

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2011

8:00 AM, SANCTUARY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

~ Psalm 103:1

Order of

Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

As we gather for worship, we encourage you to spend time in prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Joanne Fong

(Please fill in the Fellowship Register at the end of your pew.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy is the Lord

Hal Hopson

All sing three times:



CALL TO CONFESSION

Joanne Fong

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Joanne Fong

O God, we confess that we forget about you, we forget to love you, we forget to help our neighbors, we forget to thank you. Forgive us, Lord. Grant us clear minds to know you, new hearts to love you, strong hands to serve you. Help us live this day, this week, and always, so that our whole life is in gratitude to you. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

(A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Joanne Fong

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sing twice)



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Janet Brown

One: Prepare the way of the Lord.
We light this candle in hope,
the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.
All: **Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**

HEARING THE WORD

We approach God's Word prayerfully, trusting that as Scripture is read and proclaimed, our hearts and minds will be opened to transformation and inspiration by the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elaine Robertson

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (p. 166 in pew Bible)

Elaine Robertson

PSALTER

Psalm 80:1-7

All sing continuously as the cantor sings verses 1-7 of Psalm 80



SECOND LESSON

Psalm 103:1-6, 13-22 (p. 554 in pew Bible)

Kellen A. Smith

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Anatomy of Gratitude

Kellen A. Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

We respond to God's word with thanksgiving and prayer.

As we come forward to celebrate communion, we are invited to place offerings of prayer cards and monetary gifts in the baskets located at the front of the Sanctuary.

† HYMN 555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Joanne Fong

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

THE COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward, using the center aisle, to partake of the Lord's Supper. Please break off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and return to your seat, using the side aisle. If you prefer gluten- and casein-free bread, please partake from the center table. If you desire to be served in your seat, please raise your hand to alert an usher.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kellen A. Smith

† HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

† SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kellen A. Smith

One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

† *Please stand, if able.*

❖ Worship Notes ❖

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

~ Book of Common Prayer (1979)

We invite you to share your gifts and talents in leading worship during the 8:00 a.m. service. You may serve in a variety of ways, from welcoming others as an usher, reading prayers or scripture, serving communion, to providing special music or sharing other artistic gifts.

If you are interested in ushering, contact Phoebe Sheftel, pasheftel@comcast.net or 610-526-1802.

If you are an elder or deacon interested in serving communion, please contact Bill Matthai at William.Matthai@uphs.upenn.edu or 610-668-1842 or Anita Iyengar at aniiyee@comcast.net or 610-645-6044.



If you would like to participate in other ways or explore how you might participate, contact Louisa Watkins Umphres, louisaumphres@bmpc.org or 610-525-2821, ext. 8828.



Deacon Elaine Robertson is assisting with communion.



The schedule calls for our 8:00 a.m. worship service to remain in the Sanctuary throughout Advent.



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Clergy and Staff

MINISTERS

All the members of the church

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. James L. Carter, D.Min.; Interim Pastor, Head of Staff

The Rev. R. Charles Grant, D.Min.; Associate Pastor for Senior Adults and Pastoral Care

The Rev. Sherri A. Hausser, M.Div.; Associate Pastor for Adult Education, Outreach, and Worldwide Ministries

The Rev. Kellen A. Smith, M.Div.; Associate Pastor for Youth, Their Families and College Ministries

The Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, M.Div.; Pastoral Associate for Congregational Life and Family Ministries

The Rev. Joanne Shum Fong, M.Div.; Pastoral Resident 2010-12

The Rev. Louisa Watkins Umphres, M.Div.; Pastoral Resident 2010-12

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rebecca Alleva, Acting Youth Activities Director

Donna Barrickman, Director of Communications and Membership

Carolyn Jervis Beitmann, Director of Children's and Family Ministries

Lorie Benovic, Care Manager

Jeffrey L. Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts

Patsy Cole, Director of the Weekday School

Pete DiRocco, Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Marie-Claire Higgins, Parish Nurse

The Rev. Joyce R. Krajian, M.Div.; Director of the Middleton Center

Pam Lloyd, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Ketti Jane Muschler, Director of BMPC Choir School

Joanne Solarz, Executive Director of Operations

David Van Houten, Ph.D.; Transition into Ministry Program Director

Jane Wilber, Assistant Director of Children's and Family Ministries



The Rev. Robert C. Murphy, M.Div.; Parish Associate

Sue Gibbons, Shared Ministries Coordinator



The Rev. Eugene C. Bay, D.Min.; Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Margaret Anne Fohl, D.Min.; Associate Pastor Emerita

The Rev. George E. Hollingshead, Jr., D.Min.; Associate Pastor Emeritus

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625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Office Phone: 610-525-2821

Office Fax: 610-525-9476

Website: www.bmpc.org



Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766; mail@middletoncenter.org

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2011

10:00 AM, SANCTUARY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

~ Psalm 103:1

Order of Worship

As we gather for worship, some prepare by greeting each other with words of peace, others with meditation and prayer. Please be respectful of how those around you prepare. Kindly refrain from taking photos or videos and please silence cell phones.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Two settings of "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

WELCOME Joanne Fong

CALL TO WORSHIP Louisa Watkins Umphres

One: We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord, with all our heart!

All: **We will sing your praises before all creation, and rejoice in your steadfast love!**

One: You have created us O Lord, and made us for yourself.

All: **In you we become everything you have made us to be.**

One: Let us worship the living God!

† **HYMN 555** Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Stevens Family:

Peter, Kathy, Natalie, Grant, and Jack

One: Prepare your hearts to receive the hope of the world.

All: **Our hearts are open, we welcome him with joy.**

One: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

One: Why do we light one candle?

One: We light one candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days of hope as foretold by the prophet Isaiah, chapter 11, verse 6: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them."

One: As we light the first candle, let us prepare for the coming of the Christ child, gift of hope for all the world.

All: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

CALL TO CONFESSION AND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*) Louisa Watkins Umphres

O God, we confess that we forget about you, we forget to love you, we forget to help our neighbors, we forget to thank you. Forgive us, Lord. Grant us clear minds to know you, new hearts to love you, strong hands to serve you. Help us live this day, this week, and always, so that our whole life is in gratitude to you. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

(A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Louisa Watkins Umphres

† **GLORIA PATRI** (*in unison*) (*Hymnal 579*)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

(Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Jacqui Van Vliet

SENDING HYMN Go now, Children, with our Blessing
(See *Worship Notes* section for Sending Hymn.)

FIRST LESSON Louisa Watkins Umphres
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (*p. 166 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM The Best of Rooms Gerald Near
(See *Worship Notes* section for text.)

SECOND LESSON Psalm 103:1-6, 13-22 (*p. 554 in pew Bible*) Kellen A. Smith

SERMON *The Anatomy of Gratitude* Kellen A. Smith

† **HYMN 12** People, Look East BESANÇON
(Please remain standing for the Affirmation of Faith.)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

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

(Please fill in the Fellowship Register at the end of your pew; pass it down your row and back again.)

OFFERING Joanne Fong

OFFERTORY ANTHEM E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come Paul Manz
(See *Worship Notes* section for text.)

† **DOXOLOGY** (*in unison*) (*Hymnal 592*)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Louisa Watkins Umphres

AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

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.

† **HYMN 9** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE Kellen A. Smith

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in a-minor J.S. Bach

† *Please stand, if able.*

❖ Worship Notes ❖

Go now, Children, with our Blessing



ANTHEM

The Best of Rooms

Gerald Near

Christ, he requires still, wheresoever he comes to feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms. Give him the choice; grant him the nobler part of all the house. The best of all, the best of all's the heart.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins; Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

~ Book of Common Prayer (1979)

Hearing devices are available for your use. You will find them in a black case on the shelf in the Narthex. Take an instruction card to learn the simple steps to turn on the device and plug in the earpiece. Large print resources are available for you at the same location.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth R. Pantaleoni



Bob Holmes will play the carillon following the service.



Due to HVAC construction, parking in back is limited. Those who are able to walk across the street comfortably are encouraged to park in the Harcum College lot.



Our 8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship remains in the Sanctuary. The schedule calls for the service to return to the Chapel soon.



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All the members of the church

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Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Our Common Life



The Week of November 27 - December 4, 2011

WE WELCOME YOU TO BMPC on this first Sunday in Advent. The word "advent" refers to the coming or arrival of Jesus Christ and includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. During Advent, we focus on the reason for the holiday and prepare our hearts to celebrate God's arrival into our world as a human being. We hope your Christmas season will be more meaningful because of worshipping here.

QUESTIONS? Stop by the Welcome Center near the main exit to learn more about us. After worship, join us for refreshments at Café in the Court in the Ministries Center.

ARE YOU A "REPEAT VISITOR" WITHOUT A CHURCH HOME? Recommit to experiencing Christ throughout Christmas by joining our community of faith. We're offering a special Advent membership orientation on Sun., Dec. 4, 9:00 a.m.–noon; childcare will be available and complimentary lunch follows. New members will be received on Sun., Dec. 11. Contact: DonnaBarrickman@bmpc.org, x8809, or indicate your interest on the fellowship register or at the Welcome Center.

BMPC ONLINE: Check our website, www.bmpc.org, for our church calendar, pastors' columns, sermon files, newsletters, and more. To receive our electronic newsletter, BMPC eNews, subscribe via our website or add your email address to the fellowship register when it is passed.

ADVENT AT BMPC

ADVENT GIFT MARKET (AGM), Sundays, Today through Dec. 18, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court. Learn more about the projects and download an order form at www.bmpc.org. As a community, let us celebrate God's gifts to us by sharing with others through this program.

ADVENT STUDY: EXAMINATION OF THE BIRTH NARRATIVES. Dec. 4 & 11, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room. Led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray. Observe the similarities and differences in Christ's birth between the perspectives of Matthew (Jewish/masculine) and Luke (Gentile/feminine).

ADVENT CRAFT WORKSHOP & SUPPER. Sun., Dec. 4, 3:30-6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Fellowship and fun for all ages. Family Ministries will sponsor festive craft projects that children can make for a nominal charge; Youth Group (grades 6-12) will make holiday ornaments for their Presbyterian

Children's Village "Christmas Angel" family. Pasta supper at 5:00 p.m., free-will offering. RSVP by Dec. 2: CarolynBeitmann@bmpc.org, ext. 8812.

PRIME TIME ADVENT PARTY (FOR SINGLES AND COUPLES OVER AGE 50). Sun., Dec. 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m., home of Bob and Barbara Hauptfuhrer, Wayne. Bring unwrapped gift for boy or girl, infant to 18 years. \$10/person includes hors d'oeuvres and beverages. RSVP by check (payable to BMPC) to the church, attn. Amy Bauer, by Thurs., Dec. 1. Upon receipt of check and return address, directions will be mailed.

"CHRISTMAS LIGHT" CONCERT. Sun., Dec. 11, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Celebrate the season with a concert of Christmas favorites sung by the Senior Choir with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Tickets: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 18 & under. Contact: StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org, ext. 8836.

DID YOU KNOW:

...that we require a staff of five pastors and some 20 lay professionals to lead us in worship, provide pastoral care, educate us, develop, lead and support our many programs, and clean and maintain our buildings?



WEEKLY CALENDAR: November 27 - December 4, 2011

Sunday, November 27, 2011

8:00 a.m. *Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary*
The Rev. Kellen Smith will preach.

10:00 a.m. *Worship with Senior Choir in the Sanctuary*
The Rev. Kellen Smith will preach.

Childcare for infants and toddlers, Ed. Bldg., Room 102, 7:45-11:15 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Art @ 9 for age 3 and older, Ed. Bldg., Room 201
10:00 a.m. BLINK: Grades K-5 begin worship with families in Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Church School for children age 2 (by 9/1/2011) - PreK, Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Youth-in-Worship (Grades 6-12), Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Grades K-5 classes meet in Ed. Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court

Monday, November 28, 2011

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi, Middleton Center
1:30 p.m. PW - Perspectives in Music, Fine Arts Center
7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee, Pastors Conference Room
7:30 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee, Converse House Mtg. Room
7:30 p.m. Recovery International, Converse House Porch & Library

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

12:00 p.m. Preacher's Brown Bag Bible Study, Conference Room
1:30 p.m. Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Conference Room, Converse House Mtg. Room
6:00 p.m. Children & Youth Protection Policy Training, Ed. Bldg., Room 101
6:50 p.m. Tutoring Program, Ed. Bldg.
7:00 p.m. Middleton Center Planning Meeting, Converse House Mtg. Room
7:00 p.m. Senior Adult Council, Converse House Porch & Library
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Women Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center
7:30 p.m. Career Counseling, Conference Room

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

9:30 a.m. Sr. Mens Discussion Group, Converse House Porch & Library
10:00 a.m. PW Coffee Cup Bible Study, Converse House Mtg. Room
4:00 p.m. Carol Choir, Fine Arts Center
4:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers, Fine Arts Center
5:00 p.m. Beginners Choir, Fine Arts Center
5:00 p.m. St. Andrew Boy Choir, Fine Arts Center
5:00 p.m. St. Cecilia Girl Choir, Fine Arts Center
5:00 p.m. Weekly Wednesday Dinner, Congregational Hall
5:30 p.m. High School Bible Study, Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Middle School Bible Study, Congregational Hall
6:30 p.m. Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
6:50 p.m. Tutoring Program, Ed. Bldg.
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee, Conference Room
7:30 p.m. Tintinnabulators, Fine Arts Center

Thursday, December 1, 2011

7:30 a.m. Major Gifts Meeting, Pastors Conference Room
8:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer Group, Converse House Porch & Library
11:00 a.m. Torah Study, Main Line Reform Temple
11:00 a.m. Coordinating Team, Pastors Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Extended Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

Friday, December 2, 2011

9:30 a.m. Singing for Life, Fine Arts Center

Saturday, December 3, 2011

7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Porch & Library
9:00 a.m. Pathways to Learning: Christmas in Odessa, DE, Off Campus

Sunday, December 4, 2011

8:00 a.m. *Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary*
The Rev. Joanne Fong will preach.

10:00 a.m. *Worship with Senior Choir in the Sanctuary*
The Rev. Dr. James Carter will preach.

Childcare for infants and toddlers, Ed. Bldg., Room 102, 7:45-11:15 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Adult Class: Advent Study, Conference Room
8:45 a.m. Membership Orientation, Ed. Bldg., Room 101
9:00 a.m. Sunday Choir School, Fine Arts Center
9:00 a.m. Art @ 9 for age 3 and older, Ed. Bldg., Room 201
10:00 a.m. BLINK: Grades K-5 begin worship with families in Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Church School for children age 2 (by 9/1/2011) - PreK, Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m. Middle School Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 205
10:00 a.m. High School Sunday School, Ed. Bldg., Room 204
10:15 a.m. 3rd-5th graders remain in Worship for the entire hour
10:15 a.m. Grades K-2 classes meet in Ed. Bldg.
11:00 a.m. Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court
11:15 a.m. Adult Class: *Is This All There Is?*, Conference Room
3:30 p.m. Advent Craft Workshop and Supper, Congregational Hall
6:00 p.m. Prime Time Advent Party, Off Campus

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS.

Contributions may be given in three categories for listing in the Christmas Eve bulletin: "In memory of," "In honor of," or "In celebration of the... (marriage, retirement, birth, baptism, etc.) of." Request forms are available in the church office, Narthex, or on www.bmpc.org and are due TODAY, Sun., Nov. 27. Monies received are used to purchase the Sanctuary plants that later go to the bereaved, hospitalized and home-bound church members, and to provide flowers and other related decorations throughout the year when needed.

CHILDCARE INFO/RESERVATIONS other than on Sunday morning, contact childcare e-mail: childcare@bmpc.org or childcare line: 610-520-8850. Nursery care with electronic pagers is available in our Education Building.

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Advent Outreach

Opportunities to help others during this holiday season

FROZEN TURKEYS AND HAMS. Please bring frozen turkeys and hams to the freezers in the Ministries Center for donations to needy families in our area during the holiday season.

BE AN ANGEL. "Angels" are needed to provide holiday gifts for about 100 infants, children and teens served by Presbyterian Children's Village. For names and wish lists, contact LaurieKoziol@comcast.net; Betty Wu: efwu01@gmail.com; or Susan Bravo: b41793@aol.com. No time to shop? Donate a grocery gift card for a family Christmas dinner. Gifts due Dec. 4. Collection boxes located in Education Building and Ministries Center.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. This special offering is designated by the General Assembly of our denomination, the PC (USA). Collected during Advent, it supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

BMPC WILL HOST HOMELESS FAMILIES for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) during the week of Dec. 11. Volunteers needed to help at the St. John Neumann Convent House for dinner (6:00-8:30 p.m.) and for overnight (8:30 p.m.-6:00 a.m.). Contact: Barbara.Heaton@obermayer.com, 610-667-2197, or Elizabeth Chesick, echesick@aol.com, 610-642-6381.

OUR FLOWER COMMITTEE rearranges the altar flowers each Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-noon in preparation for their delivery to the sick or bereaved. If you would like to be on the 2012 rotating schedule, contact: Jane Acton, actonup1@gmail.com, 610-649-5254.

The Book Center and Library

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS: *The Journey, A Season of Reflections* by Adam Hamilton; *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; *Mediations for Advent and Christmas* by James Clark, and many more. The Book Center in the Court is open following services and on weekdays 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Key available at the Reception Desk.

Sunday Adult Education Classes

IS THIS ALL THERE IS?: FINDING THE MORE IN EACH DAY. Sun., Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 11:15 a.m., Conference Room, Ministries Center. Leah Brecher-Chon, LMFT, MA, MS, will examine personal issues and explore methods to create more joy and peace in our lives through presentations, exercises, reflection and discussion.

GATEWAY TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES. Sun., Dec. 4, noon-3:00 p.m., Sikh Gurdwara of

Philadelphia. Tour the congregation with a small group; attend a service; reflect and ask questions with community members; deepen your interfaith experience. Contact: SherriHausser@bmpc.org, ext. 8818.

Adult Weekday Classes

PREACHER'S BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY. Tuesdays, noon, Conference Room. Bring your lunch and discuss the sermon text with the preaching pastor for the upcoming Sunday.

TORAH (OLD TESTAMENT) STUDY OF JOEL. Thursdays, 11:00 a.m., led by Rabbi Franzel, Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood. BMPC contact: Phoebe Sheftel, pasheftel@comcast.net, 610-526-1802.

Congregational Care

REPOSE YOGA. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:15 a.m., Church of the Redeemer, Parish House Assembly Room. Donations accepted for hunger fund. Contact: kcgagnier@verizon.net, 610-520-2595.

WALKING GROUP. Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m., meet in BMPC back parking lot. Contact: MarieHiggins@bmpc.org, ext. 8832.

Middleton Center

For information about support groups, events, counseling services or spiritual direction, contact the Rev. Joyce Krajan at 610-525-0766 or mail@middletoncenter.org, or visit our website: www.middletoncenter.org. Calls are confidential; scholarships available.

TAI CHI DROP-IN CLASSES. Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Middleton Center, Room 201. This 90-minute moving meditation complements all styles of exercise. Benefits include stress reduction, arthritis management, and balance and coordination enhancement. Cost: \$15/class.

WALKING THE LABYRINTH IN PRAYER. Tues., Dec. 6, 11:00 a.m., with last walk at 7:15 p.m., Congregational Hall. Join in this ancient symbol and prayer form. Theme for December: Advent Joy. Live Celtic harp music from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Non-walkers may come and listen; printed prayer reflection available.

PARENTING ON THE MAIN LINE. Tues., Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m., Main Line Reform Temple. Part of an ongoing series on positive parenting, sponsored by the Middleton Center and Main Line Reform Temple. Discussion topic: Stressed Out, led by Don McCown, MSS, LSW. Free and open to the public. For more info: www.parentingonthemainline.com

SEARCHING FOR STILL WATERS: AN EXPLORATION OF LOSS AND GRIEF. Sat., Dec. 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Middleton Center. An ongoing support group for those coping with the loss of a loved one, whether recent or many years ago. Led by David Reed and Mary Joan Walheim. No cost. New and previous group members welcome.

Children & Family Ministries

ART @ 9. Sundays, 9:00-9:50 a.m., Rm. 201, Ed. Bldg, for children ages 3 and older. Nurture, fellowship and craft/creative time for children whose parents are attending BMPC classes.

BLINK: BMPC (love + inspire + nurture) Kids. To welcome children into our faith community and embrace them on their spiritual journeys, we invite children K-5 to begin worship with their families at the 10:00 a.m. service, Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING. Wed., Dec. 15, 5:00 p.m., Rosemont Presbyterian Village. Join in this annual tradition of caroling for the residents of the retirement home. Meet at the church for Weekly Wednesday Dinner at 5:00 p.m.; leave for Rosemont at 6:15 p.m. and carol from 6:30-7:30 p.m. RSVP (suggested by not required): JaneWilber@bmpc.org, ext. 8813.

Peacemaking Committee

HEEDING GOD'S CALL. Mon., Nov. 28, 7:00 p.m., dinner meeting in the Villanova area. Help plan for interfaith effort addressing the prevalence of illegal guns. For dinner reservations, RSVP: Phoebe Sheftel, pasheftel@comcast.net or Clare Mackie, cfmackie@aol.com

Fine Arts

"CHRISTMAS LIGHT" CONCERT. Sun., Dec. 11, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Celebrate the season with a concert of Christmas favorites sung by the Senior Choir with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Organ Scholar Keenan Boswell will play a 20-minute recital prior to the concert. Tickets: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 18 and under. Contact: StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org, ext. 8836.

Young Adults

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION. Thurs., Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m., Saxby's in Haverford. Join us every other Thursday to chat Bible, theology, and life in general. No prep, no pressure... just show up! Contact: LouisaUmphres@bmpc.org, ext. 8858.

Senior Adults

PATHWAYS TO LEARNING: Trip to Odessa, DE. Sat., Dec. 3. Christmas in Odessa is a self-guided walking tour of private homes and public buildings, decorated for the holidays. Lunch on your own at Odessa Fire Hall. Mail check for \$45, payable to BMPC/Senior Adults, to BMPC, attn. Amy Bauer, by Nov. 30. Bus departs 9:00 a.m., back parking lot; returns by 4:00 p.m.

SENIORS CLUB LUNCH. Wed., Dec. 7, noon, Congregational Hall. Program: The Haverford Notables. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and sweets

provided. All welcome. Contact: AmyBauer@bmpc.org, ext.8821.

Youth Ministries, Grades 6-12

SUMMER CAMP AND MISSION TRIPS 2012. Dec. 1 deadline to sign up for youth summer trips is fast approaching! Return registration form and \$100 deposit for each trip to Rebecca Alleva. Forms and information about trips available online: www.bmpc.org/youth/summer/summer.html

CONFIRMATION PARENT/STUDENT MEETING. Sun., Dec. 11, 11:15 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 205. Participating in Confirmation this year? Join the Rev. Kellen Smith to review the spring class schedule and get an overview of the program. If you're in 8th grade and have not yet signed up, you can bring your registration form to the meeting. Refreshments will be provided.

YOUTH SKI TRIP TO SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN. Sat., Feb. 11-Sun., Feb. 12, Shawnee Mountain in the Poconos. \$195 includes two days of skiing, lodging, meals, snow tubing, and an optional ski lesson. Contact: RebeccaAlleva@bmpc.org, ext.8823.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY. Weds., 10:00 a.m., Converse House Meeting Room. Discuss *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* by Ellen F. Davis. Book available in The Book Center.

PERSPECTIVES IN MUSIC. Mon., Nov. 28, 1:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center. Guest: Pianist Vincent Craig, Music Director, Main Line Unitarian Church. Refreshments and fellowship precede program. Contact: DeannClancy@hotmail.com, 610-525-8347.

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY. Wed., Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m., Rosemont Presbyterian Village Ballroom, led by the Rev. Charles Grant. Discuss *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymmer, Chapter 4. Contact: Joyce Malott, okf405@erols.com, 610-525-4469.

Y Group

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENTS AT THE CHURCH. Reserve three days in advance:

childcare@bmpc.org or 610-520-8850.

Y GROUP MONTHLY MEETING. Tues., Dec. 13, 9:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Join Pilates Instructor Kelly Bride for a Pilates class.

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE. Thurs., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., home of Gen McCormack. Enjoy this Y-Group tradition; bring \$15 gift. Contact: CandaceBalch@comcast.net or Karen, kgardner01@comcast.net

Y GROUP CREATED 65 STOCKINGS! Residents of the Presbyterian Children's Village will be the recipients of these great creations. Many thanks to all who participated.

Outreach

EUGENE C. BAY FUND. This Fund was established to support projects and programs that enhance the lives of residents of urban areas of Philadelphia, especially West Philadelphia and the community of Chester. Applications due by Jan. 31. Details at www.bmpc.org/ECB.htm. Contact: CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org, ext.8819.

Worldwide Ministries

BMPC WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES AND SHAULL AWARD GRANT DEADLINE. See www.bmpc.org/Worldwide/Grants.htm for more info. on these funds. Send applications electronically to CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org by Dec. 1.

Hunger Committee

HUNGER ENVELOPES. Your contributions in the white hunger envelopes in the pews provide food for emergency food cupboards, homeless shelters, and hunger relief organizations.

FOOD BASKETS are located in the church Narthex. Please consider bringing a can to worship each Sunday.

HUNGER FACT. 415,000 Philadelphians were assisted by our local community food cupboards during 2010, a number that has more than tripled in the past five years.