

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
420 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis,
MN 55405

September 2017 Newsletter

Friendship Sunday Picnic
September 10, 2017

Fall is nearly here and that means Friendship Sunday Picnic/potluck time!

When: Sunday, September 10. Immediately after worship, we will gather on the front lawn for a fun time of fellowship, food, and fall weather. If it rains, we will gather in the downstairs dining room. Deacons will provide drinks, brats, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. If you or your guest have particular dietary restrictions, please let me or another deacon know.

Please bring:

A Friend!

A dish to share

(we encourage salads and other hearty sides especially)

A blanket or camp chair



We are looking seeing everyone, socializing with each other, and coming together for another wonderful year of worship.

Rachel

Sheridan Story

A quick update on our final numbers for the 2016-17 school year. We were able to send food home with many kids who are hungry over the weekend when they go without school breakfast and school lunch. At Bryn Mawr our teams of volunteers distributed 3,813 bags and at Anwatin, where we started a new program in December, volunteers distributed 455 bags. Our efforts made a difference in the lives of many children. Thank you for your support of this program!

Worship at Bryn Mawr in Sabbatical Time

Sunday morning worship is the heart of our life together at Bryn Mawr Church - the time we think about most often when we think about "the church" and the time when we are most likely to reconnect and recommit ourselves to God and each other. For that reason, it is also the time about which people have had the most questions around Jamie's sabbatical. How will we manage Sunday worship without Jamie leading or planning the service?

A group of worship and music leaders turned their attention to this question early in the process of planning the sabbatical. We quickly found a wealth of resources at our disposal - outside pastors, the Cedar Lake Seven Men's Gospel Choir (CL7) and members of our own congregation. Rev. Anna Kendig, Chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, has agreed to preach on five Sundays; she will also serve communion once a month, as is our custom. The CL7 will plan and lead one service a month, each featuring a different genre of gospel music (old time, Gaither, and Americana.) Members of the congregation (Rick Sampson, Jenna Papke, Richard Bauer, Chaz Nove, and Todd Marshal) will each lead on one of the remaining Sundays. Angi and Jim Hooker and Chaz have agreed to lead worship during this time while Sarah Peterson, Robbie Steele, Todd Westenbroek and Heather Struwe will guide the Time with Children.

Anna has helped us put together an overarching set of themes that are found in both the Old and New Testaments. These will be featured as we move through the sabbatical, with three of our talented musicians - Joel Sundseth, Dominic Hartjes, and Scott Jennerjohn - selecting hymns to go with the messages.

Sabbatical time can evoke trepidation. It can also stretch us, inspire creativity, and lead us to find new ways of working together. We are fortunate to have a wealth of talent in our congregation and - more importantly - a deep spirit of giving. Thank you to all who will be sharing leadership of worship services during Jamie's sabbatical. We look forward to enjoying and learning from your contributions.

Making Music with Dominic Hartjes

We are delighted to welcome Dominic Hartjes as the new director of the Bryn Mawr choir. Most of us knew Dominic first as the boyfriend of Lindsey Hooker, a true "child of the Bryn Mawr community." Now Lindsey's husband of 11 years, he is also the father of Ada and Bren who regularly inspire and entertain us.

Dominic was raised in a Catholic community in St. Cloud knowing from an early age that he loved music and wanted to be a music teacher. After completing a Master's Degree in Performance with a focus on conducting, he taught for seven years. During those years he learned that he enjoyed music more as a hobby than as a profession. He returned to school to study computing, and now has paid work in computing and music as a hobby. Bryn Mawr Church is the beneficiary of these decisions as the choir and CL7 are the focus of his extracurricular life.

When Doug Neverman retired in May from his role as Choir Director, we were fortunate that Dominic had been considering his next step, thinking he would like to direct the choir if the opportunity arose. He was ready to say "yes" and to bring not only his vocal and instrumental talents but also his conducting training and experience to the music of our little church.

Dominic understands the role of music - not simply as a performing art but as a way to engage with prayer and spirituality. Like many, Dom feels he communicates better through music than through conversation - and he is eager to help others do the same. As he says, "Music is part of who I am."

Dom expects to sustain the energy the choir has built up over the 11 years he has been a member. He understands the importance of respecting the gifts each member brings while molding those gifts into a unified whole - and with a spiritual message for the congregation. He appreciates the mechanical aspects of music and will work to bridge those with a spiritual purpose. As he said, we create music not simply for the sake of music but to bring us closer to God and God's presence in our community.

We look forward to getting the new choir year under way when we practice for the first time on Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:30. Please join us in welcoming Dominic Hartjes to his new position with us. We thank you, Dom, for bringing your gifts to Bryn Mawr and stepping up to this new leadership position in the church.

Presbyterian
Peacemaking
Program



Peace & Global Witness Offering

Along with many other churches, we make it an annual tradition to take a special Peace & Global Witness Offering each October. Part of the money collected goes to the Presbyterian Church's national and international peacemaking efforts, but the Mission Possible team also selects a local organization to highlight each year. We donate 25% of the offering to this local organization, and invite them to share information about the work they do during a Minute for Mission as part of one of our Sunday services.

This year, the Mission Possible team has selected the **Conflict Resolution Center**. Here are some notes from their website: "CRC's mission is to bring people together to find lasting and effective solutions to conflict. CRC's vision is to be the primary community resource for creating opportunity from conflict, and where repairing harm is valued over punishment. CRC services are based on a core belief that individuals of all ages and backgrounds are capable of resolving their own disputes - effectively, inexpensively, and peacefully - with assistance from trained volunteer mediators. CRC provides communities with the tools to peacefully and effectively resolve disputes. CRC is dedicated to providing dispute resolution services and training to all people, especially those who cannot afford traditional services offered through the courts. We focus on serving those for whom traditional services have not worked in the past because they did not address underlying issues or were not culturally appropriate." We will be sharing further information at church, but you can also learn more at their website: www.crcminnesota.org

Also, a big "thank you" to those of you who suggested local organizations to the Mission team for consideration. We value your input, and it is always a tough decision to narrow it down to just one group each year! Please know that even if your suggestion was not the one we decided to focus on for this year's Peace & Global Witness Offering, we also consider all of the suggested organizations for an end-of-year donation from our Mission budget.

Adult Ed

Adult Education will discuss 5-6 books on a variety of topics in 2017-2018. The initial schedule is as follows:

- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande (Sept. 10-24, Oct. 1-15). Modern medicine has triumphed over illness and injury, making many diseases manageable instead of harrowing. But with aging and death, the goals of medicine may run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Medicine should not only enable health and survival, but also wellbeing. In this book, Gawande examines the cracks in the system of health care to the aged and the seriously ill who might have different needs and expectations than family members expect.
- *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction*, by Gabor Mate (Oct. 22-29, Nov. 5-19). This book explains that addiction is more than a matter of individual choice or a medical disease. Almost anything can become addictive, from seemingly healthy activities such as eating or exercising, to abusing drugs intended for healing. Addictions, for the most part, develop in a compulsive attempt to ease one's pain or distress in the world. Instead of understanding and acceptance, we give addicts punishment and moral disapproval. The author locates the source of addictions in the trauma of an emotionally empty childhood, making it a relational rather than a medical problem. This potential cause leads to human connection rather than traditional treatment as the cure.
- *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, by Krista Tippett (Dec. 3-17, Jan. 7-21). When President Obama gave Krista Tippett the coveted National Humanities Medal, he praised her for "thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence." Grounded in Tippett's life of conversation, the book offers more than a chronicle of her award-winning public radio program, *On Being*. The author not only gives us the voices of the remarkable people with whom she's conversed on-air. She speaks her own voice as well, a voice informed by her lifelong search for truth and meaning.

Books later in the season:

Kent Nerburn: *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo*
Michelle Alexander: *The new Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.*

Terry Tempest Williams: *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place.*

Other books/films considered:

- *When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi
- *The 13th Amendment* (film)
- *Home and Gilead*, by M Robinson
- *No Drama Discipline*, by Siegel and Bryston
- *Open Mind, Open Heart*, by Thomas Keating
- *Patrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber

Adult Ed meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays before worship. All are welcome to join in the discussions.

Sally N.

Sunday School

We are excited to kick off another year of Christian Education for the children and youth of BMPC. Sunday school activities for school aged children and children in the nursery will begin on Friendship Sunday. Children entering grades K-5th grade are encouraged to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 on Sundays through the fall to learn Bible stories, talk about social issues, and connect with one another.

More details about activities for youth will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information or to volunteers, please contact Suzanne or email: office@brynmaurchurch.org



Nursery Update

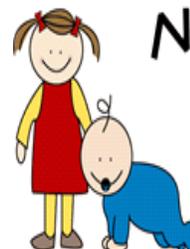
LaRika will continue working in our nursery. She will be with BMPC for one year this fall and we are lucky to have her taking care of our children on Sundays.

Hours for the Nursery beginning September are

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
(10a.m. -12:00 noon on days with no Sunday School.)

Hope to see lots of kids through age 6 playing downstairs this fall!

WELCOME to
Nursery!



Can You Help Us Feed Hungry Kids?

It's back to school time, which means the Sheridan Story food backpack program is starting up again. Up to 80% of the students at Bryn Mawr Elementary School and Anwatin Middle School qualify for free and reduced lunch, and over the weekends they miss the breakfast and lunch that the school provides. These bags of food help them bridge that weekend gap. We're looking for volunteers every Friday at lunchtime from 11:30-12:30 to help distribute the bags of food to student backpacks at Bryn Mawr Elementary and Friday mornings at 9 at Anwatin. (Due to school vacations there are some weeks where we fill backpacks on a day other than Friday, if that's a better fit for your schedule.)

The sign-up form can be found online

www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4CACAB28A02-201718

It would be great to have members invite friends from their workplace to share a Friday slot—we need 4 volunteers each week. In addition to volunteers, we always need donations of backpacks or string bags in case a student doesn't have a backpack of their own, and cash donations to help pay for the cost of the food (please write "Sheridan Story" on your check.)

It costs approximately \$130 to provide weekend food for one student for the school year.

We are billed at \$3.71 per bag.

Coffee Hour

Many thanks to those who have hosted one or many coffee hours this past year.

This is a special time of fellowship and community we all enjoy immediately following the service each Sunday.

Sometimes we enjoy homemade bars and/or a simple cup of lemonade or coffee with a friend. It is not about the goodies we drink or eat but about sharing and supporting each other through our daily lives and spiritual journeys. This is a time we set aside each week to connect to our church community. Please consider hosting a coffee hour whether you have hosted many or are new to hosting. We all appreciate any effort in hosting a coffee hour. Please contact any Angela Hooker with questions or concerns. Sign up on the bulletin board or email Angi



Reflecting on Sabbatical Time

Members of the congregation recently received an email suggesting that we all begin now to reflect on the changes in our life as a congregation during Jamie's sabbatical. Jamie's 3-month absence will affect all aspects of life at Bryn Mawr -- worship on Sunday mornings, pastoral care, administration of details big and small, decisions that may need to be made while she is away, and others. When the sabbatical ends, it will be important to assess what it has meant to all of us, and we need your input to do that.

Please begin now to "observe" how the sabbatical is going for you. Here are some questions you might consider:

- What did you expect to happen during the sabbatical?
- What were your emotions as the sabbatical approached?
- Anxiety? Fear? Anticipation? Curiosity? Excitement?
- How did you expect these three months to be the same as or different from the way we usually come together at Bryn Mawr?
- Are things going as you expected?
- What, if anything, is working well?
- What could have been improved?
- Did you learn anything from the sabbatical? If so, what?
- What other questions should we be asking?

Sometime in early-mid October, Session will send a brief survey so you can evaluate how the sabbatical went for you. If you are interested in working on the survey (either by drafting, distributing or analyzing), please contact Laura or email: office@brynmawrchurch.org. In addition to compiling your input for future use, we will be using your observations as a basis for the message on November 5, the day Jamie returns to worship.

Deacons

BMPC Deacons are continuously at work supporting the members of our congregation especially those in need during a health crisis or other life changing event.

- We pay visits to those who are unable to come worship with us, offer prayers and send cards to those that need extra support.
- We give flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a new life.
- We strive to support those in need.

We also offer support through the Deacons Fund. The Deacons Funds has money set aside to offer emergency assistance to church members, neighbors or other people known to us. People may find themselves in a financial situation that catches them off guard: an unexpected medical expense, help with rent or a mortgage payment, a car repair. The Deacons Fund allows a one-time use for unexpected emergencies or situations. These gifts are handled confidentially. Up to \$300 can be distributed with the approval of the pastor and the moderator of the deacons. Distributions over \$300 require the approval of the board of deacons, but they only know the situation and not the name of the recipient.

Please don't hesitate to ask for help for yourself or for someone else in our congregation who could use a bit of help.

You may contact either the Moderator of the Board of Deacons, Rachel Neverman or Pastor Jamie Schultz to make a request. Distributions from the fund don't need to be repaid. Each year we add to the Deacons Fund through our Christmas Eve offering and donations to the fund are accepted at any time. Your Deacons want to know you and want to support you and your loved ones.

Current Deacons: Karin C., Jane D., Melanie G., Rachel N., RobbieS., and Mike T.

Voices for Peace

Voices for Peace is a women's vocal ensemble with a purpose and a mission that uses BMPC for rehearsals. It is through music they hope to bring a greater awareness of peace and justice to individual lives, and eventually turn that awareness into action for the greater good.

Founded in 2006, the group is a collection of women of all ages, ranging from 21-81 who come from different backgrounds and faith traditions. What these women share is a passion for promoting peace through song.

The group is a non-audition choir and is always welcoming new members. They perform 4-5 times a year at various peace festivals.



Voices for Peace will perform a benefit concert at BMPC in December. Watch for dates and times.

If you are interested in promoting peace through song, either as a singer or a concert sponsor, please contact office@brynmawrchurch.org

Important Dates

September 4	Labor Day Holiday
September 6	Choir Rehearsals begin 7:00 pm
September 10	Adult Ed begins Friendship Sunday Potluck Picnic Sunday School Begins Session, 7:00 p.m. More Light Room
September 26	Peacemaking and World Communion Sunday Session, 7:00 p.m., More Light Room
October 2	Daylight Savings ends (set clocks back at 2:00 am.
October 16	Pastor Jamie returns from sabbatical
November 5	Thanksgiving Sunday
November 1	Advent begins
November 19	Hanging of the Greens
December 3	Sunday School Pageant rehearsal
TBA	December 10
December 10	Sunday School pageant rehearsal
December 17	Pageant Sunday
December 24	Christmas Eve worship



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
420 South Cedar Lake Road
Minneapolis, MN 55405
www.brymawrchurch.org