



BANNER ELK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Celebrating 129 years of commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior



Equipping Saints since 1893

May 15, 2022

Rev. Rachael McConnell, Pastor
P.O. Box 158, 420 College Drive, Banner Elk, North Carolina 28604
Telephone: 828-898-5406
Email: office@bannerelkpresbyterian.org
Web Site: www.bannerelkpresbyterian.org

Celebration Of The Lord's Day

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 15, 2022

Gathering of God's Family

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors, we welcome you and are honored to worship with you. Please pass the Friendship Register and provide contact information so that we may greet you and welcome you further.

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Victor Labenske

WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND SENDING FOR THE CLASS OF 2022

Mike Shaw

GRADUATE BLESSING

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 148

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

A: Praise God all you angels! Praise God, all you heavenly host!

L: Even the sun and moon praise the Lord.

A: Young men and women, older and younger together alike. Let us praise the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. Let us worship the creator of all!

*HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, who are we to judge? Who are we to condemn? Forgive us for the times where we have spoken ill of another, to bring them down and perhaps to lift ourselves up. Forgive us for treating your children with disrespect and dismissal. You have asked us to love one another, yet we hold tight to forgiveness as a shield of the brokenness of our own hearts. If we do not understand someone, let us seek your wisdom. May we be slow to anger, as you are. Hear the cries of our heart of repentance. For your love and forgiveness give us new life.

(A moment of silent personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ, will restore, support, and strengthen us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Engaging the Word

ANTHEM

Rejoice and Be Glad

Cindy Berry

WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Distinction Is Love

Rev. Rachael McConnell

*HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Responding to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Just As I Am

arr. Gary Prim

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

Following the Word into the World

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Peter Townend

POSTLUDE

How Firm A Foundation

arr. Labenske

*Congregation please stand, if able

Liturgical Color: White

Note to hearing aid users: BEPC is equipped with a T-Coil Hearing Loop system. Many hearing aids have a special setting that connect directly to such systems; check with your audiologist!

We welcome again today Dr. Mike Hannah who is our accompanist for worship while David Soyars is away on vacation. Thanks for being here, Mike!

We welcome you to our services with Christian Love. If you are not yet comfortable attending worship services in the sanctuary, you can view the worship service on our YouTube channel each Sunday at 11:00am: www.BannerElkPresbyterian.org/videos.

Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bannerelkpresbyterian> to enjoy videos of special music and get other updates from the church. These links are “live” on the website. Another option is to listen live to the worship service from the parking lot on FM 106.7.

Feeding Avery Families Needs “Stuff” We Can Donate! In a recent conversation, Dick Larson, co-director of Feeding Avery Families, described a new method of supporting clients with basic items for personal hygiene. “We have a great need for things like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc. If folks could donate these items, it would help us fill individual bags for each client, in addition to the box of non-perishable food items they receive ONCE A MONTH.” A large box will be placed in the office reception area as well as another one in the vestibule outside the office doors to receive donations. This collection drive will be emphasized during the month of May but can be donated at any time during the year, of course, since the need is year-round.

Here’s Dick’s suggested list of needed items:

- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Deodorant (men and women)
- Toilet paper & paper towels (multi-roll packages are fine)
- Disposable razors (men and women)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Shaving cream
- Shampoo
- Bath soap
- Kleenex

Please donate generously to help our neighbors. Questions? Contact Dick Larson or Murry Haber, chairman of the Missions Committee.

Inquirer's Class May 22st 12:00N-2:30pm Lunch Included! Do you want to learn more about Banner Elk Presbyterian Church, our history, who we are today, and where we see God sending us in the future? Do you want to learn more about membership, the hows and the whys? Do you want to learn more about Presbyterianism and what the PC(USA) is all about? Do you want to learn how we are serving our community or how to serve in our church using your gifts and talents? This Sunday is for you! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for conversation and lunch. Please RSVP to this event: rachael@bannerelekpresbyterian.org or call the church office 828-898-5406

Congratulations to Our High School Graduates! Our church family will recognize our eight seniors as they graduate from high school! We'd like to send them off with well-wishes and loving recognition of this exciting time in their lives. Our graduating students and their parents are:

Will Garrett, son of Beth and Matt Garrett, grandson of Emily Garrett

Sarah Goode, daughter of Beth Goode

Jason & Scott Miller, sons of Jay and Martha Laura Miller

Rachel Moody, daughter of Leigh Ann Moody and Mark Moody

Hampton Owen, son of Rick and Nancy Owen, grandson of Deka Tate

Davis Taylor, son of Amy Anderson, grandson of Pat and Carolyn Anderson

Jacob Vergara, son of Jesse and Amanda Vergara and grandson of David Tate

NURSERY: Children up to four years old may attend our nursery which is located on the main floor behind the Sanctuary. If you are in our sanctuary and facing the cross, the door to the right will lead you to the nursery. It is located in **Room 105**.

WORSHIP BAGS: Worship bags are available for children who remain during the worship service. The bags provide reading material, writing pads and crayons to give children a quiet activity during the service. Children's worship bulletins for ages 3-6 are in the bags. The worship bags are located in the Narthex

WELCOME

Welcome, Visitors! We are pleased you have chosen to be with us today and pray this time of worship will be a blessing to you. BEPC is a PCUSA congregation filled with people of many different backgrounds. Whatever your tradition, we invite you to participate in the activities of the congregation while you are here.

If you want to know more about Banner Elk Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian denomination or membership, see an Elder or the Pastor. We would welcome you as a member by Baptism, Reaffirmation of Faith, or Transfer from another church. If you are in town for only part of the year, you might consider Affiliate Membership. We would love to have you as a part of our loving church family!

Weekly Opportunities

Sunday:

- 9:30am - Adult Bible study class - Margaret Tate Parlor
- 9:30am - Children's Music; Middle/High School Sunday School
- 10:00am - Children's Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service



Monday:

- 9:00am - BEPC Preschool
- 2:00pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry -1st & 3rd Mondays contact: Alice Johnson (979) 219-2104

Tuesday:

- 9:00am - BEPC Preschool
- Habitat for Humanity - contact Steve Bender: (828) 898-8271

Wednesday:

- 9:00am - BEPC Preschool
- 10:00am - Comfort Makers in Classroom 213 contact Debi: (828) 387-4914
- 4:00pm - Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday:

- 9:00am - BEPC Preschool
- 11:30am - ROMEOs Lunch group
- 6:30pm - Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday:

- 8:30am - Feeding Avery Families - Newland - contact Dick Larson: (828) 260-5389
- 9:00am - BEPC Preschool

Nexsen Ringers - Spring Ring 2022 Boone United Methodist Church 471 New Market Blvd, Sunday, May 22, 3:00pm Come and enjoy an afternoon with the Nexsen Ringers, High Country's premier Community Handbell Choir. This group welcomes guest conductor, David Harris of the RaleighRingers, as they present a fun program filled with classical music and pop tunes. Relax and take in the amazing renditions of "Eleanor Rigby", "Love will Keep Us Together" "Africa" and "Nocturne in E Minor", just to name a few. Bounce to the beat, tap your foot, and hum along to many favorites. This talented group consists of musicians from all ages and walks of life. They come together to share their unique love of handbells across all musical genres with the High Country. Don't miss the technical display of choreographed teamwork up and down the tables as nineteen musicians perform as one. Spring Ring 2022: Music in the Mountains is a free concert and open to the public. Donations to the Nexsen Ringers are graciously accepted and will benefit future concerts. The concert will be at 471 New Market Blvd, directly behind the New Market Shopping Center, in the church Sanctuary. For more information, call 828-264-6090 or visit booneumc.org/Spring Ring 2022.

Our church has decided to make the Media Tech a permanent, compensated, position on the church staff. The challenge we have is that no funds were budgeted for this position for 2022. In future years, we will include a budget line item for this expense of approximately \$4,100.00. If you are interested in making a special offering to help cover this cost of the Media Tech position, you may place a check in the offering plate and mark in the memo line "Media Tech".

OUR PRAYERS

“The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.” Psalm 24

Prayer Concerns

- Donna Dicks at home recovering from back surgery
- Gary Ticknor recovering from knee surgery
- Kathy Ward has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is awaiting treatment.
- Cherie Nicholson, Rev. Rachael’s mom recovering from splenic artery aneurysm surgery
- Cailyn Alderete, granddaughter of Alice Johnson, experiencing early labor. Due date is September
- All who are suffering as result of war
- Those who work for compassionate solutions to resolve conflict
- Dawn Locatelli, Jarrett Koski's aunt, undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer
- Sharon Osteen continuing cancer treatment
- Lise Haizlip finishing treatment for throat cancer
- Mark Barbee (Erika Deal’s son-in-law) treatment for small cell lung cancer
- Those who are home-bound or in assisted living: John Balmer, Shirley Chesser, Lee Councill, Larry Kennedy, Carolyn West.
- Our partner institutions: Arca de Noé (partner church in Guatemala), Lees-McRae College, Grandfather Home for Children, Cannon Memorial Hospital
- Hui and Gordon Causby, serving in Asia
- Hebron Colony & Bethel Colony ministries
- Grandfather Home
- Those with on-going health concerns: Hugh Clark, Erika Deal, Harold & Alice Durham, Phil Koon, Emily Koski, Libby McGowan, Andrew Muehleisen, Julie Myers, Ted Roeling, Ashley Smith.

If you have a prayer concern or celebration to include in the bulletin, please communicate it to the church office, preferably via email, no later than first thing Thursday morning. Always check to ensure the person being considered approves of the inclusion in the bulletin. Per the Communications Committee, prayer requests will remain on the weekly emails until the end of each month; at which time they will be removed. If prayer is still needed, please contact the church office to have the person added back to the list for an additional month.

BEST WISHES AND BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: May 15: Brandon Winfrey; May 16: Judy Hilsmier; May 17: Rob Toler; May 18: John Tate.

ROMEOS: The men’s lunch group, known as the ROMEOS (retired old men eating out) enjoys good food and good fellowship each Thursday. Anyone can meet at the week’s restaurant at 11:30 or meet at church at 11:15 to carpool. You do not have to be “retired” or “old” or male to attend. We hope many will join us! Here is the May schedule:

May 19 - Caddy Shack, Sugar Mountain (by the golf pro shop)

May 26 - Kay’s Kitchen, Newland

TODAY

ACOLYTE: Lily Pope

USHERS: William & Trish Dethlefs
Laddie & Mary Wigley

LECTOR: Larry Weed

SEXTON: Eric Hillestad

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER PICKUP: Debbi Hagna

MAY ELDER OF THE MONTH: Don Hilsmier **ASSISTANT:** Chappie Petree

MAY SHEPHERDS: Luana Anderson and Angela Todd

NEXT SUNDAY

Katariina Marriott

El Wilson and Deka Tate

Luana Anderson and Barbara Sundstrom

Deka Tate

Rick Garrett

Bob & Susan Blalock

FOR THE RECORD

Worship Attendance:	<u>Total</u>
May 1:	74
May 8:	70

If you have any concerns and suggestions, you may bring them to the attention of the Elders. The list below can direct you the right person.

Elders for Banner Elk Presbyterian Church

Class 2022

Luana Anderson
Murry Haber
Don Hilsmier
Deka Tate

Class 2023

Donna Dicks
Rick Garrett
Alice Johnson
Janet Speer

Class 2024

William Dethlefs
Chappie Petree
Jesse Pope
McNair Tornow



Stephen Ministry Congregation

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rachael McConnell 512-966-0384

rachael@bannerelkpresbyterian.org

Dedy Traver, Office Manager/Bookkeeper: dedy@bannerelkpresbyterian.org

Alisa Ballard, Office Administrator: alisa@bannerelkpresbyterian.org

Nina Allbert, Choir Director

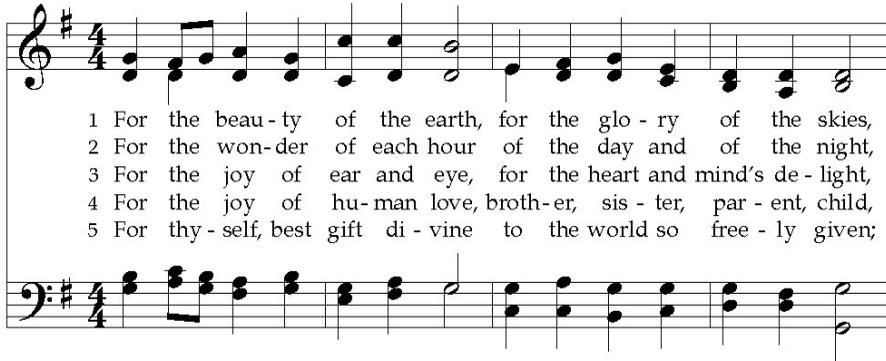
Suzie Fisk, Handbell Director

David Soyars, Pianist/Organist

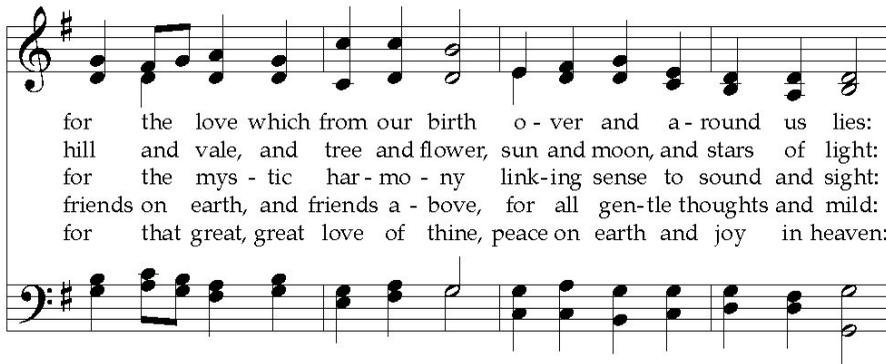
Margaret Trivette, Housekeeping Staff

A.C. Marriott, BEPC Preschool Director: acmarriott@bannerelkpresbyterian.org

For the Beauty of the Earth 14



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Acts 11:1-18

11 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers^[a] criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.^[b] These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”