The Communicator

Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2025
Monthly Newsletter

Glorifying God, Growing in Christ, Giving to Others

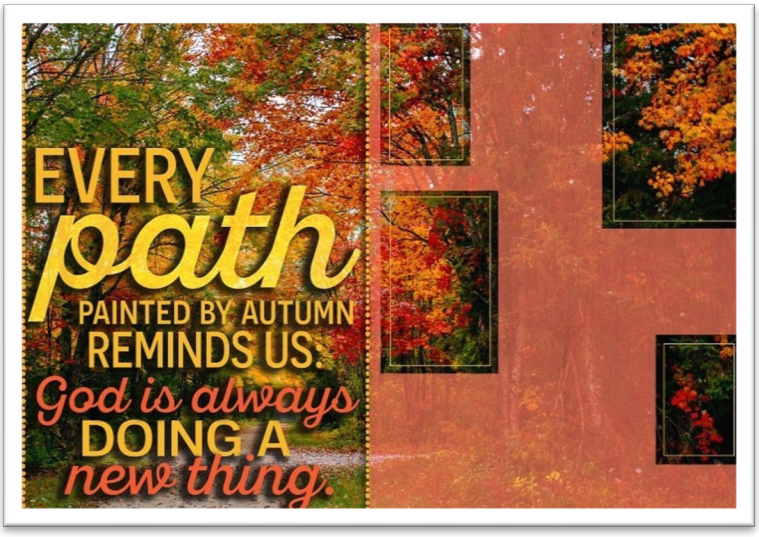
Autumn begins (Astronomical Start) – Monday, September 22, 2025

Autumn begins (Meteorological Start) – Monday, September 1, 2025

These dates correspond to the listed seasons in the Northern Hemisphere. Times are based on Eastern Time (ET).

We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. [16] In past generations He allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; [17] yet He has not left Himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:15b-17



2025

MINISTRY TEAMS SPOTLIGHT

ADMINISTRATION/FACILITIES DIVISION **Personnel Ministry Team** Freddie Hart, Chair/Lead Elder Richard Black, Elder Frank Porter, Elder Keith Thompson, Staff **Property Ministry Team** Richard Black, Chair/Lead Elder Carlton Ward, Elder Gregg Hall, Staff **Interior Design Subcommittee** Janet Saucier, Chair	**CHURCH FAMILY DIVISION** **Membership Ministry Team** Richard Clark, Chair/Lead Elder Freddie Hart, Elder **Church Family Fellowship Ministry Team** Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder **Kitchen Subcommittee** Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder	**OUTREACH DIVISION** **Outreach Ministry Team** John Allemeier, Chair/Lead Elder Gary Seacat, Elder Richard Black, Elder
FINANCE DIVISION **Finance Ministry Team** Frank Porter, Chair/Lead Elder John Allemeier, Elder Frank Anderson, Elder **Generosity Ministry Team** Frank Anderson, Chair/Elder Keith Thompson, Staff	**COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** **Publicity Ministry Team** Janice Hiner, Chair/Lead Elder Carlton Ward, Elder Tammy Nye, Staff **Information Technology Subcommittee** Frank Anderson, Chair/Elder Tammy Nye, Staff **Photographer** Frank Porter	**PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL DIVISION** **Preschool Ministry Team** Hayden Pollack, Chair/Lead Elder Frank Anderson, Elder Casey Barrow, Staff Keith Thompson, Staff
CARE GIVING DIVISION **Board of Deacons** Ann Hinze, Chair **Memorial Reception Chairs** Ann Hinze, Janet Saucier, Peggy Padgett	**SPIRITUAL LIFE DIVISION** **Worship Ministry Team** Janice Hiner, Chair/Lead Elder Gary Seacat, Elder Michael Helman, Staff Keith Thompson, Staff **Christian Education Ministry Team** Hayden Pollack, Chair/Lead Elder Frank Anderson, Elder Rick Clark, Elder **Earth Care Subcommittee** Judith West, Chair	**STANDING COMMITTES OF THE SESSION** **Committee on Ministry** Ginny Bradford, Chair/Elder **Garden of Remembrance Trustees** John Stroup, Chair **Nominating Committee** Ginny Bradford, Chair/Lead Elder Janice Hiner, Elder

September Preaching Schedule

September 7, 2025	Dr. Keith Thompson	Luke 14:1-6 *Communion*
September 14, 2025	Dr. Keith Thompson	Luke 5:1-10
September 21	Shelly Webb, guest preacher	*TBD*
September 28, 2025	Dr. Keith Thommpson	Luke 13:1-9

Earth Care Sub Committee

THIS MONTH'S NUMBERS *Our Numbers: (8/1/2025 –8/28/2025): Energy Production: 5 MWh*

WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP WITH REDUCING SINGLE USE PLASTIC

The Earth Care Team has some ideas, and we know many of you are already doing things to decrease the use of single use plastics. B-DRPC has folks with good suggestions, and we want to collect them. For example: "*When you suspect you will ask for a "take-out container" at the restaurant, consider taking your own container. Servers are happy to use yours rather than the single use containers the restaurant has.*"

Please email suggestions to the church office at churchoffice@bdrpc.org with Subject Line of REDUCE SINGLE USE PLASTIC.

Your Earth Care Team will compile these into a usable booklet for distribution in the Fall.

Music Ministry

2025-2026 Concert Series

Christmas Choral Concert - Sunday, December 7 at 11:00 AM

The B-DRPC Cancel Choir will present a program entitled "A Glorious Christmas." The Choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and present music which includes the angel's message: "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

Asheville Jazz Orchestra - Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 PM

For almost 20 years the Asheville Jazz Orchestra (AJO) has brought the energy and excitement of live jazz to western North Carolina! From the dance-floor favorites of the Swing Era to timeless classics by legends like Count Basie and Buddy Rich, the AJO's performances are a celebration of jazz at its finest. Adding a modern twist, the band also showcases fresh, original compositions crafted by its talented members. Whether you're a jazz enthusiast or a newcomer to the genre, the AJO promises an unforgettable musical experience.

Furman University Ensembles - Sunday, April 12 at 4:00 PM

Belle Voci (Beautiful Voices) is a treble choir that seeks to share music that not only expresses the art of beautiful singing but hopes that the language of music can be a connection to help find our common humanity, and to create a supportive and nurturing community of artists and scholars. They are conducted by Dr. Stephen Gusukuma, Director of Choral Activities at Furman University.

Hartness and Gladden String Quartets are the flagship ensembles of the Furman University Department of Music's Chamber Music Program. Generously supported by the Hartness and Gladden families, these quartets are selected each fall through a competitive audition process. Members perform together throughout the academic year, receive scholarships in recognition of their commitment and artistry, and are coached by Stephan Fillare, Director of Orchestral Activities at Furman University.

To keep our concerts free for our members and the public, we are asking you to be a sponsor of the series. Sponsorship levels can be found below. Consider being a patron of the arts here at B-DRPC.

Bronze Level - $50 - $100 Silver Level - $101 - $250
Gold Level - $251 - $500 Platinum Level - $501 - $750

*An Additional Concert Opportunity

Brevard Philharmonic Strings - Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 PM

The annual chamber music concert is a cornerstone of every Brevard Philharmonic season. Past year's concertgoers have delighted in the unique intimacy this accessible musical experience provides for both audience and musicians. This years' concert, Chamber Orchestra, held at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, promises to be even more awe inspiring. This is a ticketed event and tickets can be purchased by going to the Philharmonic's website: brevardphilharmonic.org.

Let's Get to Know our B-DRPC Music Director, Michael Helman!

For introducing us to incredibly beautiful musical experiences through our B-DRPC Concert Series as well as inspiring and cheering on our own talents in the Chancel Choir and Westminster Ringers, we are very happy to have Michael Helman as our B-DRPC Music Director! Learn more about him:

Michael grew up in Lititz, PA, which is in Lancaster County as an only child. He lived in the house his father built his whole life. The house was built on land which was part of his grandfather's farm. His parents lived there for their whole married life.

He began playing saxophone in fourth grade and started with piano in fifth grade which then led to learning the organ. He also played in High School Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band. He attended Lebanon Valley College and West Chester University which are both in Pennsylvania.

His first church job playing organ was while he was a senior in high school. After graduation, he took a church job in Wilmington, DE.

As an undergraduate, he took composition courses as well as two different independent studies in composition. He started with handbells in 1985 and began writing for that handbell group since music appropriate for their level of playing was not available.

In 1991, he took the Music Director position at St. Paul UMC in Wilmington where he worked for 15 years. In the 90's he began entering both regional and national handbell composition contests. He won eight of those contests. In 1998 he won the Northern Virginia Chapter of American Guild of Organists hymn writing contest.

He moved to Cape Coral, FL in 2006 to take the Music Director position at Faith Presbyterian. Then in June of 2022 he moved to Brevard where as well as our B-DRPC Music Director, he is also an adjunct professor at Brevard College teaching piano and being one of the staff accompanists.

B-DRPC has a history of sponsoring various concerts. Charlie Steele had various artists perform in the church. A more formal Concert Series was started by Peyson Moss and Jan Hart but unfortunately, it was interrupted by COVID. After starting at B-DRPC, Michael was encouraged to revive the idea of a Concert Series.

He has two children. Meagan lives in Tallahassee, FL. She has been dancing since she was 4 years old and is now the Artistic Director of Tallahassee Ballet and adjunct faculty in the Dance Department at FSU. Her husband is a professor at FSU and they have one son.

Matthew lives in Philadelphia, PA and is a lawyer. He is married to a lawyer and they have one son and are expecting their second child in November.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading thriller and mystery novels, and hiking.

FAMOUS DEPARTMENT STORE BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

Ingredients:

8 tbsp. unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cup granulated sugar

2 lg. eggs

2 tsp. baking powder

½ tsp. table salt

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

2 cups of all-purpose flour

½ cup milk

2 ½ cups blueberries, fresh preferred (If using frozen, rinse and pat dry to eliminate blue/green looking cake.)

¼ cup granulated sugar for topping

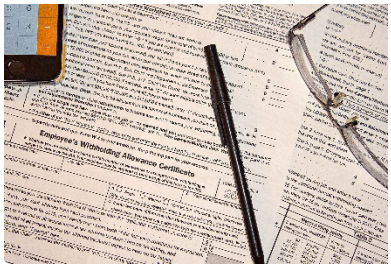
Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 375°.
- Line muffin tins with paper cups. (Makes 12 muffins.)
- In medium sized bowl, beat together the butter and sugar until well combined. Add the eggs one at a time, scraping sides and bottom of bowl and beating well after each addition.
- Beat in baking powder, salt and vanilla.
- Add flour alternately with the milk, beating gently just to combine.
- Add blueberries stirring just to combine.
- Scoop a heaping ¼ cupful into prepared muffin pan.
- Sprinkle about 1 tsp. granulated sugar atop each muffin.
- Bake 25-30 minutes until they’re light golden brown on top and toothpick comes out clean.
- Cool muffins for 5 minutes and then transfer to a rack to cool.

Finance Corner

Many tax changes take effect this year and next. There are over 100 tax sections in the One Big Beautiful Bill. Many changes begin in 2025. Others go into effect beginning in 2026. I want to publish here a broad-brush summary of the new laws which I think would be helpful for you to know when planning your own household budgets for 2026.

STANDARD DEDUCTION – Standard deductions increase by $1,500 for joint filers. It is $750 for singles and $1,125 for heads of household. This begins with 2025 returns filed next year. For 2025 returns, the basic standard deduction is $31,500 for joint filers, $15,750 for singles, and $23,625 for heads of household. Filers 65 and older get $1,600 more per spouse on joint returns and $2,000 more on single and head of household returns.



NEW BREAK – There is a new senior deduction of $6,000 per filer age 65 or older. Married couples with both spouses 65 or older can deduct $12,000. Not every senior will qualify. The deduction begins to phase out for taxpayers with modified AGI over $150,000 on joint returns, and $75,000 on single and head of household. This was added to the bill last minute to substitute for the original campaign talking point that federal taxes on Social Security would be eliminated.

DONATIONS – Non itemizers can deduct up to $1,000 of charitable cash contributions starting with 2026 returns filed in 2027. The amount is $2,000 for joint filers.

GREEN ENERGY – many clean energy tax breaks in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act will end. The expiration dates vary by credit so there's not enough room here to list them all. The up to $7,500 tax credit for buying electric vehicle expires after Sept. 30, 2025. Ending after June 2026 are the credits for new energy efficient homes. Wind and solar projects that begin construction after July 4, 2026, must be placed in service before 2028 to qualify for the clean electricity production credits.

Two tax credits for energy efficient home improvements end after 2025. The **residential clean energy credit** is for those who install in their homes an alternative energy system that relies on a renewable energy source, such as solar, wind, or geothermal. Right now the credit equals 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation of such systems you add to your home.

The **energy efficient home improvement credit** is for homeowners who make smaller energy saving upgrades, such as central air conditioning systems, exterior doors and windows, heat pumps, water heaters, and insulation.

Both credits are repealed for property placed in service after 2025. So, if you are thinking of making home energy saving upgrades and want a tax break, you will need to pay for them and get them completed before the end of this year.

I hope you find this helpful. If anything comes across my desk which alters any of the above information, I will be sure to let you know.

Blessings,

Pat Crosby, Bookkeeper

Outreach Ministry Team

An Invitation for B-DRPC Members from our Ministry Partner, Black Mountain Home.

Sharing with Sharing House

For this year's Pentecost Offering our congregation raised $1,356.00. Forty percent stays local with our Outreach Team determining its use. $542.40 was their portion and the Outreach Ministry Team has donated their allocated amount to Sharing House.

Presbyterian Women

WOW (Women on Wednesdays)

Women on Wednesdays Bible Study will open the fall season with a social hour on Wednesday, September 10th, from 9-10 AM in the Church Lounge. Women of all denominations are welcome to join this weekly opportunity for study, prayer, and fellowship. For further information, call Ellie Mercer at 828-577-4949.

Sarah Ruth Circle
9/4, 10:30 AM at College Walk in their Activity Room.

Our B-DRPC Women's Circle Groups Begin September 4th!

Mary Martha Circle
9/4, 1 PM in the B-DRPC Church Lounge

All women in the church are invited and encouraged to attend!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 **The Church Office will be Closed for Labor Day.**	2	3 Christian Education MT, 3 pm	4 Sarah Ruth Circle 10:30 am Mary Martha Circle 1 pm	5	6
7 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am **Communion**	8 Staff Meeting 1:15 pm Finance MT, 2 pm Membership MT 3 pm	9 Property MT, 10 am Earth Care Sub Comm.,11 am Preschool MT, 12:30 pm Worship MT, 1 pm Publicity MT, 2 pm Bell Choir, 5:15 pm	10 WOW, (Women on Wednesdays), 9 am Outreach MT 10:30 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am	15 Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm	16 Community-Wide Dinner, 5:30 pm Bell Choir, 5:15 pm	17 WOW, (Women on Wednesdays), 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	18	19 Session Stated Meeting, 10 am	20
21 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am **Daily Change Offering**	22 Staff Meeting 1:15 pm	23 Bell Choir, 5:15 pm	24 WOW, (Women on Wednesdays), 9 am Chancel Choir 6:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship – 8:30 am & 11 am	29	30 Bell Choir, 5:15 pm	**MT = Ministry Team** **Bell Choir = Westminster Ringers**			

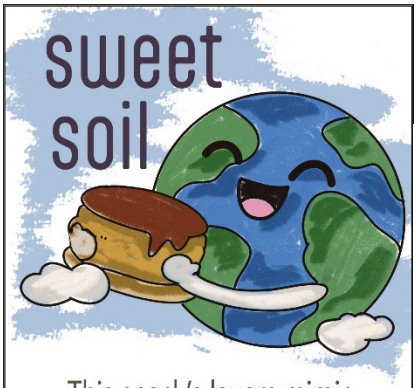
- Ethan Huggins – September 1st
- John Winston – September 2nd
- Pat Crosby – September 2nd
- Lynn McManus – September 3rd
- Beth Schenberg – Schenberg 3rd
- Sue Carter – September 4th
- Joan Musgrove – September 4th
- Charles & Bobbie Jean Whitemire – September 4th
- Penny Colman-Crandal – September 5th
- Barbara Schroeder-Buck – September 5th
- Marty & Martha Spencer – September 8th
- Nancy Plummer – September 9th
- Sandy Gustafson – September 10th
- Laura Lane – September 10th
- Michael Helman – September 12th
- Seth & Cassie Gerring – September 13th
- Kathe Harris – September 13th
- Christian McLauchlin – September 13th
- Bill Hale – September 14th
- Walker Huggins – September 14th
- Grace Gentle – September 15th
- Larry Jennings – September 15th
- Nora Holmes – September 16th
- Ann Hollingsworth – September 17th
- Gretchen Greene – September 17th
- Sara Champion – September 18th
- Tom Smith – September 18th
- Sally Baker – September 19th
- Chuck Gerlach – September 19th
- Mary Kay Jennings – September 20th
- Chase Hancock – September 20th
- Chip Webb – September 20th
- Janice Hiner – September 21st
- Don Bieger – September 22nd
- Sue Barrett – September 27th
- Lee Collins – September 27th
- George Robbins – September 27th
- Rick Clark – September 27th

JUST FOR FUN

RIDDLE:

A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains. What is it?

sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.

What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

Books in the New Testamen

Can you find all the New Testament Books? Mark them with a colored pen.

Acts
Colossians
Corinthians
Ephesians
Galatians
Hebrews
James
John
Jude
Luke
Mark
Matthew
Peter
Philemon
Philippians
Revelation
Romans
Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus

						T								
					B	H	V							
						E								
						S								
					G	S	T							
					A	A	I							
					L	L	M							
					A	O	O							
				E	T	N	T	T						
				P	I	I	H	I						
				M	A	A	Y	T						
			H	D	N	N	Y	U	B					
		R	Z	W	S	S	F	S	R	A				
C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S				
		C	P	P	B	L	R	A	H	J				
		O	H	H	J	S	O	C	E	O				
		L	I	I	E	C	M	T	B	H				
		O	L	L	R	M	A	S	R	N				
		S	E	I	E	A	N	K	E	A				
		S	M	P	V	T	S	P	W	L				
		I	O	P	E	T	I	H	S	D				
		A	N	I	L	H	J	U	D	E				
		N	M	A	A	E	L	U	K	E				
		S	A	N	T	W	Q	E	Q	V				
		K	R	S	I	J	A	M	E	S				
		Q	K	O	O	P	E	T	E	R				
		Y	C	Z	N	S	U	R	R	A				
		E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S				

Answer: Dozens

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