

For a  
child  
is born to us  
a son is given to us  
AND THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS  
THESE WILL BE HIS ROYAL TITLES

Wonderful  
Counselor

Mighty God

EVERLASTING FATHER

PRINCE OF PEACE

***Bryn Mawr  
Presbyterian Church***

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December 17, 2017  
8:00 a.m., Chapel  
Third Sunday of Advent

# WELCOME TO BMPC

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

### **Childcare (infant - age 5)**

7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Education Building, Rm. 102

### **8:00 a.m. Worship, Chapel**

#### **Art @ 9**

Age 3 - Grade 5  
8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 201

#### **Filling the Well**

Women's Bible Study  
8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 104

#### **Caring Corner**

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,  
Ministries Center Court

#### **Morning Prayer**

Lectio Divina  
9:25 a.m., Middleton Center

### **10:00 Worship, Sanctuary**

Sunday School, Adult Education  
*See calendar for a complete schedule.*

**NEW HERE?** We are pleased that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. Information about our programs is available near the main entrance. We invite you to participate in any of our programs, ministries and mission opportunities, as they are open to all.

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP.** Stop by the Ministries Center Court for a cup of coffee between 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. and for refreshments and fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Families with young children are invited to gather for refreshments in the Education Building Lobby after Sunday School.

**TO ASSIST YOU DURING WORSHIP.** Children's bulletins with crayons may be found near the main entrance. If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher or server know, and Communion will be brought to you.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** On Sundays, December 24 and 31 we will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Subscribe to our BMPC eNews by adding your email address to the Fellowship Register. For additional information about today's schedule, see the calendar at the back of this bulletin.

[www.BMPC.org](http://www.BMPC.org)

# GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Franklyn C. Pottorff

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Brad Baturka

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace to remember that Christ brings peace that surpasses our understanding.

**All: The prophet Isaiah named him Everlasting Father.**

One: Today we light the candle of love.

**All: God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.**

One: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**All: Love is like a light shining in a dark place,  
as we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.**

One: May this candle of love give light to the world.

† HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of majesty, you love as a parent loves a child.

When we fail to meet your expectations, your grace reaches beyond your anger.

When we fail to obey you, your mercy out-measures your disappointment.

You provide for us abundantly and yet we keep asking for more.

You teach us to love justice and yet we do not work for the common good of all.

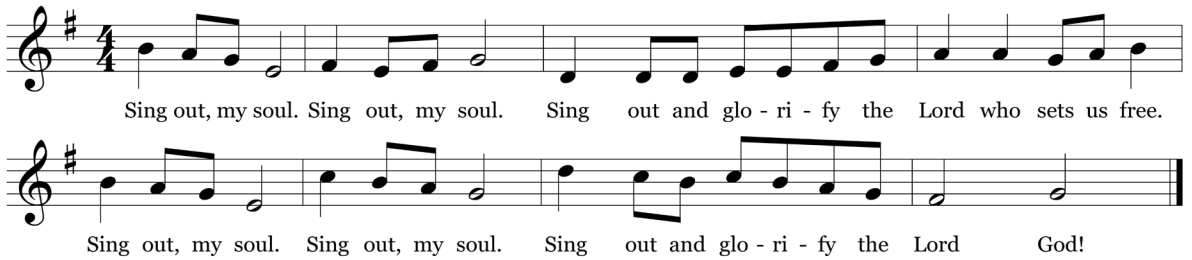
Everlasting Father, please forgive us.

Help us turn toward you and walk in your path as we await your coming in full glory.

*A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free.

Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!

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## HEARING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brad Baturka

### FIRST LESSON      Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*p. 691 in pew Bible*)

Brad Baturka

### SECOND LESSON      Luke 1:39-56 (*p. 57 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

*Everlasting Father*  
Third in Advent Series *The Names of Jesus*

Agnes W. Norfleet

### † HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Malcolm Christian Kuhn

Franklyn C. Pottorff  
with Elder Brad Baturka

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this child by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of His church?

All: **We do.**

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*You are invited to come forward, using the center aisle, to partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction (dipping a piece of bread into the cup); return to your seat using the side aisle. Gluten- and casein-free elements are on the center table.*

*You are invited to bring your offering when you come forward.*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Agnes W. Norfleet

### MINISTRY MOMENT

*Gather Us In*

Bill Matthai

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

## **Worship Notes**

### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Lore Kephart

### **RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT 8:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

Malcolm Christian Kuhn, son of Christine & Jonathan Kuhn

### **AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

Samuel Ford Erdlen, son of Haley & Andrew Erdlen

James Nelson High, son of Lauren & Alex High

Oliver Beck Pottorff, son of Abby & Frank Pottorff

Elinor Marian Sampson, daughter of Julie & Kyle Sampson

Benjamin MacGregor Watts, son of Molly MacGregor & Duncan Watts

### **ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION**

Elder Brad Baturka

### **USHERING**

Elder Tom Willcox

### **BULLETIN COVER**

*Isaiah 9:6*

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*"I am the resurrection and the life."*

Jean Taylor ~ December 8, 2017

## Announcements

**GATHER US IN: STEWARDSHIP 2018.** Thank you to everyone who has given time, talents and treasures to our church home! The significance of these three gifts are essential to the jubilation we experience here at BMPC. For those who already have pledged, we thank you! For those who have yet to pledge, consider doing so by placing your completed pledge card in the offering plate, mailing it to the church or pledging or donating online: [www.bmpc.org/pledge](http://www.bmpc.org/pledge). SarahMiciekb@bmpc.org.

**YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS.** High School Mission Trip to Mexico for rising ninth graders to graduated seniors, July 22-28, \$1,300. Space is limited; register now. Middle School Mission Trip to New York City for rising sixth to rising eighth graders, July 8-12, \$299. Camp Kirkwood for rising sixth to rising 12th graders, \$399 before March 1; \$499 after. AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

**GRAPHIC NOTATION: VISUALIZING THE MUSIC OF J.S. BACH.** Through Sun., Dec. 31. Philadelphia artist Melinda Steffy interprets the music of J.S. Bach as color patterns, blending music theory, color theory, mathematical structures, and meticulous handiwork to create vibrant works of art. In addition to selections from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, *Cello Suite in G Major*, and more, her exhibit features new works commissioned by BMPC based on Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

**BOOK CENTER IN MINISTRIES CENTER.** Select Christmas books for children, Advent books for adults, book-themed ornaments and special keepsakes (made in Germany) for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Book Center is open following worship and on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kat MacMurray, [katrmac2@icloud.com](mailto:katrmac2@icloud.com).

## Today

**TAKE TIME TO PRAY AND MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE.** Sundays during Advent, 9:25-9:50 a.m., Middleton Center. The traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer is known as "lectio divina," and Advent offers the opportunity to pause and reflect on the birth of Christ. [info@middletoncenter.org](mailto:info@middletoncenter.org).

**ADVENT GIFT MARKET.** Sundays through Dec. 24, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court. AGM provides an opportunity for you to do your holiday shopping for family, friends, teachers, co-workers, babysitters, anyone you wish to honor, by donating to a charitable project of your choice. Cashiers are available following worship to help you place, purchase or pick up your order. You also may shop online at [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org). Marian Chitester, [mmthistle@verizon.net](mailto:mmthistle@verizon.net).

**"IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT": STUDYING APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.** 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. The season of Advent invites us to await with anticipation the coming of Christ, not just as a child, but coming again in a future yet to be known. Dr. Joshua Yoder leads us through a study of the biblical roots of what theologians have imagined the new heaven and new earth might be like.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING.** Envelopes are available in the pews today. A cherished tradition since the 1930s, gifts to this fund are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. You may use the envelopes or note “Christmas Joy Offering” on the memo line of your check.

**CARING CORNER.** 9:00-11:30 a.m., Ministries Center Court. Our parish nurse and social worker will be available in the Court today. Look for Carol and Renee by the Caring Ministries banner.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY.** 4:00-6:00 p.m., Arnold’s Family Fun Center in Oaks. Join us for a joyful evening of laser tag and go-karts. \$15/person includes dinner. DavidSmith@bmpc.org.

## ***This Week***

**STORYPATH LABYRINTH.** Weekdays during Advent, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Chapel; Wednesdays during Advent, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Chapel. Anne Schmid, schmonty@comcast.net.

**NOONTIME HARPSICHORD RECITAL.** Tues., Dec. 19, noon, Sanctuary. Featuring Jeffrey Brillhart and Edward Landin on BMPC’s William Dowd harpsichord. Free admission. StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org.

**A WEE CHRISTMAS.** Tues., Dec. 19, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas Story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus’ birth. MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE.** Thurs., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. This special service acknowledges the darkness we experience even during this festive season. Scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation by the Rev. Mary Steege, and a time of prayer to express our yearnings for healing and wholeness are intended to lead us from the darkness into light. A labyrinth will be set up on the front lawn to walk before or after the service.

## ***Next Sunday***

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** On Sundays, December 24 and 31 we will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI: CHRISTMAS EVE ALUMNI RECEPTION.** Sat., Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Worship on Christmas Eve is made even more special by greeting those who grew up at BMPC and now are home for the holidays. We welcome back all former youth to join old friends after the 8:30 p.m. and before the 11:00 p.m. worship services. All are encouraged to attend! AmyBauer@bmpc.org.



## **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE.** 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Family Service with Nativity Tableau (infant and toddler childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Carol sing precedes at 4:15 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE.** 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service with Communion by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet (childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Prelude begins at 8:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS.** 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude begins at 10:40 p.m.

## **Save the Date**

**HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY.** Wed., Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m., Rosemont Presbyterian Village Ballroom. The Rev. Mary Steege leads our study of *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier, Chapter 5. For book and information, contact Joyce Malott, [okf405@erols.com](mailto:okf405@erols.com).

**AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD.** Sundays, Jan. 7-28, 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Patricia Danzon, spiritual director at the Middleton Center, leads discussions of the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. [CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org).

**HIGH SCHOOL SNOW RETREAT.** Jan. 13-15, Camp Kirkwood, Poconos. Join us for a weekend away at Camp Kirkwood where you may enjoy hiking, snowtubing, discussion groups, Sunday morning worship and time to explore the surrounding area. Cost: \$275. Register online at [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org) > Calendar > Open Registrations. Scholarship assistance is available for all trips and events. [AmyBauer@bmpc.org](mailto:AmyBauer@bmpc.org).

**EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY-SMALL GROUP.** Begins Tues., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m., Fullerton Room. It's impossible to become spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Be part of a spiritual and emotional growth small group based on Peter Scazzero's book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Invest in your spiritual, emotional and relationship health in this eight-week offering led by the Rev. Mary Steege. Register and order books: [MarySteege@bmpc.org](mailto:MarySteege@bmpc.org).

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION.** Wed., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Discussion of Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope's book, *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. Books are available in the Book Center for \$14. [Courtenay Willcox, mcwillcox@gmail.com](mailto:CourtenayWillcox@gmail.com).

# Caring & Sharing

**OUR BROTHERS' PLACE.** Sat., Dec. 30. Meet in the Ministries Center Court at 10:15 a.m. to carpool to Our Brothers' Place homeless shelter and prepare and serve lunch. Register: Pam Haynes Walsh, Haynes-walsh@comcast.net, 610 667-0972.

**FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Join the BMPC Flower Team on Sunday mornings to create small flower arrangements for our Deacons to deliver to selected church members. We work in teams of two and serve once every seven to eight weeks. MargoBennett@comcast.net.

## This Week's Calendar

*For more information, visit our website at [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org), call the church office, or contact [communications@bmpc.org](mailto:communications@bmpc.org).*

### Today, December 17

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102  
8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**  
8:45 a.m. Filling the Well (for women), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 104  
Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 201  
9:00 a.m. Caring Corner, Ministries Center Court  
9:25 a.m. Lectio Divina, Middleton Center  
10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir and Baptisms, Sanctuary**  
Sunday School for age 2 - PreK, Ed. Bldg.  
Grades K - 5 begin worship in the Sanctuary  
Youth Gathering (Grades 6 - 12), Gymnasium  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School for Grades K - 5, Ed. Bldg.  
10:30 a.m. Middle School Connections Group (Grades 6 - 7), Loft  
Confirmation (Grade 8) Connections Group, Gloucester Room  
Grades 9 - 10 Connections Groups, Converse House Parlor  
Grades 11 - 12 Connections Groups, Fullerton Room  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship for Families, Ed. Bldg. Lobby  
Cafe in the Court, Ministries Center  
Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court  
11:15 a.m. "It's the End of the World as We Know It" Adult Education, Witherspoon Parlor  
Tintinnabulators, Fine Arts Center  
12:15 p.m. Carillon Lessons, Fine Arts Center  
4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, Arnold's Family Fun Center

### Monday, December 18

- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

## **Tuesday, December 19**

- 9:00 a.m. RePose Yoga, Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Harpsichord Recital, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease, Gymnasium
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Gloucester Room
- 4:00 p.m. A Wee Christmas, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

## **Wednesday, December 20**

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee Cup Bible Study, Gloucester Room
- 4:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal for All Choirs Grades K-12, Fine Arts Center
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Chorale Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Loft  
Trustee Meeting, Conference Room

## **Thursday, December 21**

- 10:00 a.m. Artists' Gathering, Gloucester Room
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Exercise Class, Gymnasium
- 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, Sanctuary  
Boy Scout Troop 19, Gymnasium
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

## **Friday, December 22**

*No scheduled activities.*

## **Saturday, December 23**

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Bereavement Group, Fullerton Room

## **Sunday, December 24**

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary**  
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach.
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary

## ***Worship Staff***

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**Agnes W. Norfleet**, Pastor

**Rebecca Kirkpatrick**, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

**Rachel Pedersen**, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

**Franklyn C. Pottorff**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Stewardship

**David B. Smith**, Interim Director, Youth Ministry

**Mary Steege**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

**Jeffrey Brillhart**, Director of Music & Fine Arts

**Edward L. Landin**, Assistant Director of Music

## ***Contact Information***

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610-525-2821

[www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org)

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24/7 Answering Service for Pastoral Emergencies: 610-525-2821

Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 • [info@middletoncenter.org](mailto:info@middletoncenter.org)

The Weekday School (Preschool): 610-525-2821, ext. 8840