

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING *Ephesians 6:10-18*

ANTHEM "Advent Promise" Ruth Elaine Schram

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

SERMON "Narnia: Gifts to Use"

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

## SONG OF RESPONSE

Hymn #8: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign the friendship pad (the red folder) and pass along to others in your row, greeting others by name after worship.

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY "Come, Come, Immanuel" Jay Althouse

## \* DOXOLOGY

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of Grace, in the midst of a season so focused on shopping and finding the right gift, we give our gifts to you now. We remember that all our giving has its foundation in the amazing gift you gave to us: putting on flesh and coming in the form of a child, Emmanuel, God with us! May what we give today and in the days to come be bathed in the knowledge that yours is the most perfect gift and the one we need the most. Amen.

## \* CLOSING SONG

Insert: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

## \* CHARGE

## \* BLESSING

\* CHORAL RESPONSE "Sing an Alleluia" Joseph M. Martin

\* POSTLUDE "People, Look East"



All 2018 pledges must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2018 to be counted for the 2018 calendar year.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to the Burford family on the loss of Virginia Burford. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS**, as well as audio listening devices, are available from the Worship Welcome Team.

**MONTHLY CONGREGATIONAL LETTERS:** On communion Sundays, five letters will be placed in the Narthex and then taken to Fellowship in Galbraith Hall. **Please add a quick note to each letter ... these letters provide an important link to those members unable to join us during worship each week.**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:** Will be observed on Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, Team 1 - Barbara Jay.

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE

**LITURGISTS:** Cathy Misko; Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m., Jessica Kelecava & Alexis Kiesling, 9:00 p.m. Cathy Misko, Ben Smith & Maria Jay; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Wendy Roithner

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:** No Fellowship due to the holiday. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> No Fellowship due to the holiday.

**CHILD CARE:** Jill Bower & Wendy Roithner; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> TBD

**WORSHIP WELCOME TEAM:** Team 4: Cindy Fair, Mary Pursglove, Brooke Cashman, Dottie Frazier\*, Nancy Carr\*; Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. - Volunteers, 9:00 p.m. Volunteers; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Team 5: Dave Long, Carl Parise, Russ Lautenschlager, Marilyn\* & Dan\* Beckstrom (\*Chairlift)

**SANCTUARY COORDINATORS:** Carol MacDonald; Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. - Gary May, 9:00 p.m. - Carol MacDonald, Pam Decker; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Gary May

**GRAPHICS TEAM:** Larry Jay; Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. - Larry Jay, 9:00 p.m. - Robin Macherey; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Robin Macherey

**SOUND BOARD:** Steve Kloc; Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m.- Gail Anderson, 9:00 p.m. - Frank Jackson; Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> Steve Kloc

## CHANCEL FLOWERS:

Poinsettia Memorials

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Rob Backstrom, Hartley Baird, Hank Barr, Betty Bauer, Gary Bittner, Marilou Booth, Art Brandenburg, Michele Cobb, Sueann DeFurio, Bob Dare, Linda Dermotta, Cliff Fair, Jean Fishel, Ginny Flynn, Bettyjean Gamble, Linda Hackett, Dick Jones, Dick Kraft, Pat Kraft, Whitten Little, Emily Parise, Leanne Parise, Donna Puglisi, Betty Ramsey, Dave Rawlings, Ann Reid, Sue Schoenberger, Joan Sherbak, Sally Sinatra, Anne Unger, Sheila and Rich Vandevander, Kristi Wade, Edith Wallace, Russell York, Sam Zimmerman



## Congregation Life Weekly Newsletter December 23, 2018

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS:** Have you been a part of our worship and fellowship for a while and would like to take the next step to learn about membership or are you new to our church and would like to know more about our history, beliefs and ministries? You are invited to join Pastor Cathie and lay leaders of the congregation after worship on January 20<sup>th</sup> to learn more about Bethel Presbyterian and how you can be more involved in our life together or join as a member. We will meet for about an hour following worship on January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need child care during these times, let the church office know at least one week in advance and we'll make sure we are ready for your children.

**SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOOD PANTRIES:** Since the holiday season is upon us, SHIM would like to have a shelf at the Food Pantry dedicated to baking items. They are requesting donations of flour, sugar, vanilla, spices or any other baking product you would use to make your favorite holiday treat. SHIM would appreciate any nonperishable food item you choose to donate.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Services: ✚ 4:00 p.m. Service for Children and Their Families ✚ 9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Men's & Women's Breakfasts
Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group Winter Retreat
Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Foster Love Project
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Cancer Encouragement

**EARRING LOST:** Please contact Kathy Young or Mabel Dare if you have found a drop earring with a red ruby. Thank you!

## CANCER ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Wherever you are in your cancer journey, I welcome you to join me for an hour of sharing and supporting each other. Cancer doesn't define us - it causes changes, but it doesn't change who we are. God is always with us!



Our meetings are scheduled for every third Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the McMillan Room.

**Sueann DeFurio**



Did you miss a sermon?  
Past sermons are now available to listen to on our website!!

Recordings include music, prayers and other parts of the worship service, too!

[www.bethelpresby.org/sermons](http://www.bethelpresby.org/sermons)

## New Church T-Shirts!!



Help support our youth who will be attending the Reach Mission Trip this summer by purchasing one of these great new Bethel Presbyterian Church t-shirts for yourself or for a gift!

T-shirts come in adult sizes S-XXL

\$15.00

See Pastor Cathie or Kasey to purchase a shirt.

Thank you for your support!



### Stephen Ministry

#### Recovery ...

The flowers were wonderful, but they have wilted now. You've received loads of cards. It is still weeks before you can be back at work. Please let us help with your recovery. A Stephen Minister would like to listen and care.



### CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

2999 Bethel Church Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102  
 412/835-0405 Church Office 412/835-1037 Fax  
 Website: [www.bethelpresby.org](http://www.bethelpresby.org)  
 Email: [bethelpres@verizon.net](mailto:bethelpres@verizon.net)

**Pastor:** Rev. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or [pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com)

**Director of Discipleship:** Jessica Kelecava, 412/835-0405 or [jessica.discipleship.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.discipleship.bethelpc@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth Ministries:** Kasey Wilfong, 412/835-0405

**Director of Music and Worship:** Jason Wilcox, 412/651-4638

**Organist:** Cody Soska, 412/877-9139

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathy Young, 412/835-0405

**Financial Secretary:** Nancy Carr, 412/835-0405

**Custodian (Day):** Bob Murphy, 412/835-0405

**Custodian (Evening):** Rob Roche, 412/835-0405

**Sunday Child Care:** Jill Bower, 412/835-0405

## CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 23** (Daily Readings: Psalm 24, 150, Isa. 33:17-22, Rev. 22:6-11, 18-20, Luke 1:57-66)

10:30 a.m. Worship, Advent 4  
 Pastor: Rev. Cathie Smith  
 (child care provided for infants up to 5 years of age)

**Monday, December 24** (Daily Readings: Psalm 122, 145, Isa. 35:1-10, Rev. 22:12-17, 21, Luke 1:67-80)

Child Care Closed  
 Preschool Closed  
 1:00 p.m. Church Staff Meeting  
 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Service  
 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

**Tuesday, December 25** (Daily Readings: Psalm 2, 146, Zech. 2:10-13, 1 John 4:7-16, John 3:31-36)

Church Office Closed  
 Child Care Closed  
 Preschool Closed

**Wednesday, December 26** (Daily Readings: Psalm 116, 147:1-11, 2 Chron. 24:17-22, Acts 6:1-7, Acts 7:59-8:8)

Child Care Closed  
 Preschool Closed  
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

**Thursday, December 27** (Daily Readings: Psalm 34, 147:12-20, Prov. 8:22-30, 1 John 5:1-12, John 13:20-35)

Child Care Closed  
 Preschool Closed

**Friday, December 28** (Daily Readings: Psalm 2, 148, Isa. 49:13-23, Isa. 54:1-13, Matt. 18:1-14)

Child Care Closed  
 Preschool Closed  
 9:00 a.m. TEIS Playgroup

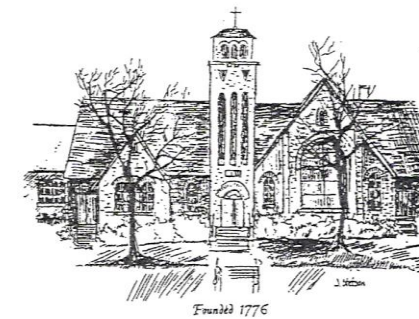
**Saturday, December 29** (Daily Readings: Psalm 96, 149, Isa. 12:1-6, Rev. 1:1-8, John 7:37-52)

**Sunday, December 30** (Daily Readings: Psalm 93, 150, Isa. 62:6-7, 10-12, Heb. 2:10-18, Matt. 1:18-25)

10:30 a.m. Worship  
 Pastor: Rev. Cathie Smith



Ginny Flynn wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all her friends at Bethel Presbyterian!



**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
 Worship for the Lord's Day  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 December 23, 2018  
 10:30 A.M.

*"Changed by Christ So We Can Change the World"*

*\* Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

**PRELUDE** "Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme" J. S. Bach

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**\* SONG OF EXPECTATION**  
 Hymn #12: "People, Look East"

**\* CALL TO HUMILITY**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All:** God, we are ready for love. We long to be held in your gentle and loving care. Yet even as we plan and prepare to celebrate the birth of our loving Savior, we find ourselves exhausted and unable to offer a moment to a friend in need. Touch our hearts and renew us with your love. Remind us that your gracious gift of love is the greatest gift of all. Help us share your loving presence with those around us.

**\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\* SONG OF GRACE**  
 Hymn #3: "Comfort, Comfort You My People" (First Verse Only)

**\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**  
 (When the music begins to play, you may return to your seat.)

**SONG** "Like A Child" (First Verse)

*As we sing, children are invited to come forward for Time with the Children.*

**Lyrics**  
 Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,  
 like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.  
 Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul and mind,  
 like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**SONG** "Like A Child" (Second Verse)

*As we sing, children will return to their families.*

**Lyrics**  
 Like a child born to pray and to show us the way,  
 like a child here to stay, Jesus comes.  
 Like a child we receive all that love can conceive,  
 like a child we believe, Jesus comes.