

The Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church

March 2026
Newsletter

THE BEACON

Chapel Hill,
North Carolina

**Thinking Carefully about Mental
Illness, Violence, and Guns: a
Social Justice Lens**

A class from Jeff Swanson, PhD

**March 1, 8, and 15th 9:45
Lounge**



Brad Berglund @ Binkley!
March 21-22

Saturday 3/21 - Contemplative Photography
Workshop

Sunday 3/22 - Sunday School Class with Brad:
Keepers of the Faith: The Irish High Cross

All weekend - Art installation with photos
from Ireland - reception 3/22 after Worship

3/22 - Taize worship 5pm

Please look for more information in the Bulletins
and Friday updates closer to March 21st.

**DREAMING
BIG**

39TH ANNUAL

**CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO
CROP HUNGER WALK**

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
REGISTRATION 1:30PM - STEP OFF 2:30PM

CARRBORO TOWN COMMONS

Each year our walk raises funds to support the instrumental work of Church
World Service & the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service
to fight hunger around the world and right here in our community.

JOIN US!

✉ chapellhillcarrborocropwalk@gmail.com

f [chapellhillcarrborocropwalk](https://www.facebook.com/chapellhillcarrborocropwalk)

📷 [chapellhillcarrborocropwalk](https://www.instagram.com/chapellhillcarrborocropwalk)

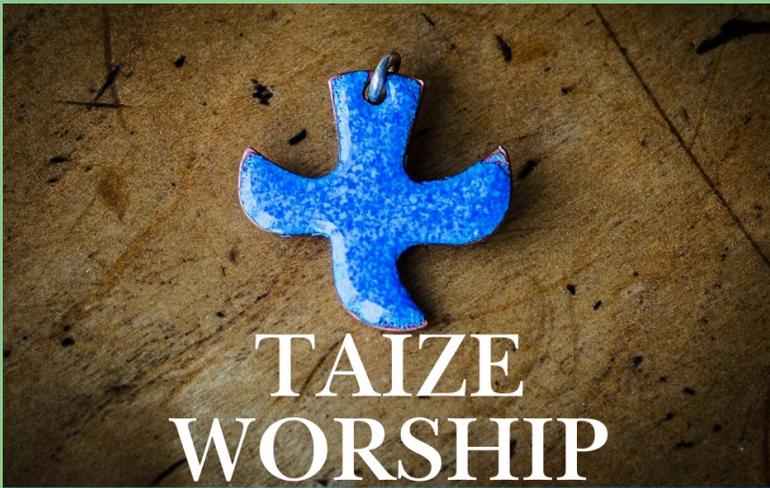


March 2026

[Click here for the Full Church Calendar](#)

Or visit our website and go to Events/Facilities Calendar

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chapel 9:00 Church School 9:45 Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00	2 Orange Co Election Set up FH Deacon's Meeting 7pm	3 Orange Co Elections FH	4 Zoom Prayer Circle 8:30am Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm	5 Lenten Book Study Lounge Noon Binkley Bells 5:30pm AFWG meeting zoom 7 pm	6	7
8 Chapel 9:00 Church School 9:45 Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45 Worship with Children 11:00 Council Meeting Noon	9	10	11 Zoom Prayer Circle 8:30am Quilts of Love Lounge Noon Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm	12 Lenten Book Study Lounge Noon Binkley Bells 5:30pm	13	14
15 Chapel 9:00 Church School 9:45 Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00	16 Newsletter Deadline Senior Adult Planners 10:30am	17	18 Zoom Prayer Circle 8:30am How to Avoid Scams Sr. Luncheon Noon Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm	19 Grounds Committee 10:45am Lenten Book Study Lounge Noon Binkley Bells 5:30pm	20	21
22 Chapel 9:00 Church School 9:45 Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45 Worship with children 11:00 Brad Burglund Photo Exhibit Noon Tiaze Service 5pm	23	24 Daytime Book Group 10:30am	25 Zoom Prayer Circle 8:30am Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm	26 Binkley Bells 5:30pm	27	28 Justice For All Vigil Noon
29 Chapel 9:00 Church School 9:45 Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00	30	31				



TAIZE WORSHIP

LED BY BRAD BERGLUND
MARCH 22ND @ 5PM

Brad Berglund @ Binkley
March 21-22

Contemplative Photography



Artist's Statement: Brad Berglund

Following my four-year old son Brandon's diagnosis with malignant brain cancer, years of treatment, pain and joy, I experienced a passionate re-visioning of life. My interest in photography emerged as a healing, contemplative, spiritual practice and has become an expressive and integral part of the process of grief following Brandon's death in 2009. My understanding of photography as a spiritual practice focuses beyond technique, choosing instead to emphasize our connectedness with the world around us and the gift of seeing life in new and surprising ways. Photography becomes a powerful tool to assist us in practicing ways of seeing with heart and soul. Brad Berglund is a spiritual director and the founder of Illuminated Journeys, offering retreats, workshops and meaningful travel opportunities designed to deepen the spiritual life.



Learn more at www.illuminatedjourneys.com

What you will learn:

- A contemplative approach to photography
- How to trust your own imagination
- The hidden art of composition
- The true meaning of "symbolism"
- How to effectively add inspiring photos to worship or other meetings

Practical Information

- Ideal number of participants per retreat: 8-12 people
- Ideal setting: Overnight event at a retreat center. However, this retreat can be custom-designed to fit your needs

Call Brad with questions and to book him for your retreat or event
720.489.8073

brad@illuminatedjourneys.com



March 22 : Sunday School
Class with Brad Berglund
9:45 – Fellowship Hall
Keepers of the Faith: The
Irish High Cross

Carved stone crosses are one of the most unique features of Irish Spirituality and grace nearly every country across the Irish landscape. Often referred to as the stained glassed windows of the Irish tradition, many crosses feature etched-in-stone versions of biblical stories and stand up to 20 feet in height. Through slides and narrative, we'll look at the history of these fascinating crosses, their dates and construction techniques and how this deeper understanding can inspire your own faith journey.

PHOTOS FROM PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND



This beautiful site was captured by Nancy Davis in Monasterboice, County Louth, Ireland last April. Monasterboice is the home of the tall crosses, many of which date back to the tenth century. In conjunction with Brad Berglund's upcoming visit to Binkley, you are invited to the Art Room after worship on March 22 to see an exhibit of photos taken by Nancy and other Binkleyites, sample some delicious Irish refreshments, and hear all about our 18 day pilgrimage! Mark your calendars now to attend this exciting event. See you there!

News from Grounds Committee:

We experienced a lot of winter in February and winter carries its own beauty. Yet there are signs of Spring coming up! The crocus are the first blooms to shine forth in the courtyard garden. Keep alert for more signs of change as winter gradually moves toward spring.

In the last few months you may have seen a lot of change on Binkley grounds. Directional signage, new plantings along the fence near the parking area, and finally a new church sign courtesy of University Place at our west entrance. However there are other less noticeable but equally time consuming work projects that have been taking place throughout winter. Most of the work the Grounds committee does is what you



don't see! This less than showy work includes raking and tending our retention ponds (as per Town requirements), cutting back perennials, removing invasive growth, picking up debris, weeding, watering drought hungry plants, blowing leaves, cleaning and replacing tools, pruning, spraying, mulching and planning for the future.

We share this news to say thank you to our regular volunteers who mow the grass and tend the roses, our "on-call" group, as well as occasional volunteers such as the MLK service group. The primary beautification and maintenance of Binkley grounds is accomplished through your volunteer spirit and generous donations to the church budget. There is also a Landscape Discretionary Fund that supports special projects that enhance the grounds and supports the mission of our church. (Past examples include the Peace Plaza dove and Peace pole, sculpture in the courtyard garden, shade structure for the playground, memorial plantings. We welcome your contributions to that fund by simply indicating Landscape Discretionary Fund on your donation. Thank you for your support.

Enjoy the coming of Spring Binkley!

~The Grounds Committee

Binkley Marks One-year as the Apartheid-Free Movement Surpasses 1,000!

Dear Binkley Baptist Church, February 21, 2026 marked the one-year anniversary of Binkley Baptist Church's commitment to be an Apartheid-Free Congregation! The Apartheid-Free network is grateful for your commitment to freedom, justice and equality for Palestinian people and all people, and for the prophetic ways you live this out. Palestinians need our solidarity now more than ever.

In solidarity,
Allison Tanner
Lead Organizer
Apartheid-Free Communities
<https://apartheid-free.org/>

It is empowering to be a part of this collective action worldwide. Check out <https://apartheid-free.org/signatories>. Binkley's Apartheid-Free WorkingGroup(AFWG) is active representing Binkley locally and nationally. We share, learn and draw strength from a wealth of resources and experiences. Join us as we seek to have a greater impact. Contact : mloupwj@gmail.com

JUSTICE FOR ALL VIGIL



The March Vigil will Join NO KINGS DAY !

Saturday 03/28/2026

BINKLEY
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Binklers at the "Love Forward March" with Reverend Barber!



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Performances



**THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE
2026 BINKLEY WOMEN'S RETREAT**
FRIDAY AFT. – SUNDAY MORNING,
MAY 15-17, 2026
AT THE BEACH! AT THE TRINITY CENTER,
SALTER PATH NC

In our own lives, the lives of those we love, the life of our global community, what are the things that make for peace? What makes for inner peace? How do we “make peace”, “keep the peace?” What are women’s experiences of finding peace, searching for peace? What does peace for women include?

After a wonderful and historic women’s retreat in 2025 - celebrating the 40 th anniversary of Binkley women’s retreats - we return to the beach in 2026, to mark the beginning of the next 40 years of the ever-widening circle of our community of Binkley women and friends and learn together about the things that make for peace. Come join us!

Costs: Single Room: \$310 Double Room: \$270 Triple Room: \$270 (same as double)

Costs include 2 nights and all meals from dinner Friday through breakfast Sunday.

Bed Linens & Bath Towels Provided.

To reserve your spot, a \$50.00 Non-Refundable Deposit is due by **Friday, March 27, 2026.**

Final Payment for all Retreat Costs due April 17, 2026

Registration forms - print and online - are available this month! Contact Susan Rogers

susan@binkleychurch.org or Julianah Hicks julianah476@gmail.com

Scholarship Donations Welcomed and Needed! – Each year, there are women who attend our retreats thanks to the financial support of others in their Binkley community. Join this generous group of Binklers! 🌸

Checks are payable to, Binkley Baptist Church, with Women’s Retreat Scholarship in the memo.

Choral Scholars Recital



FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION: VITA

THE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VITA) IS A FREE TAX SERVICE FOR THOSE WITH LOW TO MODERATE INCOME. VITA IS A PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER CONNECT 55+, A DIVISION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING.

IRS CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FEDERAL AND NC STATE TAX RETURNS, INCLUDING FREE ELECTRONIC FILING. TAXPAYERS OF ANY AGE OR COUNTY ARE ELIGIBLE, SO LET FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ALL AGES KNOW ABOUT THIS SERVICE.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, CHECK THE NARTHEX FOR THE DECEMBER-FEBRUARY EDITION OF "ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES" MAGAZINE, AND LOOK ON PAGE 10. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR

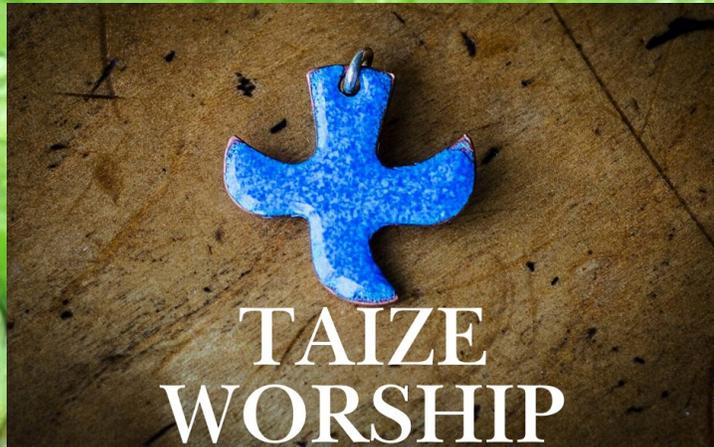
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, VISIT ORANGECOUNTYNC.GOV/VITA OR CALL 919-245-4242.

APPOINTMENTS ARE HOSTED AT THE SEYMOUR CENTER, 2551 HOMESTEAD ROAD, CHAPEL HILL. THEY FILL UP FAST, SO CONTACT THEM SOON!

Diya Kayaleh, soprano
Kit Rice, alto
Henry Reacher, tenor
Jack Adame-Covey, baritone
Mike Harris, piano
Mike Davis, piano



Dr. Sally Molyneux



LED BY BRAD BERGLUND
MARCH 22ND @ 5PM

A Taizé worship service is modeled after the ideals of the Taizé Community, a monastic order from both Protestant and Catholic traditions, in Burgundy, France. The service consists of scripture readings, prayers, and the singing of simple songs, usually with texts from the Psalms, that are repeated many times to induce a meditative feeling within the participants. The music may be accompanied by a variety of instruments who decorate the singing in an improvisatory manner. It is a gently soothing and uplifting service for all participants.

I would like to thank the many folks who attended the Choral Scholars recital last month. They really appreciate your support and enthusiastic appreciation of their hard work! If you were not able to attend in person, their concert will appear on our Youtube channel in a few weeks, as soon as the recording can be processed. -Sally Molyneux

Sunday, March 22, 5pm: Taize service led by Brad Berglund. Brad is an experienced and talented leader of this beautiful, meditative musical experience.

Wednesday, April 15, 5:30pm: Wednesday Night potluck and OTGB music. Following in the tradition of Binkley's Wednesday Night Suppers, the church will provide a main dish, you bring a side or dessert. After a delicious meal, we will be entertained by our own Old Time Gospel Band playing all the tunes you love.

Sunday, April 26, 7pm: A Classical Music Concert. The Chancel Choir, accompanied by Mike Harris, and assisted by friends, both singers and instrumentalists, will present an evening of Classical Music gems that have stood the test of time, from the Baroque period to the Modern era. A reception will follow the concert.

Sunday, May 3, 4pm: Hymns Sing. As part of Binkley's Senior Adult Ministry, all ages are invited to a Hymn Sing, where favorite hymns, chosen ahead of time by the participants, will be sung and enjoyed. Ice cream will follow the program.





Claire Dillashaw

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Children and Youth

Children:

Spring Church School: The Chipmunks (infants through pre-school) meet each week in the nursery, and the Bluejays (K-5th) meet in the Sunroom at 9:45 each Sunday.

Worship with Children: On **March 22nd**, children up to 5th grade are invited to join for Worship with Children during the 11 am worship service. During this time we will hear a Bible story, have a snack, and play.

We appreciate your prayers while the 2nd-5th graders are away at **Camp with Friends from March 6-8**. We will gather at Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina with some other churches from the Triangle for fun, service, and learning. If you would be interested in helping provide snacks for our campers, please let Claire know!

Vacation Bible School will be June 15th-19th this summer! Get excited!!! We will be needing lots of volunteers, so if you are interested in hanging out with an awesome group of kids, reach out to Claire!

Youth:

Youth Church School: Each Sunday at 9:45 we gather in the Youth Room for **Donuts and Discussion**. Come join us as we chat about our weeks, play games, and have a devotional!

VBS will need youth helpers! If you are interested in helping out during the week of **June 15th-19th**, please let Claire know!

Beloved Youth Camp will be June 28th-July 3rd! This is the best week of the summer, so mark your calendars and invite a friend! Much more details on registration to come! .

DREAMING BIG

39TH ANNUAL

CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CROP HUNGER WALK

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
REGISTRATION 1:30PM - STEP OFF 2:30PM

CARRBORO TOWN COMMONS

Each year our walk raises funds to support the instrumental work of Church World Service & the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service to fight hunger around the world and right here in our community.

JOIN US!

✉ chapelhillcarrborocropwalk@gmail.com
f chapelhillcropwalk
📷 chapelhillcarrborocropwalk

In the Narthex this Sunday and every Sunday, the 2026 Crop Hunger Walk T-shirts will go on sale for \$10 each. So far no one has signed up for this year's Crop Walk. Use the Q Scan to get to the website and join the Binkley Walkers' team.

Sign up to receive the Binkley Kids newsletter [here](#), and youth updates [here](#), or by emailing claire@binkleychurch.org



Binkley Senior Adult Ministry Updates

From Diane Eubanks Hill, Minister with Senior Adults

What a great time we had in February when 34 of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the **Thou Shalt Not Fall** workshop! Physical Therapist Tonya Hamm helped us learn a number of exercises and tricks to help us with our balance in order to prevent the dreaded fall! Many thanks to Tonya, and to all who participated.

The coming months bring other opportunities for community and learning and inspiration:

Aging in Community led by April Kemper. This group gathered on February 19 and explored challenges each is facing, offering care and support. Many thanks to April for leading! Watch for opportunities to gather with this group - possibly for a visit to the Botanical Gardens - once the weather is better. Drop ins are always welcome!

Watch Out for Scams! This event is set for **10:30 on Wednesday, March 18 followed by lunch** – pizza and salad – from Alfredo’s, along with brownies and cookies for dessert. The presenter is Lt. Daniel Roberson of the Orange County Sherriff’s Office. Please make your reservation **here....** by Monday, March 16.

Sunday Afternoon Hymn Sing – Gather with your friends at 4:00 on the afternoon of May 3 to enjoy some of your favorite hymns from our Chalice Hymnal. Watch for the opportunity to make known your requests. Afterwards, stay around for ice cream and conversation!

Back Porch Brunch and Book Discussion – Gather on my back porch to discuss Joan Chittister’s fascinating book **The Gift of Years – Growing Older Gracefully**. The book is composed of about 40 brief chapters on topics such as Regret, Meaning, Letting Go, Agelessness, Forgiveness.... In the Introduction Chittister observes “...it is important to come face-to-face with what it means to age, to be older, to be old, to become an elder in society.” I found this book extremely meaningful a few years ago and look forward to exploring it now with my Binkley family. I invite you to pick up a copy and start reading and pondering!

All events offered by Binkley’s Senior Adult Ministry are open to anyone interested, no matter the age. Questions? Contact a Senior Adult Planning Team Member (Tonya Hamm, Buck Horton, April Kemper, Denise Laux, Craig Meisner, Elizabeth Perry, Betty Prioux, Sheryl Scrimsher, Dennis Will or Diane Eubanks Hill, Minister with Senior Adults)



Binkley Senior Ministry Presents:

Watch out for Scams!

Wednesday, March 18
10:30AM
Fellowship Hall
Lunch to follow

Sign up here.





"Sojourners," a class dedicated to topical-biblical-theological-political issues which are contemporary and timely for robust conversation and discussion; facilitated by Marcus McFaul. Meets on the stage area of the Fellowship Hall. The first three weeks of March they will meet as part of the class given by Jeff Swanson.

Mindful Parenting - At each weekly meeting in the Chapel, the class discusses ideas about parenting from current resources. Novice and experienced parents and caregivers – all are welcome. Ty Hagler facilitates this class.

Understanding and Reflecting on the Liturgical Year – The class will engage in a slow read and discussion of the 52 meditations by Diana Butler Bass in her just released book, *A Beautiful Year*. This class will meet again later in the year.

Thinking carefully about mental illness, violence, and guns: a social justice lens - a class from Jeff Swanson. Please see below for further information on the class. March 1, 8, and 15th.

Upcoming Class: From Brad Berglund: Keepers of the Faith: The Irish High Cross - Carved stone crosses are one of the most unique features of Irish Spirituality and grace nearly every country across the Irish landscape. Often referred to as the stained glassed windows of the Irish tradition, many crosses feature etched-in-stone versions of biblical stories and stand up to 20 feet in height. Through slides and narrative, we'll look at the history of these fas-

Thinking carefully about mental illness, violence, and guns: a social justice lens

March 1, 8, and 15th

Three-Session Adult Sunday School with Jeff Swanson, PhD

North Carolina is home to more than two million people who experience mental illness each year, yet our public behavioral-health system reaches only a fraction of those in need. Governor Stein's recent Executive Order highlights the crisis: nearly every county faces a shortage of mental-health professionals, and too many people go untreated until they end up in emergency rooms, jails, or prisons. Nationally, more people with disabling mental illnesses are incarcerated today than were housed in the largest state hospitals a generation ago. At the same time, the United States continues to lose about 130 people every day to preventable firearm injuries—more than half by suicide. These two problems intersect only at their edges, but both raise profound ethical questions about safety, autonomy, justice, and our obligations to one another. This three-session series will explore these issues through a public-health lens and the moral commitments of a faith community dedicated to compassion and social justice. We will also consider how partisan polarization distorts public understanding—and how congregations like Binkley can help bridge divides to support humane, evidence-based solutions.

March 1 - Session 1 — Gun Violence, Mental Illness, and the Law: Balancing Risk and Rights. What the evidence really shows, why NC still lacks an ERPO ("red flag") law, and how faith communities can advocate for life-saving, rights-respecting policies.

March 8 - Session 2 — Outpatient Civil Commitment: Autonomy vs. Paternalism. Understanding Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), the surge in involuntary commitments, and the ethical tensions at the heart of current NC policy debates.

March 15 - Session 3 — Psychiatric Advance Directives: Ulysses in Recovery. How PADs help people preserve autonomy during future crises, the ethics of self-binding, and ways congregations can support dignity and recovery.

Jeff Swanson is Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine and a faculty affiliate of the Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law School. Trained as a sociologist, he works across disciplines to build evidence for interventions, policies and laws to improve outcomes for people with mental illness and to prevent firearm-related violence and suicide. He is a long-time Binkley member.

Background readings for further interest – supplied on request

BIRTHDAYS

1	Martha Hamilton
2	Katherine Walker
3	Scott Snider
4	Lisa Costner
6	Vivian Parks
9	Martha Hutt
10	Larry McManus
11	Marcus McFaul
12	Claire Dillashaw, Denise Laux
14	Kristen Smith-Young

16	Sophia Nissler, Alex Swanson-Boyd, Ana Swanson-Boyd
17	Matthew Ferguson
20	Laurie Heffner
22	Karin Mills
23	Angie Hutto
24	Melody Butts, Jeff Swanson, Ginger Clifford
25	Daniel Guy, Elizabeth Thompson, Hal Young
26	Mary Ann Bradshaw, Kay Pratt
28	Craig Meisner, Mike Hawkins
29	Leland Kimple, Jim Pike
30	Wayne Robinson
31	Julianah Hicks, Ron Simmons

ANNIVERSARIES

9	Ashley and Ralph Nissler
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1712 Willow Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-942-4964
office@binkleychurch.org

Follow our Socials:



MARCH SUNDAY SCHEDULE

1	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT—MARCUS McFAUL
8	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT—MARCUS McFAUL
15	Fourth Sunday in Lent—Claire Dillashaw
22	FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT—MARCUS McFAUL
29	PALM SUNDAY—MARCUS McFAUL

Don't Miss the DEADLINE!
Submit articles for the newsletter, Friday Update, or the Sunday bulletin to:
info@binkleychurch.org.
April Newsletter:
March 16th

Senior Minister
Marcus McFaul
marcus@binkleychurch.org
919-237-9120

Minister of Music
Sally Molyneux
sally@binkleychurch.org
919-928-5491

Minister with Senior Adults
Diane Eubanks Hill
diane@binkleychurch.org
919-928-5873

Vol. Minister of Congregational Care
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Director of Children and Youth Ministries
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Pastor Emeritus
James L. Pike

Visit our website:
binkleychurch.org