



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025

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

Improvised Passacaglia on a Given Theme

Daniel Carroll, organist

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One Listen to the promise: Ask for a sign of the Lord Your God.

All **Let it be as deep as Sheol and as high as the heavens.**

One This will be the sign that the Lord will give:

All **A young woman is with child.**

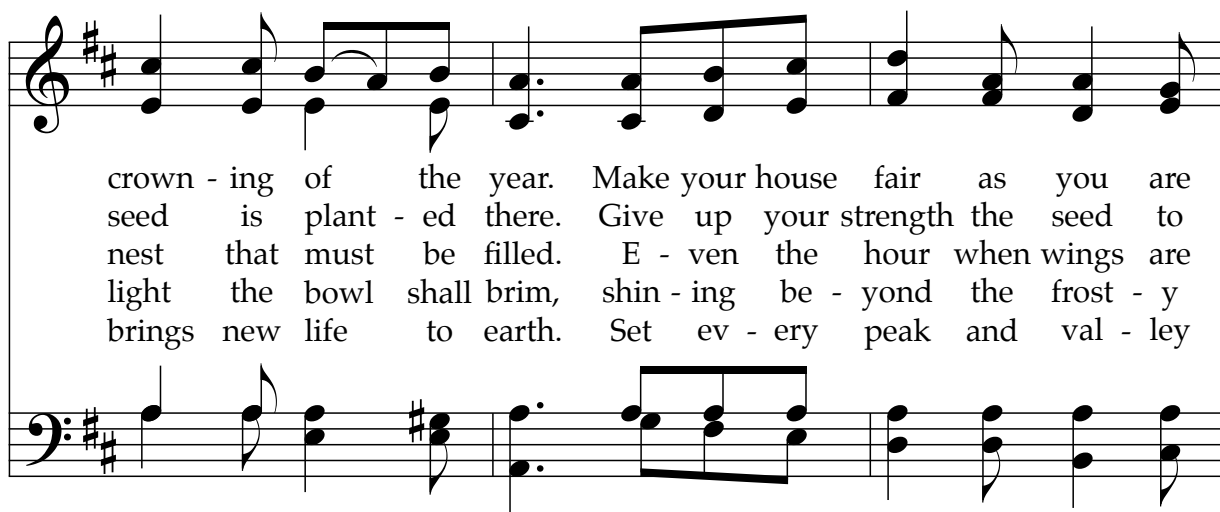
One She will bear a son.

All **We will call him Immanuel, God is with us.**

HYMN 105 People, Look East

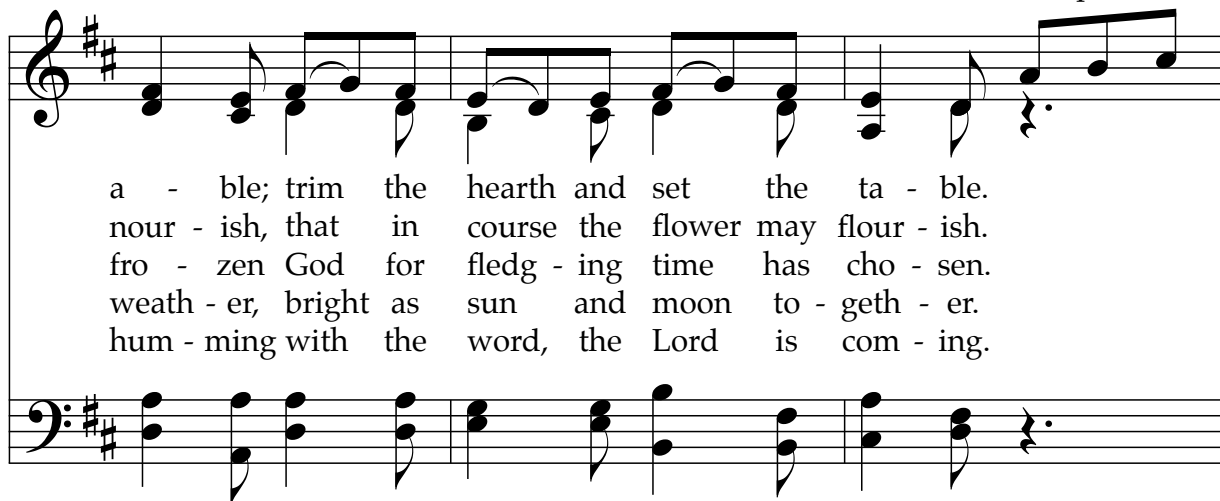
BESANÇON

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



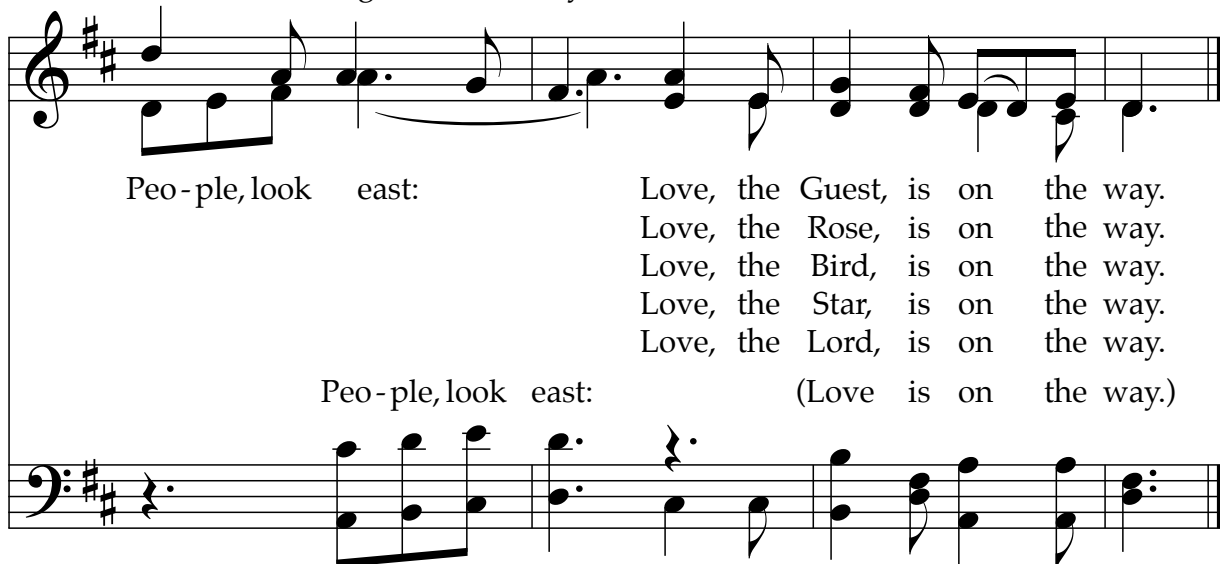
crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

Please be seated.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jaqueline and Hilary
Henisee and Michael Sauerwald

One Abiding and Almighty God, your love is steadfast and endures forever.

All **Help us love in the same way without condition or expectation.**

One You called us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

All **Give us hearts to love more faithfully and more fully.**

One You gave your Son so that we might see love poured out.

All **Help us proclaim your love through the story of your son.**

One O Come, O Come, Immanuel, hear our prayer and bring us love again.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

During the Sung Response, children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

SUNG RESPONSE



Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

Following the Children's Moment, children K - grade 5 depart for their Sunday School classes.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

One Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ's church?

All **We do.**

HYMN 115 verse 1 Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

(pg. 636 in pew Bible)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young

woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

ANTHEM Bogoróditse Djévo

Bogoróditse dyévo, raduisya,
Blagodatnaya Mariye Gospod s
Toboyu. Blagoslovenna Ty v zhenakh,
I blagosloven plod chreva Tvoyevo,
Yako Spasa rodila yesi dush nashikh.

Arvo Pärt

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, And blessed is the fruit of your womb, For you have borne the Savior of our souls.

SECOND LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

(pg. 1 in pew Bible)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She

John Willingham

will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 102 Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's



son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Melanie Hardison

All Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

- Colossians 1:15-19

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

Melanie Hardison

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Nova, Nova

Iain Farrington

Nova! Nova! Gabriel of high degree, he came down from the Trinity from Nazareth to Galilee, he met a maiden in a place; he kneeled down before her face; he said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!" When the maiden saw all this, she was sore abashed, ywis, lest that she had done amiss. Then said the angel: "Dread not you, You shall conceive in all virtue a child whose name shall be Jesu." Then said the maid: "Verily, I am your servant truly, Ecce ancilla Domini." Nova! Nova!

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

Please stand, if able.

DOXOLOGY 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Melanie Hardison

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Dave Maroney - December 13, 2025

Judy Mitchell - December 15, 2025

Worship Notes

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

James Crowther Hallowell, son of Ludmila & Daniel Hallowell

Charlotte Hanscom McMullan, daughter of Rachel Hanscom & Michael McMullan

Henry John Pecorari, son of Emily & Johncarlo Pecorari

TODAY'S MUSIC

As we enter Worship on the final Sunday of Advent, perhaps the light is at its dimmest. Perhaps the anticipation of what lies ahead is too great to bear, or perhaps we sit waiting for good news amidst the chaos of the world around us. "Advent 4" to me is a turning point. We begin to focus our attention on the birth of the Christ Child as we focus on the role of Mary. The birth is imminent. Our music reflects this, first with a jubilant work by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. *Bogoróditse Djévo*, translated as *Hail Mary* (commonly sung as "Ave Maria" in Latin), is a short work that honors and celebrates Mary. Marian feasts are of the highest importance in the Estonian Orthodox Church, and thus this work pays homage (quickly!) to the Mother of God. *Nova, nova* is a newly composed work by the established composer, Iain Farrington; merging 15th-century text with 21st-century jazz harmonies and rhythms. The anthem recounts the story of the Angel Gabriel, but perhaps through a different lens than we're used to hearing. We end back in darkness, with the brooding sonorities of Louis Vierne's opening movement of his first Organ Symphony (Op. 14) as the postlude.

- James Kealey, Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Nancy Lawrence Hill

BULLETIN COVER

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WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church as we journey through this sacred season of Advent—a time of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. In these weeks of hope, peace, joy, and love, we are invited to slow down, listen deeply, and look for God's presence breaking into our lives and our world.

Whether you're joining us regularly or worshipping here for the first time, we're grateful for your presence. Through worship, fellowship, and service, may this season draw us closer to God and to one another as we journey toward the light of Christmas. Inside this bulletin, you'll find ways to engage more fully in the life of our community.

— The Pastors of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

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

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 or Childcare Coordinator Erika Henry, 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 or on our YouTube channel. A recording of the service will also be available on our Worship 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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Family Service. Wed., Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Family Service with Nativity Tableau and musical leadership by BMPC's Choristers, and the Bryn Mawr Festival Brass. The prelude begins at 4:15 p.m. Infant and toddler childcare available without reservations from 3:45-5:45 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 101. For those who prefer a quieter setting, Congregational Hall will be available as a remote viewing space for our 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Eve Worship With Communion. Wed., Dec. 24, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Carols and anthems led by BMPC's Sanctuary Choir. The Rev. Dr. John M. Willingham will preach. The prelude begins at 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols. Wed., Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary. After several years of not gathering for worship late in the evening on Christmas Eve, the church will once again offer a candlelit service of Lessons and Carols at 11:00 p.m. This service will move us through scripture readings that tell the broad story of God's love for the world and the incarnation of the Christ Child. The prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

TODAY

Advent Giving to Mission. Sundays through Dec. 21, 11:15 a.m., Atrium. AGM provides the opportunity to purchase alternative gifts at Christmas for friends and family in support of a wide variety of partners around the world. This is the last Sunday AGM representatives will be present in the Atrium before and after worship to place orders and answer questions about mission groups and their chosen projects. Orders may also be placed online at www.BrynMawrAGM.com until the end of the day today.

Code Blue Volunteer Training. Sun., Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m., Gloucester Room. For the month of January, BMPC will host a Code Blue Shelter to house up to five men sleeping outside in Lower

Merion on the coldest nights. Volunteers will work in teams of two over two shifts each night the shelter is open: 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. Training will take place for anyone interested in learning more. To receive the link to sign up to volunteer, and if you have questions, please contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org

Bryn Mawr Gives Love. Stewardship 2026.

As the end of the year approaches and the season of gift-giving is upon us, a donation to BMPC, whether fulfilled as a pledge or as a gift, may provide a tax deduction for this calendar year. If you have not made a contribution this year or would consider adding to your contribution, you may do so in the plate, by mail, or online at bmpc.org/love Thank you!

UPCOMING & ONGOING

Advent Story Path Labyrinth. Walking a labyrinth during the season of Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth is open daily during Advent, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org

Advent Harpsichord Series. Tues., Dec. 23, noon, Sanctuary. Take a midweek musical break this Advent with our final Tuesday at noon Harpsichord performance by Gabriel Benton. Enjoy beautiful early and Baroque music on BMPC's exquisite 1966 William Dowd-built Robert Hauptfuhrer Memorial Harpsichord. Experience a peaceful and inspiring pause in the Sanctuary this Tuesday in Advent.

Youth & Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taizé. Sat., July 10 - Mon., July 20. Current Youth (Ages 15 years +) and Young Adults (Ages 20-30 years), are invited to a pilgrimage to the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France. Participants will have an opportunity to slow down, spend time in prayer and worship, and enjoy the company of young pilgrims from all over the world. Register by Wed., Dec. 31. Youth: bit.ly/YouthTaize2026 Young Adults: bit.ly/YoungAdultTaize Contact AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

LGBTQ @ BMPC. Wed., Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m., Converse House Parlor. Come as you are and find connection in a welcoming, affirming space for all. This biweekly gathering (first and third Wednesday evenings each month) offers a judgment-free environment to build community, share experiences, ask questions, and receive support. For more information or to connect with our volunteer facilitators, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

High School Spirituality in College Retreat. Fri., Feb. 27 - Sun., Mar. 1, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV. High school students are invited to a retreat at Davis & Elkins College in wild and wonderful West Virginia. Students will have a chance to tour the campus, meet current students, stay in on-campus housing, explore artsy small towns, and connect with God and each other in the wilderness. Registration cost is \$200, with scholarships available. Register by Jan. 16: bit.ly/HighSchoolRetreat2026 Contact AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

CARING AND SHARING

Join Us in the Fight Against Hunger. Through the BMPC Hunger Fund, our congregation supports more than eighteen food pantries and feeding programs in Greater Philadelphia and helps provide over 1,000 casseroles each year. Your gifts make this possible and strengthen the work of our partners serving neighbors in need. Give using the white Hunger Envelopes in your pew rack or make a one-time or recurring gift online at onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger

Serve Dinner at the Ardmore Food Pantry.

The Ardmore Food Pantry offers a community meal on Monday evenings during pantry hours. On the second Monday of each month, they serve BMPC Hunger Casseroles. Two to three volunteers from BMPC are needed on those Monday nights to serve dinner from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering for one month or on a regular basis, sign up at bit.ly/AFPdinner Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

Sanctuary Flower Donations. Openings are available in January and February 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. Contact SusanThorkelson@mac.com

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (infant - age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:45 a.m. Art@9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
- 9:00 a.m. Member Perspectives Exhibit, Gallery
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Gathering (Gr. 6-12), Gym Youth Lounge
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Baptism and Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary & Livestreamed**
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
- 11:00 a.m. Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
- 11:00 a.m. Caroling in the Atrium with Singing for Life, Atrium
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Labyrinth Walk, Children's Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant Full Cast Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Code Blue Volunteer Training, Gloucester Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

- All Day Advent Labyrinth Walk, Children's Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room
- 7:30 p.m. FIT4MOM DELCO, Gymnasium

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

- All Day Advent Labyrinth Walk, Children's Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Yoga for Life (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. TaiChi (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Advent Harpsichord Recital, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- All Day Advent Labyrinth Walk, Children's Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Church offices close at noon
- 3:45 p.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 4:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room
- 4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary & Livestreamed**
- 8:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Worship with Communion, Sanctuary & Livestreamed**
- 11:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church campus closed. Merry Christmas!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church campus closed.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 7:00 a.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium
- 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, DECEMBER 28

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Andy Greenhow 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 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!



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Worship Staff

John M. 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

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

James Kealey, Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar