

Sunday, January 10, 2021

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Franklyn C. Pottorff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Merciful God, we gather to hear your holy word
and be immersed in your Spirit.
In baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We know that we often remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ,
and are slow to welcome one another into your beloved community.
In your loving kindness,
remind us of the promises you make in baptism
so that we may rise to new life
and live together as heirs of your grace. Amen.

HYMN 152	What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright	PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
SCRIPTURE LESSON	Mark 1:4-11	Agnes W. Norfleet
SERMON	<i>Heavens Torn Apart</i>	Agnes W. Norfleet
ANTHEM	Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day Donated in memory of Algernon Roberts Sanctuary Choir Staff Singers	John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love; This have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love; This have I done for my true love. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance; Sing O my love; This have I done for my true love. Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love; This have I done for my true love.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

HYMN 484	Out of Deep, Unordered Water	RUSTINGTON
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BENEDICTION

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE

In Thee is Joy

J.S. Bach

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“I am the resurrection and the life.”
Dorothy Neidig ~ October 21, 2020

This Sunday

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP. Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. *What Do We Do with Evil: The World, The Flesh and the Devil* by Richard Rohr. In this small, masterfully crafted book, Richard Rohr writes that “evil is subtle and the evils that are killing us all are usually well-disguised.” Rohr invites us to encounter evil with a contemplative, non-dual mind and to reflect on how we too are complicit in the social evils pervading our lives. He presents no easy solutions but leaves readers with principles and a process for resisting evil with patience and love. Books can be purchased directly from Paul MacMurray. Contact [Rebecca Kirkpatrick](#) with any questions or to connect with Paul.

This Week

TAI CHI CLASSES. Improve your balance, regain serenity, join friends! Class meets virtually every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For information and to sign up, contact Rich McKenzie, teacher at BMPC for 16 years, at rmcktaichi@yahoo.com or 610-873-0604.

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 10:00–11:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. This spring, the group will learn about the life and story of the late Congressman John Lewis by reading *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham. John Lewis, who at age 25 marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, was a visionary and a man of faith. In this book, Meacham writes of how this great-grandson of a slave and son of an Alabama tenant farmer was inspired by the Bible and his teachers in nonviolence to put his life on the line in the service of what Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature.” All men are invited to join this study. Contact [Brian Ballard](#) for Zoom details.

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP READS ALWAYS A GUEST BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR.

Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. You are invited to read and explore Barbara Brown Taylor’s new collection of stories and sermons of faith, grace, and hope in *Always A Guest: Speaking of Faith Far From Home*. In the book, Taylor finds that when you are the invited guest speaking of faith to people you don’t know, you must seek common ground: exploring the central human experience. This group, facilitated by the Rev. Brian K. Ballard, will explore faith in all its beauty and complexity. For information about joining the class, including the Zoom link, contact [Brian Ballard](#).

HOLY LEISURE. Fri., Jan. 15, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom conference call. Join old and new friends for fellowship and discussion. Speaker Terry Charlton hosts: “Happy Accident.” [Register online](#). Contact: Janet White, janetw298@verizon.net.

Next Sunday

INTERFAITH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WORSHIP SERVICE. Sun., Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. Join seven local interfaith congregations for an online community worship featuring combined choirs, reflections from local faith leaders and a keynote by the Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear of Howard University. Zoom Meeting ID: 2581119868 Password: 966785. A recording of the service also will be streamed to the BMPC Facebook page that morning, and a recording will be available there later that day if you are not able to participate live.

Upcoming

THE ETHICS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION. Fri., Jan. 22 at 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. Hosted by the Senior Adult Council. All are invited to this presentation by BMPC member Dr. Richard Allman, MD, rheumatologist and medical ethicist at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Rich serves on the PA Department of Health Ethical Allocations Committee and will address the ethics of allocation of scarce resources in a pandemic. He will discuss how our faith relates to allocation of critical care beds, scarce medications, ventilators, and what we owe to those who are unable to receive scarce resources, particularly access to vaccines. There also will be time for discussion and feedback. Contact [Monica Devane](#) to receive the Zoom link for this timely event.

RACISM: POWER, PRIVILEGE, POISON AND PROMISING POSSIBILITIES. Sun., Jan. 24, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., and Sundays, Jan. 31 - Feb. 14, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom conference call. This workshop, led by Anita Friday, anti-racism educator and activist, will explore America's relationship with racism by examining its history, laws and institutional practices. Participants will be invited to explore their personal experiences with questions of ethnicity and race. In addition, during the workshop, participants learn about institutional practices that have shaped how various citizens are able to participate in the nation, how racism has affected Black people and how to define and distinguish white supremacy and white privilege, i.e. ethnically-based inequalities. Finally, tools for dismantling racism and methods for creating a more promising future will be shared. Cost: \$50. For more details, visit the [workshop page](#) on the BMPC website. [Register for the workshop here.](#)

DEACONS' ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE. Mon., Jan. 25, 2:00-7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Volunteers needed to donate blood and assist with scheduling appointments. Register to donate blood [online](#). Contact the Rev. Brian Ballard, 610-520-8820 or BrianBallard@bmpc.org.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. Sun., Jan. 31, 11:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. (Instructions forthcoming about how to join this meeting.) The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing church officers (Elders, Deacons and Trustees) and members of the 2021 Nominating Committee, and for approving 2021 Pastoral Terms of Call. MonicaDevane@bmpc.org.

GREAT DECISIONS. First Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m., starting Feb. 1. Via Zoom conference call. Led by Bob Martin. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD, and meeting to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Topics include: Global Supply Chains and National Security, Persian Gulf Security Issues, Brexit and the European Union, Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, China's Role in Africa, The Korean Peninsula, Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, and The End of Globalization? This program is free, but registration is required. Contact [Monica Devane](#) to register and receive your Briefing Book and the Zoom link.