



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 17, 2023 | 8:00 a.m., Chapel

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 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 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service is available to watch on our livestreaming page: www.bmpc.org/livestream For your convenience, the service also will be posted on our Worship Services page on Monday.

CHILDCARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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 Erika Henry at childcare@bmpc.org with any questions.

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

COVER IMAGE

Sketch of the burgeoning Bryn Mawr village from the viewpoint of the train station. Note the newly built Keystone Hotel (now the Baldwin School) on the left and the original BMPC chapel on the right.

Today's Schedule

Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101

Worship with Baptism & Sanctuary Choir

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Sunday School Classes

Age 2 - PreK

10:00 a.m., Education Building

Grades K - 5

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary

10:15 a.m., Education Building

Youth Kickoff

10:00 a.m., Gymnasium

BMPC at 150 Exhibit

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

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Kirby Lawrence Hill

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this sacred place,

All: to sing praises to the Lord.

One: We gather with strangers and friends alike,

All: to share the story of our faith.

One: We gather around the Word of God,

All: to share spiritual food for the journey of faith.

One: And we gather together as children of God,

All: called to be a blessing for the world.

† HYMN 432

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Faithful God, who calls us and journeys with us, you have invited us to trust in your companionship along the paths life takes us. We confess that we sometimes seek to find our own way in the world, where our interests are protected and our comfort is preserved. We try to chart our own futures apart from your promises, and the good gifts of faith and hope crumble into anxiety and despair. Restore our trust in you, O God, so that we may follow in faith and faithfulness, through Christ, our sure companion along the way.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease. Then,
by your mer - cy rec - con - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Burdick

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 16:1-6 (pg. 495 in pew Bible)

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:15-27 (pg. 196 in pew Bible) Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Joy in the Worst of Circumstances

Agnes W. Norfleet

The Joy of Being Christ's Church, Second in Series

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Kirby Lawrence Hill

You are invited to come forward, using the center aisle, to partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction (dipping a piece of bread into the cup); return to your seat using the side aisle. Gluten- and casein-free elements are on the center table.

You are invited to bring your offering when you come forward.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Agnes W. Norfleet

† HYMN 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

† SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

†

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Charme J. Walter ~ September 8, 2023

WORSHIP NOTES

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION

Steve Burdick, Deacon

USHERING

Tom Hays

Announcements

150TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT. Join in celebrating BMPC's 150th Anniversary by purchasing this newly-created Christmas ornament featuring our renovated church property. Designed and crafted by Wendell August Forge, this ornament is a beautiful way to celebrate the past and the future of our congregation. Ornaments will be on sale for \$20 each on Sun., Oct. 15 following worship.

150th ANNIVERSARY DINNER. Sat., Oct. 14, 6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Pre-paid reservations are required. RSVP online: <https://bit.ly/150Dinner> (case sensitive) or at the registration table in the Atrium after worship by Mon., Oct. 2. Tickets are \$20 per person. Featuring the premiere of the BMPC anniversary video. Please call 610-525-2821 if you have any questions.

SANCTUARY FLOWER DONATIONS. An opening is available for Sun., Oct. 15 for donors who wish to give flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Later, our Deacons deliver small arrangements of the Sanctuary flowers to homebound church members. If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday Worship Service, contact Natalie Hoepf at bmpcfowers@gmail.com

Today

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS. Please submit your recommendations by today for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee Members-at-large for 2023-2024 via the nominating form: <https://bit.ly/BMPCNomForm23>. 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.

BMPC AT 150: FAITHFUL ENGAGEMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD. Today through Sun., Oct. 29, Art Gallery. This exhibit offers glimpses of the church's history through the changing realities of society and culture. The gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday. For information, please contact MFA@bmipc.org.

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP. Sundays, starting today, 8:30 a.m., Cannon Room, and via Zoom. Join us for a thoughtful and comprehensive reflection on the New Testament: From Beginning to End. In troubled times we need to be grounded in the way we have chosen to live our lives together. The Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray leads this longstanding class which has a discussion format. Please note that homework will be required.

FILLING THE WELL. Sundays, starting today, 8:45 a.m., Children's Library, Ed. Bldg. All women are welcome to join this longstanding Sunday morning class. This fall we will spend time reflecting on portions of Don Fisher and Tom Allender's classic book, *God Loves an Unmade Bed: Spirituality for the Imperfect*. In the book they share how God is always present, especially in the midst of the messes and struggles of life.

DIGGING DEEPER. Sundays, starting today through Nov. 5, 8:45 a.m., Gloucester Room. This eight-week study will be guided by the book, *Whence and Whither: On Lives and Living*. In this collection of essays on death and the meaning of living, funeral director, poet and National Book Award finalist Thomas Lynch has an uncanny knack for writing about death in ways that are never morbid, always thoughtful, often humorous, and quite moving. The Rev. Dr. Franklyn C. Pottorff will lead this class.

YOUTH FALL KICKOFF. 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!

This Week

FORAGING AND REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS WORKSHOP. Mon., Sept. 18, 7:00 p.m., Fullerton Room. Co-hosted with Bethel AME Church, join us for an evening with Temple professor Robert Kuper who will discuss foraging, how to identify invasive/exotic plants, and how to remove invasive species in our area. Dinner will be provided. RSVP: AliciaFranklin@bmipc.org

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S CLASS. Tuesdays through Dec. 12, 1:00 p.m., Gymnasium. Our Dance for Parkinson's Disease (PD) class is open to those living with PD and their care partners. For more information, contact CarolCherry@bmipc.org or visit <https://bit.ly/BMPCFitness>

YOGA206 BONE BOOST CLASS. Wednesdays through Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m., Gymnasium. This is an all-levels mat and chair yoga class focusing on bone strength with safely-adapted poses. Geared to persons proactive about strengthening their bones due to diagnosed bone loss. Participants, age 50+, must be able to safely sit on and rise from a mat. Email YOGA206@icloud.com for registration information.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP. Second and fourth Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Converse House Parlor. All men are welcome to join this study and discussion group. In Justo and Catherine Gonzalez' book, *Heretics for Armchair Theologians*, these noted church historians introduce readers to important early church figures whose teachings were denounced by the church as heresies. Dr. Joshua Yoder will lead this group. To register and purchase the book, contact MonicaDevane@bmpc.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS RESUME. Wed., Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m., Congregational Hall. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children and students.

SACRED THREADS. Thursdays, through Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. Led by spiritual director Betty Wright-Riggins, the sessions will focus on Anne LaMott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. LaMott explores prayer through examples, musings and humor. Register: KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org

Next Sunday

THE LEGACY OF LOCAL MISSION. Sun., Sept. 24, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. We are honored to host the Rev. Eustacia Marshall, pastor of New River Presbyterian Church, who will help us celebrate the rich legacy of BMPC's 25-year commitment to West Philadelphia as well as invite us alongside her congregation as they lead us in a new moment for Presbyterians in West Philadelphia. New River Presbyterian is a merger of First African Presbyterian Church, Calvin Presbyterian Church, and Church of the Good Shepherd. Through innovative ministries, intentional engagement, and a vision for hope and hospitality in the community, Rev. Marshall will help us imagine how we might be involved in this next season of mission in the city.

HUNGER COMMITTEE CELEBRATION FOOD COLLECTION. Sun., Sept. 24. As we celebrate our longtime commitment of addressing food insecurity, the Hunger Committee invites the congregation to bring non-perishable donations to the Narthex on Sun., Sept. 24 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 vegetables, canned beans, canned fruit and applesauce (or cups), macaroni and cheese, crackers (saltines or Ritz), instant oatmeal (packets), granola bars, single-serving snacks, bottled salad dressings, mayonnaise (smaller-sized jars preferred). Grocery bags will be available in the Narthex. AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org

Upcoming

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP. Thursdays, Sept. 28-Oct. 26, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom. Led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, we will spend five weeks discussing the classic book, *Turn My Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times* by Henri Nouwen. In this collection of some of Nouwen's unpublished writings, he focuses not only on how we can survive hard times but on how we can live fully in the midst of them and beyond. To register and purchase the book, contact AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org

THE LEGACY OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN. Sun., Oct. 1, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Throughout our history, women have shaped and guided the mission and ministry of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Join us for a special presentation about the legacy of Presbyterian Women and the different roles women have held over the past 150 years.

EVENING WORSHIP WITH BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. Sun., Oct. 1, 5:00 p.m., Front Lawn. Gather for fellowship, singing, scripture, prayers, and individual blessings of companion animals. Tookany Creek Bluegrass Band will provide music for the service.

SINGING FOR LIFE CHOIR RESUMES. Thursdays, Oct. 5 to Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m., Fine Arts Center. The Singing for Life Choir is open to anyone 55 years or older. Cost is \$75. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining this choir, contact the Music & Fine Arts Department at MFA@bmpc.org by Mon., Oct. 2.

COMMUNITY FORUM. Mon., Oct. 9, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream. Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism, will speak about the rise of Christian Nationalism in the United States and how it threatens democracy and Christianity. A question-and-answer session follows her talk. No registration is required for this free event. Tyler's presentation will be livestreamed at www.bmpc.org/livestream. ElenaPerri@bmpc.org

150th Anniversary Celebration Events

Church Birthday Party

Saturday, October 14, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Ed. Bldg. Lawn. Celebrate the church's birthday with cake, fun mission project, games for children and families, and fellowship!

Celebration of Former Pastors

Saturday, October 14, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Ministries Center Court. This informal open house will honor former BMPC clergy and their families.

150th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, October 14, 6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Pre-paid reservations are required. Tickets \$20. Featuring the premiere of the BMPC anniversary video. Go to <https://bit.ly/150Dinner> (case sensitive) or scan the QR code for registration.



Organ Concert

Saturday, October 14, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Philippe Lefebvre, principal organist of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, will perform.

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, October 15, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary. This service will feature music by the Sanctuary Choir, which will be singing a newly-commissioned anthem by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen in celebration of BMPC's 150th anniversary, with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet.

Calendar

Sunday, September 17

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.	Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102 Digging Deeper, Gloucester Room Filling the Well, Children's Library
9:00	a.m.	Third Grade Bible Breakfast, Congregational Hall
9:55	a.m.	Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
10:00	a.m.	Sunday Worship with Baptism and Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org Third Grade Bible Presentation Youth Fall Parent Kickoff, Gymnasium
10:15	a.m.	Sunday School K-5th Graders, Ed. Bldg.
11:00	a.m.	Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Atrium Cafe, Atrium

Monday, September 18

6:00	p.m.	Middle School Mondays, Youth Lounge
7:00	p.m.	Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room Foraging & Removing Invasive Species Workshop, Fullerton Room

Tuesday, September 19

10:30	a.m.	Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
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Wednesday, September 20

9:30	a.m.	Yoga206 Bone Boost Class, Gymnasium
10:00	a.m.	Coffee Cup Bible Study (Hybrid), Cannon Room
11:00	a.m.	Nancy Heston Ligget Memorial Service, Sanctuary
4:45	p.m.	Wednesdays Together, Chapel
5:30	p.m.	Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
5:45	p.m.	Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	Student Serve, Youth Lounge Mission Council Committee Meeting, Cannon Room Trustees' Meeting, Fullerton Room

Thursday, September 21

11:00	a.m.	Artists' Gathering, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	Sacred Threads: <i>Help, Thanks, Wow</i> , Virtual Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

Friday, September 22

No Events Scheduled.

Saturday, September 23

7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
9:00 a.m. Anti-Racism Taskforce Retreat
10:00 a.m. **Patricia W. Cordray Memorial Service, Chapel**
Searching for Still Waters Bereavement Group,
Witherspoon Parlor

Sunday, September 24

8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
10:00 a.m. **Sunday Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and
Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org**
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach at 8:00 a.m.
The Rev. Eustacia Moffett Marshall will preach at 10:00 a.m.

Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Leigh DeVries, 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

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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www.youtube.com/user/brynmawrpres

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

