

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: O Mighty One, you have done great things for us and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you - ourselves, our time and our possessions - that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Righteousness, our Redeemer. Amen.

* SONG FOR SENDING

Hymn #79: "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

* BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE

* **POSTLUDE** "The Roseate Hues of Early Dawn"

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Dec. 15 th	Cookie Walk
Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve Services
Jan. 10 th - 12 th	Youth Retreat
Feb. 2 nd	Souper Bowl Sunday
Feb. 7 th - 8 th	30 Hour Famine
Feb. 9 th	Skating Party
Feb. 25 th	Pancake Dinner

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm For Families and Young Children	9:00 pm Candlelight Service
A special service of story and song with an opportunity for all children to take part in the story of Christmas and share in a peaceful moment of (safe) candlelight.	A joyous and peaceful celebration with special music by the chancel choir, bell choir and a meaningful time of candlelight as the light of Christmas fills our hearts.

Bethel Presbyterian Church 2999 Bethel Church Rd. www.bethelpresby.org

WORSHIP NOTES

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, January 5th, Team 2, Heather Hunter.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

LITURGISTS: Barbara Jay; Dec. 22nd Cathy Misko

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Families A & B; Dec. 22nd No Fellowship due to the holiday.

WORSHIP WELCOME TEAM: Team 7: Sueann & Don DeFurio, Angus MacDonald, Lisa Wilfong*, Pam Rawlings*; Dec. 22nd - Team 8: Carole Carroll, Gail Anderson, Wendy Roithner, Marian Rhodes*, Hazel Knapp* (*Chairlift)

SANCTUARY COORDINATORS: Pam Decker; Dec. 22nd Carol MacDonald

GRAPHICS TEAM: Courtney Kiesling; Dec. 22nd Robin Macherey

SOUND BOARD: Gail Anderson; Dec. 22nd Frank Jackson

CHANCEL FLOWERS:

In Loving Memory of Richard J. Gamble, given by Suzanne Gamble.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Rob Backstrom, Hank Barr, Betty Bauer, Gary Bittner, Carl Bonanni, Marilou Booth, Marina Bowser, Art Brandenburg, Michele Cobb, Phyllis Criss, Bob Dare, Sueann DeFurio, Marilyn DeHuff, Pete Edwards, Ginny Flynn, Bill Franciscus (Marilyn DeHuff's son), Bettyjean Gamble, Steve Kloc, Dick Kraft, Pat Kraft, Whitten Little, Carol MacDonald, Carol McDonald, Emily Parise, Dave Rawlings, Ann Reid, Joan Sherbak, Sally Sinatra, Jean Smith, Lynne Smith (Pastor Jim's wife), Anne Unger (Pastor Cathie's sister), Sheila and Rich Vandevander, Ansley Basso (Virgin), Kristi Wade, Edith Wallace, Russell York

Congregation Life Weekly Newsletter December 15, 2019



TODAY!!! YOUTH GROUP COOKIE WALK: Please support the fundraiser for their trip to Montreat at the Cookie Walk after our worship service. Choose a dozen homemade cookies for \$6/dozen or \$5/dozen if you contributed cookies to the sale! Thank you for your help and support to send these young people on an amazing trip!

SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOOD PANTRIES: Since the holiday season is here, SHIM would like to stock 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 will greatly appreciate any nonperishable food item you choose to donate.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT: Please be sure all Annual Report information is forwarded to Kathy Young by December 31st. Thank you for your cooperation!

NEW ADDRESS FOR MARTHA VAN HORN:

Martha Van Horn
The Wellhouse
6501 West 60th Avenue
Arvada, CO 80003

Martha does not have a phone at this time. *(Martha's birthday is December 26th and we are sure that she would love to hear from her friends at BPC!)*

Advent at Bethel



For 300 years, the Christmas hymn, Joy to the World, has helped worshippers express the longing and anticipation of Advent and the joy that we have in knowing that this longing is met in the birth of the Christ Child. During the Advent season, in our Sunday morning worship, we will explore themes from this hymn and the Scriptures they are inspired by as we move through the weeks that lead us to reflect on hope, peace, joy, and love.

On Wednesday evenings during the season of Advent, we will gather to study the Scriptural and theological themes of other Advent and Christmas hymns. Join Pastor Cathie and Pastor Jim on Wednesday Dec. 4, 11, and 18 from 7-8 pm for this special series of Bible Study and fellowship.

Advent Bible Study

Christmas Hymns

Exploring the Scriptures that Inspired Favorite Hymns of the Advent and Christmas Season

Wednesdays 7-8 pm December 4, 11, and 18



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

Reminder: All 2019 pledges must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2019 to be counted for the 2019 calendar year.

2020 Chancel Flowers

With the new year comes the need to update the Chancel Flower Calendar. I will be sending Chancel Flower sponsor letters; however, there are several Sundays open in January and February:

January 12
January 26
February 2
February 16
February 23
One Vase \$25.00
Two Vases \$50.00



If you would like to sponsor chancel flower openings in January or February, please contact:

Bethel Presbyterian Church
2999 Bethel Church Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412/835-0405

Thank you to all those who continue to sponsor our chancel flower vases.

Carol MacDonald

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15 (Daily Readings: Psalm 24; 150; Amos 9:11-15; 2 Thess. 2:1-3, 13-17; John 5:30-47)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:30 a.m. Worship, Advent 3
Joy Offering Sunday
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith
11:30 a.m. Cookie Walk Fundraiser
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour: Families A & B
11:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
12:00 p.m. Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Leaders Meeting

Monday, December 16 (Daily Readings: Psalm 122; 145; Gen. 3:8-15; Rev. 12:1-10; John 3:16-21)

11:15 a.m. Child Care – Stretch and Grow
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 215 Meeting

Tuesday, December 17 (Daily Readings: Psalm 33; 146; Zeph. 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-25)

10:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 18 (Daily Readings: Psalm 50; 147:1-11; 1 Sam. 2:1b-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-36)

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon
7:00 p.m. Advent Study
7:00 p.m. Macdonald Pipers Band Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, December 19 (Daily Readings: Psalm 18:1-20; 147:12-20; 2 Sam. 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-48a, {48b-56})

12:00 p.m. American Sewing Group – Christmas Party
5:00 p.m. Kinder Karate
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20 (Daily Readings: Psalm 102; 148; 2 Sam. 7:18-29; Gal. 3:1-14; Luke 1:57-66)

9:00 a.m. TEIS Playgroup

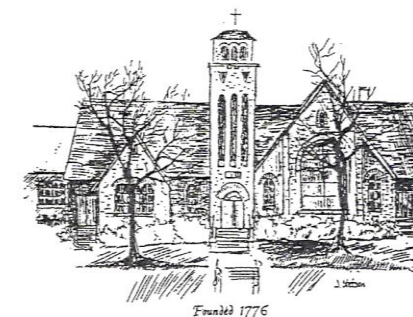
Saturday, December 21 (Daily Readings: Psalm 90; 149; Jer. 31:10-14; Gal. 3:15-22; Luke 1:67-80 or Matt. 1:1-17)

Sunday, December 22 (Daily Readings: Psalm 24; 150; Isa. 60:1-6; Gal. 3:23-4:7; Matt. 1:18-25)

10:30 a.m. Worship, Advent 4
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith
12:00 p.m. Youth Group – Christmas Party

TAX RELIEF FOR YOUR GIVING TO OUR CHURCH!

At the age of 70½, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount from your IRA or 401K accounts and pay ordinary income tax on it. This is called a required minimum distribution or "RMD". A portion of this required withdrawal can be transferred directly from these accounts by your financial advisor to our church and be part of your pledged giving or a special additional gift. This credit will avoid taxes on these monies and perhaps lower one's overall tax rate. Check with your financial advisor for details.



Bethel Presbyterian Church
Worship for the Lord's Day
Advent 3: Joy
December 15, 2019
10:30 A.M.

"Changed by Christ So We Can Change the World"

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

PRELUDE "Prepare the Way, Oh Zion"

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

*** SONG OF EXPECTATION**
Hymn #88: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*** CALL TO HUMILITY**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. But too often we seek to serve ourselves and expect others to bend to our desires and will. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us so that wars and violence will end and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*** SONG OF PRAISE**
Hymn #82: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

(Children may come forward as we sing the last verse for their special time.)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children may return to their seats.)

ANTHEM "Every Valley" John Ness Beck

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON "Heaven and Nature Sing: A Song of Joy"

SONG OF RESPONSE
Hymn #100: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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

#1 holiday hack:
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[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0974289>

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com

Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. James Smith, Sr., 412/551-4765 or dr.jamesksmithsr@yahoo.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

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Carr, 412/835-0405

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

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