

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



# Gathering of God's People

Please note that online worshippers join the livestream at 9:50 a.m.

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

James Kealey, organist

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One Give praise to God.

**All Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves.**

One It is God who forgives.

**All It is God who delivers.**

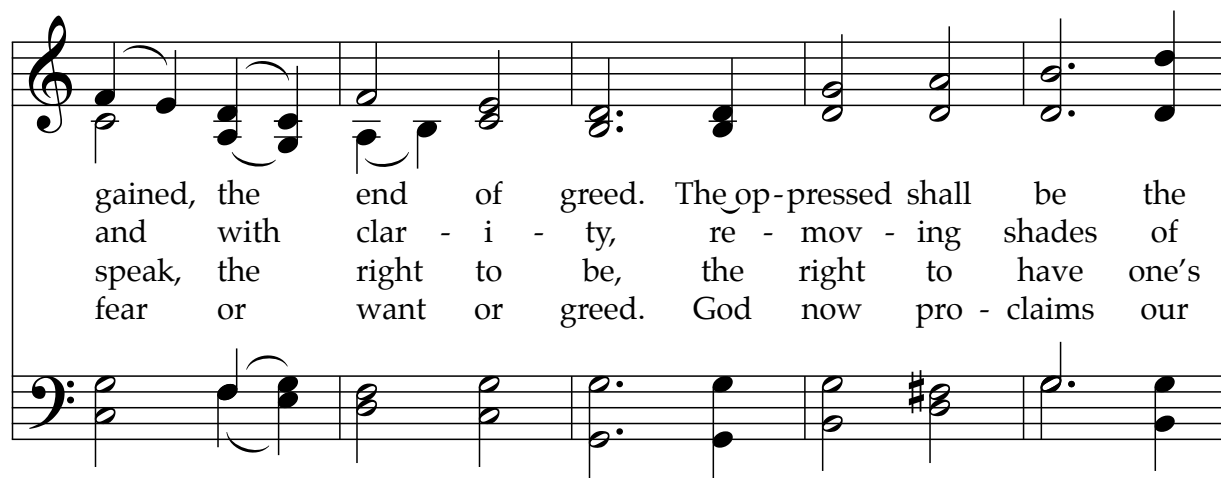
One Give thanks and praise to the Lord.

HYMN 772 Live into Hope

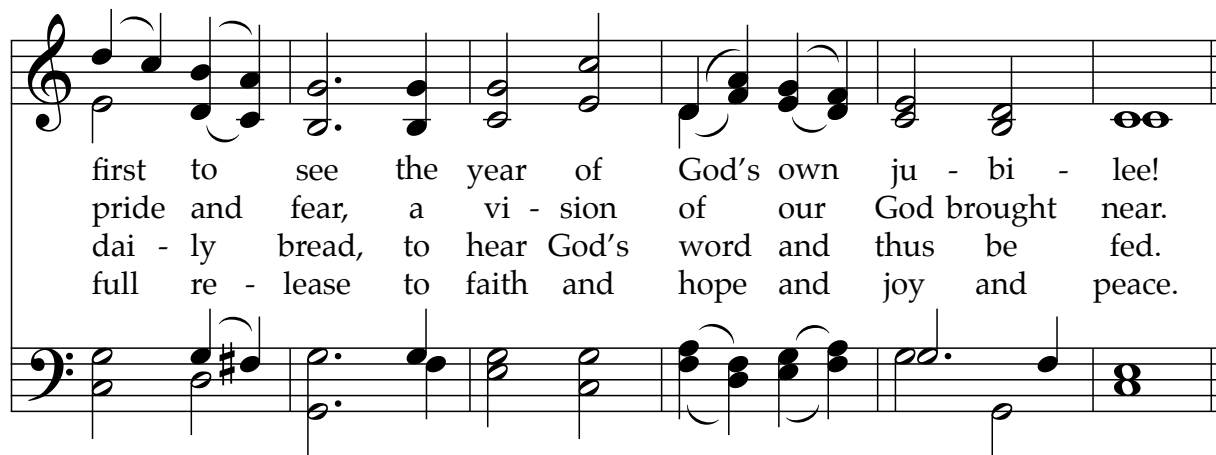
TRURO



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



## CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All** Gracious and loving God, you lived for us – we have not lived for you.  
 You have forgiven us – we have not forgiven others. You have loved us  
 – we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another. Take pity  
 on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you.  
 Help us to love through Christ our Lord.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**One** The peace of Christ be with you.

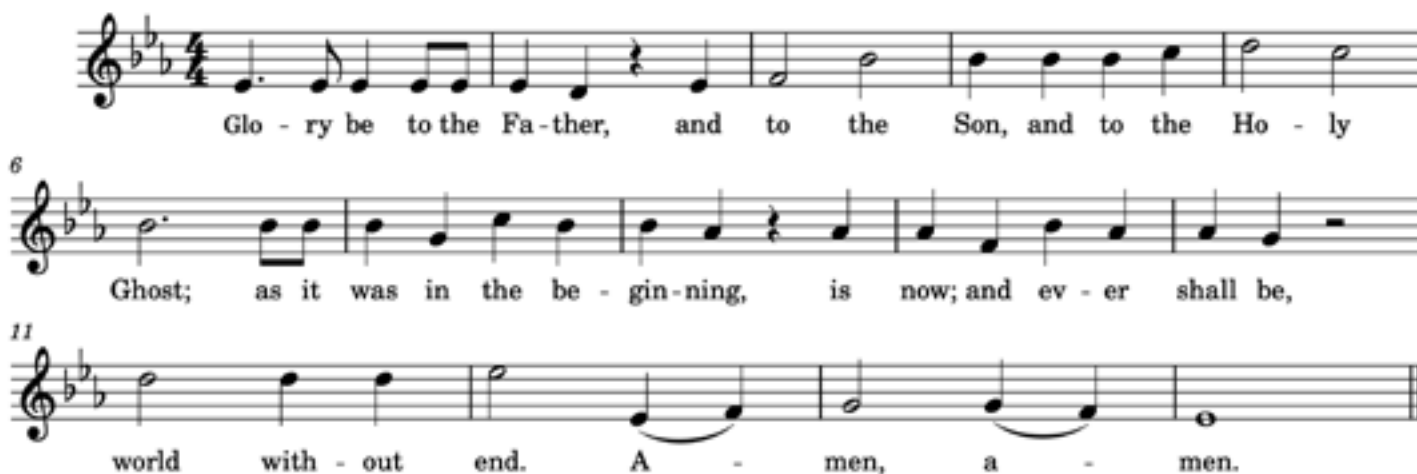
**All** And also with you.

Please stand, if able.

During the singing of the Gloria Patri, children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

## SUNG RESPONSE

GLORIA PATRI



Please be seated.

# Proclamation of the Word

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

Following the Children's Moment, children K - grade 3 depart for their Sunday School classes.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Andy Greenhow

## FIRST LESSON Romans 11:1-2a, 29-36

(New Testament pg. 160 in pew Bible)

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

... for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also

may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

## SECOND LESSON Genesis 45:1-15

(Old Testament pg. 42 in pew Bible)

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you

a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since

**One** The Word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

**SERMON** *An Act of Forgiveness*

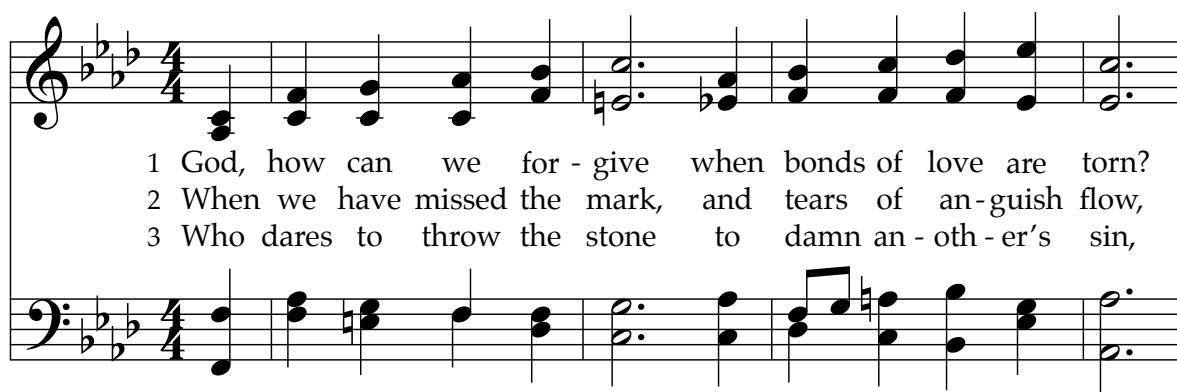
Rebecca Kirkpatrick

# Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

## HYMN 445 God, How Can We Forgive

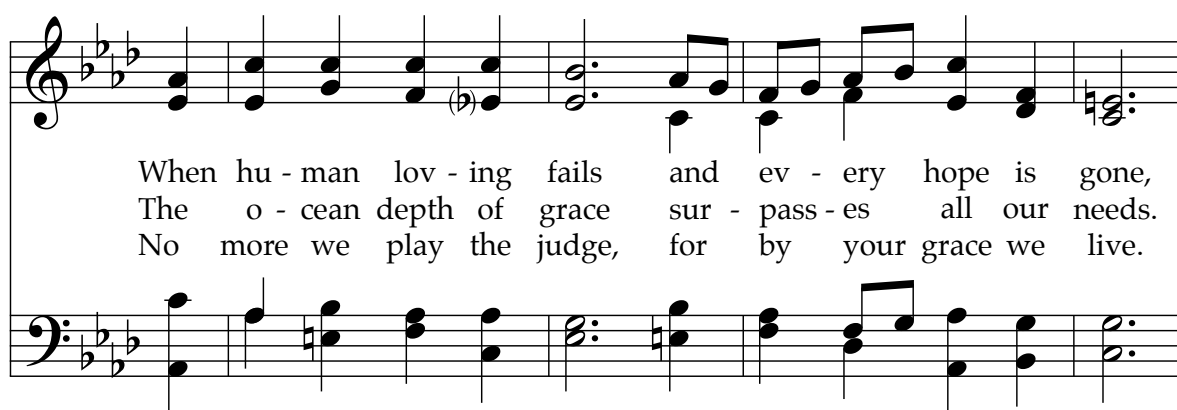
LEONI



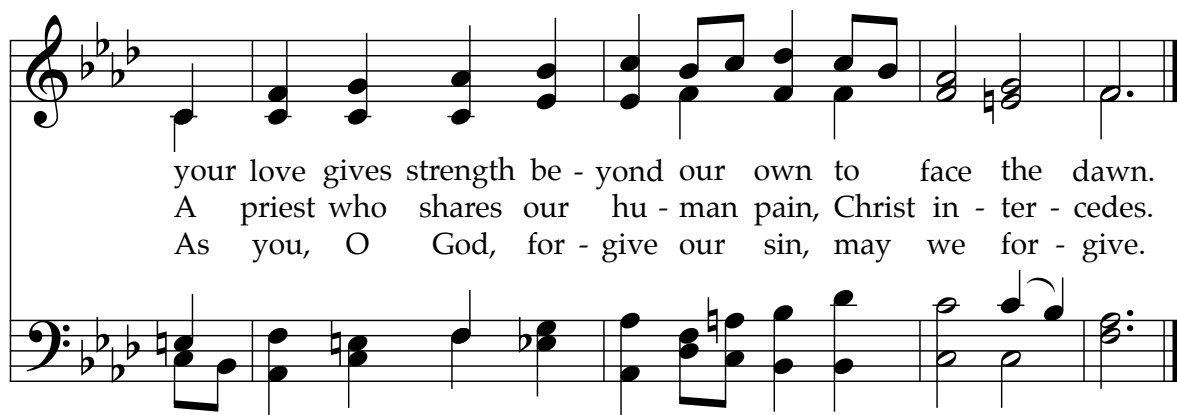
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?  
2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,  
3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?  
how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?  
when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,  
The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.  
A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.  
As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

**All I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*- The Apostles' Creed*

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All 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.**

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Please fill in the Friendship Pad at the end of your pew; pass it down your row and back again.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM Music Never Dies

Alfred V. Fedak

In the waking, in the growing, in the making, in the knowing,  
in the living, in the giving, music never dies.

In the sighing and the feeling, in the crying and the healing,  
in the playing, in the praying, music never dies.

In our humming and our singing, in our drumming and our bringing  
all our learning and our yearning, music never dies.

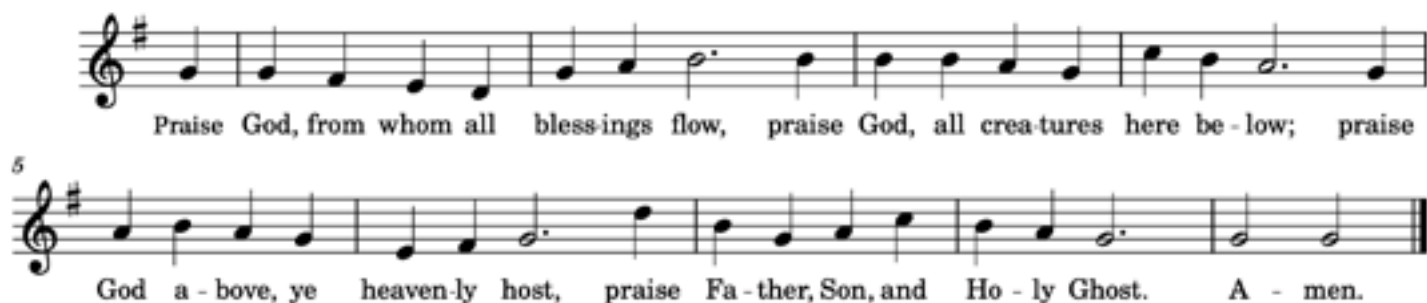
In our voices and our choices, in our gladness and our sadness,  
in the phrasing of our praising, music never dies.

In our starting and our ending, in our parting and our sending,  
in peace and love unending, music never dies.

Please stand, if able.

# DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be-low; praise  
 5 God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

# PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andy Greenhow

# HYMN 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness  
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures  
 of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
 of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal  
 which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's  
 is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place  
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

POSTLUDE Carillon du Longpont

Louis Vierne

James Kealey, organist

## Worship & Music Notes

### PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

### BULLETIN COVER

From Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church's Art Collection. "Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors." Maritza L. Morgan, Croatian (1920-1997).

# WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church during this season after Pentecost, when we are reminded that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, sustain, and renew the church. In these summer weeks, we gather to worship, reflect, and grow together in faith, trusting that God is at work in every season of our lives.

Whether you are a longtime member, returning after time away, or visiting with us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Through worship, fellowship, and service, we seek to follow Christ with faithfulness and joy. May our time together today deepen your sense of God's presence and strengthen our shared calling as Christ's disciples in the world.



John M. Willingham  
Interim Senior Pastor

---

## NEW HERE?

We are pleased that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. We invite you to introduce yourself to one of our pastors following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at [bmpc.org](http://bmpc.org)

## T-COIL HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

BMPC's Sanctuary and Congregational Hall are equipped with a T-Coil hearing loop system to enhance sound clarity for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants with a telecoil ("T" setting). Portable receiver units are also available in the Sanctuary upon request. We hope this technology enriches your worship experience!

## CHILDCARE ON SUNDAY

Childcare is available on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for children ages six months and older. Please contact the Rev. Rachel Pedersen, [RachelPedersen@bmpc.org](mailto:RachelPedersen@bmpc.org) or Childcare Coordinator Erika Henry, [childcare@bmpc.org](mailto:childcare@bmpc.org) with any questions.

## LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service is livestreamed and can be viewed at [www.bmpc.org/live](http://www.bmpc.org/live) or on our YouTube channel. A recording of the service will also be available on our Past Services website page and Vimeo channel starting Monday. If you are attending in person and prefer not to be on camera, please speak with an usher who will seat you in an area off camera.

# Announcements

## TODAY

**Blessing of the Backpacks.** Sun., Aug. 16, 11:15 a.m., Front Lawn. (Rain location: Gymnasium.) Join us on the front lawn after worship for a special blessing before the start of the school year. Contact: [MaryRichards@bmpc.org](mailto:MaryRichards@bmpc.org)

## UPCOMING & ONGOING

**Church Officer Nominations.** Please submit your recommendations to the 2026 Nominating Committee by Sun., Sept. 20, for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee Members-at-Large via the nominating form: [bit.ly/BMPCNominations](http://bit.ly/BMPCNominations) Paper copies of the form are available in the Narthex and at the Reception Desk in the Ministries Center. Candidates must be members for at least two years, faithfully participate in the worship and program life of the church, and regularly contribute to the church.

**Summer Choir.** Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Choir Loft. All singers ages 12+ are invited to join! Come any Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for a brief rehearsal, then sing at the 10:00 a.m. service. We sing one anthem, hymns, and a closing response — no robes, no sign-up, no long-term commitment.

### **Nurturing New Life: Playground**

**Playdates.** Fridays through Aug. 21, 9:15 a.m., Ed. Bldg. Playground. (Rain location: Gym.) Summer is a great time to connect, play, and explore! Join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Education

Building for a story and activity before playtime outside. We'll have space set up for babies and toddlers, and the playground available for older siblings. Sign up at [bit.ly/NurturingNewLife](http://bit.ly/NurturingNewLife) Contact: [ColleenCatania@bmpc.org](mailto:ColleenCatania@bmpc.org)

### **Water Balloon Fight Extravaganza.**

Wed., Aug. 19, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Front Lawn. 4th–7th-Graders are invited to a water balloon extravaganza! Work together to complete the ultimate obstacle training course and then the water balloons will fly. We'll end with hamburgers and hot dogs. Friends are welcome. Register at [bit.ly/4th7thWaterBalloons](http://bit.ly/4th7thWaterBalloons) Contact: [JenniferTeller@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferTeller@bmpc.org)

**Sanctuary Choir Open Auditions.** Sun., Aug. 23 and Aug. 30, 11:15 a.m., Choir Loft. Interested in singing with BMPC's Sanctuary Choir? Open auditions are being held for new members. The Sanctuary Choir sings each Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service from September through June, with weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: [JamesKealey@bmpc.org](mailto:JamesKealey@bmpc.org)

**Child & Youth Protection Training.** Sun., Aug. 30, 11:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg. Rm. 204 & Wed., Sept. 2, 7:00 p.m., Cannon Room. Child & Youth Protection Training is required for all volunteers working with children and youth. Register at [bit.ly/CYPTrainingBMPC](http://bit.ly/CYPTrainingBMPC) Contact: [MaryRichards@bmpc.org](mailto:MaryRichards@bmpc.org)

**Youth Night at Rita's.** Wed., Sept. 2, 5:30 p.m., Rita's in Bryn Mawr. All youth are invited to gather for frozen treats, conversation, and fellowship as we reconnect after the summer and look ahead to a new school year together. This is a relaxed opportunity to spend time with friends, meet new people, and enjoy one last taste of summer. Come as you are and bring a friend. Contact: [AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org](mailto:AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org)

**Religion and Public Life.** Wed., Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Concerned about the rise of White Christian Nationalism? Join the first gathering of a conversation group, sponsored by the BMPC Peacemaking Committee, on Religion and Public Life, to share resources and build community. At this first gathering, we will discuss Tim Alberta's book, *The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory*. Contact [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org) to join the conversation and pick up a copy of the book.

**BMPC Dads Bible Study.** Every other Friday beginning Sept. 11, 6:30 a.m., Cannon Room, entering from the Radnor Street parking lot. Join us as we launch the BMPC Dads Bible Study! This group is designed to be a place of fellowship and study for fathers with children at home. You don't need to be a Biblical scholar, but only someone seeking community and support in this busy and fulfilling chapter of life. We will begin by focusing on the parables of Jesus. Come start your morning with us! Sign up at [bit.ly/BMPCDadsBibleStudy](https://bit.ly/BMPCDadsBibleStudy) Contact: Josh Hirt at [Jmhirt@gmail.com](mailto:Jmhirt@gmail.com)

**Rally Day and Ministry Fair.** Sun., Sept. 13, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center. Celebrate the start of a new program year at Rally Day! After 10:00 a.m. worship, join us in the Ministries Center for a morning of food, fellowship, and fun for all ages. Rally Day is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend and introduce them to the vibrant life of BMPC. Whether you're new or returning, all are welcome — come and see!

**4th–7th-Grade Fellowship.** Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m., Gym Classroom. This is a new weekly gathering for 4th–7th-graders to build community, explore our faith, serve our neighbors, and have a lot of fun. Students are invited to come early and eat dinner together at Wednesday Night Dinner in Congregational Hall or participate in the Chorister or Sr. Chorister programs running earlier in the evening. Register at [bit.ly/4th7thGradeWednesdays](https://bit.ly/4th7thGradeWednesdays) Contact: [MaryRichards@bmpc.org](mailto:MaryRichards@bmpc.org)

**Student Serve Kickoff.** Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m., Youth Lounge. A weekly gathering for all youth in grades 8–12. This time is dedicated to fellowship, games, and Bible study, providing a space for students to actively engage in their faith formation. We share the highs and lows of our week and strengthen our community through fun and meaningful activities. Before the gathering, youth are invited to Wednesday Night Dinner in Congregational Hall at 6:00 p.m. Contact: [AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org](mailto:AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org)

**Youth Kickoff.** Sun., Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m., Gym. Families will learn about upcoming programs this academic year, meet youth volunteers, and enjoy fellowship with other youth families throughout the church. Sunday morning programming for youth continues through May. Contact: [AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org](mailto:AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org)

## CARING AND SHARING

**Habitat for Humanity Workday.** Friday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m., Offsite. Looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia works alongside volunteers toward a vision of a city where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat is proud to introduce the Pope Leo Village campaign. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's commitment to justice and service, this interfaith, multi-city movement will unite people of all identities and backgrounds to build 26 new homes for families in Philadelphia. Email [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org) to register. Limited spots available!

**Serving Together Through Kids Against Hunger.** Recently, BMPC volunteers packaged approximately 13,000 meals through Kids Against Hunger at a cost of \$3,900. Your support can help make this churchwide effort possible again next year. Donate online at [onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger](http://onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger) or by using the Hunger envelopes.

**New Life Care Initiative.** BMPC's New Life Care Initiative, a cross-ministry collaboration, is collecting infant formula, diapers, postpartum supplies, and new and gently used baby supplies and small equipment to support families in need. Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, we will help provide essential items to parents, grandparents, and caregivers in our community. Drop off donations at the Ministries Center reception desk, Ed. Bldg. lobby, or bring them to the Caring Ministries table on Rally Day! Contact: [ColleenCatania@bmpc.org](mailto:ColleenCatania@bmpc.org) or [JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org)

**Email Scam Alert.** An email scam has resurfaced and may target members of the BMPC community. Posing as Pastor John Willingham, the scammer asks for financial help. Please be assured that no member of the BMPC staff will ever contact you with an urgent financial request, and they will never ask you to buy gift cards. If you receive such a message, do not respond. When in doubt, always check with us before replying to any suspicious communication. Contact the church office directly if you have any questions or concerns.

# Calendar

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (infant–age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
- 9:00 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
- 9:55 a.m. Summer Sunday School (Ages 3 and 4), and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Families (Rising Gr. 4–12), Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School (Rising K–Gr. 3), Ed. Bldg.
- 11:15 a.m. Blessing of the Backpacks and Lemonade on the Lawn, Front Lawn

## MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- 1:00 p.m. Congregational Life Council Meeting, Cannon Room
- 7:30 p.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (hybrid), Gymnasium

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 206, Gymnasium
- 5:00 p.m. 4th–7th-Grade Water Balloon Extravaganza, Front Lawn

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

No events scheduled

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

- 9:15 a.m. Nurturing New Life Playground Playdate, Ed. Bldg. Playground

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Searching for Still Waters Bereavement Group, Converse House Parlor

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**  
The Rev. Dr. John Willingham will preach.



## Giving

Your generosity can make a profound difference at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Join us in spreading love and hope by giving at [bit.ly/BMPCGiveOnline](https://bit.ly/BMPCGiveOnline) or simply scan the QR code to the right. Every donation, no matter the size, fuels our mission to create a more faithful, just, and compassionate community. Together, let's make a lasting impact!



**Sanctuary Flower Donations.** Openings are available throughout the year for donors who wish to give flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. After Sunday services, our Deacons deliver small arrangements of the flowers to homebound church members. For more information, contact [SusanThorkelson@mac.com](mailto:SusanThorkelson@mac.com)



### CONNECT WITH US



BrynMawrPres



BrynMawrPres



user/brynmawrpres

## Worship Staff

John Willingham, Interim Senior Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Melanie Hardison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

James Kealey, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Mitchell Miller, Assistant Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar