

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Beginning today at 9:45 am (during Sunday School hour)
9th graders – all Adults encouraged to attend

For the purposes of:

1. Electing a new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons
2. Electing a new class for the Officer Nominating Committee
3. Receiving as information possible financial updates
4. To revise Nomination and Election process document to include the following statement:
"The Nominating Committee shall follow Biblical qualifications for Elders and Deacons as well as the EPC Book of Order in consideration of nominees, as outlined in 'Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church: Elders and Deacons.'"

YOUTH NEWS:

636: All high school boys and girls are invited for a time of early morning fellowship together at Bojangles on Old Forest Road this Tuesday, December 12th.

High School Christmas Party: All 9th-12th grade students and their parents are invited to Russell and Erika Matneys' home for our Christmas celebration! The festivities begin Sunday, December 17th, at 4:30 pm. Be sure to bring food to share according to the list below:

Lastnames A-E: Dessert, Lastnames F-I: Fruit/veggies/salad, Lastnames J-Z: Heavy appetizer.

Middle School Christmas Party: All 5th-8th grade students and their parents are invited to the Higeys' home for our Christmas celebration! The festivities will take place from 6:30-8:30pm on Friday, December 22. Please bring your favorite Christmas goodie or hot drink to share!

"CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS": A Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra tonight at 6:30 pm. Music by John Rutter. Nursery provided through age 3.

ALL NATIONS CHRISTMAS MISSION OPPORTUNITY: All gifts need to be wrapped, tagged and returned to the church no later than today. Please place them outside the John Knox on the table in the Cheatham.

FLORAL FUND & CHRISTMAS MISSIONS PROJECT

Christmas floral decorations in our Sanctuary are made possible through the contributions of members, in memory or in honor of loved ones. Contributions may also be made to the **Christmas Missions Project**, which will go to support REPC's City Life Fund. The City Life Fund helps our Rivermont/Lynchburg neighbors through an extraordinary financial crisis. If you would like to contribute to either fund, please clip and complete the form below and send it with your check to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, December 17, 2017. All contributions in memory or in honor of loved ones will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Floral Fund/Missions Project Contribution

Donor's Name: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Floral Fund \$ _____

Missions Project \$ _____

Please make checks payable to REPC with notation:
"Floral Fund" or "Christmas Missions Project"
Due 12/17/17

Announcements (continued)

CIRCLE 1: Ladies, join Circle 1 in the Library on Tuesday, December 12th, from 10:00 am until noon. We will study a lesson entitled "A Forgiven Heart" taken from Luke 7:36-50.

60 PLUS/MINUS: Celebrate the joys of Christmas with our luncheon on Wed., Dec. 13th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a musical program presented by Mrs. Ginger Paris and the Bedford Hills Elementary School Strings of Lynchburg City Schools. They will perform both classical music and Christmas Carols. **Please make your reservations by noon, December 11th**, on the sign-up sheet by the Library or by calling the church office.

RINGING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL: Please sign up in the Cheatham Center to ring the Salvation Army Bell at the Kroger store on Timberlake Road. Our ringing days are December 19th through December 23rd. Please call Brian or Lyn Nash with any questions at 384-2071. Thank you in advance for answering this call to serve!

CHRISTMAS EVE NURSERY HELP IS NEEDED for both morning services and also the 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm services. Please see Toni or email her at toni@rivermont.org if you are able to help.

URGENT NEED FOR TEACHERS FOR MK'S: Are you a teacher? Would you consider using your skills for a year or more to help missionary families stay in North Africa? Teachers are needed for an International Christian elementary school and a secondary homeschool co-op. If interested, get in touch with Pastor Brett at 846-3441.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Save the date for the weekend of February 2-3, 2018 for a women's winter weekend of study and fellowship. Details to follow.

Calendar

<p>Sunday, December 10 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 11:00 am Westminster Canterbury Service 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Music Practice (Youth Center) 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Cantata (Nursery to 3 yr.)</p> <p>Monday, December 11 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Prayer Group (Family Room) 5:00 pm Personnel Committee Mtg. (Ron's Office)</p> <p>Tuesday, December 12 6:30 am Dawn Patrol 6:36 am HS Boys' and Girls' 636 (Bojangles) 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Circle #1 (Library) 11:00 am Preschool Christmas Program 1:00 pm Staff Christmas Party 5:30 pm MSC</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 12 (continued) 6:30 pm Trail Life (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Wednesday, December 13 9:00 am Preschool 12:00 pm 60 +/- Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) 4:30 pm Praise Ringers 5:15 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>Thursday, December 14 9:00 am Housekeeping Meeting 5:30 pm Admin. Committee Mtg. (Conf. Rm)</p> <p>Sunday, December 17 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am College Hour 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth HS Christmas Party (9-12 Graders) (Matneys' Home) 6:00 pm Mission Service (Chapel)</p>
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Contact Us

<p>MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503</p> <p>PHONE: (434) 846-3441</p> <p>FAX: (434) 846-1002</p> <p>EMAIL: donna@rivermont.org</p> <p>WEB: www.rivermont.org</p> <p>FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/rivermontepc</p> <p>OFFICE: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM Saturday 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MINISTRY STAFF</p> <p>David Weber SENIOR PASTOR</p> <p>Ron Cox EXECUTIVE PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF</p> <p>Brett Eubank PASTOR OF OUTREACH AND ASSIMILATION</p> <p>Mike Palombo PASTOR OF RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP</p> <p>Shane Whelan PASTOR OF STUDENT FAMILIES</p> <p>Peggy Bettcher DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY</p> <p>Ann Knight DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES</p> <p>Josh Dempsey DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES</p> <p>Matt Bradner REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CAMPUS OUTREACH</p> <p>Alisha Meador CARE COORDINATOR</p>
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OUR MISSION

REPC SEEKS THE RENEWING OF LIVES THROUGH GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE
IN LYNCHBURG AND THE WORLD.

Second Sunday in Advent | December 10, 2017 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Order Of Worship

The prelude is a time for the body of Christ to spiritually prepare to enter into His presence in worship. As the prelude begins, please assume a quiet, prayerful and reverent attitude of worship. (Please silence your mobile devices.)

PRELUDE: **Praise Ringers**
arr. Kevin McChesney

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:
Redeemer God, come as we seek to open our hearts, creating a welcome space for You to abide. Awaken us from our laziness and rescue us from that which distracts us from knowing Your grace and love. Inspire our preparation and guide our worship that our Advent waiting might lead us to Your throne, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Pastor Cox**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 66:1-2 (responsively)**
Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; What is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest? All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD.
But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word."

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** HYFRYDOL

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Peace
8:30 am: Josh and Carrie Alley, together with their children Eden, Lily, Asher and Knox
11:00 am: Ross Meyer, together with his children Catherine and Lindsey

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)

May God grant us peace as we wait for Christ's glorious return.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION: (in unison)

Therefore Almighty God, we come confessing the ways that we have rebelled against the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

We confess to You, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,

We confess to You, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

We confess to You, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

We confess to You, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,

We confess to You, O God of peace.

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us Your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

Instill within us Your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

Instill within us Your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

Instill within us Your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us Your peace, O God.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:**

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice!" (vs. 2 & 3) IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come." (Rev. 1:4)

ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

"Mary, Where Is Your Baby"

New Song

Dan R. Edwards

Mary, where is your Baby? Way down yonder in Bethlehem.

Shepherds in the fields watching over their sheep,

Some of them are dozing and the others asleep,

When suddenly they're waken'd by a glorious sound:

A host of heavenly angels singing praise all around!

I say, Mary, where is your baby? Way down yonder in Bethlehem.

The shepherds were a-tremb'ling and quaking in fear.

The angel said, "We've something that we want you to hear!

Right over there in Bethlehem is born on this day

The long-awaited Son of God asleep in the hay!"

The shepherds headed down and-a what do you know?

They found the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes.

They saw His mother Mary and they saw Joseph, too.

They left the manger singing and-a shouting good news.

Julia Sansone – Director; Maryah Haley – Accompanist

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church.

8:30: Pre-K thru First Grade meet in the ORANGE room, #115

11:00: First Grade meet in ORANGE room, #115;

Pre-K/K meet in RED room, #114

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 66:7-14 (pg. 625)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "Home for the Holidays" Dr. Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED (in unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***THE GLORIA:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) GLORIA

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o!

(meaning, "Glory to God in the highest" - Luke 2:14)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER, concluding with

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison):

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.

THE RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: **Praise Ringers**

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

***THE DOXOLOGY:** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)**

Father, in response to Your great gift to us, we offer ourselves to You, with thanksgiving and joy. Accept these tokens of our lives; bless and multiply them for the spread of the gospel, the strengthening of Your church, and the increase of Your kingdom, to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #197 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"** THIRSTING

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL AMEN (sung by all):**

"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

***POSTLUDE:** "Lift Up Your Heads" arr. Edward G. Mead

**The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so. Lyrics and music reproduced under CCLI#64526.*

Concerns of the Church

RECUPERATING: Whitney Cairns, Pat Hylton, Celeste Wasserman

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:

- Scooter and Jeanmarie Harris in the death of Jeanmarie's brother, William "Billy" D. Gallant, Jr., who died on Sunday, December 3, in Baltimore.
- Paul and Eileen Lass in the death of Eileen's mother, Eileen Lyle Hildenberger, who died on Monday, December 4, in Lynchburg.
- Paul and Jane Miller in the death of Jane's brother, Jorge Piercy, who died on Tuesday, December 5, in Lexington.

ATTENDANCE: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: 366; 11:00: service: 362. Total: 728. Sunday School: 437. Hanging of the Greens: 263.

USHERS SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: Head Deacon: Shane Pinder

Assistant Deacon: Todd Matthews Morning Only: Wayne Melancon

8:30 am: Mike Straw, Scott Wade, Massie Ware, Jeff Widmeyer

11:00 am: Statham Gilliam, Lucy Harris, David Head, Charlie Mitchell

SERMON NOTES

- 1. We must trust the Lord to bring salvation.**
- 2. We must trust the Lord to bring satisfaction.**
- 3. We must trust the Lord to bring solace.**

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: ELIYA AND JYOTI PRADHAN

Eliya and Jyoti Pradhan founded and direct an evangelistic ministry and Sunday School program for children in Nepal. They have a team of more than a dozen men and women who work with them in this growing ministry. Theirs is the only indigenous ministry in Nepal whose primary aim is to share the gospel with children. They conduct rallies and Bible schools throughout Nepal. They also produce a radio program for children. When children come to know Jesus, God often draws entire families to faith as other family members see the difference Jesus makes in the children's lives. Pray for the hundreds of Sunday School teachers and leaders they are training each month and that the children they are reaching through Bible schools will come to know Jesus.