



December 2021

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PASTOR NOTES for DECEMBER 2021: SINGING THE SEASONS!

Christmas is all around us and it's beautiful to see. The lights are going up on the houses, on the streetlights and on the trees. Christmas Cookie baking contests and holiday specials are coming at us non-stop through the T.V. And the radio stations are playing Christmas carols at full speed.

Indeed, Christmas is all around us in all we taste and hear and see. And that's a good thing - because Christmas is a warm and wonderful and nostalgic time. (Not to mention tasty, too!) There is much to be enjoyed - much that is only enjoyed - at Christmas time.

As Christians, though, we know there is much more to Christmas. We know that it is - first and foremost about the birth of Jesus, God's son, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. We know that the season exists to celebrate and honor Him. We know that Christmas can also be a time to open our lives to "prepare Him room" and welcome all that He brings as God's gift to humanity and hope for the Kingdom of Heaven to come.

To remember the deeper meaning of Christmas, and to allow it to deepen our lives in faith, we know that we need a Holy Advent.

The Season of Advent is the four weeks prior to Christmas Eve. Advent means "coming" or "arrival." During these weeks, we anticipate the celebration of Jesus's coming to be with us - first at his birth, and again sometime in the future. We mark this journey through advent with the weekly lighting of the Advent candles - representing the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love - all things that Jesus brings into our lives.

What we don't do much of in Advent, though, is sing all-out Christmas carols! (Not in church, anyway.) Our songs are more about waiting, hoping, longing, praying ...for the day of Jesus's return. Advent songs are meant more to draw us closer to Him and celebrate His birth - our faith in which remains with us until His return.

Advent songs are just as beautiful as our favorite carols. Of course, to appreciate the beauty in anything, one must slow down and really take it all in. This Advent we will do just that - slow down over one song in-particular each week. One song that speaks of the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love given to us in Jesus. I hope in the end, we'll all be more ready to sing loud and proud with the Angels proclaiming His birth in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve!

I look forward to singing the season of Advent with all of you!

I also want to say that Advent is a great time of year for re-committing to your spiritual walk. If you've been away from church for a while, it's a great time to come back and be welcomed home by your church which misses and loves you.

In this season of recommitment - let's be led by the lights of Advent. May they lead us forward as a church - together - led by our Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you! I hope to see you soon.  
Pastor Mark



## DECEMBER 24 SERVICES



3:00pm—FAMILY "MESSY CHURCH" SERVICE in Taylor Hall—Come for a special service with a message for kids and families, a faith-based craft and special music for celebration of Jesus' birth.



7:00pm—SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS in the Sanctuary—Come hear the story of Jesus birth, from the Prophets of old to the words of John that Jesus is the very word who of God came to live among us! We WILL sing Christmas carols—

## FESTIVE HOLIDAY DINNER

Saturday, December 18, 2021

We will be serving baked ham, macaroni & cheese, green beans, baked pineapple, roll & dessert.

Dinners can be picked up at the church from 4-5pm or delivered to you.

Please share this information with anyone who may benefit from a warm, free meal. This is an opportunity for our church to provide for those in the community who may need to know that someone is thinking of them during the holiday season.

To order, use the sign-up sheets at church or call or text Cindi Pruitt (443-880-5502). Indicate how many dinners you would like and whether you would like delivery or pick-up.



The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and that means it's time to order your poinsettias that will beautify Buckingham's Sanctuary. The cost will be \$6.00 per pot. 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 PO. 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 Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

I would like to order: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL @ \$6.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT SO INFORMATION  
IS RECORDED CORRECTLY

## HOLIDAY GRINCH-FEST

Saturday, December 4

FREE EVENT!

9AM-NOON



"Perhaps Christmas doesn't come from a store, Perhaps Christmas means something more"

Join the Grinch for a family fun morning at Buckingham Presbyterian Church!

Kid's Crafts  
Donut & juice for each child  
Hot Chocolate Booth  
Face painting

Breakfast Sandwich combos available for purchase

Craft vendors with great holiday gifts

All proceeds raised from the event will go back to the community to help those in need for Christmas, incl. purchasing gifts for kids and supplies for the Samaritan Shelter.



**December Mission—  
Angels & Hearts Tree**

Angels are gifts for children at Buckingham Elementary School;  
Hearts are needs from the Samaritan Shelter



- 12/5— LOTTIE Nickell
- 12/6— DOROTHY Hall  
DOUGLAS Parks
- 12/12— JOHN Curtis  
EMILY Vocke
- 12/14— TONY Davis
- 12/16— Riley Pruitt
- 12/19— WILLIAM Campion, Sr.
- 12/20— Pamella Russell
- 12/30— Anne Marie Cook  
MACY Woroniecki



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



**Sunday, December 12th**

**CHRISTIAN ED** held a meeting on November 14th. November 19th we had a few Thanksgiving crafts, showed the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, and served Turkey Subs, chips, dessert, and drinks. The youth did a series on The Heart that Grew Three Sizes for Advent during Sunday School. We agreed to offer Thanksgiving Dinner delivery on November 24th to the Ocean City Elementary Backpack families. On December 4th we will have an outdoor Grinch-Fest Event for families. Children will be able to make crafts and will receive a free donut and juice box. An anonymous donor would like to donate the \$10 per child to allow for the event to be free for all. Stephen Decatur High School has several students who will help with the event for community service hours. We will sell breakfast sandwiches with a drink for \$5 each. We have a few people who would like to set up as craft vendors and one who will paint faces, and all are willing to give some amount from their sales back to the church. All the proceeds from the event will go right back into the community to help those in need for Christmas, Samaritan Shelter, Students in need of gifts, etc. We would like to have a Christmas play if possible. A suggestion was made to have the December 19th service as a combined service with play and Christmas Carols. We are finding more information out about possibly renting the Flagship Theater for December 26th for anyone who would like to go see the Grinch together as a church.

**"RECOMMITMENT SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 12, 2021 - 10:00 AM**

As a special way to say thanks to God for the JOY of being a church, all are invited to a special RECOMMITMENT SUNDAY service on December 12 at 10 AM. On that day we will gather in a blended worship service to give glory to God while together we JOYFULLY proclaim: "Yes! We recommit to active membership in the life and mission of Buckingham Presbyterian Church and to ALL that God has in store for us and for our future!"



**The 2021 Congregational Meeting** will also be held Dec 12 after the Recommitment Sunday service. We will be electing church leaders that day - that means that leaders are needed to help us move a vision forward. The Nominating Committee will soon be making calls - pray and discern: what might you bring to the table? What a better way to say "thanks!" than being a leader.





## *A Note from Historian Lynne Murray*

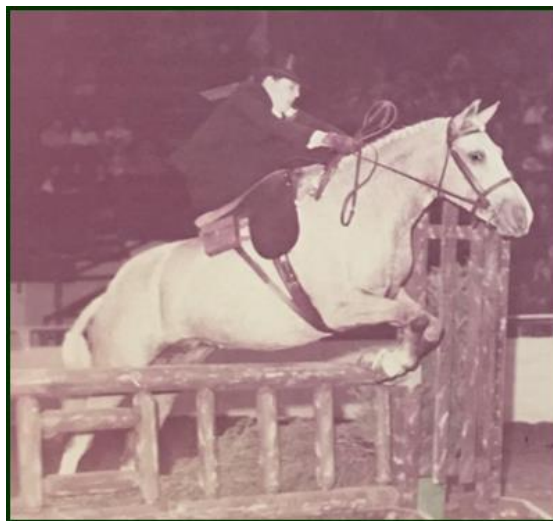
### *In Defense of a Manger*

*Historian Lynne Murray*

A manger is defined as a container for grain or a rack for fodder. These objects haven't changed since ancient times and are standard equipment in barns today. I believe the Bethlehem innkeeper who offered his barn to Joseph and the expectant Mary knew his premises to be acceptable for the anxious couple. Animals were expensive possessions and it behooved him to house and care for them properly. No doubt he provided his domesticated beasts with a reasonably clean food container and fresh hay. I feel a kinship to this long-ago livestock owner; my barn was cleaned and swept at least twice a day and if time allowed I brushed the horses daily. In the summer my daughter's mare, Holly Golightly, was bathed and braided the night before a weekly horse show.

I particularly cherish the memory of the barn on Christmas Eve. As usual, I wiped out each feed tub and automatic waterer before dumping their grain and filling the hay racks. Then I went home to my own dinner and dressed for our Candlelight Service. I always stopped by the barn on my way home from church to feel the most profound peace I've ever experienced. The smell of timothy hay and fresh wood shavings in the stalls permeated the air, and the sounds of contented munching made me feel as though this was truly Peace On Earth. All three of our horses have passed on now, but if I close my eyes I can imagine the peace and comfort an ancient innkeeper provided for a Nazarene carpenter and his wife.

A photo of my daughter Teresa riding Holly side-saddle shows them waiting to join the 1984 American Legion parade in Ocean City. Teresa was dressed as Betsy Ross and is pictured behind the former Misty Harbor Motel, owned by my sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Hugh Cropper III. At the parade, a friend said they couldn't believe a horse that clean ever lived in a barn! A better photo, without Holly's nose cropped, was taken at the Washington International Horse Show Ladies' Side-Saddle Class. Before Holly came into our lives, BPC member Susan Jackson Todd was Teresa's very first riding instructor. Susan's photo shows her giving a bottle to Holly's foal; the mare had no milk and "Velvet Golightly" contracted pneumonia when just a few days old. To survive, the veterinarian advised Velvet must be kept in an incubator-like atmosphere, so he stayed in our kitchen for a week. But that's a story for another time . . .



# DECEMBER

# 2021

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

<p>"Remember This December, That love weighs more than gold!" - Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon</p>		<p>1 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm Deacons 1:30pm</p>	<p>2 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>3 Pastor Hrs. 10am—Noon</p>	<p>4 Outdoor Grinch-Fest event f/ Families 9am— Noon</p>	
<p>5 2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>6 Share &amp; Care 6:30pm</p>	<p>7 High School Youth 6pm Session 6pm</p>	<p>8 Pastor Hrs. 10am—3pm</p>	<p>9 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>10 Pastor Hrs. 10am—Noon</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Blended Service w/ Communion <b>10am—</b> Recommitment Sunday fol- lowed by Annu- al Congrega- tional Mtg.</p>	<p>13 Share &amp; Care 6:30pm</p>	<p>14 Men's Breakfast @ Rayne's Reef 8am High School Youth 6pm</p>	<p>15 Pastor Hrs. 10am—3pm</p>	<p>16 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>17 Pastor Hrs. 10am—Noon</p>	<p>18 Festive Holiday Dinner Delivery/Take- out 4-5pm</p>
<p>19 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Joy Offering</p>	<p>20 Share &amp; Care 6:30pm</p>	<p>21 High School Youth 6pm</p>	<p>22 Pastor Hrs. 10am—3pm</p>	<p>23 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>24 Family "Messy Church" Ser- vice 3pm Service of Lessons &amp; Car- ols 7pm</p>	
<p>26 Rev. Kerry Shull at 11am service</p>	<p>27 Share &amp; Care 6:30pm</p>	<p>28 High School Youth 6pm</p>	<p>29 Pastor Hrs. 10am—3pm</p>	<p>30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>	

## BUCKINGHAM GRAM

### VISION STATEMENT

*We are a community of disciples,  
Who honor all people,  
Care for those in need,  
Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.*