



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 15, 2024

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Gathering of God's People

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

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE Intrada

Malcolm Archer

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One The heavens are telling the glory of God;

All and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

One Day to day pours forth speech,

All and night to night declares knowledge.

One Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

All be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

HYMN 409 God is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All God of the whole human family, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world to reveal your love for all people. We confess that often our sin and pride hide the goodness of your light. Too often, we ignore cries for justice and do not strive for your peace. We see difference as a source of division and use language that tears down rather than builds up community. In your mercy, hear our confession and forgive us. Renew us to be transformed to show forth your love revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

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

MUNICH



Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved in liv-ing sit - u -
a - tions to do the truth in love; to prac-tice your ac - cep - tance un -
til we know by heart the ta-ble of for - give - ness, and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

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 188 verse 1 Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes,
Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Agnes W. Norfleet

FIRST LESSON Mark 7:31-37

(pg. 42 in pew Bible)

ANTHEM O Sacrum Convivium

Olivier Messiaen

O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given us.
Alleluia.

SECOND LESSON James 3:1-12

Agnes W. Norfleet

(pg. 230 in pew Bible)

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

SERMON *What We Say Matters*

Agnes W. Norfleet

Faith that Works: A Series on the Letter of James

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

CANONBURY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All **As in the early Christian community,
so in the centuries since,
the Spirit has formed and identified the church.
The people of God are sent into the world
to worship and serve all humankind.
We worship God in the world by standing before
the Lord on behalf of all people.
We serve humankind in the world by discerning where God is at
work and joining God there
in the liberation of people by the gospel and the advancement of
justice, compassion and peace.**

- from A Declaration of Faith

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Laudate Dominum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Kara Goodrich, Soprano

Sing praise to God above all ye nations, praise Him ye people, all ye souls on earth. For He hath shown His kindness toward us. His love and merciful kindness, and the truth of God lasteth forever, lasteth for all eternity. Praise to the Father and Son also, and the Holy Spirit as it was then and will ever be both now and always through the centuries everlasting. Amen.

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 HUNDRETH

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

HYMN 546 Lord Dismiss us With Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE Visions of the Eternal Church

Olivier Messiaen

Worship & Music Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis Gilman Scott.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Julianne Cyrilla Kobylarz, daughter of Sarah & Ben Kobylarz

Henry Samuel Sandt-Tucker, son of Caitlin Tucker & Bobby Sandt

ANTHEM & POSTLUDE

French composer and organist Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) is best known for his harmonically rich and complex works that pushed boundaries in 20th-century music. A devout Christian, his spirituality and fascination with nature were at the center of nearly everything he did. Messiaen composed “O sacrum convivium” in 1937, at the age of 29. This early work offers a meditation on spiritual communion with the divine. This is a perfect example of Messiaen’s preoccupation with the suspension of the perception of time in music through the use of extremely slow tempos and subtle changes in length of notes, all designed to bring us closer to something outside of time, eternal. This is a choral work that almost demands the listener close his/her eyes and bask in the quiet, sustained harmonies that support the sopranos chant-like melody. Messiaen wrote his monumental “Apparition de l’église éternelle” in 1932, when he was just 24, fresh from his own studies at the Conservatoire. The piece is an enormous arch of color and power, as the immortal church emerges from the quiet gloom of the piece’s opening to reveal itself in all its glories – depicted in a blazing, brilliant C major chord (marked *ffff*) at the piece’s climax – only to recede again into darkness and silence.

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One of our more contemporary hymns, *Let Us Build a House*, includes this refrain: *All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place*. It bears repeating! This church is a place to encounter friends who have been here longer than they can remember and first-time visitors, young and old and in between, seasoned disciples of Christ and seekers of spiritual connection. Through worship, program, fellowship, and mission, we are growing as a community of faith, and your presence is a sign of our genuine welcome.



The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet
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 in the Atrium following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org.

LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

In addition to in-person worship, the Sunday worship services are available to watch live at 10:00 a.m. on our live-streaming page: www.bmpc.org/livestream. For your convenience, the service also will be posted on our Worship Services page on Monday.

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.

Announcements

TODAY

Sunday Morning Discussion Group. Sundays starting Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m., Cannon Room and via Zoom. This longstanding Sunday morning class is led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray. This fall, the class will read Parker Palmer's book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. Palmer writes about what we can do to restore civil discourse, reach for understanding across lines of difference, and focus on our shared values. For info about joining the class, receiving the Zoom link, and purchasing a book, contact Paul MacMurray at katrmac2@icloud.com

Youth Fall Kickoff. Sun., Sept. 15, 10:00 a.m., Gymnasium. Join us for our annual fall Youth Kickoff! Families will learn about upcoming programs, meet youth volunteers, complete waivers and informational forms for the year, and enjoy fellowship with other youth families across the church!

Celebrating Ten Years. Sun., Sept. 15, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Together, we will celebrate the Rev. Rachel Pedersen's decade of service as our Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry. Join

us in Congregational Hall for fellowship, refreshments, and an opportunity to share our gratitude.

"Faces of Resilience," Gallery Talk. Sun., Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m., Gallery and Fullerton Room. William Perthes, Director of Adult Education at The Barnes Foundation, alongside Mural Arts Philadelphia, has curated our first exhibit of the fall, "Faces of Resilience." Meet in the Gallery to walk through the exhibit and then move to the Fullerton Room for a more formal presentation on the workshops in which the art is created, the experiences of men incarcerated at SCI: Phoenix, as well as the work of restorative justice.

Church Officer Nominations. Please submit your recommendations to the 2024 Nominating Committee by Sun., Sept. 15, for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee Members-at-Large via the nominating form: <https://bit.ly/BMPCNominations>. Paper copies of the nominating 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.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visual Arts Committee Open Meeting.

Wed., Sept. 18, 9 a.m., Gloucester Room. Are you passionate about visual arts? Would you be interested in volunteering for the BMPC gallery? Join the Visual Arts Committee at their first meeting of the season to discuss the 2024-2025 gallery schedule. Contact, ToriFisher@bmpc.org

Hunger Committee Food Collection. Sun., Sept. 22. The Hunger Committee invites the congregation to bring non-perishable donations to the Narthex on Sun., Sept. 22 before worship. Donations will be distributed among six of our local partners. Suggested donations include cold cereals, spaghetti sauce, canned meals, soups (particularly hearty ones), peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna and chicken, canned fruit or vegetables, canned beans, applesauce, dry pasta or macaroni and cheese, crackers, instant oatmeal (packets), granola bars, single-serving snacks. Grocery bags are available in the Narthex this morning. Contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org for more information.

Sustaining Democracy: What We Owe the Other Side. Mon., Sept. 30, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. The Community Forum will host Dr. Robert B. Talisse, a distinguished professor from Vanderbilt University, to speak on the principles of democracy and the ethics of citizenship. Dr. Talisse

will discuss how we can engage in honest dialogue with those who hold differing political views and explore our responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society. Author of over 100 scholarly articles and 15 books, including *Sustaining Democracy: What We Owe the Other Side*, Dr. Talisse's work focuses on public discourse, political polarization, and democracy's role in fostering understanding.

Singing for Life. Thursdays, Oct. 3–Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m., Fine Arts Center. Singing for Life is a weekly program taught by Jeffrey Brillhart and Kara Goodrich that focuses on singing and physical/vocal exercises specifically geared toward people aged fifty-five and older. Registration costs \$75 and can be found at bit.ly/S4L2024. If you have any questions, contact ToriFisher@bmpc.org or call 610-520-8836.

S'Wonderful, S'Marvelous! An Evening Gala Featuring Our Staff Singers. Sat., Nov. 9, 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., Merion Cricket Club. Secure your registration spot early for an evening of food and drink, conversation and song, and exciting silent auction items—all to support funding to include BMPC's illustrious roster of Staff Singers on the Sanctuary Choir's upcoming Choir Tour to France in June of 2025. Registration is \$125 (\$65 tax deductible) per person. Register now at <https://bit.ly/swonderfulgala>

UPCOMING

Thursday Discussion Group. Thursdays, Sept. 19–Oct. 24, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom. Led by the Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill, this fully online book discussion group will focus on how our religious resources can address the public and private fears that can dominate our society's life. This fall, we will spend five weeks on Michael Kinnamon's book, *The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear*. Join the discussion as we explore how fear dominates our public focus and how our Christian faith, as well as other faiths, guides us in the public arena. Contact KirbyLHill@bmpc.org to join; reserve the book at <https://bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup>

"Frida Kahlo and the Art of Portraiture"
Class with Teaching Artist George Apotsos. 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on Fridays, Sept. 20–Oct. 25, in the Fine Arts Center. This art class will explore how Frida Kahlo used the self-portrait as a means of self-discovery and personal mythmaking and how to draw inspiration from one's own life story to depict thoughts, emotions, and identity in painting. This is primarily an acrylic painting class; however, collage and photomontage can be utilized, and oil painters are welcomed. Classes are free and limited to 10 registrants. To register, email ToriFisher@bmpc.org or visit <https://bit.ly/fridakahloclass>

Aging Together: Senior and Caregiver Symposium. Sat., Sept. 21, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Main Line Health invites you to this symposium geared toward seniors and caregivers. Experts will share resources and insights on getting your affairs in order, understanding Medicare coverage, palliative and hospice care, wellness, and self-care. Admission is free, and refreshments will be provided. For more info and to register, call the Bryn Mawr Hospital Community Health and Outreach Dept. 484-337-5202.

Filling The Well. Starting Sun., Sept. 22, 8:45 a.m., Children's Library, Ed. Bldg. This Sunday morning class for women will study local scholar Peter Enns's book *The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires our Trust More than our Correct Beliefs*. Enns offers a model of vibrant faith that views skepticism not as a loss of belief, but as an opportunity to deepen religious conviction with courage and confidence. The book models an acceptance of mystery and paradox that all believers can follow. This class is led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org to join the class and reserve a copy of the book.

Purple Documentary and Conversation.

Sun., Sept. 22, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. As we approach the fall elections, we will begin a series of conversations by viewing and discussing the documentary *Purple: A Short Film Uncovering the Humanity Beneath Our National Conflicts*. Filmed in rural Wisconsin and Iowa—in a swing region within two bordering swing states—*Purple* presents a rare political conversation that uplifts, provokes, and inspires while going toward the heat of passionate political differences. Following the 20-minute film, we will engage in large group and table conversations about how we can be in dialogue with one another and the people we love these days.

Sustaining Democracy Conversation. Sun., Sept. 29, 11:15 a.m. Congregational Hall.

As we look forward to learning from Robert Talisse, our fall Community Forum Speaker, on Sept. 30, all are invited to a conversation on selected portions of his compelling book, *Sustaining Democracy: What We Owe the Other Side*. In both large and table conversations, we will explore concepts around citizenship, good-faith disagreement, and polarization. To receive a paper or digital copy of the book's introduction and chapter 2, contact Jenni-McArthur@bmpe.org

Calendar

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), 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. Faces of Resilience Exhibit, Gallery
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Kickoff, Gymnasium
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
- 11:15 a.m. Rev. Rachel Pedersen 10th Anniversary Celebration, Congregational Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Faces of Resilience Gallery Talk, Gallery and Fullerton Room

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 7:00 p.m. Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Urban Suburban Book Group, Fullerton Room
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease (PD) Class, Gymnasium
- 4:30 p.m. Connection Group Facilitators' Meeting, Cannon Room
- 6:00 p.m. BMPC Tutoring Program Tutor Training, Ed. Bldg. Hall

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 9:00 a.m. Visual Arts Committee Open Meeting, Gloucester Room
- 9:00 a.m. Wednesday School Brunch, Congregational Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga206 Bone Boost, Gymnasium
- 4:45 p.m. Beginner's Choir Rehearsal, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 4:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal, Children & Youth Rehearsal Room
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Youth Chorale Rehearsal, Children & Youth Rehearsal Room
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Gym Youth Lounge
- 7:00 p.m. Mission Council Meeting, Cannon Room
- 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Fullerton Room

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Discussion Group, Virtual
- 11:00 a.m. Artists' Gathering, Fine Arts Center
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 11:00 a.m. Frida Kahlo and The Art of Portraiture, Fine Arts Center

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 9:00 a.m. Aging Together: Senior and Caregiver Symposium, Congregational Hall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet 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 <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!



CONNECT WITH US



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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Kirby Lawrence Hill, Interim Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music