

Friends,

As we embark into autumn together, I am reminded of that famous verse from Ecclesiastes that was made even more famous when Pete Seeger turned it to song. Ecclesiastes 3:1- "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

What a strange season it has been! I believe that when we look back, none of us will think of these past seasons as spring or summer but rather the season of the coronavirus pandemic, the season of racial strife and the beginning of reconciliation, the season of political fracture, the season of frustration even within the Christian Church universal and Battery Park Christian Church.

It is simply wild, to say the least, that when I accepted this call to be your pastor, that services would become virtual, plans turned upside down, and fellowship just so difficult. None of us signed up for this!

Yet at the same time in this season, I have witnessed the church being church in new, creative, and just ways. First and foremost is our partnership with the YMCA as a student success center. Did you see Battery Park Christian Church on channel 8, channel 12, or on the front page of the Times-Dispatch? How wild!

As learning went virtual in Richmond City Schools, a number of parents had to begin to wrestle with what it would mean for their youth to begin school in isolation. Even more pressing, many families realized that they might need to make a choice between childcare and employment. Imagine how heartbreaking that decision would be.

Mayor Stoney, Superintendent Kamras, and the Richmond City School Board have a duty to the children of this city. Equally so do people of the Christian faith. City leaders have tried to make room for five hundred children to have low cost or free childcare but to this point only one hundred spaces have opened up. These spaces were available at Movement Church and Battery Park Christian Church. This is also a season of gratitude for our ability to serve these children and our willingness to do so.

Of course, the life of the church as usual goes on, even in these new ways. Church leadership have continued to try and adjust how we might make worship "work". Rob and Vivian Palmore have given us their gifts of music every week. While we remain flexible and hopeful in next steps we must also remain thankful for what we have.

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While we were unable to gather for worship we had a "placeholder" prayer service on Wednesday nights. We will continue to think about Wednesday night offerings but for the time being that **prayer service will take place every second Wednesday of the month.** Stay tuned for more announcements soon.

I pray that we might feel God's presence in our lives during this season even as the narrative of our world seems to change daily. I would invite you to read scripture at home, find time for quiet meditation, and please pray for yourself, our country, our world, and our church. I will do the same and together let us make this a season of praise even amidst all else. God remains with us and we remain with each other.

Peace and grace,

Rev. Jonah

Dear BPC Church Family,

As we head towards fall this year we are all well aware of the November elections happening soon. With what has been labeled as a historic election year, local governments are making preparations for monumental numbers of voters. Your secretary here (that's me!) in her "free time" serves as an Assistant Chief Officer of elections in Hanover County.

I help work the elections by assisting in running a voting location on election days. In preparation for mass voter turnout all of your local county governments are offering multiple ways to vote early. I will provide you all some basic, non political voter information in the next Evangel. Some of these ways are absentee voting, and in-person early voting. Hanover alone has 83,000 registered voters and in an effort to get as many votes in as possible, they are holding six weeks of early voting located in the government complex.

To that end they have requested my assistance in helping run the polls on some days during that time. Particularly the projected heavy days (After a debate, Fridays, etc) as I manage technology during polls. In order to help out I am moving my in-person office hours for October.



For the month of October only, the office will be open for In-Person assistance on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

You can call or email anytime and we will get back to you on other days as well!

Thank you all for your gracious understanding and support of our civic duty! ~Lisa