

Sunday, January 3, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

God of every nation,
By the light of your wondrous star
You led searching magi to the infant Jesus,
revealing your salvation for the world.
Lead us through paths miraculous and mundane,
So that we too may draw close to Christ.
Together with all those who have glimpsed the light of your grace,
may we offer our worship and our service to the one who brings new life. Amen.

HYMN 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Rachel Pedersen

SERMON

Another Road?

Rachel Pedersen

ANTHEM

Behold a Star from Jacob Shining
Sanctuary Choir Staff Singers

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is He, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful Hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

CALL TO OFFERING

Brian Ballard

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.

HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

BENEDICTION

Rachel Pedersen

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Jeffrey Brillhart

This Week

TAI CHI CLASSES. Improve your balance, regain serenity, join friends! Class meets virtually every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For information and to sign up, contact Rich McKenzie, teacher at BMPC for 16 years, at rmcktaichi@yahoo.com or 610-873-0604.

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP READS ALWAYS A GUEST BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR.

Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. You are invited to read and explore Barbara Brown Taylor's new collection of stories and sermons of faith, grace, and hope in *Always A Guest: Speaking of Faith Far From Home*. In the book, Taylor finds that when you are the invited guest speaking of faith to people you don't know, you must seek common ground: exploring the central human experience. Please join us as we explore faith in all its beauty and complexity. This group is facilitated by the Rev. Brian K. Ballard. For information about joining the class, including the Zoom link, contact [Brian Ballard](#).

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP. Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. *What Do We Do with Evil: The World, The Flesh and the Devil* by Richard Rohr. In this small, masterfully crafted book, Richard Rohr writes that "evil is subtle and the evils that are killing us all are usually well-disguised." Rohr invites us to encounter evil with a contemplative, non-dual mind and to reflect on how we too are complicit in the social evils pervading our lives. He presents no easy solutions, but leaves readers with principles and a process for resisting evil with patience and love. Books can be purchased directly from Paul MacMurray. Contact [Rebecca Kirkpatrick](#) with any questions or to connect with Paul.

Upcoming

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 10:00-11:00 a.m. Via Zoom conference call. This spring, the group will learn about the life and story of the late Congressman John Lewis by reading *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham. John Lewis, who at age 25 marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, was a visionary and a man of faith. In this book, Meacham writes of how this great-grandson of a slave and son of an Alabama tenant farmer was inspired by the Bible and his teachers in nonviolence to put his life on the line in the service of what Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature." All men are invited to join this study. Contact [Brian Ballard](#) for Zoom details.

WHITE FRAGILITY: WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACE. Sundays at 11:15 a.m. starting Jan. 10, via Zoom conference call. Join BMPC members Courtenay Willcox and Amy Ballard in a six-week discussion of Robin DiAngelo's bestselling book on the work of anti-racism and how we as white folks can rethink our own privilege and equip ourselves to listen and learn from others. Whether you are just getting started in this work, or simply looking for an encouraging and yet challenging place to practice having conversations on race and privilege, this is the place for you. More information is available on the [BMPC website](#). Registration is required for this group, and books will be provided. [Sign up here](#).

RACISM: POWER, PRIVILEGE, POISON AND PROMISING POSSIBILITIES. Sun., Jan. 24, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., and Sundays, Jan. 31 - Feb. 14, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom conference call. This workshop, led by Anita Friday, anti-racism educator and activist, will explore America's relationship with racism by examining its history, laws and institutional practices. Participants will be invited to explore their personal experiences with questions of ethnicity and race. In addition, during the workshop, participants learn about institutional practices that have shaped how various citizens are able to participate in the nation, how racism has affected Black people and how to define and distinguish white supremacy and white privilege, i.e. ethnically-based inequalities. Finally, tools for dismantling racism and methods for creating a more promising future will be shared. Cost: \$50. For more details, visit the [workshop page](#) on the BMPC website. [Register for the workshop here.](#)

DEACONS' ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE. Mon., Jan. 25, 2:00-7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Volunteers needed to donate blood and assist with scheduling appointments. Register to donate blood [online](#). Contact: the Rev. Brian Ballard, 610-520-8820 or brianballard@bmpc.org.