



***Bryn Mawr
Presbyterian Church***

December 21, 2014
8:00 a.m., Chapel
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to BMPC

Lord, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

VISITING TODAY? Please sign the Fellowship Register at the end of your pew and introduce yourself to a pastor after the service. Our programs are open to all and we invite you to participate according to your interests.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (*see signs in building entrances for room assignments*).

Children age 2 to PreK: 10:00 a.m. classes, Ed. Bldg.

Grades K-5: 10:15 a.m., classes in the Ed. Bldg.

(10:00- 10:15 a.m. families worship together in the Sanctuary)

Grades 6-12: 10:00 a.m., Youth Gathering in Gym;

10:30 a.m., Grade Groups in the Ministries Center

Children's bulletins with crayons may be found near the main doors. Nursery care with electronic pagers is available in our Ed. Bldg.

As we gather for worship, please silence your cell phone and prepare your heart and mind for the worship of God.

Worship Notes

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lore Kephart.

THE CARILLON will be played today by Alan Willoughby.

GREETING AND HOSTING TODAY are members of our Worldwide Ministries Council, which partners our church with ministries of compassion, justice and transformation around the world. Join them at Café in the Court to enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE today is Elder John Frazier.



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Kellen A. Smith

(Please fill in the Fellowship Register at the end of your pew.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

John Frazier

One: God has lifted up the meek and fed the hungry.

All: We rejoice in God, our Savior.

One: God will come in mercy to save and to redeem.

All: The night is long, but the day is drawing near.

One: Three candles burn brightly, giving light to all.

We light this fourth candle for the kingdom that is coming.

**All: The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

† HYMN 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

CALL TO CONFESSION AND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Great God, we behold the gift of your child again, yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points us to your glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angels' message of hope. Forgive us when we are distracted by things that matter little, and help us to not miss the good news of great joy. Tell us again the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that life can be abundant in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are, but because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

(A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(please remain seated)*

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful; in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God; do not be a-
fraid. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

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HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Frazier

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-15 *(p. 636 in pew Bible)*

John Frazier

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7 *(p. 56 in pew Bible)*

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Carol Sing at Luke's House
(Fourth of four: *Christmas Tour of Gospel Homes*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN 27**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Kellen A. Smith

You are invited to come forward, using the center aisle, to partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction (dipping a piece of bread in 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 morning offering to the baskets 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 *(in unison)*

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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Agnes W. Norfleet

† HYMN 40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

† SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

The Seasons of Advent and Christmas

ADVENT GIFT MARKET – LAST DAY. Choose gifts that make a difference in the lives of others! When you make a donation to one of our selected projects in someone’s honor, you receive an insert card of explanation to give as your “gift.” Visit the sales table in the Court of the Ministries Center today from 11:00 a.m.-noon.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Sun., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary, the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet, preaching. While many of us bask in the holiday spirit of good cheer, the season of Christmas can be a difficult time for others. This service offers comforting and hopeful scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation, and an extended time of prayer to lift to God our yearnings for healing and wholeness for ourselves and the world. Join us, and invite someone for whom you think this service might be meaningful, as we place our concerns for ourselves, those we love, and the world, in the hands of our compassionate God. If you are unable to be with us on Christmas Eve, this provides a lovely, contemplative evening service of singing carols and listening for the “light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.”

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

- **4:30 p.m., Sanctuary:** Family Service with Nativity Tableau (infant and toddler childcare available).
- **8:30 p.m., Sanctuary:** Candlelight Service with Communion and Homily by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet (childcare available). Prelude featuring Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols* begins at 8:05 p.m.
- **11:00 p.m., Sanctuary:** Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with Homily by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude featuring Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols* begins at 10:35 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH ALUMNI RECEPTION. Wed., Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Join others who grew up at BMPC and are now back home for the holidays. All are encouraged to attend!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. This special offering provides opportunities for students to attend Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges and helps families of active and retired church workers. Envelopes are in the pews.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS YOU for sharing your gifts with BMPC! The holiday rush is upon us and many times the most important details can get overlooked. Don’t let this holiday season pass without making a 2015 pledge—every dollar is important and fundamental for the growth and sustainability of our church. Pledge cards are in the pews and in the church office, or you may pledge online.

Announcements

A LABYRINTH JOURNEY TO THE NEW YEAR. Sun., Dec. 28, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Congregational Hall. Join us as we create space during the holiday season for reflection and renewal. Family activities and walk from 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Middleton Center will provide main dish, please bring salads and desserts to share. Contact: info@middletoncenter.org, 610-525-0766 to make reservations for dinner.

FIBER ARTISTS EXHIBIT. A colorful display of quilts, art quilts, and wearables designed by twelve fiber artists from the Delaware Valley is available for viewing and purchase in the Ministries Center through Jan. 5. More info: StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org, ext. 8836.

VISIT OUR BOOK CENTER. BMPC's Book Center, located in the Ministries Center, is open after worship and on weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Do you need a last minute gift or hostess gift? We have many choices for children and adults. Contact: Kat MacMurray, KatRMac2@gmail.com.

THE EPIPHANY MYSTERY EVENT. Jan.5-11, Church Campus. Children and families are invited to search around BMPC to help solve an Epiphany Mystery. Clues will be hidden, prizes to be discovered. Top Secret Information will arrive after the New Year. Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org, ext. 8811.

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL ART PROJECT DURING THE SCHOOL BREAK?

The deadline for designing a T-shirt for our 2015 Service Days has been extended to Jan. 5. Submit your one-color design as a jpeg or pdf to CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org. All submissions will be displayed and the winning design will include your name screen-printed on the shirt. Two runners-up will receive gift certificates for art supplies.

NEW HYMNALS. Now available for purchase at \$20 per hymnal. Give in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. Your gifts will supply the funds to fill the church with new volumes. Visit the Hymnal table in the Court or contact Susan Joseph, bibliothekarin@gmail.com.

Care & Concern

HOSPITAL INFORMATION. Due to current privacy laws, it is more difficult for our pastors to know when BMPC members have been admitted to a hospital. Call the church office at 610-525-2821 if you or any one you know is hospitalized, and let us know if and when you volunteer at any local hospitals.

NEED A RIDE? We can help you with some of your transportation needs. For rides to medical appointments call Lorie Benovic, ext. 8833. Volunteer drivers welcome.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS. Please pray for all who remain in harm's way. If you have a loved one serving in the Armed Forces, contact Janney Ryan, janney517@aol.com.

SEARCHING FOR STILL WATERS: AN EXPLORATION OF LOSS AND GRIEF. Sat., Jan. 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Middleton Center. Ongoing support group for those coping with the loss of a loved one, whether recent or many years ago. All welcome. Contact: info@middletoncenter.org, 610-525-0766.

Adult Gatherings and Spiritual Enrichment

“FILLING THE WELL” WOMEN’S GROUP. Sundays, 8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Room 101. Meet with other women for faith-based discussions and fellowship — a chance to “fill your well” after a week of giving to others. Nicole Duran leads the discussion of the book *Practicing Our Faith* by Dorothy Bass. Women of all ages and stages of life welcome. Childcare available without reservation. Contact: PeggyHermann@hotmail.com.

BMPC MEN’S GROUP. Saturdays, 7:00 a.m., Converse House Parlor. Men of all ages are invited for fellowship and lively discussions. Contact: Lee Comer, 484-524-8271.

BIBLE STUDIES AND BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- **Couples Bible Study.** Sundays, 8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Room 206, Open to couples of all ages. David and Barbara Heaton lead the discussion using the book *The Zimzum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage* by Rob and Kristen Bell. Contact: Barbara Heaton, barbhheaton@gmail.com.
- **Bible Basics: Isaiah.** Today, 11:15 a.m., Gloucester Room, led by the Rev. Dr. Nicole Duran. Consider how this influential and poetic book understands justice, prophecy, and the Messiah, and how it continues to influence Christianity. Contact: CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org., ext. 8819.
- **Women’s Coffee Cup Bible Study.** Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Gloucester Room. The Rev. Rachel Pedersen leads our study of *Christ’s Beginnings in the Four Gospels*. Bring your Bible; supplementary materials provided. Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org, ext. 8811.
- **Men’s Study Group.** Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Converse House Parlor. Led by the Rev. Paul MacMurray, this group reads books dealing with biblical and theological study. Men of all ages invited. Contact: AmyBauer@bmpc.org, ext. 8821.

Children, Youth, and their Families

InstaCHRISTMAS: NEW YOUTH GATHERING SERIES. Today, 10:00 a.m., Ministries Center. It was the moment that changed the world, the instant that everything shifted – the moment Jesus was born. This Advent, youth and their friends are invited to celebrate Christmas with a new two-week series.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS BOWLING PARTY. Today, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Join Pastor Kellen at Wynnewood Lanes for an afternoon of bowling and fun. \$15/person includes dinner, shoes and bowling.

ART@9. Sundays, 8:45-9:50 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Room 201. Class provides nurture, fellowship and craft/creative time for children age 3 to grade 5 whose parents are attending BMPC classes. Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org, ext. 8811.

YOUTH SKI TRIP TO STOWE, VT. Fri., Jan. 16-Mon., Jan. 19. This year we'll enjoy beautiful Stowe, VT and nearby Mt. Mansfield for our ski trip. The Round Hearth Lodge will accommodate us with hot chocolate and a hot tub after a full day on the slopes. On skis or board, it will be a great time and friends are welcome. \$499; register by Jan 5. Contact: AmyBauer@bmpc.org, ext. 8821.

Local and Worldwide Outreach

ASSIST WITH INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK. IHN guests will arrive today and stay until Dec. 28. If you are able to assist by preparing and serving dinner or spending the night, contact Tim Bickhart, timbickhart@verizon.net, 610-446-1294.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SERVICE DAY. Sat., Jan. 24. Serve others, get to know others from BMPC and be a role model for your children and grandchildren. Contact: CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org, ext. 8819.

PROVIDING BREAD: A SERIES ABOUT HUNGER. Sundays, Jan. 4-Mar. 1, 11:15 a.m., Gloucester Room. Led by Dave Hastings, chair of our Hunger Committee, and guests representing some of our mission partners. Jan. 18: "Bread, Freedom and Dignity", a presentation by Jennifer Cates of Hands Along the Nile Development Service. Learn about our efforts to address hunger, whether in our community or around the world. Contact: CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org, ext. 8819.

Help Fight Hunger

- **Frozen Turkey and Ham Collection.** Bring frozen turkeys and hams to the freezers in the Ministries Center; the Hunger Committee will donate them to families in need during the holidays.
- **Hunger Envelopes.** Your contributions to the white hunger envelopes in the pews provide food for emergency food cupboards, homeless shelters, and hunger relief organizations.
- **Food Baskets** are located in the Narthex and the Chapel entrance. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to worship each Sunday to help stock local emergency food cupboards.
- **Snacks for the Tutoring Program.** Volunteers needed to prepare a nutritious snack for West Philadelphia children participating in the tutoring program here at BMPC. Easy to assemble menus available to help the kids get the most out of their time spent with their volunteer tutors. For dates and details, contact Amy Bauer: amybauer@bmpc.org.

This Week's Calendar Highlights

To see a full listing of ALL upcoming activities and meetings, visit our website: www.bmpc.org

Sunday, December 21, 2014

- 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach.

Infant and Toddler Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Room 102, 7:45-11:15 a.m.

- 8:45 a.m. Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg.
"Filling the Well" Women's Group, Ed. Bldg.
Couples Bible Study, Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Youth Gathering, Gym
Sunday School Ages 2, 3 & 4, Ed. Bldg.
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
10:30 a.m. Youth Grade Groups, Ministries Center

- 11:00 a.m. Cafe in the Court, Ministries Center
Fellowship for Families, Ed. Bldg. Lobby
- 11:15 a.m. Bible Basics: Isaiah, Gloucester Room
Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. Interfaith Hospitality Network (through Dec.28), Fullerton Room
- 3:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Bowling Party, Wynnewood Lanes
- 7:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 22, 2014

- 9:30 a.m. Dance Fit, Gymnasium

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

- 9:00 a.m. RePose Yoga, Gymnasium
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25, 2014: Christmas Day

Church Office Closed: for pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821

Friday, December 26, 2014

Church Office Closed: for pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821

Saturday, December 27, 2014

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

Sunday, December 28, 2014

- 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion, Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
Children and families worship together
The Rev. Dr. Nicole Wilkinson Duran will preach.

Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Nicole Wilkinson Duran, Supply Pastor for Adult Education, Outreach,
and Worldwide Ministries

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry

Kellen A. Smith, Associate Pastor for Youth, Their Families and College Ministries

Richard Wohlschlaeger, Interim Associate Pastor for Senior Adults & Pastoral Care

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts

S. Katherine Shealy, Choir School Director

Edward Landin, Assistant Organist

Contact Information

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

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www.bmpc.org (for program information, calendar, and staff directory)

[Facebook.com/BrynMawrPC](https://www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPC) • [Twitter.com/BrynMawrPres](https://twitter.com/BrynMawrPres)

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

Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 • JoyceKrajian@bmpc.org

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