



Dear Friends,

I find myself optimistically saying in conversations, "It seems like we are getting back to normal".

Of course I am talking about how our life during the pandemic has been so abnormal. I also speak to how our church and church services have been so different (and not a desired different). But I am also hopeful that we are turning a corner. More and more folks are receiving the vaccinations. We are able to slowly incorporate back some of our worship traditions. And while it is Holy Week this week, it is also the beginning of the baseball season. My Oakland A's will open with 20% of the stands full. It's not everything. But it's not nothing either. "It seems like we are getting back to normal."

At the same time, today is Maundy Thursday when we reflect on that Last Supper with the disciples. Tomorrow will be Good Friday when we remember Jesus' painful death on the Calvary cross while holding on to the good news of redemption and salvation. Of course, this Sunday is Easter, when death will be defeated, Christ will be victorious, and our church will call out, "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!"

For the disciples and the crowds who had gathered around Christ, there would be no "getting back to normal". The same can be said for the opponents of Christ and all those who waited for a Messiah. It can be said, year after year, about the early church and our church as well. After those three days pass, and the stone of the tomb is rolled away, there is no returning to the world as it once was.

Of course, when we speak of a "new normal" in this way, we are proclaiming the good news of the gospel. With Christ's resurrection, a new hope dawns, one that even the boldest disciples could not begin to understand. And when we live our lives by the example and joy of Christ, we create around us actions, communities, and relationships that aren't reflective of the "normal world" but instead of a world of Jesus that chose death over life, love over hate, and the eternal over the temporary.

The Evangel

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I hope we can maintain church in this balance.

Let's pray for one another as we return to the way things were. I know that our church has often been fortunate regarding our health in this pandemic. And while it is not ideal, we have been fortunate to share online sermons before returning to a socially distant worship. We have been fortunate to have a congregation that loves and cares for one another, checks in on each other, and reminds all of us that we are family.

Let's maintain as well that we should embrace the changing of the world that comes with Easter mornin g. When we say, "Hallelujah" because Christ has conquered death, we regard with joy the death of old ways of harmful living to fully live into the abundant life that comes only through Jesus Christ. We can't have a normal today that doesn't hinge on the wild, wonderful promises of the future in God yet to come.

So please be safe, be healthy, and be thankful as we begin to return to the post-pandemic days. Please be joyful, loving, and caring as we return to the post-Easter life.

With gratitude for you all and all you do.

Rev; Jonah Smith-Bartlett



4/5 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/21 - Elders Meeting 7:15 pm

4/8 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/23 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/12 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/26 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/18 AIRR Meeting 1:00pm

4/29 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

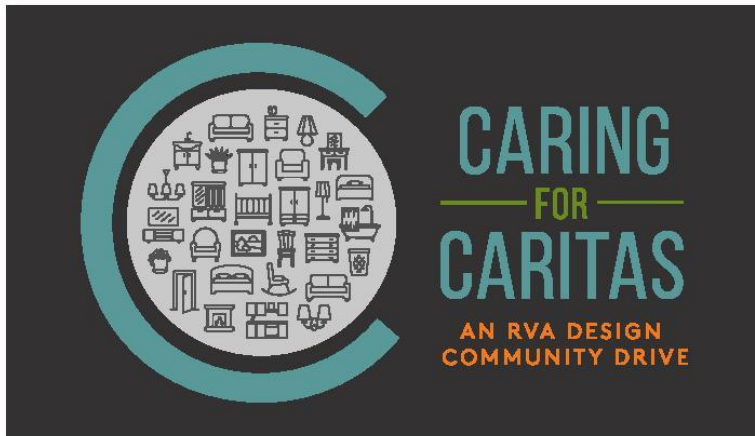
4/15 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

4/19 Minister's Open Meeting 10am-2pm

Do you have a meeting or event happening at BPCC or Virtually for BPCC? Please send this to Lisa for the church calendar (bpcc.office@Verizon.net)

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HOSTED BY



SARAH CAYLOR
scaylor@porterstreetpurchasing.com
804.677.6894



LACY WILMOUTH
lacy@jcfgroup.net
804.833.1178



TYRA WAGNER
t.wagner@customviewllc.com
804.523.1167

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



TO BENEFIT



WHEN

FRIDAY, MAY 14TH
3-6 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 15TH
9 AM-2 PM

WHERE

CUSTOM VIEW
WINDOWS & DOORS
1965 Westmoreland St,
Richmond, VA 23230

JOIN US as we come together for the first ever **RVA Design Community Furniture Drive** to support our local **CARITAS Furniture Bank!**

Your donations will directly help our RVA neighbors in need:

- Individuals and families moving out of homelessness
- Victims of natural disasters
- Women escaping domestic violence
- People with mental and physical disabilities including those suffering from a substance use disorder
- Refugee families from all over the world
- Elderly persons on limited income

So clean out your sample libraries!
Spring clean at home!
Tell your clients and co-workers!
Let's FILL THOSE TRUCKS!



ITEMS ACCEPTED



FURNITURE

Metal bed frames, bookcases, dressers, mattresses and box springs (no kings or foam), sofas, loveseats, sleeper sofas, ottomans, kitchen tables and chairs (no glass top tables), accent or lounge chairs, TV stands, mirrors

HOUSEWARES (FULL SETS NOT REQUIRED)

Bakeware, bed linens/sheets, blankets/comforters, cookware, dishes, glassware (no stemware), knives, cutting boards, laundry baskets, pillows, hardware, towels, utensils

SMALL APPLIANCES + ELECTRONICS

Blenders/food processors/mixers/electric griddles, clocks, coffeemakers, crockpots, DVD players, fans (no ceiling fixtures), heaters (no base-board heaters), irons and ironing boards, lamps (no fixtures), microwaves, radios (portable), toasters and toaster ovens, vacuums

** Items noted in dark gray needed for Corporate Level sponsorship*

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The church office is open physically twice per week and virtually anytime!

Church Office: Monday & Thursday 8am – 1pm

-Emails, Voicemails, Paper mail, and in house admin (bills, facility maintenance etc)

Virtually: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

- Emails, Website, Tech Support, Prepping mailings and other duties as needed.

Worship and Study Alternative Options

If you are not able to access our worship services online and would like a copy of Rev. Jonah’s sermon mailed to your home please request these to Jonah or Lisa.

Also we still have a few copies of “Our Daily Bread” Devotional available for members who would like this mailed out.



Battery Park Christian Church
4201 Brook Rd.
P.O. Box 9314
Richmond, VA 23227

Batteryparkchristianchurch.org
T: 804-266-3973
BPCC.Office@Verizon.net

April Birthdays

Judy Pollard	4/12
Jason Richardson	4/13
Audrey Heckman	4/19
Vivian Palmore	4/26
Tom Huth-Scruggs	4/28

Income and Expenses, Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2021

Income	
Offering	16,344
Building use	10,875
Other	631
Total Income	27,850
Expenses	
Personnel	27,641
Utilities and Maintenance	12,721
Unexpected Major Expenses	0
Other	470
Total expenses	40,833
Net loss (taken from reserves)	(12,983)