

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members and childcare following the Time with the Children for ages two through kindergarten. If you have questions, please see an usher and they will be happy to assist you.

Guest Pastor This Sunday

This Sunday, December 12th, we will welcome **the Rev. Betsy Williamson** as our guest for the day to lead us in worship. The Rev. Betsy Williamson is an Honorably Retired Minister member of the Presbytery of Charlotte. Before retirement, she served as Associate Pastor of Quail Hollow Presbyterian and Pastor of Amity Presbyterian church. A second career pastor, she is a retired educator, serving as a teacher and in the central office of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Union and Durham Schools. She is a native Charlottean, who grew up at Westminster Presbyterian. **We welcome Rev. Williamson to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!**

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides a Drive Thru Lunch Pickup at BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM. (Please check the calendar below for holidays when LunchPlus will be closed.)

Sunday, December 12

ADVENT III
9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School - Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School - Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Monday, December 13

7:15 PM – Mission/Evangelism Committee
7:15 PM – Worship Committee

Tuesday, December 14

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, December 15

11:30 AM – LUNCH OUT at Logan’s Roadhouse
5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.² Program
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 16

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – “Suds of Love” at Harris Laundromat
6:00 – 8:00 PM – “Suds of Love” at Harris Laundromat

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 19

ADVENT IV
Christmas Joy Offering to be received
9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School - Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School - Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Tuesday, December 21

6:00 PM – Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 22

5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.² Program
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 23

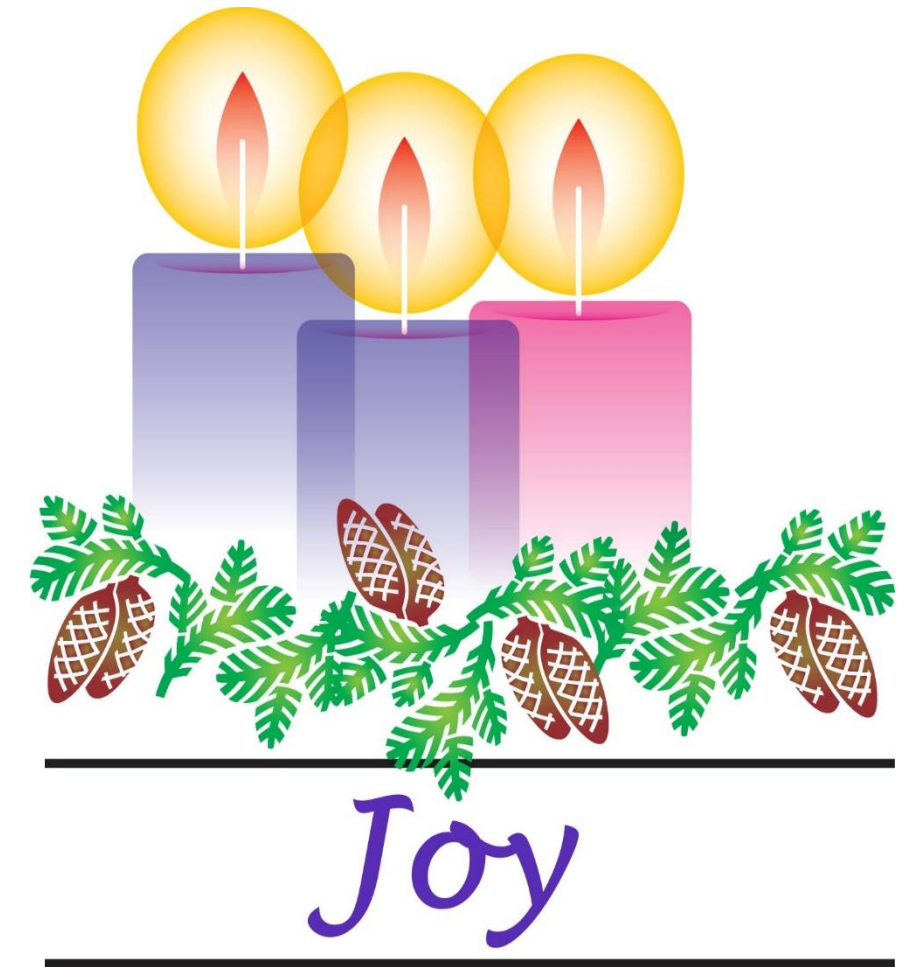
12:00 PM – Church office closes
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Friday, December 24

8:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion
Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Sunday, December 26

9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School - Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School - Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service



**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 12, 2021**

***“A family of faith in Jesus Christ,
yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”***

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Property</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Nurture</i> Carrie Paxton, <i>Christian Education</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Hannah Jackson, <i>Communications</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
704-933-2209

website: www.bethpagechurch.org
e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org
Rev. Valerie Hicks

704-712-7533 • valerie@bethpagechurch.org

The Service for the Lord's Day The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" from *The Messiah*
G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

ADVENT SONG "While We Are Waiting, Come"

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Reid and Linda VanPelt

Leader: The time is coming when God will fulfill His gracious promise made to His people.

People: We have received the joy of salvation.

Leader: Our days are filled with grief, and friendship, with disappointments and gladness. But there is a depth of joy, only found in Christ.

People: O God, You alone can offer us true joy. May we be open to your joy.

Leader: Our eternal hope, peace and joy are found in you.

People: May we be truly grateful, this Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

***ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the joy you offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with your joy in the depths of our souls. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #254** "How Great Our Joy!"
(Hymns of Grace)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we are told that this is supposed to be a joyful time, so why do we often feel joyless? We hear the summons to rejoice, but why do we struggle so to respond? Absorbed by the needs of the day, we have lost sight of you. Beaten down by cares and burdens, we neglect the means of grace through which our hearts might be lifted. We pray partly and worship half-heartedly and serve grudgingly. Sin prevails and joy eludes and we drift farther away. Gather us in. Forgive us. Restore us. Bring forth a new spirit within us, that we might discover the joy for which you created us, the deep joy made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen. (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! The peace of God, which is beyond our utmost understanding,

People: will keep guard over our hearts and our thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE (sung)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Plainsong, 13th century, Setting by James Engel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Heather Kirkman

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible, p. 641)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 3:7-18 (Pew Bible, p. 60)

SERMON "Waters from the Well of Salvation"
Rev. Betsy Williamson

***HYMN #249** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
(Hymns of Grace)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory "Come All You Unfaithful"
Amber McCullough and Jessica Devone

*Doxology (sung) tune THE FIRST NOEL
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow.
Praise God, all crea - tures here below.
Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host.
Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

***HYMN #425** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"
(Hymns of Grace)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming"
from *The Messiah* G.F. Handel

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.