

imagine

Dear Friends,

I can't quite believe it but after one of the most difficult years the church has faced we find ourselves thankfully moving into the summer.

There is, of course, another bit of good news. We have celebrated 100 years of Battery Park Christian Church and are now entering year 101. There are great possibilities on the horizon.

For this Evangel letter, I want to reiterate some points made at the Board Meeting just a few weeks ago. Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, after great fellowship and food, left the church with three very important questions. I would encourage you to answer these questions and email either myself at jonahbartlett@gmail.com and the church office at bpcc.office@verizon.net. The more voices that we hear, the better!

The first question is as follows. If we were to found BPCC today, with our beloved active membership, what would our ministries look like? What would our mission be? How do we have a forward-thinking church, engaging the gifts already present and celebrating the past without making the past our goal for the future? The storied history of the church, and even some of our favorite traditions, won't fit into who we are today. How can we give thanks for them and what new traditions can we celebrate?

Second, how we distinguish who we are to the community? What makes Battery Park Christian Church not just different from other churches, but special to us? What do

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we want to share? How do we share that message? Who do we know that needs church and is looking for a church home? How can we be more welcoming?

Third, how can we envision a future of the church that is larger than worship? How can we use our building, time, and prayer to meet the needs of the community? Who can be our partners? Can we understand membership in a new way, centered on the life of the church as a whole and not just Sunday mornings?

The Bible is full of change and transformation. A shepherd boy becomes a king. A man with a stutter becomes a liberator. The son of a carpenter becomes the Christ. This might be our road to Emmaus moment, rededicating ourselves to our faith in new and bold ways.

I look forward to hearing from you. Peace and blessings as the summer begins!

Rev. Jonah Smith-Bartlett



Monday and Thursday 10am – 2pm: Office is open for all members to drop by and see Pastor Jonah

Please check out our Calendar on the next page as we start allowing events to return to BPCC

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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BPOC Jun 2021 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am - Lent Bible 11am - Worship	31 6pm - Tai Chi	1 6pm - Tai Chi	2	3	4	5
6 9:30am - Lent Bible 11am - Worship	7 6pm - Tai Chi	8 6pm - Tai Chi	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am - Lent Bible 11am - Worship	14 10am - Firehouse 6pm - Tai Chi	15 10am - Firehouse	16 6pm - Firehouse	17 6pm - Firehouse	18 11am - Firehouse	19 11am - Firehouse
20 9:30am - Lent Bible 11am - Worship	21 10am - Firehouse	22 10am - Firehouse 6pm - Elders 7pm - Board	23 6pm - Firehouse	24 6pm - Firehouse	25 6pm - Firehouse	26 11am - Firehouse
27 9:30am - Lent Bible 11am - Worship	28 10am - Firehouse	29 10am - Firehouse 6pm - Tai Chi	30	1	2	3

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Calling for Volunteers: Week of Compassion

The pandemic presented significant challenges for communities affected by disasters—including shortages of supplies and restrictions on volunteering. But through it all, Week of Compassion partners have found ways to continue serving survivors. Now, Disciples have the opportunity to serve at some of these mission sites. As gathering becomes possible again, disaster recovery volunteers are needed more than ever!

One of the opportunities to serve is in **Pamlico County, North Carolina**. Hundreds of houses in the area were devastated by Hurricane Florence in 2018 (with some subsequently damaged by Hurricane Dorian in 2019). Soon after Hurricane Florence, a partnership emerged between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Pamlico County Disaster Recovery Coalition, in order to assist with housing repairs across the county. The project prioritized serving some of the most vulnerable households: low-income, elderly, veterans, disabled people, and/or families with children in the home.

“Ms. Gloria’s home was hit hard during Hurricane Florence,” Week of Compassion partners recently shared. “Her roof was damaged, which let water into the home, causing further damage. Some generous friends helped to repair the roof and prevent further problems with leaks, but Ms. Gloria had been unable to re-enter her home for over two years, since the storm also destroyed the wheelchair ramps that made her house accessible. Through a collaboration between Week of Compassion and several local partners, volunteers repaired damaged siding, replaced flooring, and began reconfiguring the interior of her home to make it more wheelchair friendly (such as widening the door to her bathroom). With a few more weeks of work, Ms. Gloria’s home will be ready for her to move back in.”

Camp Caroline, the Disciples of Christ church camp in Pamlico County, serves as one of the volunteer host sites in the county. The flexibility and quality of volunteer housing, the broad coalition of partners, and the commitment to volunteer and survivor wellbeing, helped enable work to continue throughout the



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pandemic. Still, support is needed for ongoing recovery.

As vaccines become increasingly available, and as ecumenical partners have growing success with COVID-19 protocols for volunteer teams, Week of Compassion has identified several volunteer opportunities for disaster recovery, including hurricane recovery in Louisiana and tornado recovery in Ohio, in addition to the recovery in North Carolina.

The pandemic remains a fluid situation, with regional spikes in cases, new variants, and continued risks and uncertainties, so in-person volunteer opportunities may not be suitable for everyone at this time. Currently, Week of Compassion requires that all volunteers who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine do so before serving. Those who are able to volunteer safely can make a significant contribution to the important work of disaster recovery, supported by our wider Church.

For more Information about current and potential volunteer opportunities, visit the Week of Compassion website: www.weekofcompassion.org/volunteer

Support Week of Compassion, Disciples Mission Fund and other recovery efforts like above with a purchase from the Disciples Store
http://store.disciples.org/disciples_of_christ/shop/home



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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.



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June 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 - May 31, 2021

Income	
Offering	27,870
Building use	13,375
Other	1,887
Total Income	43,132
Expenses	
Personnel	38,219
Utilities and Maintenance	19,100
Unexpected Major Expenses	0
Other	2,713
Total expenses	60,032
Net loss (taken from reserves)	(16,900)