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On Facebook & YouTube as  
 Bridgewater Presbyterian Church



To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

**Advent/December 2023**

**3**

**HOPE — the First Sunday of Advent**

- ☆ *Communion* will be shared. Contact Betsy Glendye or Pastor Kate if you'd like the elements brought to your home.
- ☆ *Poinsettia orders* are due & *Adult Sunday School Advent Study* begins
- ☆ *Tree trimming* for all ages following worship. Stay to decorate, create the annual ornament, and enjoy snacks!

**Saturday, Dec. 9 - the Christmas Parade starts at 5PM.** If you can walk beside our float to hand out candy, contact Linda West.

**10**

**PEACE — the Second Sunday of Advent —worship at 10:30**



**17**

**JOY — the Third Sunday of Advent**

- ☆ The Choir presents "*Join the Angels*" a cantata celebrating the birth of Christ through a variety of anthems. Everyone, please stay for a reception honoring our marvelous, talented musicians.

**21**

**Longest Night Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.**

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. If you are grieving, facing uncertainty, or are feeling blue, come. If you are happy, come to lift up in prayer those who are not.

**24**

**LOVE — the Fourth Sunday of Advent —worship at 10:30**

- ☆ The Christmas Joy Offering will be received. One of the four special offerings of the PCUSA, this one benefits church workers past, present, and future. See page \_\_ for details

**24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.**

- ☆ Full of hope, peace, joy, and love, our traditional worship of lessons, carols, and candlelight. George Anderson will be at the organ. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.

Inside this Issue:

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☞  
 Next Session  
 meeting is  
 Thursday,  
 January 18, 2024  
 6:30 pm.  
 ☞

*Transitional  
 Pastor:*

Rev.  
**Kate  
 Rascoe**

This year, the Advent Devotional is digital!  
 Here are the links: Regular—[click here](#) For families—[click here](#)  
 Would you prefer a paper copy? Contact Sally in the church office or Linda West, Spiritual Life Chair.  
 There are few on the table by the windows in the Fellowship Hall.

Member Care

**We Express Our Deepest Sympathy to ...**

... the family and friends of **June White**. June passed away on November 20, 2023.  
 ... **Joe Crockett** & family on the death of his sister, Mary Gearhart.



**Christmas with Massanetta**

When: **Saturday, Dec. 9** 5:30—8:00 (tell Dana Eichlin if you want to sit with her & Scott)

What: Dinner & a Concert by Massanutten Brass Band.

Where: Massanetta Springs Stewart Hall—all decked out for Christmas!

Cost: Adult tickets are \$25 per person and children tickets are \$16 each.

How: Registration deadline is Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) to visit the website.



Spiritual Life

**Bonus Cantata Performance!**

On **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**, the Choir will perform the cantata in Lantz Chapel at Bridgewater Retirement Community. The public is invited. Perhaps you can provide escort to a friend or relative who is a resident. Maybe you can't attend Sunday. Spend that morning celebrating the message of the Angels with our Choir.

**Communion Dates for 2024**

- o January 7: Baptism of the Lord
- o February 11: Transfiguration of the Lord
- o February 14: Ash Wednesday
- o March 24: Palm Sunday
- o March 28: Maundy Thursday
- o May 19: Day of Pentecost
- o June 16
- o August 11: at Wildwood Service
- o October 6: World Communion Sunday
- o December 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

The Flower Calendar for 2024 will be posted on the kiosk soon.

Christian Education

☆ The Adult Class will be studying Adam Hamilton's "**Prepare the Way for the Lord**" during Advent. You can jump in! Books are \$15. Class begins at 9:30 a.m. in the partitioned area of the Fellowship Hall. *Suggestion:* read Luke 1:5-17 first.

☆ The Youth/Children's Class meets in the Fellowship Hall. They will be all about the **JOY!**

ADULT Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Leader & subject
3	Carroll, introduction & Chapter 1
10	Bill Florence, Chapter 2
17	Mary Kay, Chapter 3
24	Betsy, Chapter 4 & postscript
31	TBD

CHILDREN Sunday School Schedule	
Date	Leader & Lesson
3	Emily, Mary's Joy
10	Emily, Joseph's Joy
17	Emily, Jesus Brings Joy
24	Emily, Joyous News
31	Emily, The Magi

So, you think you can lead a Sunday School Class? **YES! YOU CAN!** and you are needed. Talk to Joe Crockett, Education Chair

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

## Mission & Outreach

### What is Close to Your Heart?

Check out alternative gifting options through the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*. Take one home to read how you can help expand our witness to God’s gracious and abundant work in the world. They are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. **“The biggest change begins with the smallest action.”**

**The Christmas Parade** on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> is sponsored by Dynamic Aviation and begins at **5:00 p.m.** The route is the same as last year and we have permission to watch together from the yard of Dale & Paula Wilfong, 111 Dinkle Avenue. We are working on illuminating our float & **need folks to walk beside it and hand out candy.** If you can help, contact Linda West at [redacted]. There are numerous activities (plus Santa) at the lawn party grounds from 1:00—4:00 for “Meet the Fleet Day.”

### Christmas Joy Offering for Leadership: Past, Present, and Future

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace, and salvation to his people. This child, God’s Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. With our donations, we reflect God’s perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present, and future — who have pointed us to God

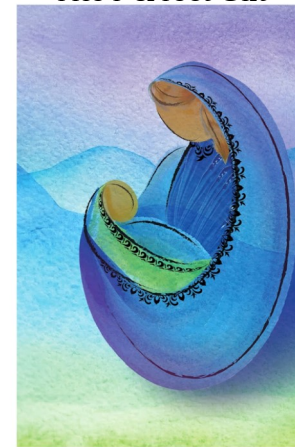
The mission of the Christmas Joy Offering, received each year on the fourth Sunday of Advent, is to assist church workers in times of crisis or financial need and students of color in their time of promise — opening doors for healing and doors for opportunity.

The funds are distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to three Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. They are: the *Menaul School* in Albuquerque, New Mexico; *Presbyterian Pan American School* in Kingsville, Texas; and *Stillman College* in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



You can contribute to this special offering through the giving link on our website, using your mobile device with this QR code, or by cash or check in the offering plate. Write “Christmas Joy” on your check or use one of the special offering envelopes provided in the pew or bulletin. You can learn more by clicking this link: [Christmas Joy](#)

### The Perfect Gift



“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”

## Community News

### Bev Carver is In the Group!

**The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** under the direction of Curtis Nolley, will present its 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas concert “Sing We Now of Christmas” on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The concert will highlight Dale Warland’s Nativity Suite, accompanied by harpist, Kristin Szandzik, and flutist, Lydia Carroll. Also featured will be new and traditional carol settings by John Rutter, William Mathias, Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest and many others.

Tickets are available at the door, locally at Harrisonburg Friendly City Food Co-Op, Bridgewater Foods Supermarket, and on-line at [singshenandoah.org](http://singshenandoah.org). Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.





<b>Account Balances</b> as of October 31, 2023	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Money Market</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Tax</b>
	\$ 40,599.51	\$ 35,544.09	\$ 2,153.28	\$ 971.51

The Edward Jones account for Stock Gifts has a zero balance at present.

<b>Totals as of 10/31/2023</b>	
Income	\$ 105,422.64
Expense	\$ 112,234.60
Difference	\$ 6,811.96

**Fund Balances as of October 31, 2023**

- Youth Event Fund: 5,291.93 (monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$672.41 (monies Operating Account)
- Memorial Fund: \$39,716.46 (monies reside in Money Market)



**BPC 2024 Budget approved by Session & Presented to the Congregation on Nov. 5**

<u>Session Committees</u>		Subtotal	Total
Building & Grounds		\$20,000	
Christian Education		\$2,250	
Member Care		\$300	
Outreach		\$450	
Mission & Outreach		\$150	
Spiritual Life		\$2,100	
Resource (Insurance Premium, Copyright License, Website)		\$7,200	
Stewardship		\$500	
<b>Total Committee Budgets</b>			<b>\$32,950</b>
<u>Pastor Salary &amp; Benefits</u>			
Cash Salary	\$58,282		
RSP Pretax Deduction	\$1,200		
Effective Salary (ES)		\$59,482	
Bd of Pensions		\$13,264	
SECA (ES - RSP Deduction) x 7.65%		\$4,459	
<b>Total Pastor Salary &amp; Benefits</b>			<b>\$77,205</b>
Travel		\$1,500	
Miscellaneous Professional reimbursements		\$1,188	
Pastor Continuing Education		\$1,060	
<b>Total Pastor Expenses</b>			<b>\$3,748</b>
<u>Staff Compensation</u>			
Secretary Salary		\$12,071	
Custodian Salary		\$5,326	
Total Secretary / Custodian Salary			\$17,397
Sec / Cust FICA = 7.65% X Taxable Salary			\$905
Music Director Salary			\$10,912
Music Director FICA = 7.65% X Salary			\$835
<u>Benevolence to Presbytery</u>			
Presbytery Benevolence Pledged			\$2,500
<u>New Pastor Expenses</u>			
Pastor Search Process Expense		\$1,000	
Pastor Moving Expense		\$4,000	
<b>Total New Pastor Expense</b>			<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Total 2024 Budget</b>			<b>\$151,452</b>

—  
Thank you,  
Gretchen  
Collins,  
Resource  
Chair, for  
your hours of  
labor on this  
budget.

—  
Thank you,  
Elders,  
for your  
leadership.

—  
Thank you,  
Congregation,  
for generously  
supporting  
the missions,  
ministries,  
and staff of  
BPC

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known



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## Birthdays

Christopher Burke  
Betsy Glendye  
David Rees  
Jessica Eichlin  
Barbie Farquhar  
Carla Enterline  
Ryn Burke  
Steve Humphreys  
Martha Bocoock  
Tom Mizell



## Anniversaries

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



## Book Group's Next Read

... is by actor Tom Hanks —  
"Uncommon Type: Some Stories"  
Discussion takes place on Monday,  
December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home  
of Beth Smith [5722 Gardner Ln, B'water].



## Men Meet for Breakfast

All males are invited to breakfast at **The Galley** in Harrisonburg on the **third Saturday** of each month.

All ages and guests are welcome. Our next date:  
**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**

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

## Our Building as a Blessing

A reminder that the healthy eating group **TOPS** meets in our Fellowship Hall every Tuesday, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For everyone's safety and privacy, whenever possible, do not come to the building during their designated time.



## Backpacks

The Holiday Break is almost here. When you read this, students will have completed 416 hours of the 990 the Commonwealth dictates for their education per school year.

What do your donations mean to the 10 children, and their families, receiving food each week? Your actions create a bit of security, a bite of nutrition, a morsel of comfort.

A Nigerian proverb says "It takes a village to raise a child." But, as followers of Christ, we are called to "go the extra mile." (Matthew 5:41)

**It takes a community of faith to feed God's children body *and* soul.**

Please keep all the families served by the Turner Ashby District (TAD) Backpack program, school counselors, teachers and staff in your prayers and THANK YOU for your generous support.

## VPAS Café in Bridgewater



Anyone age 60+ is welcome. Programs happen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month in Blue Ridge Room of the Houff Community Center at BRC.

### Registration is required:

Call VPAS at 540-615-5341 and check online at [www.vpas.info/calendar](http://www.vpas.info/calendar)




Monthly fellowship at Smiley's - Wednesday,

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:00.

Flavors of the month:  
Peppermint Bark & Eggnog



	<b>Ushering and Greeting</b> share duties with one at each door	<b>Acolyte/ Bell Ringer</b>	<b>Lay Leader</b>	<b>Highlight /Flowers</b>
<b>3</b>	David & Judy Rees	Emory J	Carroll Chewning	Advent 1; After worship fun!
<b>10</b>	Carrol Chewning & Emily Heatwole	Phoenix J	MJ Chewning	Advent 2; Poinsettias
<b>17</b>	Steve & Pat Humphreys	Emory J	<b>CANTATA</b>	Advent 3; Poinsettias
<b>21</b>	<b>Volunteers needed</b>	—	<b>Emily Heatwole</b>	<b>Longest Night Prayer Service</b>
<b>24</b>	10:30 AM Tommy & Betsy Glendye	Phoenix J	Bev Carver	Advent 4; Poinsettias
<b>24</b>	<b>7:00 PM volunteers needed</b>	—	<b>Linda West</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>31</b>	Mary Kay Adams & Bev Carver	Emory J	Mary Kay Adams	Guest TBD

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> BC goodies	<b>2</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Advent</b> <b>3</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Communion</i> Tree Trimming, Snacks, Ornament making for ALL AGES after worship	<b>4</b> 7:00 Book Group at Beth Smith's	<b>5</b> 4:30 TOPS	<b>6</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Office Closed	<b>5:00</b> <b>9</b> <i>Parade or Massanetta Christmas Dinner</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Advent</b> <b>10</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:30 TOPS	 <b>13</b> 4:00 Smiley's 7:00 Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>8:30 AM</b> <b>16</b> Men @ The Galley  11:00 Cantata in Lantz Chapel
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Advent</b> <b>17</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Cantata</i> Reception follows	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4:30 TOPS	<b>20</b> Session Christmas Party	<b>21</b> <i>Longest Night Prayer Service</i> 7:00 p.m.	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Advent</b> <b>24</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>7 PM Christmas Eve Service</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> 4:30 TOPS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>
The Church Office is closed until January 2						
<b>31</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>JANUARY 1</b>	<b>Newsletter 2 Deadline</b> 4:30 TOPS	<b>3</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b> Epiphany

## *A Few Items from Sally in the Church Office:*

### The End of 2023 — on a Sunday

If possible, please have donations that you want to be credited as 2023 in the offering plate (or to the church office) by December 31. I will be mailing the 2023 giving statements at the end of January, as required by law. Please check it right away. It is much easier to correct an error in February than on April 14<sup>th</sup>. ☺

### Updated Directory

I've updated the address portion of the **church directory** (in time for Christmas cards). I plan to email it as a PDF to everyone. If you prefer a paper copy, just let me know. There are a few on the table by the windows in the Fellowship Hall.

### Holiday & Vacation Closures

The Church Office will be closed Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please have bulletin information for the 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> to the office by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Kate will be away Dec. 26 — Jan. 2. If you have a pastoral need during this time, contact Bev Carver, Clerk of Session.

### What If It Snows?

A reminder that, if Rockingham County Schools have a weather-related closing, the church office is closed as well. If it is Sunday, watch WHSV-tv3 or listen to WWSA 550AM/92.1FM.