

**Sunday, January 24, 2021**

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leigh DeVries

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

O God, who knows us each by name,  
who calls us to follow your son Jesus,  
and whose Spirit equips us for ministry,  
help us be faithful disciples.

We repent of the ways we turn from you,  
and pray you show us your path anew.

In these troubled days of doubt and fear,  
give us faith and courage to speak truth to power,  
to bear witness to your love for all people,  
and to work for justice, freedom and peace.

May our lives shine as beacons of your light  
as we show forth the love, mercy and compassion  
of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN** 720

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Mark 1:14-20

Agnes W. Norfleet

**SERMON**

*Risky Calling*

Agnes W. Norfleet

**ANTHEM**

How Can I Keep from Singing  
Sanctuary Choir Staff Singers

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing; It sounds and echoes in my soul; How can I keep from singing? The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing; All things are mine since I am his; How can I keep from singing? No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Rachel Pedersen

**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** 432

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

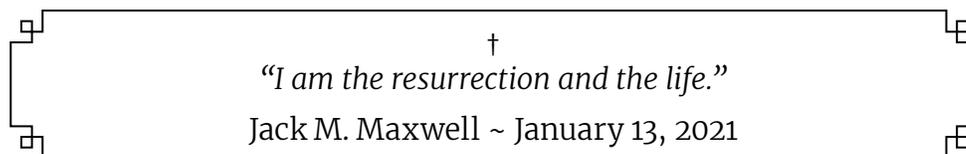
**BENEDICTION**

Agnes W. Norfleet

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in E minor

J.S. Bach



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## **Announcement**

**COVID-19 RESOURCES.** The Caring Ministries team has compiled various resources to help you continue navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources include vaccination and testing information by county, crisis and peer-support lines, support group information, and ways to receive food, financial, legal and healthcare assistance. All this information can be found on a new [COVID-19 Resource page](#) under the Caring Ministries section of the BMPC website.

## **This Sunday**

**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.

## **This Week**

**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](mailto:BrianBallard@bmpc.org).

**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](mailto:rmcktaichi@yahoo.com) or 610-873-0604.

**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.

## **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. This group, facilitated by the Rev. Brian K. Ballard, will explore faith in all its beauty and complexity. For information about joining the class, including the Zoom link, contact [Brian Ballard](#).

## **Next Sunday**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** Sun., Jan. 31, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom conference call. To join the call click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83914119865?pwd=WWc5QopUbzI6VXBIOGw2bkpBcUNCdz09> or call in: +1 646 558 8656 US Meeting ID: 839 1411 9865 Passcode: 067410. The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing church officers (Elders, Deacons and Trustees) and members of the 2021 Nominating Committee, and for approving 2021 Pastoral Terms of Call. [MonicaDevane@bmpc.org](mailto:MonicaDevane@bmpc.org).

## **Upcoming**

**GREAT DECISIONS.** First Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m., starting Feb. 1. Via Zoom conference call. Led by Bob Martin. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD, and meeting to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Topics include: Global Supply Chains and National Security, Persian Gulf Security Issues, Brexit and the European Union, Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, China's Role in Africa, The Korean Peninsula, Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, and The End of Globalization? This program is free, but registration is required. Contact [Monica Devane](#) to register and receive your Briefing Book and the Zoom link.

**FACEBOOK LIVE CONCERT SERIES.** Join us as we broadcast live concerts via [BMPC's Facebook page](#) on Tuesdays at noon beginning Feb. 2. The first concert will feature Ron Kerber, saxophone, and Edward Landin Senn, organ. [Stephanie Speakman](#).

**DIGGING DEEPER BEGINS AGAIN IN FEBRUARY.** Sundays, 9:00 a.m., starting Feb. 7, Via Zoom Conference Call. *When in Romans: An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul* by Beverly Roberts Gaventa. When reading the book of Romans, we often focus on the quotable passages, making brief stopovers and not staying long enough to grasp some of the big ideas it contains. Instead of raiding Paul's most famous letter for a passage here or a theme there, leading New Testament scholar Beverly Roberts Gaventa invites us to linger in Romans. She asks that we stay with the letter long enough to see how Romans reframes our tidy categories and dramatically enlarges our sense of the gospel. This group is facilitated by the Rev. Franklyn C. Pottorff; for information about joining the class, including the Zoom link, contact [Frank](#).

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: DRIVE THRU DROP-OFF.** Sun., Feb. 7, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. We are collecting non-perishable items and financial donations again this year in support of the national Souper Bowl of Caring food drive. Donations should be brought to the main entrance of the Chapel where children, youth and members of our Hunger Committee will be receiving items. Suggested donations: spaghetti sauce, soups (particularly hearty ones), peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna and chicken, canned vegetables, canned beans, mac & cheese, instant oatmeal (packets), granola bars. Contact [Rebecca Kirkpatrick](#) with questions.

**NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: NINE EXPERIMENTS IN PRAYER.** Sundays at 2:00 p.m. starting Feb. 7 via Zoom conference call. Join Paul Burgmayer for a 10-week series using the book, [50 Ways to Pray](#) by Teresa A. Blythe as a guide. The class will explore prayer forms from a variety of faith traditions, both ancient and modern. More details about class can be found on this [webpage](#). To join the group, contact Paul: [pburgmayer@gmail.com](mailto:pburgmayer@gmail.com).