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On Facebook & YouTube as
Bridgewater Presbyterian Church



Advent and Christmas

4 **Dec. 4th is the Second Sunday of Advent:**
Stay after worship for an **All Church CRAFT** ~ *Tree decorating for all ages.* We will adorn the Chrismon Tree AND make messy fun cone trees to take home! Check the kiosk for needed items. .



10 **Saturday, Dec. 10th is the Christmas Parade:**
It begins at 1:50 with a flyover by Dynamic Aviation. We are seeking few **volunteers to walk with our truck/float** to hand out candy canes. Sign the poster on the kiosk or contact Gretchen Collins () if you are available.

If you want to view the parade as a group, meet at the church to walk to the corner of First Street and Dinkel Avenue.

Dec. 18th is the Fourth Sunday of Advent:
The Choir presents “**Brand New Hallelujah**” a cantata by Jay Rouse.

18 **Sunday, Dec. 18 is Caroling & a Pizza Party:**
Meet at 3:15 at Oasis Pavilion at Bridgewater Retirement Community **to sing carols in the nursing units.** Masks will be required. Following the visits there we will walk/drive to additional caroling on and off campus. After those stops we **return to the church for a pizza party.**



We need a headcount for pizza. Tell Mary Kay if you are coming by Dec. 17. The party is free, but donations are appreciated. ()

21 **Wednesday, Dec. 21st is our Longest Night Service at 7:00:**
In the midst of our preparation to celebrate the joyous gift of Christ to the world, we will pause in prayer to recognize the brokenness and pain that **Jesus seeks to heal.** **Come** if you are grieving, come if you are facing uncertainty, come if you are blue. If you are happy, come to lift up in prayer those who are not.



24 **Saturday, Dec. 24th is Christmas Eve:**
A Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight **begins at 7:00 p.m.** Invite your family, friends and neighbors. George Anderson is playing the organ.

25 **Sunday, Dec. 25th our Christmas Day worship at 10:30:**
Come celebrate the birth of Jesus and join in a “Love Feast.” **Sweets and hot cocoa will be served.**



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Next Session meeting is
Thursday,
January 19th

Transitional
Pastor:

Rev.
**Kate
Rascoe**

Member Care

Infant Baptisms



We Rejoice in the Baptism of these Infants:

~ *Jackson Lee Simon*, son of Jacob & Danielle, brother of Junior, grandson of Merrill Simon, and great-grandson of Dick Eichlin, was baptized on November 27th.

~ *Ardyn Laine Armstrong*, daughter of Andrew & Ashely, and granddaughter of Martha & Mike Bocock, will be baptized on December 18th.

We Express Our Sympathy to...

~ **Heather Sellers** and her family on the death of her great-grandmother, Margie Roller.

Updating the Directory

Would you like to update your directory or kiosk photo? If so, please email us a photo of yourself or your family. We need high resolution head shots. If you prefer to have us take one for you, tell Mary Kay ().



Dear BPC,
We are so thankful to have our wedding at the church. This is very meaningful for the both of us and we couldn't have pictured our day any other way.
Our love & gratitude,
LeeAnn & Eric Gardner

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

Spiritual Life

Did you know? Pastor Kate and an elder offer home Communion a day or so after it is served in worship. If you are unable to attend services and would like the elements brought to you, just contact Pastor Kate. She and Betsy Glendye recently shared Communion with 7 of our shut-in friends!

Poinsettia orders are due Dec. 4. Take your plant(s) home after Christmas Eve worship. \$14 each

The committee will meet on Monday, January 9th at 1:00 to plan Lent and put away Christmas decorations.

Communion Schedule for 2023

- January 8— Baptism of the Lord
- February 19— Transfiguration of the Lord
- April 2— Palm Sunday
- April 6— Maundy Thursday
- May 28— Day of Pentecost
- August 13— at Wildwood
- October 1— World Communion Sunday
- December 3— First Sunday of Advent



Christian Education

ADULT Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Teaching
12/4	Judy Rees
12/11	Bill Florence
12/18	Mary Kay Adams
12/25	No class
1/1	No class

Advent Study of Isaiah & Matthew; lectionary passages for this month.

Start time 9:30

The Nativity Story and making the 2022 Christmas Ornament

CHILDREN Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Leader & Aide
12/4	Pam Bailey & Alex McElroy
12/11	Pam Bailey & Dana Eichlin
12/18	Pam Bailey & MJ Chewning
12/25	No class
1/1	No class

Mission & Outreach

...yet what I can I give Him : give my heart.

Thank you to all who donated items and/or money as well to those who volunteered their time for both the Trunk-or-Treat event and Thanksgiving meals. Your compassion and kindness toward others is an inspiration to all members of our congregation and our community.

Trunk-or-Treat volunteers: Emily Heatwole, Carroll Chewning, MJ Chewning, Judy Rees, Betsy Glendye, Tommy Glendye, Pam Bailey, Mike Collins, Dana Eichlin, Kate Rascoe, Alison McElroy, Alex McElroy, Peggy Wurst, Gracie Florence, Mary Kay Adams, Bev Carver, Jon DeVier Scott and Mary DeVier-Scott

Thanksgiving Meals volunteers: Emily Heatwole, Mike Heatwole, Carroll Chewning, Betsy Glendye, Tommy Glendye, Tom Mizell, Brett Johnson, Mary Kay Adams, Jyl Gamble

*-Gretchen Collins & Brett Johnson,
Mission & Outreach Committee*

When You Give

by Margaret Gordon Kuhlman

If you find that life is flat,
Full of this, with none of that,
Try giving!

Introspection makes it flatter;
A few more years - what will it matter?
Try giving!

If the world is dark and bitter;
Things all tend to make a quitter-
Try giving!

Forget yourself in helping others;
Know that all men are your brothers,
You will see then life is sweeter
Than you thought, and far completer -
When you give!

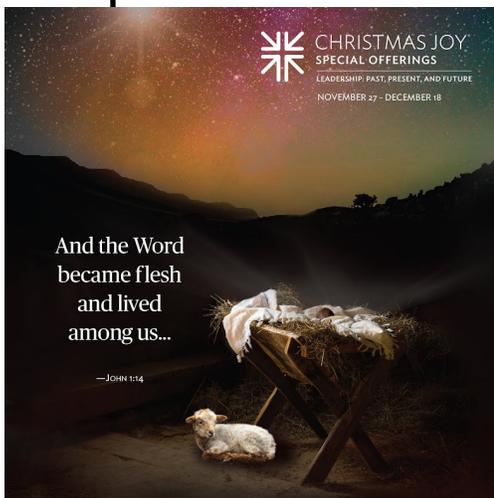
The Perfect Gift

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Christmas Joy Offering, developing and sustaining our leaders, *is received on December 18th* and your gifts are distributed equally to:

- ~ the **Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions**, providing critical financial support to church workers and their families;
- ~ **Presbyterian-related schools & colleges equipping** communities of color, providing education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a commitment for nearly 140 years.

**Recent Special Offerings or Gifts:**

- ◆ 2¢-a-Meal in November: \$178.50
- ◆ Trunk-or-Treat: \$25
- ◆ Thanksgiving Meals: \$675
plus all the items

**Upcoming Special Offerings:**

- ◆ Christmas Joy: Dec. 18
- ◆ Souper Bowl of Caring & 2¢-a-Meal: Feb. 12
(soup & sandwich lunch)

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known



Birthdays

Cheryl Fairchilds
 Christopher Burke
 Betsy Glendye
 David Rees
 Scott Skinner
 Henry Elkins
 Jessica Eichlin
 Barbie Farquhar
 Carla Enterline
 Olivia Edwards
 Ryn Burke
 Steve Humphreys
 Martha Boccock
 Tom Mizell

Our Building as a Blessing

A reminder that two groups & one member use our building during the week:

- **TOPS** meets every Tuesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and
- **Friends Café** (formerly *Memory Café*) gathers Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 p.m. RSVP to Ginny Joseph .
- **Katie McElroy** gives piano lessons on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00.

For everyone's safety and privacy, whenever possible do not come to the building during their designated times.

Anniversaries



8 Bill Gardner & Lucy Weston (')
 26 Ed & Janet Sonifrank (')
 27 Jim & Ellie Enterline (')
 29 Evan & Veronica Adams (')

Book Group is Reading...

Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury. They will meet for discussion and snacks on Monday, Dec. 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Peggy Wurst. Watch the bulletin for the next book and date.



Backpacks



Jyl has placed a larger order to cover both December and January. Please keep these children and their families in prayer over the holiday break, Dec. 22nd - Jan. 2nd.



Meet at Smiley's

Come and fellowship over ice cream on **Wednesday, Dec. 7th at 3:00 p.m.**

Flavors of the month:
 Peppermint Bark & Eggnog

Flavors of the week will be:
 The Grinch & Peppermint Cheesecake

The Church Office is closed

Dec. 23 —Jan. 2

Sally will be checking messages and mail periodically.



Men Meet for Breakfast

Males of any age (and their guests!) are invited to gather for breakfast at

Bob-a-Rea's on Saturday, December 17th at 8:30 a.m.

If you need a ride, or can provide one, contact Carroll Chewning

VPAS Café in Bridgewater

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month
 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where: Houff Community Center at Bridgewater Retirement Comm. (Blue Ridge Room)

Who: anyone age 60+

What: programs, lunch and exercise; do all or some *New programs each month.*

Registration is required:
 Call VPAS at 540-615-5341 and check online at www.vpas.info/calendar



	Ushering and Greeting share duties with one at each door	Acolyte/ Bell Ringer	Lay Leader	Highlight/Flowers
4	Mary Kay Adams & Emily Heatwole	McKinley S	Dick Wurst	Advent 2—Tree Day after worship
11	Gracie Florence & Merrill Simon	Phoenix J	Judy Rees	Advent 3
18	David & Charlette McQuilkin	Hagan E.	—	Advent 4— <i>Cantata</i>
21	Longest Night at 7 PM Need volunteers, please		Betsy Glendye	Longest Night
25	Whoever is here—volunteer!	Emory J	Gracie Florence	Love Feast during worship
1/1	Carroll Chewning & Bev Carver	Phoenix J	Bev Carver	New Year's Day

**2023 Expenses Budget, 6% COLA for Employees
Session approved 11/17/2022**

Building & Grounds	\$20,500	
Christian Education	\$1,500	
Member Care	\$300	
Outreach	\$450	
Mission	\$150	
Spiritual Life	\$1,800	
Resource (<i>Insurance, Copyright License, Website</i>)	\$5,600	
Stewardship	\$300	
Total Committee Budgets		\$30,600
Pastor Salary & Benefits		
Cash Salary	\$56,040	
RSP Pretax Deduction	\$1,200	
IRS Housing Allowance	0	
Dental Insurance	0	
Supplemental Death Benefit	0	
Vision Insurance	0	
Effective Salary (ES)	\$57,240	
Bd of Pensions	\$13,040	
SECA (ES - RSP Deduction) x 7.65%	\$4,287	
Total Pastor Salary & Benefits		\$74,567
Total Pastor Expenses		
Automobile Expenses	\$2,120	
Other expenses (<i>meals, books, expenses</i>)	\$424	
Pastor Continuing Education	\$1,060	
Total Pastor Expenses		\$3,604
Total Secretary/Custodian Salary		
Secretary Salary	\$11,607	
Custodian salary	\$5,121	
Total Secretary/Custodian Salary		\$16,728
Sec / Cust FICA = 7.65% X Taxable Salary		\$854
Music Director Salary		
Music Director FICA = 7.65% X Salary		\$818
Presbytery Benevolence Pledged		\$2,000
Pastor Search Process Expenses	\$1,000	
Pastor Moving Expenses	\$3,070	
Total New Pastor Expenses		\$4,070
Total		\$143,934

Mission Offerings Joy

At the November stated meeting the Session approved the budget for 2023

If you look near the top for the "Mission" portion of the expenses budget, it is a measly \$150. How can that be, that a Christian church only budgets \$150 for missions? It is because our congregation is *extremely* generous in giving to mission offerings like ...

One Great Hour of Sharing,
Pentecost,
Peace & Global Witness,
Christmas Joy,
Two Cents-a-Meal,
Backpacks,
Thanksgiving Meals,
Supplemental Presbytery Benevolence
beyond BPC's pledged amount,
and others.

These items are "pass throughs"; i.e., what comes in goes out directly to these missions, so they need not be entered in our Expenses Budget. **So far for 2022, you have contributed \$8,914 to these pass through missions,** and we still have the whole month of December to go.

Your Session wants to share this "Mission Offerings Joy" with you, that you have joyfully and generously given so much to help those in our community and around the world.

Thank You!



WELCOME

It Was Time

The blue weekly offering envelopes will be discontinued in 2023. The envelopes were useful when many people put cash in them and wanted the privacy of not displaying the cash. These days, more and more people are mailing checks to the church or having a financial institution mail a check. Plus, most of the blue envelopes in the offering plate contain checks, so there is no need for an envelope number to identify the giver. There are "Welcome" envelopes in the pew holders for those who wish to privately place cash or check in the offering plate. Not ordering the blue envelopes for each giving unit will save BPC about \$250 per year.

Sally will contact those who still regularly give cash and offer to provide them with envelopes so they can maintain their existing routine. If you want envelopes for any reason just contact her in the office.



I Am Visiting
 I Forgot My Envelope Today

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

Finance Reports: prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer

<i>Account Balances</i> as of 10/31/2022	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Money Market</i>	<i>Payroll</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Ed. Jones</i> (for stock gifts)
	\$53,899.28	\$50,900.48	\$940.72	\$440.79	\$17.90

Totals as of 10/31/2022	
Income	\$111,704.02
Expense	\$104,622.22
Difference	\$ 7,081.80

Fund Balances as of Oct. 31, 2022

- Youth Event Fund: \$4,793.26 (monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$828.38 (monies reside in Operating Account)
- Memorial Fund: \$46,107.22 (monies reside in Money Market)

Please note:
The final day to make a donation for it to be credited to 2022 is Friday, December 30.

**Memorial Fund Challenge:**

In 2020, the Session challenged you to raise \$30,000 to offset some of the cost of replacing five heating and air units that failed that year. Those expenses, paid from our Memorial Fund, greatly reduced our reserves and put us in a perilous situation. But you came to our rescue, as did grants from our Presbytery and the Synod. We have now raised \$26,146 toward our goal. *Thank you so much for your generosity!*

We are appealing to you again and inviting you to raise the final \$3,854 this month so that our challenge can be retired in 2022. Can we do it? Your elders think so and wish to express their thanks and appreciation in advance for completing the challenge in December. Stay tuned for progress reports.

Stewardship Update:

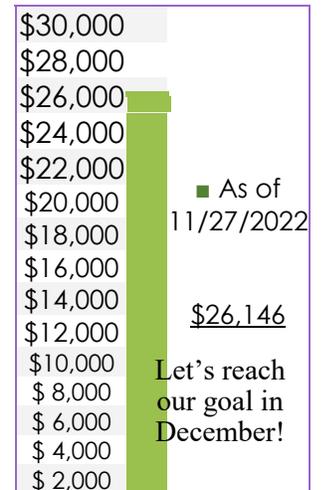
For 2023, we have received 26 commitment cards, with pledges totaling \$99,950. (Compare to 2022: 25 pledges for \$102,752.)

Results of Congregational Meeting held Nov. 13, 2022:

Pam Bailey, Bev Carver, and Linda West were elected to serve on the Session as the Elder Class of 2025. Pam will be ordained and all three will be installed during worship on January 8. We thank retiring elders Mary Kay Adams, Betsy Glendye, Emily Heatwole for their faithful leadership.

Gretchen Collins, Mary DeVier-Scott, and Dana Eichlin were elected as the next Nominating Committee.

Memorial Fund Challenge



A Few Items from Sally in the Church Office:

- ⇒ If you like the blue weekly envelopes and want to continue using them I will gladly make you a set!! Just contact me in the office.
- ⇒ If you need a reimbursement for any church expense, submit the yellow form, with receipts, to Bev Carver by December 22nd.
- ⇒ **Holiday & vacation closure: the office will be closed Dec. 23—January 2.** I will be checking messages and mail a couple times. Pastor Kate will be away. If you have a pastoral emergency contact Emily Heatwole.
- ⇒ January newsletter deadline is Jan. 3.
- ⇒ SNOW— that four-letter word I dislike. **If Rockingham County Schools are closed or late due to weather, the church office is also closed/open late.**



“Mike and I want to thank everyone who brought us meals when our house was torn up and Mike was starting treatment. They made life easier. We now have a kitchen again although still in the process of learning how our new appliances function.

Mike is tolerating the immuno therapy well. Yesterday he got his first tattoos (LOL) to mark the spots for radiation treatment which will take place from Nov 29-Dec 5. We hope this will ease the severe pain in the left hip and leg. I know the pain is bad because Mike is willing to use my sparkly gold cane.

The good news is that with the scheduling of treatments, we should be able to do our traditional Thanksgiving trip to Virginia Beach to be with Chris.

Again, thank you for all your prayers. —*Cheryl Burke*

Mary Kay Adams writes,

“**Joan Atkins** asked me to convey to everyone that she was very thankful and appreciative for all the expressions of love and concern she received from her BPC family while she was in the hospital and at VMRC. She said she really felt the Lord's presence through us and knew that she was not alone in her illness. And she was thrilled to receive the jar that was made for her by our after-church chat group. She is excited to begin picking out a card from her jar each day through Advent.

And **June White** was so excited about receiving her Advent jar that she was afraid she wouldn't be able to wait until Nov. 27th to begin drawing a card out! I told her it was alright if she sneaked a few out before then. She also sent along her special thanks to everyone for all that has been done for her.

The smiles and warm, grateful feelings expressed by these two members were wonderful to experience!” -Mary Kay



Nancy Spencer and her “Advent Jar.” We hope this new approach to an Advent Calendar enriching the season. You can also print the PDF at home and create your own jar or ask Sally to print.



Lots of smiles at Smiley's in November.
Next ice cream 'social' is Dec. 7 at 3:00



Just one truck of several filled with Thanksgiving Meals. Here is the deliver crew!



Many churches and homes mark the progress of Advent by lighting one candle a week until on the final Sunday when all four are alight. Three of these candles are purple or violet (penitential colors) while one is the pink of rejoicing. On Christmas Eve/Day the center white one (the Christ candle) is lit.

The candles represent the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, and it was once customary for someone named John or Joan to be first to light them because John the Baptist at the River Jordan was the first to see the fire of divinity in Jesus (John 1:29-34), and John the Evangelist began his Gospel by referring to Jesus as the Light (John 1:1-5). The wreath is an ancient symbol of victory, while the greenery represents the everlasting life.

Adapted from “The Season of Waiting...and waiting... and waiting...”
by Kate Bowler (katebowler.com)



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church office hours are 9:00 to Noon, Monday through Friday				1	2	5:00-8:00 p.m. Christmas at Massanetta 3
2 nd Advent 4 9:30 Sunday School (kids making ornaments) 10:30 Worship After Church Craft & Tree decorating!	5 7:00 Book Group at Peggy's	6 4:30 TOPS	7 3:00 meet at Smiley's for ice cream 7:00 Choir	8	9	10 2:00 Parade
3 rd Advent 11 9:30 Sunday School (kids making ornaments) 10:30 Worship	12	11:30 a.m. Friends Café 4:30 TOPS 13	14 7:00 Choir	15	16	17 8:30 AM Men eat at Bob-a-Rea's
4 th Advent 18 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Cantata Christmas Joy Offering 3:15 Caroling at BRC Then Pizza at church	19	4:30 TOPS 20	21 7:00 Longest Night (Blue Christmas)	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship
Christmas Day 25 10:30 Worship Love Feast	26 Church Office Closed	27 4:30 TOPS	28	29	30 Last deposit of 2022	31
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!						
JANUARY 1, 2023 10:30 Worship	2 Church Office Closed	3 Newsletter Deadline 4:30 TOPS	4 7:00 Choir	5	6 Epiphany	7

Community

Shenandoah Valley Choral Society's annual Christmas concert is Friday, Dec. 16th, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18th, 3:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The program features Handel's *Messiah* accompanied by the SVCS Chamber orchestra and student soloists from JMU. The second half includes a variety of new and traditional carol settings and will feature the premier of a new carol arrangement by local music legend Dr. John G. Barr. Our own *Bev Carver* is part of the group.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors/students. Tickets at the door, or Friendly City Food Co-Op, Bridgewater Foods Supermarket, and on-line at <https://singshenandoah.org>.

A note of Thanksgiving

Gretchen shared this message from the counseling staff at Pence Middle School following delivery of the Thanksgiving meals. Delivery was exceptionally smooth and in record time.

"Thank you Gretchen for the fully packed Thanksgiving boxes!! **Your church members always come through and are always gracious. You know how to brighten the Holiday for others.** Happy Thanksgiving and stay warm." -Lisa