

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***

December 24, 2017
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO BMPC

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Childcare (infant - age 5)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Education Building, Rm. 102

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Grades K - 2 Combined Class

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 a.m., Education Building

Grades 3 -12

Holiday Worship Together
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Advent Gift Market

11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court

NEW HERE? We give thanks that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. We invite you to stop by and say hello at our information alcove to the left of the main entrance after the service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP. Stop by the Ministries Center Court for a cup of coffee and fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

TO ASSIST YOU DURING WORSHIP. Large print bulletins, back pillows and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher. Children's bulletins with crayons may be found near the main entrance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Grades K-2 worship with their families in the Sanctuary before being dismissed to Sunday School. If this is your first Sunday, please accompany your child to the Education Building.

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

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE “Noël sur les flutes” from *Livre de Noël* Louis-Claude Daquin

WELCOME Franklyn C. Pottorff

ADVENT INTROIT (*please remain seated*)



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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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Lee Family

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of love to remember that nothing separates us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

All: **The prophet Isaiah named him Prince of Peace.**

One: Today we light the candle of joy.

All: **The angel Gabriel told Mary that a child would be born to her and she was filled with joy.**

One: She sang: “My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

All: **From hope, peace, and love grows joy.**

One: When Jesus is born anew in us we have joy, and through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

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

One: May the hope, peace, love and joy we know in Jesus Christ give light to the world.

† **HYMN 348** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*) Rachel Pedersen

Great and glorious Prince of Peace,
you come to us as Immanuel, God with us.

You have fulfilled the hope of our ancestors
who longed for a Savior to come and show us the ways of peace.

We confess that we do not always walk in your ways:
 we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves;
 we neglect the needs of those around us;
 and we are hesitant to work for justice and peace.
 We pray that you would forgive our sins and transgressions.
 Fill our hearts with your love and our lives with your peace
 so that we may reflect your light in the world.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† **GLORIA PATRI** (*in unison*) Hymn 581

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Moment.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

SENDING HYMN Go now, Children, with Our Blessing

During the Sending Hymn, children K - Grade 2 depart for their Sunday School classes.

Go now, children with our blessing, to love and serve the Lord. May God
 Bless you, May God guard you, May the light of God shine upon you, and may
 God be gracious to you. May the presence of God be with you. May the
 presence of God be with you, and give you peace.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 (*p. 638 in pew Bible*) Mary Steege

ANTHEM “Sicut Locutus Est” from *Magnificat* J.S. Bach
 Sanctuary Choir

According to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to His descendants forever.

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:76-2:7 (*p. 58 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Prince of Peace

Agnes W. Norfleet

Fourth in Advent Series *The Names of Jesus*

† **HYMN** 360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

Jesus came as a child

born of a woman as is every child,

yet born of God's power as was no other child.

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

He announced to his people

the coming of God's rule of justice and peace on earth.

We believe that the coming of Jesus

was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his life, death, and resurrection

he initiates the relationship between God and the human race

that God always intended.

~ A Declaration of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hark! A Herald Voice Is Calling

Ola Gjeilo

Sanctuary Choir

Hark! a herald voice is calling: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!" Startled at the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with

pardon down from heaven; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven. So when next he comes in glory, and earth's final hour draws near, may he then as our defender on the clouds of Heaven appear. Honor, glory, virtue, merit, to the Father and the Son, with the coeternal Spirit, while unending ages run. Amen.

*Please fill in the Fellowship Register at the end of your pew;
pass it down your row and back again.*

- † **DOXOLOGY** Hymn 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
- † **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Mary Steege
- † **HYMN 134** Joy to the World ANTIOCH
- † **BENEDICTION WITH CHORAL RESPONSE** Agnes W. Norfleet
- POSTLUDE** “Joseph est Bien Marié” from *Première Suite de Noël*s Claude Balbastre

Worship Notes

CHAPEL GARDEN FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Sally Skillman Odiorne
Mr. & Mrs. Sydney A. Skillman
Susan A. Skillman

GREETING TODAY

Deacons

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Brian Middleton

BULLETIN COVER

Isaiah 9:6 by Timothy R. Botts

†

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

Arthur Rainey ~ December 17, 2017

Announcements

GATHER US IN: STEWARDSHIP 2018. We are so fortunate to be part of a congregation whose gifts are benevolent and generous. Thank you for making all we do at BMPC possible! To date, we have reached more than 80% of our stewardship goal! If you have yet to pledge, please 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. SarahMiciek@bmpc.org.

BACK PILLOWS. Participants in our Children and Family Ministry and Youth Ministry programs have made pillows for our senior members and for those who need an extra cushion in the pews. These pillows are available as you enter the Sanctuary and Chapel.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS 2018. 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. Register online at www.bmpc.org > Calendar > Open Registrations. Scholarship assistance is available for all trips and events. 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, 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.

Today

TAKE TIME TO PRAY AND MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE. 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.

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. 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. Marian Chitester, mmchistle@verizon.net.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI: CHRISTMAS EVE ALUMNI RECEPTION. 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!

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 with the Sanctuary Choir and a homily by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude begins at 8:00 p.m. Childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with the Sanctuary Choir and a homily by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

This Week

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.

Next Sunday

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. We will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Upcoming

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 Joycel Malott, okf405@gmail.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.

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 by January 5 at www.bmpc.org > Calendar > Open Registrations. Scholarship assistance is available for all trips and events. 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 Scanzero'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.

URBAN SUBURBAN BOOK GROUP. Tues., Jan. 16, 7:00 p.m., Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Discussion of *Waiting* by Ha Jinn. Edelene Carroll, carrollvirgo@verizon.net.

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.

Save the Date

THEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS. Thurs., Jan. 25, 7:00 p.m., Gloucester Room. A review of the basics of the most essential theological topics and how and why they matter to us, led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. Anita Ayengar, aciyengar@gmail.com.

TWO-PIANO RECITAL. Sun., Jan. 28, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Back by popular demand, Jeffrey Brillhart and Laura Ward return to the Sanctuary to play a recital that previously brought raves. Suggested offering: \$10.00. StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org.

Caring & Sharing

HELP FIGHT HUNGER. Contribute to emergency food cupboards, homeless shelters, and hunger relief organizations by using the white Hunger envelopes in the pews or noting "Hunger" on the memo line of your check. CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org.

This Week's Calendar

For more information, visit our website at www.bmpc.org, call the church office, or contact communications@bmpc.org.

Today, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 9:00 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
9:25 a.m. Lectio Divina, Middleton Center
10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary**
Grades K - 2 begin worship in the Sanctuary
Holiday Worship Together for Grades 3-12, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Combined Sunday School for Grades K - 2, Ed. Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Cafe in the Court, Ministries Center
Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court
3:15 p.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rms. 101 & 102
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
7:45 p.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rms. 101 & 102
8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
9:30 p.m. Youth Alumni Reunion, Witherspoon Parlor
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 - Christmas

Church Office Closed: *For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.*

Tuesday, December 26 - Wednesday, December 27

No scheduled church activities.

Thursday, December 28

- 11:00 a.m. Senior Exercise Class, Gymnasium

Friday, December 29

No scheduled church activities.

Saturday, December 30

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
10:15 a.m. Our Brothers' Place, Meet in Ministries Center Court to carpool

Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary**
The Rev. Mary Steege will preach.

Worship Staff

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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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

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