

## 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.

## 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** "The Promise" Russell Nagy  
Chancel Choir

## \* 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** "Lead Us, O Father, in Paths of Peace"

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to the Hultz family on the loss of Jackie Long (Tom's sister-in-law). 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, January 5<sup>th</sup>, Team 2, Heather Hunter.

## MEMBERS IN SERVICE

**LITURGISTS:** Alexis Kiesling; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Barbara Jay

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:** Families SM - Z; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Families A & B

**WORSHIP WELCOME TEAM:** Team 6: Diane & Jack Miller, Barbara\* & Larry\* Jay; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Team 7: Sueann & Don DeFurio, Angus MacDonald, Lisa Wilfong\*, Pam Rawlings\* (\*Chairlift)

**SANCTUARY COORDINATORS:** Greg Smith; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Pam Decker

**GRAPHICS TEAM:** Larry Jay; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Courtney Kiesling

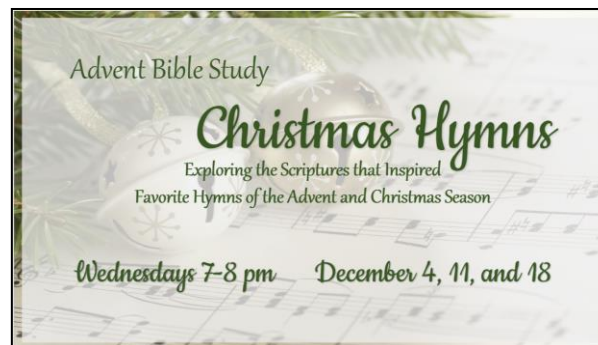
**SOUND BOARD:** Steve Kloc; Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Gail Anderson

## CHANCEL FLOWERS:

In Loving Memory of Janet A. Hultz, given by Tom Hultz.

In Loving Memory of Hugh Criss, husband, and son Eric, given by Phyllis Criss.

**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



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

## Congregation Life Weekly Newsletter December 8, 2019



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

**TODAY IS "SPARE CHANGE COLLECTION SUNDAY":** Please place your spare change in the containers at Fellowship Hour so SHIM can continue to meet the needs of its clients. Please donate generously as this will be our last donation for 2019.

**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.

**YOUTH GROUP COOKIE WALK:** Please support the fundraiser for their trip to Montreat at our Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, after our worship service. Choose a dozen homemade cookies for \$6/dozen or \$5/dozen if you contributed cookies to the sale! Cookies can be dropped off Sunday morning on your way to worship. Thank you for your help and support to send these young people on an amazing trip!

## NEW ADDRESS FOR MARTHA VAN HORN:

Martha Van Horn  
The Wellhouse  
6501 West 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Arvada, CO 80003

Martha does not have a phone at this time. **(Martha's birthday is December 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH GROUP!**

We are excited to roll out an easy way to help support our Youth Group as they prepare to attend the Montreat Youth Conference and the Inter-generational Mission Trip this summer!



Through our partnership with SCRIP, church members, family members and friends can purchase gift cards from over 750 different stores, online retailers, hotels, movie theaters, restaurants, cruise lines and more.

Each gift card is purchased at face value, but a percentage of the amount comes back to the Youth Group from the company. For example, say you buy a \$25 gift card to Eat n' Park. You pay \$25, you get a \$25 gift card and the Youth Group receives \$2.25.

You can get gift cards to use for your weekly and regular shopping and use them instead of cash or debit cards. For example, if you bought \$150 in gift cards from Giant Eagle and used them for your groceries and gas for the week, the Youth Group would receive \$6. Or you can get cards to give as gifts or for your vacations or date nights or all kinds of special occasions - even your trip to Disney!

**Here's all you need to do:**

- **If you prefer to do your shopping for cards online:** Go to shopwithscrip.com and create an account. You'll need our enrollment code (5911E89D65629). You will be asked child's name and group. You can ignore these questions unless you are a parent of one of our Youth Group members. Once you are enrolled, your account will be verified and you will be ready to begin ordering. If you go to shopwithscrip.com on your phone, you will receive a prompt that allows you to place a link on your home screen like an app for quick access and ordering.
- **If you prefer to fill out a paper order and let us order the cards for you:** Get an order form from the church office, fill it out and return it to the office.

A group order will be placed by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month combining all online and paper orders received by the 15<sup>th</sup> and we'll have the cards in the office ready for you just a few days later!

This is an exciting and easy way that we can all help support our Youth Group! Thank you for your support!

**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. Dr. Cathie Smith, 412/965-4253 or [pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com)  
**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. James Smith, Sr., 412/551-4765 or [dr.jamesksmithsr@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR**

**Sunday, December 8** (Daily Readings: Psalm 24; 150; Amos 6:1-14; 2 Thess. 1:5-12; Luke 1:57-68)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups  
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Advent 2  
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cathie Smith  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour: Families SM - Z  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir at Bethel Park Retirement  
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Parent Meeting

**Monday, December 9** (Daily Readings: Psalm 122; 145; Amos 7:1-9; Rev. 1:1-8; Matt. 22:23-33)

11:00 a.m. Staff Schedule and Facilities Coordination Meeting  
 5:45 p.m. Girl Scout Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. Mary & Martha Circle  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 215 Meeting

**Tuesday, December 10** (Daily Readings: Psalm 33; 146; Amos 7:10-17; Rev. 1:9-16; Matt. 22:34-46)

10:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting  
 10:45 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
 7:00 p.m. Coin Club Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, December 11** (Daily Readings: Psalm 50; 147:1-11; Amos 8:1-14; Rev. 1:17-2:7; Matt. 23:1-12)

10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
 10:45 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
 2:15 p.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
 7:00 p.m. Advent Study  
 7:00 p.m. Macdonald Pipers Band Rehearsal  
 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

**Thursday, December 12** (Daily Readings: Psalm 18:1-20; 147:12-20; Amos 9:1-10; Rev. 2:8-17; Matt. 23:13-26)

10:45 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
 5:00 p.m. Kinder Karate  
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
 7:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, December 13** (Daily Readings: Psalm 102; 148; Hag. 1:1-15; Rev. 2:18-29; Matt. 23:27-39)

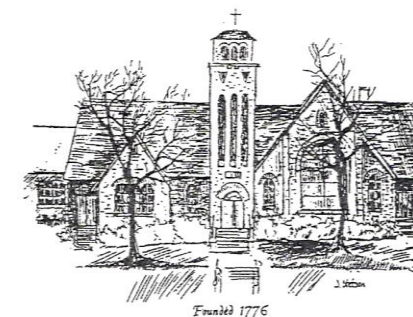
2:15 p.m. Preschool Christmas Program  
 5:30 p.m. Luminaries - Pick Up Day

**Saturday, December 14** (Daily Readings: Psalm 90; 149; Hag. 2:1-9; Rev. 3:1-6; Matt. 24:1-14)

9:00 a.m. Luminaries - Pick Up Day

**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



**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Advent 2: Peace**  
**December 8, 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** "Kyrie" Cathy Moklebusst  
 Bell Choir

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* SONG OF EXPECTATION**  
 Hymn #106: "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

**\* CALL TO HUMILITY**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Yet we, like those before us, ignore their invitation to obedience to you and new life to be found in you. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, 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 #795: "Healer of Our Every Ill"

*(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** "Carol for Advent" William Moats  
 Bell Choir

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 3:1-12

**SERMON** "Heaven and Nature Sing: A Song of Peace"

**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
 Hymn #92: "While We Are Waiting, Come"