

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Gathering of God's People

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

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE

The Nativity

Jeffrey Brillhart, organist

Jean Langlais

WELCOME

John Willingham

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

All **Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

One Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

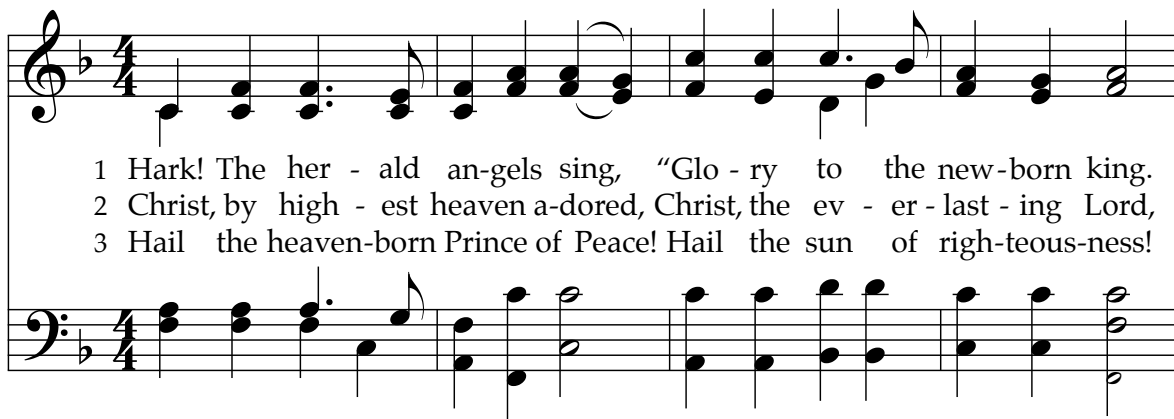
All **Praise God for making us siblings in Christ.**

One Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

All **God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

HYMN 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

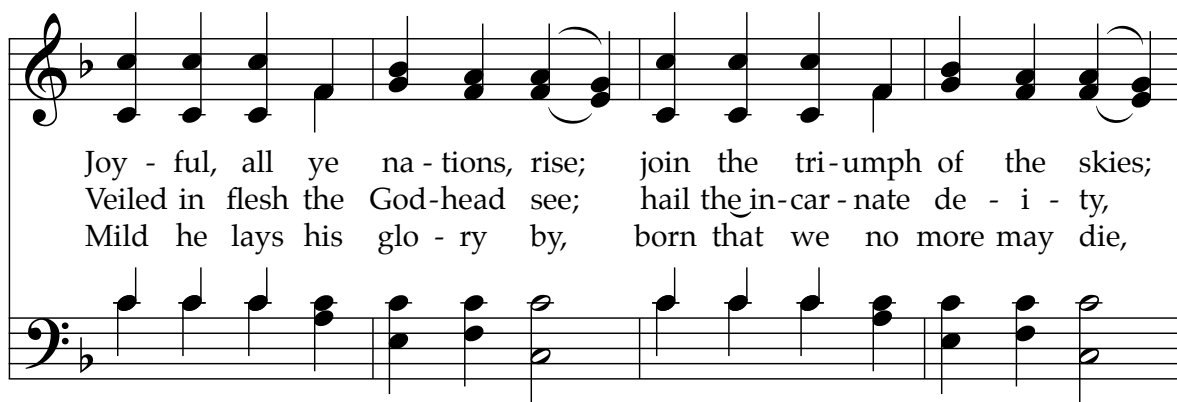
MENDELSSOHN



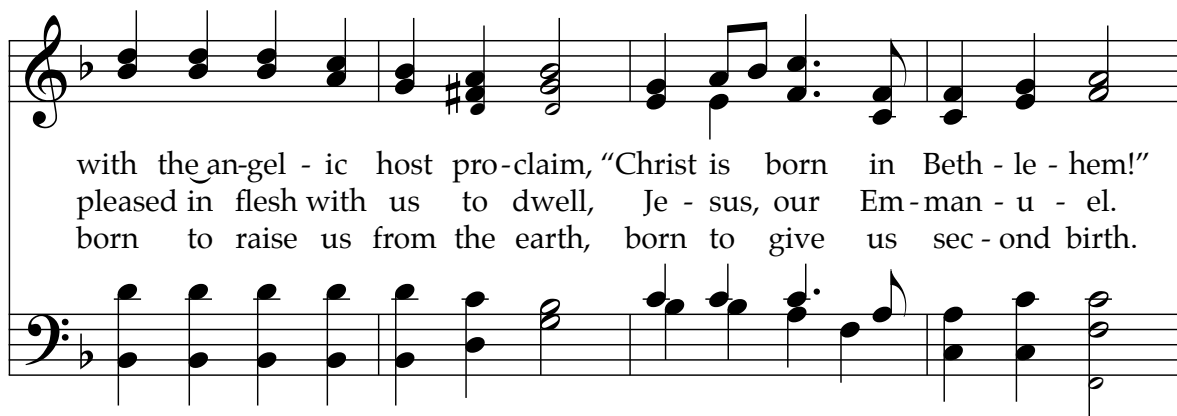
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John Willingham

All Almighty God who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins. We have ignored the presence of your Spirit. We have failed to look for the return of our Savior. We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned. In your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake.

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.



Glo-ry be to God: cre - a - tor Christ and
 Ho ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gi - nning is now and ev - er shall be.
 World with - out end. A - men! A - men!

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

Following the Children's Moment, children return to their families in the Sanctuary.

SENDING HYMN Go Now Children With Our Blessing



Go now, child-ren with our bless-ing, to love and serve the — Lord. May God
 Bless you, May God guard you, May the light of God shine u - pon you, and may
 God be gra-cious to you. May the pre-sence of God be with you. May the
 pre - sence of God — be with you, and give you peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Willingham

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 63:7-9

(pg. 693 in pew Bible)

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has

shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their

savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it

was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

ANTHEM On Christmas Night

Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad. When from our sin he set us free, all for us to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, now and forever more, Amen."

SECOND LESSON Matthew 2:13-23

Andy Greenhow

(pg. 2 in pew Bible)

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 152 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rachel Pedersen

All We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

-from the Nicene Creed

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

Rachel Pedersen

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling

Hector Berlioz

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling, ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

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 HUNDREDTH

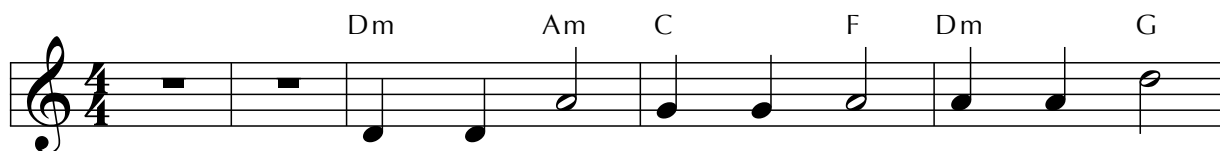
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rachel Pedersen

HYMN 141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

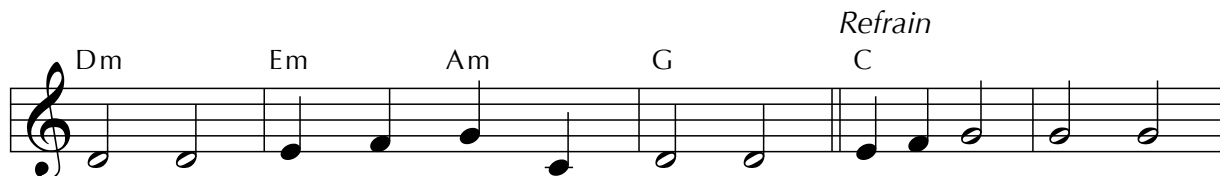
PERSONENT HODIE



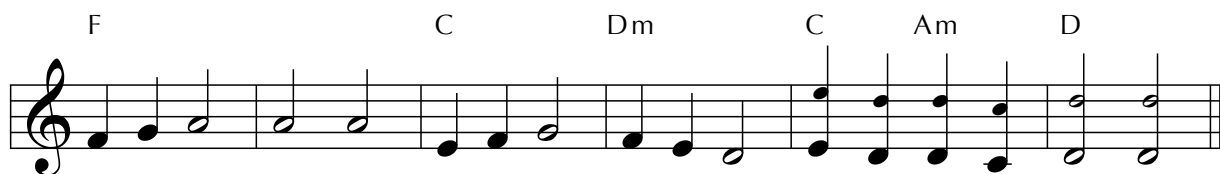
1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him.
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him. *Id - e - o - o - o,*
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Andy Greenhow

POSTLUDE Improvisation

Jeffrey Brillhart, organist

Worship Notes

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

BULLETIN COVER

Church of St. Mary in Cairo, Egypt. Mosaic bright icon of the Holy Family in front of the entrance to the Coptic temple. ID 235254201 ©Lexosn | Dreamstime.com

WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church! The start of a new year is an ideal opportunity to explore. Perhaps you are seeking a church home. Or maybe, you've been part of BMPC for a long time, but are sensing a tug to get involved in more significant ways. In either case, I hope this time of worship will inspire you to take the next step and explore how God is nudging you to grow in faith, service, and meaning. We're honored to share in the journey with you!



John M. Willingham
Interim 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 following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org

T-COIL HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

BMPC's Sanctuary and Congregational Hall are equipped with a T-Coil hearing loop system to enhance sound clarity for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants with a telecoil ("T" setting). Portable receiver units are also available in the Sanctuary upon request. We hope this technology enriches your worship experience!

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.

LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service is livestreamed and can be viewed at www.bmpc.org/live or on our YouTube channel. A recording of the service will also be available on our Worship Services website page and Vimeo channel starting Monday. If you are attending in person and prefer not to be on camera, please speak with an usher who will seat you in an area off camera.

Announcements

TODAY

Christmas Flowers. This morning you are welcome to take home one of the poinsettias that have been decorating our Sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Flowers available for pick up will be placed in front of the Communion Table immediately following worship.

UPCOMING & ONGOING

Youth & Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taizé.

Sat., July 10 - Mon., July 20. Current Youth (Ages 15 years +) and Young Adults (Ages 20-30 years), are invited to a pilgrimage to the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France. Participants will have an opportunity to slow down, spend time in prayer and worship, and enjoy the company of young pilgrims from all over the world. Register by Wed., Dec. 31. Youth: bit.ly/YouthTaize2026
Young Adults: bit.ly/YoungAdultTaize Contact AndyGreenhow@bmpe.org

Code Blue Volunteers Needed. For the month of January, BMPC will host a Code Blue Shelter to house up to five men sleeping outside in Lower Merion on the coldest nights. Volunteers will work in teams of two over two shifts each night the shelter is open: 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. Visit bit.ly/LMCodeBlue to sign up! Contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpe.org to receive the training video and more information.

Sunday Morning Discussion Group.

Starting Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m., Cannon Room. The Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray leads this engaging

study of First John, inviting us to explore the heart of Christian faith through love, truth, and genuine discipleship, calling us to walk in the light, practice compassion, and embody Christ's love. Speaking clearly to the challenges of our time, First John offers wisdom and resilience. Contact katrmac2@icloud.com

Journeys by Richard Ranck Gallery

Opening. Jan. 4, 11:15 a.m., Gallery. Journeys showcases selected works by painter and sculptor Richard Ranck, whose four-decade career reflects a deep, process-driven exploration of materials. His paintings and sculptures blur boundaries through texture, transformation, and intuitive experimentation. Richard will be in the Gallery to discuss his work, giving visitors a direct look into his artistic process.

The Labyrinth Ministry. Tues., Jan. 6, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. All are invited to walk our Chartres canvas labyrinth. Begin the new year and celebrate Epiphany with this prayerful experience. Contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpe.org

LGBTQ @ BMPC. Wed., Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m., Converse House Parlor. Come as you are and find connection in a welcoming, affirming space for all. This biweekly gathering (first and third Wednesday evenings each month) offers a judgment-free environment to build community, share experiences, ask questions, and receive support. For more information or to connect with our volunteer facilitators, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpe.org

Filling the Well. Starting Jan 11, 8:45 a.m., Children's Library, Ed. Bldg. These weekly classes for women will explore Mary Pipher's *Women Rowing North*, a thoughtful guide to aging with resilience, purpose, and joy. Through conversation and reflection, we'll consider how to navigate life's transitions with wisdom and grace. This supportive group offers connection, insight, and encouragement for women in every stage of midlife and beyond. This class is led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmmpc.org

Jeffrey Brillhart Farewell Reception. Sun., Jan. 11, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Please join us after worship for a farewell reception honoring Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts. We will gather with light food and refreshments to celebrate his remarkable 43 years of music leadership and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Youth Positive Parenting Series. Sun., Jan. 11, 6:00 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Join us for this month's session of our Youth Positive Parenting Series, led by experts from the Middleton Counseling Center. This month's focus is on stress and anxiety. Learn how to maintain balance, support adolescents, and maintain a calmer family environment. Designed for parents of 6th–12th graders, the series offers practical strategies for positive parenting and concurrent programming for youth. Contact AndyGreenhow@bmmpc.org

High School Spirituality in College Retreat. Fri., Feb. 27 - Sun., Mar. 1, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV. High school students are invited to a retreat at Davis & Elkins College in wild and wonderful West Virginia.

Students will have a chance to tour the campus, meet current students, stay in on-campus housing, explore artsy small towns, and connect with God and each other in the wilderness. Registration cost is \$200, with scholarships available. Register by Jan. 16: bit.ly/HighSchoolRetreat2026 Contact AndyGreenhow@bmmpc.org

Faith in Action: Responding to a Changing World. Sun., Jan. 18, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Join us for an open, hope-filled conversation about the challenges facing our world, especially as they connect to our church's longstanding commitments to social justice. This gathering invites all who care deeply to share concerns, listen, and imagine faithful next steps together. Come help shape our community's path forward. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmmpc.org

God's Voice Within: The Ignatian Way to Discover God's Will. Tues., Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 7:00 p.m., Virtual. Join Patricia Danzon, Spiritual Director at the Middleton Counseling Center, as we explore *God's Voice Within*, written by spiritual director Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ. We will discover how to use Ignatian discernment to access our own spiritual intuition and understand that the most trustworthy wisdom of all comes not from outside sources, but from God working through us. *God's Voice Within* is intended for people who know that there is more to the spiritual life than they are currently experiencing and are ready to take the next step in their walk of faith by making effective discernment—specifically Ignatian discernment—a daily practice. To register, kikimckendrick@bmmpc.org

CARING AND SHARING

Join Us in the Fight Against Hunger.

Through the BMPC Hunger Fund, our congregation supports more than eighteen food pantries and feeding programs in Greater Philadelphia and helps provide over 1,000 casseroles each year. Your gifts make this possible and strengthen the work of our partners serving neighbors in need. Give using the white Hunger Envelopes in your pew rack or make a one-time or recurring gift online at onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger

Serve Dinner at the Ardmore Food Pantry.

The Ardmore Food Pantry offers a community meal on Monday evenings during pantry hours. On the second Monday of each month, they serve BMPC Hunger Casseroles. Two to three volunteers from BMPC are needed on those Monday nights to serve dinner from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering for one month or on a regular basis, sign up at bit.ly/AFPDinner Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

Sanctuary Flower Donations. Openings are available in January and February for donors who wish to give flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. After Sunday services, our Deacons deliver small arrangements of the flowers to homebound church members. Contact SusanThorkelson@mac.com

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 8:45 a.m. Childcare (infant - age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Families (Gr. K-12), Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary & Livestreamed**
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 7:30 p.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga for Life (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. TaiChi, Virtual only

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Church offices close at noon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Church campus closed. Happy New Year!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

- 7:00 a.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium
- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Dr. John M. Willingham 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 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



BrynMawrPres



BrynMawrPres



user/brynmawrpres

Worship Staff

John M. Willingham, Interim Senior Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Melanie Hardison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

James Kealey, Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar