

For a
child
is born to us
a son is given to us
AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS
THESE WILL BE HIS ROYAL TITLES

Wonderful
counselor
Mighty God
E V E R L A S T I N G F A T H E R
prince of peace

***Bryn Mawr
Presbyterian Church***

December 17, 2017
8:00 a.m., Chapel
Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO BMPC

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Education Building, Rm. 102

8:00 a.m. Worship, Chapel

Art @ 9

Age 3 - Grade 5
8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 201

Filling the Well

Women's Bible Study
8:45 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 104

Caring Corner

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Ministries Center Court

Morning Prayer

Lectio Divina
9:25 a.m., Middleton Center

10:00 Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday School, Adult Education
See calendar for a complete schedule.

NEW HERE? We are pleased that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. Information about our programs is available near the main entrance. We invite you to participate in any of our programs, ministries and mission opportunities, as they are open to all.

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP. Stop by the Ministries Center Court for a cup of coffee between 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. and for refreshments and fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Families with young children are invited to gather for refreshments in the Education Building Lobby after Sunday School.

TO ASSIST YOU DURING WORSHIP. Children's bulletins with crayons may be found near the main entrance. If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher or server know, and Communion will be brought to you.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. On Sundays, December 24 and 31 we will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Subscribe to our BMPC eNews by adding your email address to the Fellowship Register. For additional information about today's schedule, see the calendar at the back of this bulletin.

www.BMPC.org

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Franklyn C. Pottorff

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Brad Baturka

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace to remember that Christ brings peace that surpasses our understanding.

All: The prophet Isaiah named him Everlasting Father.

One: Today we light the candle of love.

All: God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.

One: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**All: Love is like a light shining in a dark place,
as we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.**

One: May this candle of love give light to the world.

† HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of majesty, you love as a parent loves a child.

When we fail to meet your expectations, your grace reaches beyond your anger.

When we fail to obey you, your mercy out-measures your disappointment.

You provide for us abundantly and yet we keep asking for more.

You teach us to love justice and yet we do not work for the common good of all.

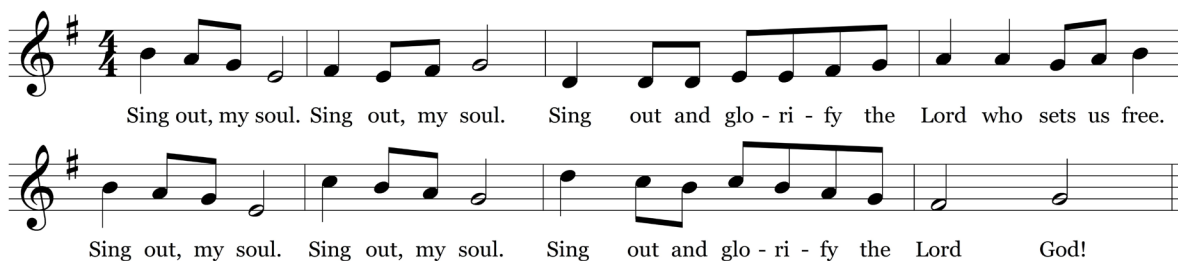
Everlasting Father, please forgive us.

Help us turn toward you and walk in your path as we await your coming in full glory.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



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HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brad Baturka

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*p. 691 in pew Bible*)

Brad Baturka

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39-56 (*p. 57 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Everlasting Father

Agnes W. Norfleet

Third in Advent Series *The Names of Jesus*

† **HYMN** 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Malcolm Christian Kuhn

Franklyn C. Pottorff
with Elder Brad Baturka

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this child by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of His church?

All: **We do.**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 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

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

MINISTRY MOMENT

Gather Us In

Bill Matthai

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lore Kephart

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT 8:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Malcolm Christian Kuhn, son of Christine & Jonathan Kuhn

AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Samuel Ford Erdlen, son of Haley & Andrew Erdlen

James Nelson High, son of Lauren & Alex High

Oliver Beck Pottorff, son of Abby & Frank Pottorff

Elinor Marian Sampson, daughter of Julie & Kyle Sampson

Benjamin MacGregor Watts, son of Molly MacGregor & Duncan Watts

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION

Elder Brad Baturka

USHERING

Elder Tom Willcox

BULLETIN COVER

Isaiah 9:6

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"I am the resurrection and the life."

Jean Taylor ~ December 8, 2017

Announcements

GATHER US IN: STEWARDSHIP 2018. Thank you to everyone who has given time, talents and treasures to our church home! The significance of these three gifts are essential to the jubilation we experience here at BMPC. For those who already have pledged, we thank you! For those who have yet to pledge, consider doing so by placing your completed pledge card in the offering plate, mailing it to the church or pledging or donating online: www.bmpc.org/pledge. SarahMiciek@bmpc.org.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS. High School Mission Trip to Mexico for rising ninth graders to graduated seniors, July 22-28, \$1,300. Space is limited; register now. Middle School Mission Trip to New York City for rising sixth to rising eighth graders, July 8-12, \$299. Camp Kirkwood for rising sixth to rising 12th graders, \$399 before March 1; \$499 after. AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

GRAPHIC NOTATION: VISUALIZING THE MUSIC OF J.S. BACH. Through Sun., Dec. 31. Philadelphia artist Melinda Steffy interprets the music of J.S. Bach as color patterns, blending music theory, color theory, mathematical structures, and meticulous handiwork to create vibrant works of art. In addition to selections from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, *Cello Suite in G Major*, and more, her exhibit features new works commissioned by BMPC based on Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

BOOK CENTER IN MINISTRIES CENTER. Select Christmas books for children, Advent books for adults, book-themed ornaments and special keepsakes (made in Germany) for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Book Center is open following worship and on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kat MacMurray, katrmac2@icloud.com.

Today

TAKE TIME TO PRAY AND MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE. Sundays during Advent, 9:25-9:50 a.m., Middleton Center. The traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer is known as "lectio divina," and Advent offers the opportunity to pause and reflect on the birth of Christ. info@middletoncenter.org.

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. Sundays through Dec. 24, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court. AGM provides an opportunity for you to do your holiday shopping for family, friends, teachers, co-workers, babysitters, anyone you wish to honor, by donating to a charitable project of your choice. Cashiers are available following worship to help you place, purchase or pick up your order. You also may shop online at www.bmpc.org. Marian Chitester, mmcthistle@verizon.net.

"IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT": STUDYING APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. The season of Advent invites us to await with anticipation the coming of Christ, not just as a child, but coming again in a future yet to be known. Dr. Joshua Yoder leads us through a study of the biblical roots of what theologians have imagined the new heaven and new earth might be like.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. Envelopes are available in the pews today. A cherished tradition since the 1930s, gifts to this fund are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. You may use the envelopes or note “Christmas Joy Offering” on the memo line of your check.

CARING CORNER. 9:00-11:30 a.m., Ministries Center Court. Our parish nurse and social worker will be available in the Court today. Look for Carol and Renee by the Caring Ministries banner.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Arnold’s Family Fun Center in Oaks. Join us for a joyful evening of laser tag and go-karts. \$15/person includes dinner. DavidSmith@bmpc.org.

This Week

STORYPATH LABYRINTH. Weekdays during Advent, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Chapel; Wednesdays during Advent, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Chapel. Anne Schmid, schmonty@comcast.net.

NOONTIME HARPSICHORD RECITAL. Tues., Dec. 19, noon, Sanctuary. Featuring Jeffrey Brillhart and Edward Landin on BMPC’s William Dowd harpsichord. Free admission. StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org.

A WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 19, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas Story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus’ birth. MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Thurs., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. This special service acknowledges the darkness we experience even during this festive season. Scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation by the Rev. Mary Steege, and a time of prayer to express our yearnings for healing and wholeness are intended to lead us from the darkness into light. A labyrinth will be set up on the front lawn to walk before or after the service.

Next Sunday

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. On Sundays, December 24 and 31 we will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI: CHRISTMAS EVE ALUMNI RECEPTION. Sat., Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Worship on Christmas Eve is made even more special by greeting those who grew up at BMPC and now are home for the holidays. We welcome back all former youth to join old friends after the 8:30 p.m. and before the 11:00 p.m. worship services. All are encouraged to attend! AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE. 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Family Service with Nativity Tableau (infant and toddler childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Carol sing precedes at 4:15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE. 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service with Communion by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet (childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Prelude begins at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude begins at 10:40 p.m.

Save the Date

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY. Wed., Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m., Rosemont Presbyterian Village Ballroom. The Rev. Mary Steege leads our study of *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier, Chapter 5. For book and information, contact Joyce Malott, okf405@erols.com.

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD. Sundays, Jan. 7-28, 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Patricia Danzon, spiritual director at the Middleton Center, leads discussions of the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SNOW RETREAT. Jan. 13-15, Camp Kirkwood, Poconos. Join us for a weekend away at Camp Kirkwood where you may enjoy hiking, snowtubing, discussion groups, Sunday morning worship and time to explore the surrounding area. Cost: \$275. Register online at www.bmpc.org > Calendar > Open Registrations. Scholarship assistance is available for all trips and events. AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY-SMALL GROUP. Begins Tues., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m., Fullerton Room. It's impossible to become spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Be part of a spiritual and emotional growth small group based on Peter Scazzero's book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Invest in your spiritual, emotional and relationship health in this eight-week offering led by the Rev. Mary Steege. Register and order books: MarySteege@bmpc.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION. Wed., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Discussion of Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope's book, *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. Books are available in the Book Center for \$14. [Courtenay Willcox, mcwillcox@gmail.com](mailto:CourtenayWillcox@gmail.com).

Caring & Sharing

OUR BROTHERS' PLACE. Sat., Dec. 30. Meet in the Ministries Center Court at 10:15 a.m. to carpool to Our Brothers' Place homeless shelter and prepare and serve lunch. Register: Pam Haynes Walsh, Haynes-walsh@comcast.net, 610 667-0972.

FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Join the BMPC Flower Team on Sunday mornings to create small flower arrangements for our Deacons to deliver to selected church members. We work in teams of two and serve once every seven to eight weeks. MargoBennett@comcast.net.

This Week's Calendar

For more information, visit our website at www.bmpc.org, call the church office, or contact communications@bmpc.org.

Today, December 17

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:45 a.m. Filling the Well (for women), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 104
Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 201
- 9:00 a.m. Caring Corner, Ministries Center Court
- 9:25 a.m. Lectio Divina, Middleton Center
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir and Baptisms, Sanctuary**
Sunday School for age 2 - PreK, Ed. Bldg.
Grades K - 5 begin worship in the Sanctuary
Youth Gathering (Grades 6 - 12), Gymnasium
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School for Grades K - 5, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:30 a.m. Middle School Connections Group (Grades 6 - 7), Loft
Confirmation (Grade 8) Connections Group, Gloucester Room
Grades 9 - 10 Connections Groups, Converse House Parlor
Grades 11 - 12 Connections Groups, Fullerton Room
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship for Families, Ed. Bldg. Lobby
Cafe in the Court, Ministries Center
Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court
- 11:15 a.m. "It's the End of the World as We Know It" Adult Education, Witherspoon Parlor
Tintinnabulators, Fine Arts Center
- 12:15 p.m. Carillon Lessons, Fine Arts Center
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, Arnold's Family Fun Center

Monday, December 18

- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. RePose Yoga, Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Harpsichord Recital, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease, Gymnasium
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Gloucester Room
- 4:00 p.m. A Wee Christmas, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 20

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee Cup Bible Study, Gloucester Room
- 4:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal for All Choirs Grades K-12, Fine Arts Center
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Chorale Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Loft
Trustee Meeting, Conference Room

Thursday, December 21

- 10:00 a.m. Artists' Gathering, Gloucester Room
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Exercise Class, Gymnasium
- 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
Boy Scout Troop 19, Gymnasium
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

Friday, December 22

No scheduled activities.

Saturday, December 23

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Bereavement Group, Fullerton Room

Sunday, December 24

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary**
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach.
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary

Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

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

David B. Smith, Interim Director, Youth Ministry

Mary Steege, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward L. Landin, Assistant Director of Music

Contact Information



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

610-525-2821

www.bmpc.org

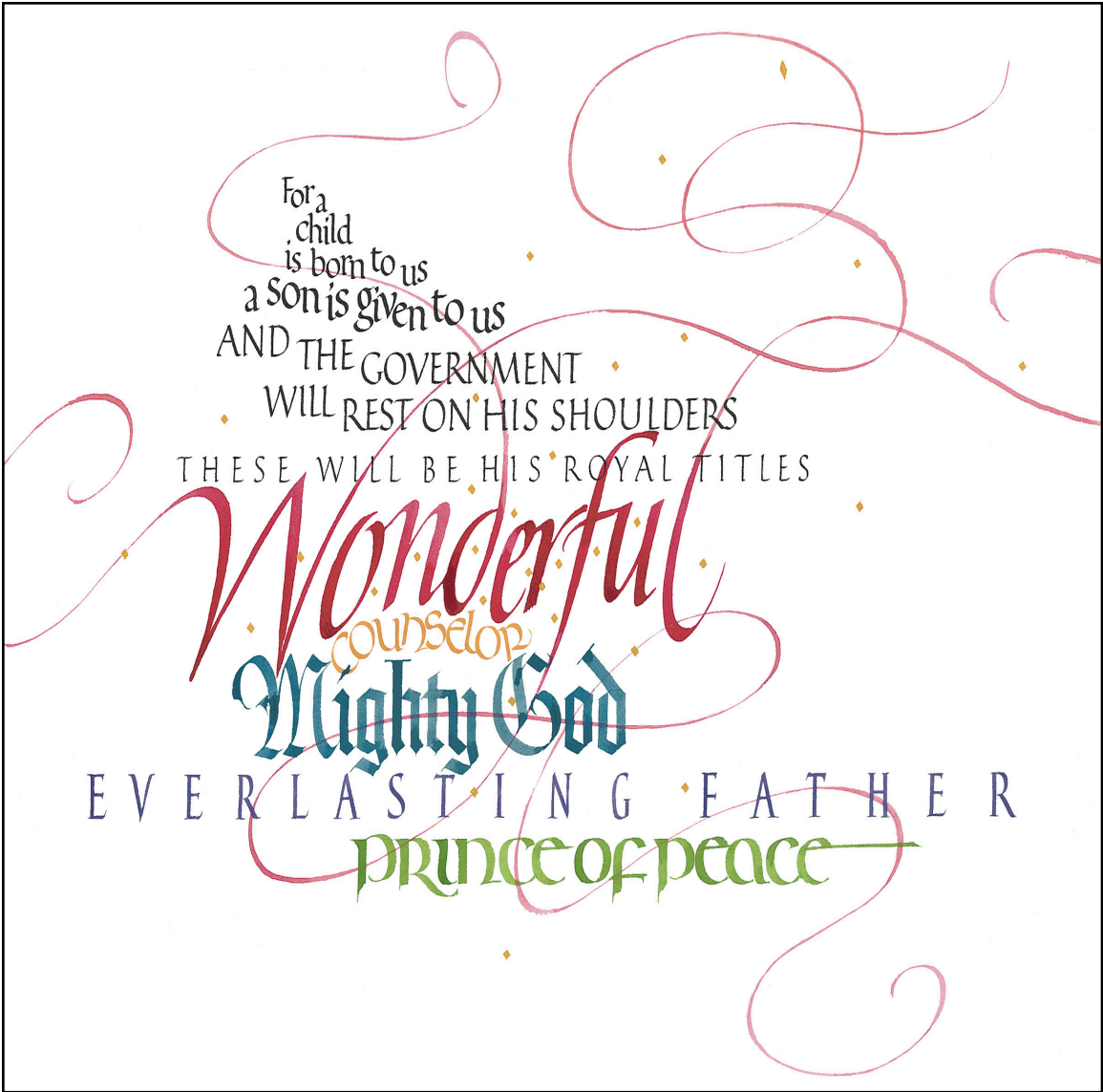
[Facebook.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres) • [Instagram.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres)

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

Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

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

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



For a
child
is born to us
a son is given to us
AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS
THESE WILL BE HIS ROYAL TITLES

Wonderful
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E V E R L A S T I N G F A T H E R
PRINCE OF PEACE

***Bryn Mawr
Presbyterian Church***

December 17, 2017
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Third Sunday of Advent

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Education Building, Rm. 102

Caring Corner

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Ministries Center Court

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Age 2 - PreK Classes

10:00 a.m., Education Building

Grades K - 5 Classes

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 a.m., Education Building

Grades 6 -12

Youth Gathering
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Gym
Connection Groups
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.,
Ministries Center

Advent Gift Market

11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court

“It’s the End of the World as We Know It”

Adult Education Class
11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor

NEW HERE? We give thanks that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. We invite you to stop by and say hello at our information alcove to the left of the main entrance after the service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP. Stop by the Ministries Center Court for a cup of coffee between 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. and for refreshments and fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Families with young children are invited to gather for refreshments in the Education Building Lobby after Sunday School.

TO ASSIST YOU DURING WORSHIP. Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher. Children’s bulletins with crayons may be found near the main entrance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. We are pleased to offer education opportunities for all ages, listed in this bulletin. **Grades K-5** worship with their families in the Sanctuary before being dismissed to Sunday School. If this is your first Sunday, please accompany your child to the Education Building.

***One combined Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.***

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Set on "Veni Emmanuel"

Edward Landin

WELCOME

Mary Steege

ADVENT INTROIT *(please remain seated)*



Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free.

Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Anne Lee and Family

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace to remember that Christ brings peace that surpasses our understanding.

All: The prophet Isaiah named him Everlasting Father.

One: Today we light the candle of love.

All: God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.

One: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**All: Love is like a light shining in a dark place,
as we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.**

One: May this candle of love give light to the world.

† HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of majesty, you love as a parent loves a child.

When we fail to meet your expectations, your grace reaches beyond your anger.

When we fail to obey you, your mercy out-measures your disappointment.

You provide for us abundantly and yet we keep asking for more.

You teach us to love justice and yet we do not work for the common good of all.

Everlasting Father, please forgive us.

Help us turn toward you and walk in your path as we await your coming in full glory.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† **GLORIA PATRI** (*in unison*)

Hymn 581

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 AND THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rachel Pedersen
Elder Bill McKee

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.

SENDING HYMN 114

Away in a Manger (verse 1)

CRADLE SONG

During the Sending Hymn, children K - Grade 5 depart for their Sunday School classes.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*p. 691 in pew Bible*)

Mary Steege

ANTHEM

Prophecy of Zechariah
Sanctuary Choir

Kenneth Lowenberg

Now the time came, and Elizabeth bore a son, and he was named John. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke this prophecy: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people forgiveness of their sins. By tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39-56 (*p. 57 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Everlasting Father
Third in Advent Series *The Names of Jesus*

Agnes W. Norfleet

† **HYMN 108**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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.

~ A Declaration of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Gather Us In

Bill Matthai

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

King Jesus Hath a Garden
Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

King Jesus hath a garden full of divers flowers, where I go culling posies gay,
all times and hours. There naught is heard but paradise bird, harp, dulcimer,
lute, with cymbal, trump and tymbal, and the tender soothing flute. The lily,
white in blossom there is chastity: The violet with sweet perfume, humility. The
crown imperial bloometh too in yonder place, 'Tis charity, of stock divine, the
flower of grace. Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may claim The Star of
Bethlehem Jesus Blessed be his Name! Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss
complete, Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim and neat.

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

† **DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

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**

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

† **HYMN 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† **BENEDICTION WITH CHORAL RESPONSE**

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in G minor

J.S. Bach

Worship Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lore Kephart

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AT 8:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Malcolm Christian Kuhn, son of Christine & Jonathan Kuhn

AT 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Samuel Ford Erdlen, son of Haley & Andrew Erdlen

James Nelson High, son of Lauren & Alex High

Oliver Beck Pottorff, son of Abby & Frank Pottorff

Elinor Marian Sampson, daughter of Julie & Kyle Sampson

Benjamin MacGregor Watts, son of Molly MacGregor & Duncan Watts

GREETING AND HOSTING

Members of our Personnel Committee

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Brian Middleton

BULLETIN COVER

Isaiah 9:6

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"I am the resurrection and the life."

Jean Taylor ~ December 8, 2017

Announcements

GATHER US IN: STEWARDSHIP 2018. Thank you to everyone who has given time, talents and treasures to our church home! The significance of these three gifts are essential to the jubilation we experience here at BMPC. For those who already have pledged, we thank you! For those who have yet to pledge, consider doing so by placing your completed pledge card in the offering plate, mailing it to the church or pledging or donating online: www.bmpc.org/pledge. SarahMiciek@bmpc.org.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS. High School Mission Trip to Mexico for rising ninth graders to graduated seniors, July 22-28, \$1,300. Space is limited; register now. Middle School Mission Trip to New York City for rising sixth to rising eighth graders, July 8-12, \$299. Camp Kirkwood for rising sixth to rising 12th graders, \$399 before March 1; \$499 after. AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

GRAPHIC NOTATION: VISUALIZING THE MUSIC OF J.S. BACH. Through Sun., Dec. 31. Philadelphia artist Melinda Steffy interprets the music of J.S. Bach as color patterns, blending music theory, color theory, mathematical structures, and meticulous handiwork to create vibrant works of art. In addition to selections from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, *Cello Suite in G Major*, and more, her exhibit features new works commissioned by BMPC based on Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

BOOK CENTER IN MINISTRIES CENTER. Select Christmas books for children, Advent books for adults, book-themed ornaments and special keepsakes (made in Germany) for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Book Center is open following worship and on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kat MacMurray, katrmac2@icloud.com.

Today

TAKE TIME TO PRAY AND MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE. Sundays during Advent, 9:25-9:50 a.m., Middleton Center. The traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer is known as "lectio divina," and Advent offers the opportunity to pause and reflect on the birth of Christ. info@middletoncenter.org.

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. Sundays through Dec. 24, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center Court. AGM provides an opportunity for you to do your holiday shopping for family, friends, teachers, co-workers, babysitters, anyone you wish to honor, by donating to a charitable project of your choice. Cashiers are available following worship to help you place, purchase or pick up your order. You also may shop online at www.bmpc.org. Marian Chitester, mmcthistle@verizon.net.

"IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT": STUDYING APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. The season of Advent invites us to await with anticipation the coming of Christ, not just as a child, but coming again in a future yet to be known. Dr. Joshua Yoder leads us through a study of the biblical roots of what theologians have imagined the new heaven and new earth might be like.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. Envelopes are available in the pews today. A cherished tradition since the 1930s, gifts to this fund are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. You may use the envelopes or note “Christmas Joy Offering” on the memo line of your check.

CARING CORNER. 9:00-11:30 a.m., Ministries Center Court. Our parish nurse and social worker will be available in the Court today. Look for Carol and Renee by the Caring Ministries banner.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Arnold’s Family Fun Center in Oaks. Join us for a joyful evening of laser tag and go-karts. \$15/person includes dinner. DavidSmith@bmpc.org.

This Week

STORYPATH LABYRINTH. Weekdays during Advent, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Chapel; Wednesdays during Advent, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Chapel. Anne Schmid, schmonty@comcast.net.

NOONTIME HARPSICHORD RECITAL. Tues., Dec. 19, noon, Sanctuary. Featuring Jeffrey Brillhart and Edward Landin on BMPC’s William Dowd harpsichord. Free admission. StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org.

A WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 19, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas Story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus’ birth. MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Thurs., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. This special service acknowledges the darkness we experience even during this festive season. Scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation by the Rev. Mary Steege, and a time of prayer to express our yearnings for healing and wholeness are intended to lead us from the darkness into light. A labyrinth will be set up on the front lawn to walk before or after the service.

Next Sunday

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. On Sundays, December 24 and 31 we will have only one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI: CHRISTMAS EVE ALUMNI RECEPTION. Sat., Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Worship on Christmas Eve is made even more special by greeting those who grew up at BMPC and now are home for the holidays. We welcome back all former youth to join old friends after the 8:30 p.m. and before the 11:00 p.m. worship services. All are encouraged to attend! AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE. 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Family Service with Nativity Tableau (infant and toddler childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Carol sing precedes at 4:15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE. 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service with Communion by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet (childcare available without reservations in the Ed. Bldg.). Prelude begins at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols by the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. Prelude begins at 10:40 p.m.

Save the Date

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY. Wed., Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m., Rosemont Presbyterian Village Ballroom. The Rev. Mary Steege leads our study of *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier, Chapter 5. For book and information, contact Joyce Malott, okf405@erols.com.

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD. Sundays, Jan. 7-28, 11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Patricia Danzon, spiritual director at the Middleton Center, leads discussions of the book, *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SNOW RETREAT. Jan. 13-15, Camp Kirkwood, Poconos. Join us for a weekend away at Camp Kirkwood where you may enjoy hiking, snowtubing, discussion groups, Sunday morning worship and time to explore the surrounding area. Cost: \$275. Register online at www.bmpc.org > Calendar > Open Registrations. Scholarship assistance is available for all trips and events. AmyBauer@bmpc.org.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY-SMALL GROUP. Begins Tues., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m., Fullerton Room. It's impossible to become spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Be part of a spiritual and emotional growth small group based on Peter Scazzero's book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Invest in your spiritual, emotional and relationship health in this eight-week offering led by the Rev. Mary Steege. Register and order books: MarySteege@bmpc.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION. Wed., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Discussion of Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope's book, *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. Books are available in the Book Center for \$14. [Courtenay Willcox, mcwillcox@gmail.com](mailto:CourtenayWillcox@gmail.com).

Caring & Sharing

OUR BROTHERS' PLACE. Sat., Dec. 30. Meet in the Ministries Center Court at 10:15 a.m. to carpool to Our Brothers' Place homeless shelter and prepare and serve lunch. Register: Pam Haynes Walsh, Haynes-walsh@comcast.net, 610 667-0972.

FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Join the BMPC Flower Team on Sunday mornings to create small flower arrangements for our Deacons to deliver to selected church members. We work in teams of two and serve once every seven to eight weeks. MargoBennett@comcast.net.

This Week's Calendar

For more information, visit our website at www.bmpc.org, call the church office, or contact communications@bmpc.org.

Today, December 17

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:45 a.m. Filling the Well (for women), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 104
Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 201
- 9:00 a.m. Caring Corner, Ministries Center Court
- 9:25 a.m. Lectio Divina, Middleton Center
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir and Baptisms, Sanctuary**
Sunday School for age 2 - PreK, Ed. Bldg.
Grades K - 5 begin worship in the Sanctuary
Youth Gathering (Grades 6 - 12), Gymnasium
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School for Grades K - 5, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:30 a.m. Middle School Connections Group (Grades 6 - 7), Loft
Confirmation (Grade 8) Connections Group, Gloucester Room
Grades 9 - 10 Connections Groups, Converse House Parlor
Grades 11 - 12 Connections Groups, Fullerton Room
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship for Families, Ed. Bldg. Lobby
Cafe in the Court, Ministries Center
Advent Gift Market, Ministries Center Court
- 11:15 a.m. "It's the End of the World as We Know It" Adult Education, Witherspoon Parlor
Tintinnabulators, Fine Arts Center
- 12:15 p.m. Carillon Lessons, Fine Arts Center
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, Arnold's Family Fun Center

Monday, December 18

- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. RePose Yoga, Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Harpsichord Recital, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease, Gymnasium
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Gloucester Room
- 4:00 p.m. A Wee Christmas, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 20

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee Cup Bible Study, Gloucester Room
- 4:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal for All Choirs Grades K-12, Fine Arts Center
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Chorale Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Loft
- Trustee Meeting, Conference Room

Thursday, December 21

- 10:00 a.m. Artists' Gathering, Gloucester Room
- 11:00 a.m. Senior Exercise Class, Gymnasium
- 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
- Boy Scout Troop 19, Gymnasium
- 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft

Friday, December 22

No scheduled activities.

Saturday, December 23

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Bereavement Group, Fullerton Room

Sunday, December 24

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary**
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach.
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary

Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

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

David B. Smith, Interim Director, Youth Ministry

Mary Steege, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward L. Landin, Assistant Director of Music

Contact Information



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www.bmpc.org

[Facebook.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres) • [Instagram.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres)

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

Main Line Adult Day Center: 610-527-4220

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

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