIDE—

Lent Activities: Dates and details on participating. See page 3.

Holy Week Services: Join us as we gather in April. See page 4.

Save the Date: All Church Retreat April 1-April 3. See page 6.

Summer Camps: Youth camps June-August. See pages 8-11.

An Expansive Lent *Continued from Page 1*

an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, Full to the Brim trusts the

promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that.

Full to the Brim doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.



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REMEMBER YOU ARE DUST... Living and Dying Well in the Face of our Mortality

SUNDAYS, MARCH 6-APRIL 3, 9:30-10:30AM, HYBRID FORMAT

In our dying, as in our living, we move on a continuum between suffering and grace. While some things about our dying will remain beyond our choosing, there are many things that we can do to minimize the suffering and open ourselves to receiving the grace. These are conversations for all of us, from young adults to the elderly. It is never too early and never too late. And there is no better place to have these conversations than in our church community, among the people we have chosen to walk with on the journey of faith.

The process begins by confronting our mortality, articulating our hopes and fears, and exploring the meaning of death in light of our faith. Then we begin to think about our particular plans for dying well. As we do all this, we inevitably find that our living is enriched and deepened in the process. Living well and dying well are woven together, inextricably linked.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES & Worship Services

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30pm

Gather in the Assembly Room for the return of pancakes and relay races. RSVP to Rachel Cunningham at rachel@browndowntown.org end of February. Come at 5:30 p.m. if you want to help cook pancakes.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm, Hybrid Format

“From dust you came, and to dust you will return.” We gather with our sisters and brothers from Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Memorial Episcopal Church and St. Katherine’s Episcopal Church for an annual ecumenical service of worship featuring the combined choirs. This year’s service will be held at Memorial Episcopal.

EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesdays at 7pm, Via Zoom

Each Wednesday following Ash Wednesday, we will join together virtually with our brothers and sisters from surrounding neighborhoods for a short ecumenical prayer service. Each church will lead one of the five prayer services before Holy Week.

For links to join hybrid events virtually please visit the church calendar at www.browndowntown.org.



HOLY WEEK Worship Services

PALM SUNDAY BRANCHES & BRUNCH

April 10 at 9:45am

We gather for an annual ecumenical neighborhood Palm Procession. Meet in the park on Park Avenue just north of McMechen Street at the fountain at 9:45 a.m. Our traditional education hour will not take place this Sunday, instead enjoy a pre-worship brunch on the steps, weather permitting, or in the Assembly Room after the parade. Worship is at 11 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP & COMMUNION SERVICE

April 14 from 5:30-7:30pm

A simple meal of soup, salad and bread is served at 5:30 p.m., followed by a contemplative worship experience. Communion is served. There is no charge for this meal but we do need volunteers to help provide the meal. Share your favorite soup, salad or bread with the congregation. Choir rehearsal begins at 7:30 p.m. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available upon request for this service. Please contact Rachel Cunningham at rachel@browndowntown.org if you can help with the meal or would like childcare. To help us with the head count, RSVP to Rachel by April 12.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 15 at 7:30pm, Hybrid Format

The Good Friday Tenebrae service is an opportunity to sit with the growing darkness of Jesus' arrest, condemnation and execution. The word "tenebrae" is Latin for darkness or shadows, and this is reflected in a service which progresses from dim light to total darkness amid prayer, music and waiting for the light of Easter Sunday. (Note: the darkness of this service may be unsettling to some young children.)

EASTER DECORATING

Saturday, April 16 from 10am-Noon

We will decorate the sanctuary in preparation for Easter and would love to have you join us. Come help turn our "sacred space" into a spring garden.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 17 at 6am, Federal Hill Park

The sight of daylight breaking over Baltimore City is a spectacular backdrop to a simple service of witness to Christ's resurrection. This year we will join with Light Street and Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Churches. Anyone who wishes is welcome to gather in Federal Hill Park at 6 a.m. for songs, liturgy, prayers and good news. Easter Brunch after the Sunrise Service at Light Street Presbyterian Church will be catered by Codetta's Bake Shop.

EASTER WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

April 17 at 11am, Hybrid Format

At 11 a.m. we joyfully celebrate the resurrection in community. Music will be provided by the Chancel Choir and brass ensemble. Communion is served. Join us for light refreshment following worship. The education hour will not take place on Easter Sunday but will resume the following week.



TUTORING PROGRAM

Guest Speakers

By Tracy Cerrato

This past Fall, the Tutoring Program was truly fortunate to have special guests (both human and avian) visit. First, we had Dr. Robert Higgins, husband of outgoing Assistant Director Molly Higgins, who talked with a group of students about his experience growing up in a single parent household after his father passed away. Even though there were difficult challenges, he did not let adversity stand in his way and went on to become a successful heart surgeon. The children were so engaged and asked great questions, taking a particular interest in heart transplants. Dr. Higgins encouraged the students to keep persevering.

Next, Program Director Martha Socolar's daughter Maddie and son-in-law Herby, surprised the students by bringing in

their Macaws: Gerri and Charlie. The students had been 'traveling' to South America as part of our Seven Continents theme, and Maddie and Herby explained that this type of parrot originates from the Amazon Rainforest. The children were so excited to watch them eat nuts and have the chance to pet them – some students were braver than others

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILDS LIFE

Want to help a young student learn to read and discover the joy of books? If the answer is yes, please consider becoming a volunteer tutor at the Brown Memorial Tutoring Program. For more information please contact Program Director Martha Socolar at msocolar@browntutoring.org or Assistant Director Karlin Scudder at karlin@browntutoring.org.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Skycroft Conference Center

FRIDAY, APRIL 1—SUNDAY, APRIL 3

This year we are harkening back to church camp days for a weekend of reconnection at Skycroft Conference Center. We'll spend the weekend in activities designed to bring us closer together as a congregation... outdoor activities including hiking, zipline, field games, and a scavenger hunt for children... activities for centering and well being including Taize style worship, exploration of the Enneagram, yoga and meditation. We'll sleep camp style in rooms equipped with two bunk beds each. Yes, we're stretching our comfort zone muscles and some of us will be sleeping on top bunks. Familiar favorites like quiz night and s'mores by the campfire will also take place. Finally, the weekend will end with hybrid Sunday morning worship followed by lunch together before returning to Baltimore. Space is limited to a total of 40 individuals including children, youth and adults. Cost: \$30/person. [Sign up here or via the church calendar](#) by March 1 to reserve your spot.

INSTRUMENTAL Ensemble

We would like to reassemble the Brown Memorial Instrumental Ensemble. If you are proficient on a particular instrument and would like to play, please contact Michael Britt at

michael@browndowntown.org or call at 410.961.1300. Music will be provided and rehearsals will be scheduled as needed.

February Birthdays

02/03	Sarah B. Buikema
02/04	Anthony Crooms
02/04	June Fletcher-Hill
02/05	Annie Bishai
02/05	Emily Brown
02/07	Jonna Lazarus
02/07	Dave Miller
02/08	Barbara Christen
02/10	Lila McNabney
02/10	Phil Sorensen
02/12	Bob Babb
02/13	Tom Hall
02/13	Lyndsay Taylor
02/14	Patrick Francis
02/14	Allan Riorda
02/15	Geoffrey Parsons
02/16	Andrew Liang
02/17	Anne Arnold
02/17	Ben Inglesby
02/17	Joseph Reichelt
02/17	Caroline Tracy
02/18	Christy Macy
02/19	Kensi Veatch
02/20	Oscar Bachvaroff
02/20	Elaine Boak
02/21	Henry Crew
02/22	Kathryn Wagner
02/23	Jake Cheseldine
02/24	Kyle Rae
02/28	David Nyweide
02/28	Miranda Williams

March Birthdays

03/03	Brad Norris
03/04	Annie Obrecht
03/04	Susan Schindler
03/07	Rosa Brown
03/07	Tida Nelson
03/08	Aidan Connors
03/10	Taylor Stewart
03/11	Rees Richardson
03/11	Dianne Ross
03/13	Joanne Ballie Egan
03/14	Ken Mills
03/14	Michele Ward
03/15	Ellen Edrington
03/15	Liam McConnell
03/16	Jonathan Barnes
03/17	Chel Cavallon
03/19	Martha Bishai
03/19	Sarah Diehl
03/20	Nick Reed
03/21	Ellison Warmath
03/22	Melissa Riorda
03/23	Ben Bobango
03/23	Steve Ruckman
03/23	Sarah Seipp-Williams
03/26	Kenna Mitchell
03/26	Carol Newill
03/26	Sarah Ramirez Cross
03/26	Rick Thomas
03/27	Olivia Liang
03/29	Erin Anderson
03/29	Olivia Babb

EVENT Calendar

SUNDAY MORNINGS

ADULT EDUCATION HOUR 9:30AM: This class meets in person in the Assembly Room and over Zoom to explore and discuss a variety of topics related to our faith. To participate virtually visit <https://browndowntown.org/calendar/>

THE MEDITATION CIRCLE 10AM: Via Zoom visit the church calendar for the link to join.

HYBRID WORSHIP 11AM: We are worshipping both in-person and remotely. All are welcome to join!

WEDNESDAYS

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM: Via Zoom.

THURSDAYS

MID-WEEK PRAYER SERVICE 5:30PM: Via Zoom.

EVERY MONTH 2nd and 4th Sunday

YOUTH GROUP 5:30-7PM: Youth small groups with games, friendship, and spiritual conversation. Open to 6th-12th graders. Note No Youth Group (March 27) or (April 10) due to other events.

EVERY MONTH 3rd Tuesday

THEOLOGY ON TAP 6:30-8:30PM: Theology is really just a fancy word for "God-talk:" the way we think and talk about our religious beliefs. What happens when we take that conversation out of the church and into a bar?

Meet in the main hall or the beer garden at Guilford Hall Brewery for an informal check-in and discussion of theology! Come have a drink (or not) and talk about God, the universe, and everything.

EVERY MONTH 1st Tuesday Starting in April

TACO TUESDAY 5:30-7PM: Join Pastor Michele and youth leaders for a fun night of tacos. Meet at Papi's in Hampden if it is sunny. Meet at R House in Remington when it rains.

EVERY MONTH 1st Wednesday Starting in April New Time

LITERATURE & FAITH ZOOM GATHERING 7-9PM: Join us over Zoom as we explore the intersections of faith and literature. Email Shirley Parry at shirlzepearl@gmail.com for this month's conversation starter.

MIDDLE SCHOOL Camp

JULY 7-10

Location: Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Grades: rising 6th to graduating 8th

Cost: \$375 per person (scholarships available—please inquire)

Massanetta's Middle School Conference transforms the faith journey of hundreds of middle schoolers from all around the country. Every aspect of this conference is crafted with middle schoolers in mind. Conference activities like keynote, recreation, encounter groups, and workshops are centered on the theme of the summer. We promise it will be one of the best things your youth do all year! Contact Pastor Michele for more information and sign up at michele@browndowntown.org.



Blessed Be
Matthew 5:1-11



Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference 2022

April Birthdays

04/02	Jack Hodges
04/03	Drew Johnston
04/03	Ruskin Nohe-Moren
04/03	Vivian Warren
04/05	Andy Johnston
04/06	Hannah Bobango
04/06	Shannon Bobango
04/06	Elizabeth Nash
04/06	James Schuman
04/07	George Bareford
04/07	Liz Bowie Fesperman
04/07	Ed Hambleton
04/07	Jake Schindler
04/08	Larry Fletcher-Hill
04/08	Rachel Smith
04/11	Sarah Egan
04/11	William Egan
04/11	Lucille McCarthy
04/11	Jeanne Thomas
04/12	Grace Todd
04/13	James Cavallon
04/13	Annalisa Jenkins
04/15	Karoon Armand
04/15	Annika Brockman
04/16	Brittany Soeun
04/17	Kathy Graning
04/18	Dever Cunningham
04/19	Barbara Cates
04/19	Annie Schindler
04/21	Caleb Soeun
04/22	Greta Finney
04/22	Alex Hagen
04/24	Gareth Reiman
04/25	Red Finney
04/25	Clementine Hensley
04/26	Chloe Cheseldine
04/27	Andrew Connors
04/29	Freddie Courpas
04/29	Sue Saudek
04/29	Jean Savina
04/30	Katherine Egan
04/30	Titus Soeun

SOARING EAGLES SUMMER CAMPS

JUNE 20-23 & JULY 11-14

With the imminent closure of Eutaw Marshburn Elementary School (EMES) on the horizon this summer will be one of our last to host the annual learning and choir camps. Since 2012 we have partnered with The Center to provide a summer enrichment camp for the children of EMES. We are pleased that the COVID decline is allowing us to return to this week of hands on learning, June 20-23, 8am-2pm. Volunteers are needed to help lead education stations, serve as counselors, and provide meals. Youth in 7th grade and up may serve as counselors for Soaring Eagles Learning Camp. We are also excited for the return of the Eutaw Marshburn Choir Camp, July 11-14, 8am-2pm. We are in our 4th year of choir camp and while music experience is helpful for volunteers it isn't essential. If you are interested in helping with either camp or if you'd like more information please contact Chrystie Adams at cladams22@verizon.net.



VACATION Bible Study

JULY 5-8, 9AM-5PM

After a long hiatus, VBS is returning this summer for preschool—elementary age children. We'll spend four full days together learning about God and each other through fellowship and play. We'll sing songs together, make crafts, play outside and eat together. Volunteers are needed to help as group counselors, station leaders, and kitchen staff. If you are able to help with one or more days of VBS contact Rachel Cunningham at rachel@browndowntown.org. If you would like to register your child use this link. The cost is \$50/child.



PEJUHUTAZIZI FAMILY

Learning Camp

TENTATIVE DATES: JULY 30 - AUG 6

This summer marks our ninth year in partnership with the Pejuhutazizi Presbyterian Church in the Upper Sioux Community in Granite Falls, MN. Until 2020 and the rise of COVID-19 we sent a delegation each summer to provide a week of hands on learning as part of the community's summer camp program. The Pejuhutazizi Learning Camp is open to individuals and families. Youth and adults participate as counselors and station leaders, elementary and

middle school children are camp participants alongside the Upper Sioux Community children. The cost for the week excluding airfare is \$450 for youth and adults and \$300 for campers. Some scholarship money is available. For more information contact Chrystie Adams at cladams22@verizon.net or Rachel Cunningham at rachel@browndowntown.org, PFLC Co-Leaders. Application deadline is April 1, 2022.





BMPA Calendar

*Alive in the City
and the World*

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. 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: Join us on Sunday morning for education programs in a variety of formats. Visit the website calendar for the zoom links and more details to participate.

PAST SERMONS: In addition to joining us live every Sunday, you can read, watch or listen to past sermons at <https://browndowntown.org/sermons/> or visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCSPQyeb15aXbbIePJ2RwgcA

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
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**BROWN
MEMORIAL
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