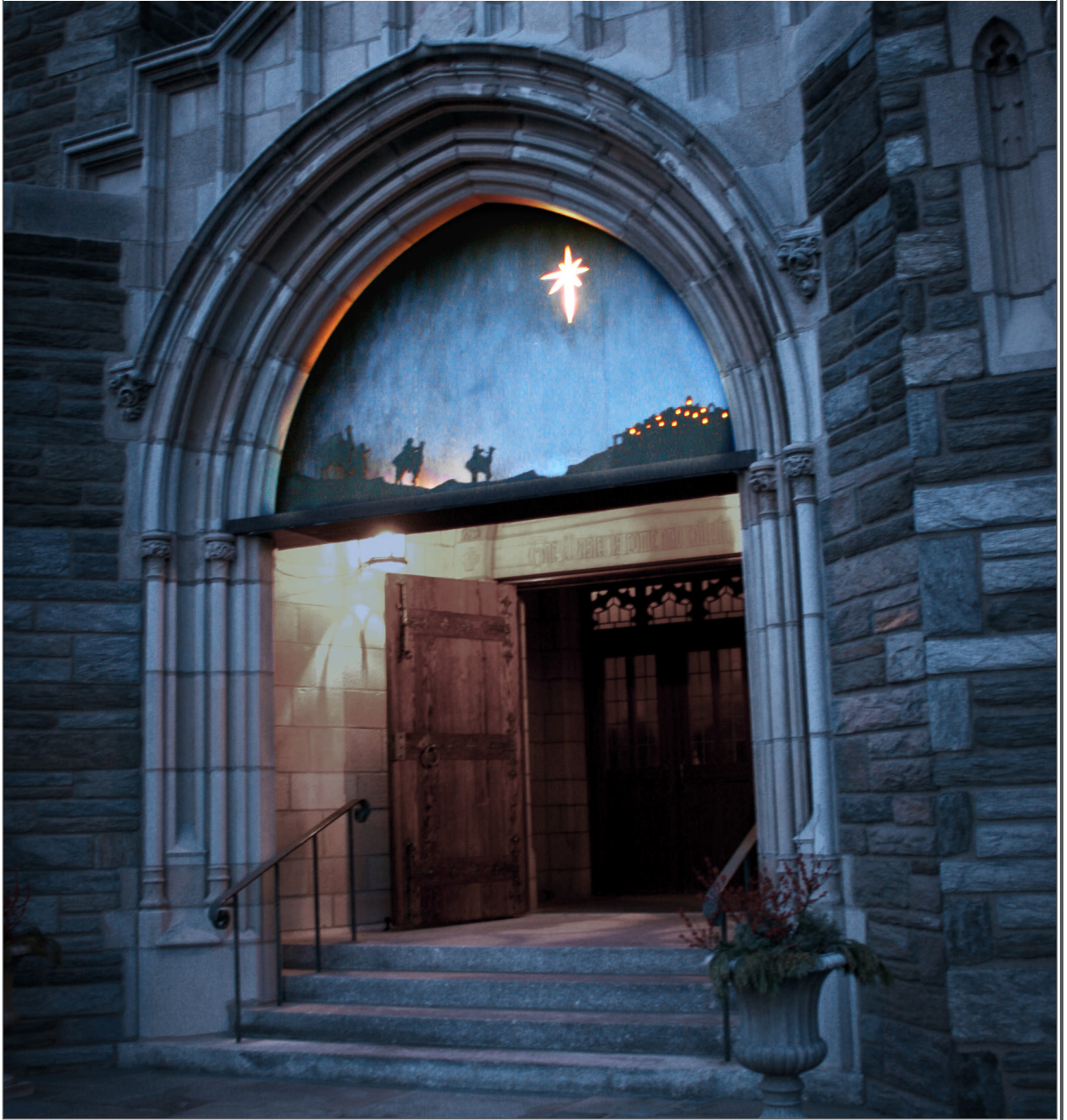


Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 18, 2022 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fourth Sunday of Advent



WELCOME

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. Come join us!

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 the following day.

CHILDCARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to noon for children ages six months and older. See Sunday School class information on this page. Please contact Pastor Rachel, RachelPedersen@bmpc.org or Childcare Coordinator Rebecca Kellich at childcare@bmpc.org with any questions.

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our BMPC eNews by visiting our website: www.bmpc.org.

Today's Schedule

Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101

Worship with Baptism and Sanctuary Choir

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

Age 2 - PreK

10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Grades K - 5

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary

10:15 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Youth Gathering

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Advent Gift Market

11:00 a.m., Atrium

Atrium Café

11:00 a.m., Atrium

Advent, Isaiah and Our Jewish Neighbors

11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room

Rainbow Reindeer Games

11:30 a.m., Gymnasium

BMPC Members Art Exhibit

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,
Art Gallery, Ministries Center

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Pastoral

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

ADVENT INTROIT O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Please remain seated during Advent Introit.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Liggett Family

One: People of faith, God stirs us to dream of the world God intends
for all people.

**All: Where kindness and truth shall meet, and justice
and peace shall kiss.**

One: The Savior of the nations comes to make a home among us,

**All: To illumine the whole creation and uphold humankind
with loving kindness.**

One: We follow the God of ancient Israel, the God of Joseph and Mary,

All: Praying God's glory will reign on the earth as in highest heaven.

One: May this tiny flame hold back the darkness,

All: And lead us forward in hope to God's glorious light.

† HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Promising God, you encourage us with signs of your coming and urge us to keep watch, but we get distracted by our own inner compass that points to lesser things. Forgive our diversions from the path you set before us, and restore us to follow where you lead. May we bow before your manger with transformed hearts and bold gifts of service for the sake of your coming kingdom.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE

On Those Who Sit In Darkness

MERLE'S TUNE

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes. God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace. O Bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

THE 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 His church?

All: We do.

BAPTISM HYMN 188

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

Franklyn C. Pottorff

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16 (*p. 636 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die, For poor on'ry people like you and like I... I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, He surely could have it, cause he was the King.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 (*pg. 1 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

At Great Risk
Journey to Bethlehem Advent Series

Agnes W. Norfleet

† **HYMN 129**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

Jesus came as a child,
born of a woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's rule of justice and peace on earth.
We believe that the coming of Jesus
was itself the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his life, death, and resurrection,
he initiates the relationship between God and the human race
that God always intended.

~ from *A Declaration of Faith*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Franklyn C. Pottorff

SUNG RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

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 “O Thou That Tellest,” from Messiah G.F. Handel
Misoon Ghim, alto

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen.

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

† **DOXOLOGY** GREENSLEEVES

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.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Franklyn C. Pottorff

† **HYMN 134** Joy to the World ANTIOCH

† **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE** Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE Paean on “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” John Cook

†
“I am the resurrection and the life.”
Aurora S. Grifone ~ December 10, 2022
Richard S. Dillon ~ December 12, 2022

WORSHIP NOTES

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Carter Matthew & Olivia Grace Abrams
Son & Daughter of Natalie McGann & David Abrams

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

New members received by Session today
and recognized during this morning's worship service:

Edward and Pamela Gillespie

Michael and Jacqueline Feild

Kayden Weinstock

Christmas Eve Services

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE. 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Family Service with Nativity Tableau and musical leadership by BMPC's Children's Choir, Youth Chorale and the Bryn Mawr Festival Brass. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Carols and anthems led by BMPC's Sanctuary Choir and Mainline Musicians. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Prelude begins at 7:10 p.m.

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY. We are looking for volunteers to serve at our Reception Desk on the ground floor of the Ministries Center during weekdays. This position serves as a “minister of first impressions,” helping to answer phones and welcome guests who visit our campus or church offices. To learn more, please contact Liz Ellis, LizEllis@bmpc.org.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE! Family and friends are invited to rehearse and learn a simple setting of “Ding, Dong! Merrily on High” to sing together with both the Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale at the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. Open to siblings, parents, college students home from school, and more! Please contact Edward Landin Senn to express your interest or ask any questions: EdwardLandinSenn@bmpc.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE. Annual pledges constitute a majority of our budget and are vital to the ministries and programs that BMPC offers. Please consider a pledge for 2023. With your support, Hope Grows Here! You can pledge by completing a pledge card in the pews and dropping it in the offering plate, by mailing your pledge card to the church office, or by making a pledge online at www.bmpc.org/giving. Thank you!

Today

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. 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. AGM representatives will be present in the Atrium before and after worship to receive orders as well as answer questions about mission groups and their chosen projects. Orders also may be placed online: www.brynmawragm.com.

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN: ADVENT, ISAIAH AND OUR JEWISH NEIGHBORS. 11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room. Drawing upon the insights from Tyler Mayfield’s book, *Unto Us A Child is Born: Advent, Isaiah and our Jewish Neighbors*, the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and Rabbi David Straus, former senior rabbi at Main Line Reform Temple, lead this final discussion about the different historical and theological interpretations of the most iconic passages from the Book of Isaiah.

RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES. 11:30 a.m., Gymnasium. All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join in the fun, games, and color powder shenanigans we have planned for our Rainbow Reindeer Games this year! To register, visit <https://bit.ly/Rainbowgames>.

This Week

ADVENT HARPSICORD RECITAL. Tues., Dec. 20, noon, Sanctuary. Anna Kislitsyna, Alexandr Kislitsyn, and Torsten Fras, perform a free 30-minute recital on BMPC's William Dowd harpsichord.

WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 20, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Designed for children ages 2 - 5 years and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus' birth. Helpers are welcome! MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Wed., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream. This contemplative worship service is for anyone yearning for comfort amid personal grief and hope for a more peaceful world. A meditation by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will be accompanied by prayer, the singing of carols, and the lighting candles to lead us through darkness toward healing and wholeness. A labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn invites walkers following the service, weather permitting.

CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH ALUMNI PARTY. Tues., Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m., Youth Lounge. Worship on Christmas Eve is made even more special by seeing those who grew up at BMPC and now are back home for the holidays. All are encouraged to attend! LeighDeVries@bmpc.org.

Upcoming

ADD THIS SPECIAL EVENT TO YOUR 2023 CALENDAR! Sun., Jan. 8, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Atrium. Join us in celebrating Jeffrey Brillhart's 40 years of service to BMPC during the 10:00 a.m. worship and a reception in the Atrium following the service. At noon a luncheon will be served in Congregational Hall to celebrate Jeff's four decades; limited seating is available at \$20 per person. RSVP deadline: Today. Contact PatrickHowley@bmpc.org or EdwardLandinSenn@bmpc.org for details.

Caring and Sharing

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. Supporting past, present and future leaders! A Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, this Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that serve communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Look for offering envelopes in the pew holders today, or note “Christmas Joy” on the memo line of your check.

REFUGEE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. The BMPC Refugee Support Team is seeking volunteers in their ongoing work with local refugee families. Opportunities include English language conversation practice, tutoring for elementary school children, employment mentoring, and transportation assistance. Families are located in Bryn Mawr, Ardmore, and Overbrook. If you wish to become involved in this vital and rewarding work, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN PHILADELPHIA. In partnership with West Kensington Ministries, the BMPC Refugee Support Team is collecting items needed to support immigrants and asylum seekers who are being transported from the southern border to Philadelphia. The following items may be dropped off in the collection bin in the Ministries Center vestibule near the church offices: new sweatpants, sweaters, socks, gloves, scarves, hats or underwear in any size. The collection runs through the end of December. AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org.

Calendar

Sunday, December 18

7:45	a.m.	Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
8:00	a.m.	Worship with Communion, Chapel
8:30	a.m.	Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
8:45	a.m.	Filling the Well, Ed. Bldg., Children’s Library
9:00	a.m.	New Members Breakfast, Congregational Hall Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102 Sunday School, Virtual
10:00	a.m.	Sunday School Ages 2, 3, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101 Worship with Baptism and Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary, and Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org Youth Gathering, Gymnasium

10:15	a.m.	Sunday School K - 5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
11:00	a.m.	Atrium Café, Atrium Advent Gift Market, Atrium Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Lobby Advent Story Path Labyrinth, Children's Chapel
11:15	a.m.	Advent, Isaiah and Our Jewish Neighbors, Fullerton Room
11:30	a.m.	Rainbow Reindeer Games, Gymnasium
1:00	p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

Monday, December 19

4:30	p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary
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Tuesday, December 20

8:30	a.m.	RePose Yoga, Gymnasium
10:30	a.m.	Tai Chi, Gymnasium and Virtual
12:00	p.m.	Advent Harpsichord Recital Series, Sanctuary
4:00	p.m.	Wee Christmas, Sanctuary
7:00	p.m.	Stewardship Meeting, Gloucester Room

Wednesday, December 21

10:00	a.m.	Coffee Cup Bible Study, Cannon Room Yoga206 Bone Boost, Gymnasium
12:00	p.m.	Aurora S. Grifone Memorial Service, Chapel
4:30	p.m.	Candlelit Rope Labyrinth for Longest Night, Ed. Bldg.
4:45	p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary
5:30	p.m.	Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
5:45	p.m.	Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
6:30	p.m.	Handbell Ensemble, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	Longest Night Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 22

11:00	a.m.	Artist's Gathering, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

Friday, December 23

No Events Scheduled.

Saturday, December 24

7:00	a.m.	Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
3:00	p.m.	Christmas Eve Service Warm-Up, Fine Arts Center
4:30	p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service with Nativity, Sanctuary
7:30	p.m.	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

10:00	a.m.	Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary, and Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick will preach.
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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Brian K. Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Leigh DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

Franklyn C. Pottorff, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Stewardship

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music

Contact Information



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

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 • info@middletoncenter.org

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