

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 26, 2021 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

First Sunday of Christmas



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 outside the Sanctuary doors following the Worship Service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Masks are required for both fully-vaccinated and unvaccinated people inside church buildings. Masks are not required for outdoor spaces. Please maintain physical distance inside, and be mindful that we are an intergenerational community and that while COVID vaccines are available for children ages five to 11, some children may not have been vaccinated.

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 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

8:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Worship Together Sunday

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Grades 6-12

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

A Host of Carols
Blair, Brian, and Casey Williams, violins

Lani Smith

WELCOME

Franklyn C. Pottorff

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace.

All: We have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a rumor of justice.

All: We have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a whisper of hope.

All: We have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a hint of love.

All: We have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child.

All: We rejoice, for Christ is born! Alleluia!

† HYMN 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Creator, as another year draws to a close,
we come before you to confess
the ways in which we have been caught up
in the frenzied spirit of the holidays
and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;
the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires,
that we have neglected the voices of your children
who cry out for Justice;
in our focus on making the season perfect,
we have turned away from the hurting people
and broken places in our world in need of Healing;
in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children,
and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.
O Holy child of Bethlehem, Word become flesh,
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE On Those Who Sit In Darkness

On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be-gins to rise, the dawn-ing of for -
give - ness up - on the sin-ner's eyes. God guides the feet of pil - grims a -
long the paths of peace. O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev-er cease!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Franklyn C. Pottorff

FIRST LESSON Colossians 3:12-17 (*p. 201 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

Carol of the Candle
Sanctuary Choir

Stephen Paulus

I burn for joy, I burn for the birth of a tiny boy; He feeds my climbing flame,
Jesus is His name. Clear flower on a sweet stem; He grows in Bethlehem. I turn
the night to day, I cast all shadows and fears away; He shall burn with a finer
flame; Jesus is His name.

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:41-52 (*pg. 59 in pew Bible*)

Leigh DeVries

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Perfect Adolescent

Leigh DeVries

† HYMN 116

The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADOREMUS

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

Rachel Pedersen

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*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

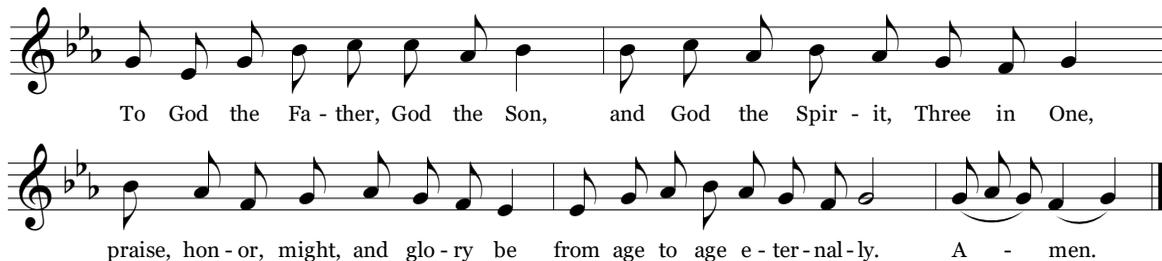
OFFERTORY ANTHEM Lullaby, My Lovely Child
Sanctuary Choir

James Sutcliffe

Here we bring new water from the well so clear For to worship God with, this happy New Year. Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin, Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

† **DOXOLOGY**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rachel Pedersen

† **HYMN 147**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

† **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

Leigh DeVries

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Pamela Decker

WORSHIP NOTES

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

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Announcements

OFFICE CLOSURES. The church office will be closed on Mondays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY WORSHIP. Sun., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary. This MLK holiday weekend, BMPC will host an interfaith community worship service to commemorate the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and our commitment as a larger community to work toward justice and racial reconciliation. We will be joined in worship by leaders, musicians and members from Bethel AME Church of Ardmore, Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, Beth David Reform Congregation, Old Haverford Friends Meeting, the Baha'i Community, and Or Zarua Congregation. The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, pastor of Bethel AME Church, is preaching during this service. RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org.

RENOVATIONS DEDICATION. On Sun., Jan. 30, we will celebrate the completion of the new Atrium and building renovations with a Service of Dedication during worship, followed by an Open House and art exhibit in the new Ministries Center Gallery by renowned painter Michael Bartmann. We have received our Certificate of Occupancy, and furnishings are being added to the newly-renovated spaces. Save the date for this significant celebration in the life of our congregation.

This Week

STORY PATH LABYRINTH. Walking a labyrinth during the Christmas season provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth in the Chapel is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYER. Beginning Fri., Dec. 31 online. Our Caring Ministries Team has put together a series of virtual prayer stations to help lead you through New Year's Eve. Each station focuses on a different theme: lament, remembering, silence, light, gratitude and intention. These stations lend a prayerful direction to the start of 2022 and a new calendar year. You may participate online: <https://www.bmpc.org/prayer-stations-for-the-new-year>.

Upcoming

LABYRINTH WALK. Tues., Jan. 4, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. You are invited to walk the Chartres labyrinth in the newly-renovated Congregational Hall. An opening liturgy will take place on the labyrinth at 10:00 a.m. to bless this ministry and all those who come seeking. Masks and social distancing are required. KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

SANCTUARY CHOIR AUDITIONS. Thursdays, Jan. 6 and 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Fine Arts Center. The Music and Fine Arts Department will hold auditions for positions in the BMPC Sanctuary Choir. To make an audition appointment, contact Patrick Howley, department manager, at PatrickHowley@bmpc.org. Walk-in candidates are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE. Sun., Jan. 9, 11:15 a.m., Ministries Center. Join us in the newly-renovated Ministries Center space for an Adult Education Open House. Participants will be encouraged to walk through the newly-designed library and classrooms to learn more about these new meeting spaces, how to volunteer in the library, talk with others about opportunities to connect through adult education, and purchase deeply-discounted books from the Book Center. For more information, contact Alicia Franklin, afranklin@bmpc.org.

NEW CLASS: STORIES OF GOD. Sundays, Jan. 16 through Feb. 27, 1:00 p.m., via Zoom. Join BMPC member Paul Burgmayer in a seven-week exploration of John Shea's imaginative, challenging and thought-provoking book, *Stories of God*. A brilliant biblical storyteller and narrative theologian, Shea argues that we are the story God tells. Our lives are the words that come from God's mouth. And the stories we tell one another in response are not incidental, but essential to our lives together. Read more about the class on our website. If you are interested in joining this lively conversation, email Paul at burgmayer@verizon.net.

CASSEROLE BLITZ. Sat., Jan., 22, 8:30 a.m., Ministries Center Kitchen. Make casseroles and friends! Get to know BMPC folks you haven't met before and support a good cause! Join the Hunger Committee in preparing casseroles for area shelters. Enjoy a family activity (children over age 5). Participants are required to be vaccinated, masked and to practice social distancing. RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/casserole-rsvp>

Caring and Sharing

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL REFUGEE EFFORTS. The BMPC Refugee Support Committee invites you to support the Afghan refugee family who moved into Foerderer House on Dec. 1. The committee is hard at work helping the family settle in, register for schools, and navigate the community. If you are interested in helping through donations or one-time volunteer opportunities such as driving, making meals or babysitting, you can use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/support-sepah>

Calendar

Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102

10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir,**
Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org
Worship Together Sunday for Grades 6-12

11:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed: For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Thursday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Friday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Saturday, January 1

No events scheduled for today.

Sunday, January 2

10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org**
The Rev. Brian K. Ballard will preach.

Monday, January 3

Church Office Closed: For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

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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www.twitter.com/BrynMawrPres

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