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PASTOR'S NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2020: And He is named...

Our names are important to us, are they not? Our names identify us. Our names mark us. Our names are what people shout out to us when they see us across the parking lot. Our names tell the world who we are and who we're not.

And someone named us, did they not? Our parents usually give us our proper names, maybe springing from family traditions or honoring loved ones or even heroes. Often family and friends give us our "nick" names – maybe highlighting aspects of our personalities (e.g. "Spunky") or physical traits (e.g. "Slim") Whatever the case may be – someone gave us our names and they stuck because our names say something about us.

The Season of Advent begins on November 29 and with it, we will look at four names given to someone who is very important to us as Christians. He is, of course, Jesus – the one whose birth we prepare once again to celebrate on Christmas.

Jesus's earliest disciples sought to answer the questions: Who is He? And what should we call Him? They looked to the prophets – like Isaiah – hoping to find the answers. And in Isaiah's prophesy they found what they were after – the promise of a Messiah who they believed to be Jesus. And they found names for Him too: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

This Advent, we will look at each of these names, week by week, and discover just how perfectly named Jesus is – and how good and different and fulfilling life can be when we are identified by His name.

I look forward to enjoying Advent with you.

Peace,
Pastor Mark

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9: 6-7)*

*For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6*



Congregational Life Committee

SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

CHRISTMAS DINNER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 4:00 - 5:30 pm

HAM, SWEET POTATOES, GREEN BEANS,
BAKED PINEAPPLE AND DESSERT

DRIVE-THRU PICK-UP OR DELIVERY
PLEASE PRE-ORDER YOUR DINNERS
BY CALLING OR TEXTING

DEBI COOK 410-430-9111
CINDI PRUITT 443-880-5502

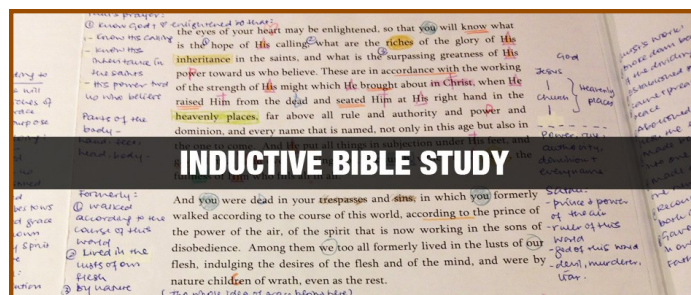
OR EMAIL INFO@BUCKINGHAMPCUSA.ORG

PROVIDE YOUR NAME, NUMBER OF MEALS AND
WHETHER YOU WILL PICK UP YOUR DINNERS OR
YOU WOULD LIKE US TO DELIVER

PLEASE ORDER BY DECEMBER 16



Something New for Spiritual Growth!



Inductive Bible Study—A Unique Approach to Reading, Studying and Experiencing the Scriptures

Where: Taylor Hall

When: Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm or Fridays 10-11:30am

Date: Friends - all are invited to gather in Taylor Hall – masks on, keeping distance around the tables, please – learning to not only read the Bible, but glean its richest blessings for our lives through this simple, yet powerful way of slowing down and really engaging with the words we read.

Come Buckingham – bring your favorite Bible and your heart wide open for all that God has to say to us in this time and place! And please feel free to bring a family member or friend.



**Help Keep Our
Blessing Box
Full!**



12/9— JOHN & SUSAN Rencher
12/10— ROBERT & HOLLY Bunting
12/17— Dave & SALLY Kohler
12/22— RONALD & DOROTHY Hall
12/26— RICHARD, Sr. & CHERYL Holland

12/5— LOTTIE Nickell
12/6— DOROTHY Hall
DOUGLES Parks
12/12— JOHN Curtis
EMILY Vocke
12/14— ANTHONY Davis
12/16— Riley Pruitt
12/19— WILLIAM Campion, Sr.
12/20— Pamella Russell
12/23— HOWARD Cathell
12/30— Anne Cook
MACY Woroniecki



Christian Ed is all geared up to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Join in the Sheep Trail through Berlin beginning Friday, November 27th. Search the store windows downtown to help find our sheep in time for Christmas. Prize baskets will be put together and a winner drawn each Friday in December with a grand prize drawing on Christmas morning. Join in the decorating of the church Christmas Tree on December 4th on the front lawn, along with an outdoor movie and warm refreshments beginning at 5:00. On December 18th, 5 PM, the children will be performing a nativity pageant on the lawn of the church. Any children who would like to be part of the pageant should contact Lindsay, 443-880-0107, for practice times and dates.

Youth group will hold off on regular meetings until after the 1st of the year, however, we plan to get together and join in some fun holiday festivities as a church group. Text messages will be sent to those we have numbers for to plan these outings! Please contact Lindsay or Jerry if you would like to join in.

Thank you to all those continually supporting our OCES backpack mission! This wouldn't be possible without all those who have made monetary donations, volunteered their time to pack and deliver bags, and to go shopping for the food. We were also able to deliver each family a Thanksgiving meal this year, special thank you to those who helped cook, pack and deliver the meals! We hope to be able to provide a Christmas meal for the families as well. If anyone would like to help in any way, please contact a Christian Ed member, help is always welcome as this is a church-wide, ongoing mission to our community!

Above all Merry Christmas from all of Christian Ed and we can't wait for 2021 to kick off some new programs including Messy Church!!!





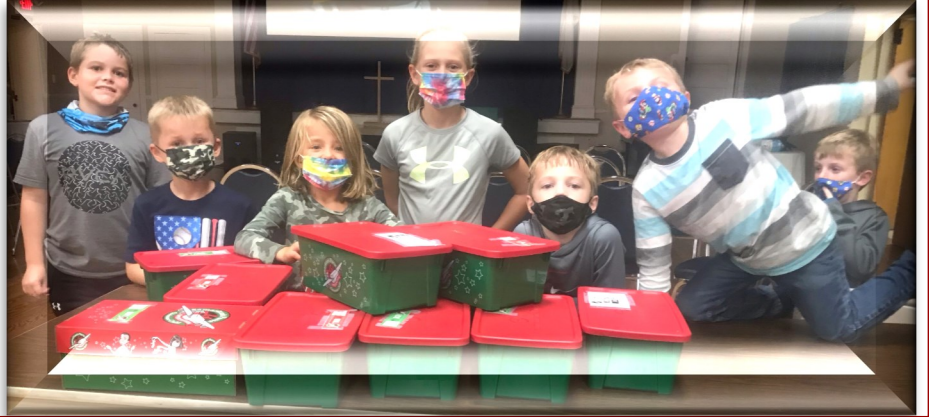
Mission would like to thank everyone for helping with donations throughout the year! We were able to help so many in need with food through the Blessing Box, clothing, monetary donations and so much more!

We will continue to collect used adult and children's shoes (no dress shoes please) until the end of December. These shoes will go to *Got Shoes*, an organization to help those around the world in need of shoes. This is a double-giving opportunity as the shoes will go to those in need and the organization will donate money to Abby to help with her medical costs.

The angels and hearts tree is up at church as well. We have 2 families from Buckingham Elementary School we are helping with gifts this year. You will find the items needed on the angels. The hearts have items needed for the Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke.

Our church packed a total of 34 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, awesome job!

Merry Christmas from all those on the mission committee!



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

Dear Friends,

I would like to tell you a story I think of every Christmas that involves my relatives by marriage, the Lynch family of Berlin. My Aunt Mary Louise Taylor married Charles/Charlie Lynch, Sr. from Burley Street. The Lynch's grew up in our church and the Berlin contingent included Charlie's brothers Lloyd, James (Snook), and the youngest, Franklin; all of whom attended Buckingham. Two of their sisters were Mary Lynch Cropper, who was a mainstay of our choir for many years, and, Maude Lynch Gaskins, Kitt Gaskins Matthews' mother. Kitt's father, Edgar Gaskins, was a master carpenter who built and gifted the handsome scale model of our church to the congregation.

Franklin has been a special friend to me and to my family for as long as I can remember. When Gran Taylor, my father's mother, hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners in her house on South Main Street, she always included Franklin with our family. He was a young single man at the time and Gran thought anybody who went to the Presbyterian Church was several cuts over any other congregation in town. I was in Franklin's youth Sunday School class and he was the most gifted teacher I have ever encountered. He clearly was dedicated to his profession and met his future wife Paula while a Supervisor in Baltimore County.

But let's regress back to Franklin's days as a Buckingham Sunday School teacher. In addition to conducting the classes, he encouraged the students to participate in church life by decorating the sanctuary for the holidays and polishing the brass. Those were the days when the organ pipes were still "live," whereas now we just enjoy them for their beauty because the new organ is a digital instrument. On this long-ago holiday, Franklin and the class determined it would be a lovely addition to include some greenery on the organ pipes. And I'm sure the holly and pine did look quite pretty, except . . . they stuffed it in the openings, or mouths, of the pipes! I can't imagine what the "stuffed" organ may have sounded like, if it was even playable at all! I don't know if those were the days when his sister-in-law, Aunt Mary Louise, was the organist although I'm sure it was discussed at length. After so many years we can smile about it and I can just imagine the smell of the fresh greenery.

Christmas and music go hand in hand and I'm thankful for our fine new organ and gifted music director. Enjoy the season and the sounds!

Happy Holidays, Lynne

Advent - A Time of New Beginnings!

Advent 2020 is here! The word "advent" means *the expectant arrival of something special* – be it a person, a gift, or an event. Of course, for Christians, the Season of Advent celebrates with great expectation all three – the *event* of the birth of God's greatest *gift* – God's son in the *person* of Jesus!

It is always such a joy to celebrate this season – giving thanks for Jesus who is Emmanuel, "God with US" always and every day "until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Advent also marks the beginning of the new Church year, and as such, it is a great time to begin again to connect on a deeper level with your faith and with the community of the church. Whether you've been coming for a while – or maybe you've been away for whatever reason – I hope you will come as we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love and enjoy the warmth of the season together in anticipation of the celebration of the birth of God's Son – God with Us - Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

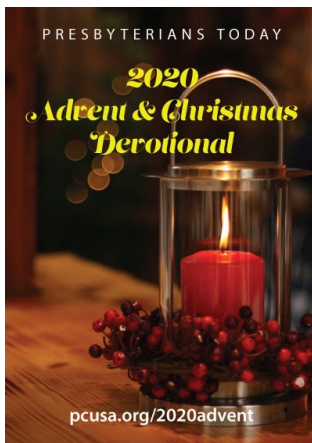


Advent and Christmas Devotional

*"Let Us Light Candles: Matthew 25
and the work of Advent."*

To download an Advent and Christmas Devotional from
Presbyterians Today, go to:

pcusa.org/2020advent



Your Deacons in Action

Many thanks to the Congregational Life committee for their wonderful dinner of baked ziti. The Deacons reached out to our seniors/shut-ins and made deliveries to everyone that wanted to enjoy the dinner. Also, we were encouraged to reach out to neighbors that we felt would enjoy a hot Saturday evening meal. There were several in our community.

Charlie Herpen and **Barbara** were nice enough to bake and deliver dinner to the Samaritan shelter in November. Desserts were by Carol Rose.

We are getting ready for our annual visit to our seniors/shut-ins. We would welcome any contributions from the congregation of items to go into the bags; we would need 20 of whatever. If making fudge is your thing, then we'd appreciate 20 small bags or if you'd like to pick up something like 20 small packets of tissues or ?? Our goal is to make this Christmas as special as we can for them from their church family. Visits will have to be short and sweet and most likely on the porch. Please let a Deacon know.

The Deacons have decorated inside the church and are picking up the poinsettias from Parkside High.

The Deacons have been operating this year short one member. If you have an interest in joining us, please speak to Carol Neal, a member of Session, or Pastor Mark. Most of our "business" is done via email, and meetings are usually every other month. Perhaps you know of a need, please let us know that as well. Blessings, the Deacons



Combined Worship @ 10:00am

followed by our

**Annual Congregational
Meeting**

Sunday, December 6, 2020

**All Members encouraged
to attend**

*Important
DATE!*



**Little Bo Peep
Has lost her sheep
But YOU know where to find them!**

So excited to partner with the Berlin Chamber and the awesome stores in Berlin to bring a family fun event for all to participate in FREE of charge! Stop in any participating store or by the visitors center starting Friday to pick up your trail card!









The Buckingham Presbyterian Church folks are doing a Sheep Trail for kids and families. Beginning Friday, Nov. 27th through Dec. 24th, look for little lost sheep in participating shops' windows. You'll need to get a map from the merchant or from the Berlin Visitors' Center and then write down the names of every sheep along the trail. When you have them all, drop off your list at the Visitors' Center. There will be a drawing every Friday through Christmas for a chance to win great prizes from the Berlin businesses. Be sure to check out [Buckingham Presbyterian Church](#) on Facebook for details and safe, fun, family Christmas activities. Thank you **ABC Printing** for your support.

All are invited for an outdoor twist on our annual tree decorating and lighting December 4th at 5pm. We will meet outside to decorate a beautiful tree. Then we'll light it up in anticipation of our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Stay for warm treats and the Christmas movie "The Star". The movie will be drive-in style outdoors, so come dressed nice and warm! A free will offertory of clean and gently used shoes for the Got Shoes program will be accepted.





2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm Session 6:30pm	2 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	3 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	4 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon Bible Study 10-11:30am Tree Lighting on Church Lawn 5pm	5
6 Combined Worship at 10am followed by - Annual Congregational Meeting	7 Sharing & Caring 6:30pm	8 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	9 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	10 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	11 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon Bible Study 10-11:30am	12
13 Contemporary Worship 9am Traditional Worship 11am	14 Sharing & Caring 6:30pm	15 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm Poinsettia Orders due 	16 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	17 Bible Study 6-7:30pm	18 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon Bible Study 10-11:30am Nativity Pageant on Church Lawn	19
20 Contemporary Worship 9am Traditional Worship 11am Christmas Joy Offering	21 Sharing & Caring 6:30pm	22 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	23 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 Contemporary Worship 9am Traditional Worship 11am	28 Sharing & Caring 6:30pm	29 Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm	30 Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm	31 New Year's Eve 	New Years Day 	

The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and of course, that means it's time to start thinking of ordering the poinsettias that will beautify Buckingham's Sanctuary. This year, we will turn to Parkside High School for our poinsettias. It's a program for future farmers. The cost will be \$5.00 per pot and it will support their continuing education program.

Please complete the order form below and return it along with your check. You can either place the order & check in the offering plate, or mail to Buckingham Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 248 Berlin, MD 21811, or simply leave on the desk in the secretary's office. **Make your check out to Buckingham Presbyterian Church and be sure to designate on the check that it's for your Christmas flower order.** All orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

I would like to order: _____ TOTAL @ \$5.00each \$_____

Please dedicate your poinsettias as follows: (To be printed in the Bulletin & January Gram)

PLEASE PRINT -

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

Will pick up poinsettia(s) following Christmas Eve Service (please check) _____

Your Name(s)

PLEASE PRINT SO INFORMATION IS RECORDED CORRECTLY

NOTE: Due to COVID, we had no in-house Easter services this year. If you donated money for Easter flowers in April, I will ascribe that donation to Poinsettias and unless I hear otherwise from you, I'll use the same dedication.

