

## The Bridge Builder

A Monthly Newsletter from Heritage Presbyterian Church

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### POW-WOW WITH PASTOR BRIAN

Advent, according to scholar Walter Brueggemann, belongs to the Old Testament. It places the Christian in community with ancient Israel, with conquered Israel, with an Israel that is constantly facing an uncertain future. It is supremely arrogant for Christians to think during Advent that we are the ones who get it. In fact, we don't get it. How could we possibly? We act as though we know what it means to wait for the crucified God. So, we must wait. We must not rush too quickly to the manger and dress it up in Western European clothing, we must see it for the place of Jewishness that it is. And like the Hebrew people we must travel, a long and dusty journey to it.

This theme of waiting and the long journey we are on is witnessed throughout the Bible. In I Kings 19 we see the prophet Elijah waiting for the Lord to do something. When God finally does show up he does so in a "sound of Sheer silence," or "a still small voice." He then asks Elijah what he is doing there, and Elijah responds by saying that he has been zealous for God that he is the only one who cares anymore, that he is the person who will get the job done if only the Lord will let him. God tells him that this is not so. God tells Elijah that there are 7,000 faithful people left in Israel, and that Elijah is not alone.

Often during this season of waiting it is easy to judge the situation wrongly. We can easily believe that we are the ones, the only one, who cares. The only one who cares that the tree gets bought, or the decorations get out, or the only ones who care that Christmas is about Jesus. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christmas is always about an invitation being offered to us all to come and see. The shepherds respond to the news the angels bring by saying to one another, "let us go and see this thing that has happened."

When a store clerk this Advent season says, "happy holidays," it is perfectly ok to respond, "you too." Afterall it's not for the likes of us to change the store policy of Target, it is only for us to allow others to see the work of the One who is coming into the world at work in us already.

Emmanuel means "God with us," that is all. It does not mean God with us so here is your agenda for saving others. There is no conversion playbook you need to follow to bring others into the fold. We are called to be with one another as Christ is with us, as a demonstration of what Christ being with us will look like when he comes to renew and redeem all things and all people.

Blessings this Advent,

Dr. Brian Janssen

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### MORAVIAN STAR

The first Moravian stars were made about 1850 by a teacher in a Moravian school in Niesky, Germany. The star is displayed from the first Sunday in Advent until Epiphany (January 5).

The illuminated Moravian star with its 26 points symbolizes the birth of Christ, leading the wise men that followed the star to Bethlehem. It is to remind us of the Old Testament prophecy:



"There shall come a star out of Jacob," (Numbers 24:17) and of the fulfillment of that prophecy in the coming of Christ who said, **"I am the bright star of dawn"**.

(Revelations 22:16)

This is the reason we hang one over our sanctuary Christmas tree!

### Poinsettias

If you wish to adorn the sanctuary for our Christmas week services, pick up an order form in Fellowship Hall. Orders must be turned in no later than Sunday, December 1st. Remember, in order to keep the flower order money separate from the regular collection, a special basket will be located in Fellowship Hall to collect your orders. Checks should be made payable to "Heritage Presbyterian Church" and marked "Poinsettias Order." Poinsettias may be picked up after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve worship service on Tuesday, December 24.



### Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Carols

Please join us after the Christmas pageant and service on December 15 for a Pancake Breakfast served by the youth group. Help the youth group raise money to purchase school supplies for our friends at Sucasa De Esperanza in Pharr, Texas. We will have Christmas caroling with accompaniment by David Shreiner for the whole family. We hope your family will enjoy this event. Invite your friends to come along, too.

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### Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts of the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

Envelopes will be in the December 22 bulletin. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in supporting this mission.

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**WHAT IS A CHRISMON?**

The Chrismon ornaments were first developed by Frances Kipps Spencer (1917-1990) at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She originated them in 1957 when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church Christmas tree.

**THE CHRISMONS TREE**

An evergreen tree, which symbolizes the eternal life, which our savior has provided for us, forms the background for tiny white lights and gold Chrismon designs. The lights speak of Him who is the light of the world, and the Chrismon ornaments portray Christ's Life.

CHRISMON = CHRIS + MONogram

proclaim the name, the life, and the saving acts of Jesus the Christ.

Some Chrismon designs are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days - biblical and theological that are known by most believers. They're interdenominational and the heritage of all Christians.

Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, etc.

Our chrismons were needlepointed by the Heritage women for almost a year, many years ago.

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### For the Families at the Doorway Ministry...

As in prior years, Angel Tree gift tags from The Doorway will be available in the Narthex as of November 30. The tags include information on gender, age, size, and specific gift suggestions. Please sign the list when you take a tag. Gifts in gift bags (no wrapping paper please) must be returned by **December 8**. The Doorway serves youth and adults who struggle with drugs, abuse, or neglect. See Bill Johnston for questions regarding this ministry.

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### Thank you from Frankin Elementary

We delivered the gift baskets to Franklin Elementary from our Mission Sunday project. The school held a raffle for the gift baskets and the teachers who received the baskets were very thankful and appreciative. Here is one of the Thank You notes Heritage received from Mrs. Dulick, 2nd grade teacher at Franklin Elementary.



Thank you so much  
for the basket of  
treats for my classroom!  
It was so thoughtful  
of you to take the time  
to make those for us!  
Sincerely  
Mrs. Dulick  
2nd grade - Franklin Elem



# Christmas Cookie Trays

## ***Do you like to bake cookies, eat cookies and share cookie recipes?***

If the answer is yes to any of the above, please join us as we prepare Christmas Cookie Trays for our CARE moms, homebound friends and a few others who could benefit from some holiday cheer.

We are hoping to have enough cookies for 12 trays with 2 dozen cookies each. We need your cookies!

Please email Julie at [rjhelma@aol.com](mailto:rjhelma@aol.com) if you would like to help spread some Christmas cheer.



## **Not a Baker?**

We could use 12 of these containers. We've used them in the past and they work great because they have lids. <https://www.target.com/p/glad-holiday-edition-food-storage-containers-2ct/-/A-49105650>  
Glad Holiday Edition Food Storage Containers XL- 2ct \$2.99

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## *Cookie Tray Details*

1. Bake a few dozen of your favorite holiday cookie/candy (homemade please).  
***No nuts. We have a few moms and children with nut allergies this year.***
2. Make copies of your holiday recipe to share.
3. Cookie trays will be assembled on Wednesday, December 4th and they will be given to the CARE moms that night and delivered to others that day.

**Please drop off your cookies and copies  
of your recipe at the church kitchen  
Wednesday, December 4th by 2:00 PM.**



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**Advent Luncheon and Mission Project  
To Make a Difference in a Young Child's Life**

**Join us for lunch & mission on Sunday, December 8,** in Fellowship Hall immediately following the church service. Together during Advent, we will share a delicious meal and we'll roll up our sleeves to work together on a mission project. Often foster children move into the system with very little that they can call their own. Together with an organization called "Together We Rise" we will replace a plastic garbage bag with a duffle bag. Join in the fun as we decorate stuff and then donate the bags to kids in the foster care system in Allegheny County. The lunch sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to participate in this event. For more information, please contact Carol Jo Seapker at [cjsmes@verizon.net](mailto:cjsmes@verizon.net) or someone from the MFC Team.

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**Wellness Ministry Update**

**Ladies of Heritage, come check out your gym!** It's a great way to maintain your weight and stay fit during the holidays. Perhaps your fitness goals are not weight related? Heritage's gym is still a healthy tool for you to use. "Our church gym gives me the strength and energy to keep up with my teen kids' activities, work, and volunteer efforts," says Wendy Cibula. Spending time in our gym will also give you the opportunity to meet and welcome to Heritage other lovely ladies from the community who participate in our wellness ministry. It's a wonderfully supportive environment.

To use the gym, we simply ask that you make an appointment with our Wellness Director, Susan Payne, or another staff member to learn how to properly use the equipment first. Just pop in to schedule a time or call our gym at 412-366-1356. You can also talk to the members of the wellness team who are typically at church each Sunday (Wendy Cibula, Carolyn Briggs or Joanne Dunmyre). Walk, Zumba, and Stretching with Scripture exercise classes are available weekly. There's even a hoop class one Saturday a month. How fun is that? Sign up sheets are in the gym and a class will run when four participants are signed up. If you work during the week, come check out Zumba on Saturdays. Hours and classes are on our website under the wellness tab and the latest updates are always posted in the gym. We ask that you use the gym during the hours when staff and volunteers are available to ensure safety. Please note that the church gym will have reduced hours during the holidays:

- \* Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day: Closed.
- \* Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, and New Years Eve: 7am to Noon.
- \* The day after Thanksgiving (11/29) and the Day After Christmas (12/26): 8 to Noon.

In addition to our gym and fitness classes for women, other special projects are planned periodically through our Wellness Ministry. A free CPR Class was just held for the community that was expanded to three dates due to popularity. Men and women from Heritage and beyond attended. The result is that close to fifty people in our surrounding neighborhood now have this skill and can help if needed. As the new year approaches, do you have an idea for a class or activity or want to learn more about volunteering at our gym? Let Susan Payne or a member of the Wellness Team know. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our Wellness Ministry at Heritage Church.

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**Mission, Service & Outreach**  
**Prayer Ministry**



*...Please pray for those we know who are ill or have concerns:*

Barbara Berger - classmate of Donna Johnston  
Marine PFC A. J. Boeh - grandson of Dolores Boeh  
Betty Jane Burke - cousin of Wayne Dillner  
Annette Curtis - friend of the Johnston's  
Evan Dillner - grandson of the Dillner's  
Bob & Joan Donaldson - former members  
Leslie Dunn - sister of Pam Dierker  
Joyce & Pete King - Donna Johnston's sister & brother-in-law  
David Martin - nephew of Terry Martin  
Mike McAleer - member  
Tim McAleer - member  
Cammy Nichols - daughter of Donna & Bill Johnston  
Marine LCpl Jacob Nichols deployed to Japan - grandson of Donna & Bill Johnston  
Alan Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's brother  
Alta Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's mother  
Michael Seapker - son of Carol Jo & Milt Seapker  
Maggie Snyder - former member  
Ralph Tissue - Brother of Carol Harvey  
Connie Vitale - member  
Elaine Wilson - member  
Caroline Wise - member

If you would like prayer or know someone who should be added to this list, please contact Terry Martin in the church office at 412-366-1338 or [heritagepcusa@verizon.net](mailto:heritagepcusa@verizon.net). Also if you are willing to prepare and deliver a meal, drive to doctor appointments or grocery shopping, or can babysit, we have an "at need" individual that can be paired up with you.

**Prayer Chain**

If you wish to put something on the Prayer Chain, first contact Terry Martin in the office between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday 412-366-1338 or at [heritagepcusa@verizon.net](mailto:heritagepcusa@verizon.net). If your request is other than the church hours, please contact Donna Johnston at 412-364-3340 or [dmj5393@verizon.net](mailto:dmj5393@verizon.net). Thank you.

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<b>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Craig Bentzen	12/7
Alex Dunmyre	12/9
Lauren Briggs	12/13
Ken Andrews	12/14
Craig N. Bentzen	12/22
Carolyn Briggs	12/24
Mike McAleer	12/24
Connie Bentzen	12/27
David Briggs	12/28

<b>DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Stephanie & Bob Nestor	12/18
Courtney & Bob Young	12/22
Bobbie & Rick Berg	12/26





<b>Worship Volunteers for December</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Sound System/ Projection</b>	<b>Nursery (Worship) (Backup)</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
12/1	Reed Harvey	Scott Campbell Pam Dierker	Karen Hayworth Erika Jani Sarah Vitale (Helper) <b>(B) Dolores Boeh</b>	Quentin Halyama Matt Joseph
12/8	Donna Johnston	Randy Thomson Rick Berg	Dolores Boeh Connie Vitale Mia Vitale (Helper) <b>(B) Melanie Thomson</b>	Winn Dunmyre Melanie Thomson
12/15	Ted Griffin	Winn Dunmyre Quentin Halyama	Julie Halyama Karen Hayworth <b>No Backup</b>	Lex Felkar Roy Halyama
12/22	Reed Harvey	Jim Cummins Julia Cibula	Joanne Dunmyre Nancy Wise Jenna Vitale (Helper) <b>(B) Erika Jani</b>	Roy Halyama Matt Joseph
12/24	Ted Griffin	Randy Thomson Wendy Cibula	TBD	TBD
12/29	Rick Berg	Bill Johnston Pam Dierker	Melanie Thomson Courtney Young <b>(B) Karen Hayworth</b>	Winn Dunmyre Melanie Thomson

**B = Backup for Nursery**

Please consider joining our volunteers, contact the following:

Nursery Worker, call Karen Hayworth 412-259-8056

A/V & Sound System, call Jim Cummins 412-364-3172

Usher, call Roy Halyama 412-548-3270

#### **Projection Crew Phone Numbers**

Rick Berg 724-709-8601

Julia Cibula 412-720-3550

Wendy Cibula 412-720-3550

Pam Dierker 412-812-3599

Quentin Halyama 724-799-4645

#### **Sound Team Phone Numbers**

Scott Campbell 412-369-8873

Jim Cummins 412-364-3172

Winn Dunmyre 412-367-4771

Bill Johnston 412-364-3340

Randy Thomson 412-715-4283

Thank you for taking the time to serve!

	<b>Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Communion Servers</b>	<b>December Counters</b>
<b>December 15</b>	Barb White	Donna & Bill Johnston Connie Vitale	Denton Bond Wendy Cibula



### Communion Dates

DAY	DATE
Sunday	January 5, 2020
Sunday	January 19, 2020
Sunday	February 2, 2020
Sunday	February 16, 2020
Sunday	March 1, 2020
Sunday	March 15, 2020
Thursday, (Maundy Thursday)	April 9, 2020
Sunday	April 19, 2020

### **December CHILDREN'S SERMON SCHEDULE**

DATE	TEACHER
12/1	Pam Dierker
12/8	Pastor Brian
12/15	Ted Griffin
12/22	Cyndi McAleer
12/24	Ted Griffin
12/29	Bobbie Berg

Heritage Calendar of Dates December 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  10:00 am Worship Service Visiting Preacher Ron Barnes <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> No Sunday School No Youth Group	2	3	4  6:00-7:45 pm CARE	5  1:00-4:00 pm Presbytery Meeting at John McMillan Pres. Church	6  7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evan's in Cranberry	7
8  10:00 am Worship Service <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 11:15 am Sunday School MFC Lunch & Service Project following the service 5:00-6:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm Sr. High Youth Group	9	10	11	12  12:30 pm CE Team Meeting	13  7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	14
15  10:00 am Worship Service <b>Communion</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Children's Pageant</b> <b>Pancake Breakfast following the service and Christmas</b> <b>Caroling</b> No Sunday School No Youth Group	16	17	18  7:15 pm SAF Team Meeting	19	20  7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	21
22  10:00 am Worship Service <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>Youth Group Christmas Party</b> <b>5:00-6:30 pm Junior High</b> <b>6:30-8:00 pm Senior High</b>	23	24  7:30 pm <b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	25  <b>Christmas Day Offices Closed</b>	26	27  7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans in Cranberry	28
29  10:00 am Worship Service <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>No Youth Group</b>	30	31  <b>New Year's Eve</b>				

CE=Christian Education

MT=Mission Team

MFC=Membership, Fellowship &amp; Care

SAF=Stewardship, Administration, Finance

FH=Fellowship Hall

**HERITAGE CHURCH OFFICERS**

**ELDERS**

Christian Education

Wendy Cibula '22

Worship

Peter Wildfong '20

Mission & Evangelism

Karen Cummins '21

Jaime Griffin '22

Stewardship

Administration & Finance

Milt Seapker '21

Membership,

Fellowship & Care

Carol Jo Seapker '20

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**AT**

**HERITAGE**

**10:00 am Worship Service**

**11:15-11:50 am Sunday School**

**Adult Bible Study**

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**DECEMBER, 2019 NEWSLETTER FROM**

**Heritage Presbyterian Church**

**2262 Rochester Road**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1518**

***Proclaiming the good News of Jesus Christ  
to our community and the world!***

