

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Today at 9:45 am, during the Sunday School hour
9th graders - all adults encouraged to attend**

For the purpose 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 financial updates
4. Demonstrating Alert Security System

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: The final decision to cancel Sunday worship services will be made by 6:30 am on Sunday. An announcement will be placed on the church website, WSET-TV, and the church's voicemail, and a church wide email will be sent. If the 8:30 am service is cancelled, Sunday School is also cancelled. RFN will be held at the discretion of the pastoral staff. A decision will be made no later than noon on Wednesday. Music rehearsals will be held at the discretion of the Director of Music Ministry and notifications will be sent by email.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHURCH: During the month of November, the church began receiving notifications that emails sent from the church to our members were not being received. The church staff has confirmed with our internet providers that outbound messages have been sent, yet new filters on some carriers have blocked our messages. Please check your filters.

YEAR-END DONATIONS: For tax purposes, year-end donations for 2018 must be received or postmarked by Monday, December 31. There are several ways to make your donation. You may drop your offering in the mail or in the offering plate, set up a bank ACH transfer, or transfer money securely online by going to our e-giving tab on the church website (www.rivermont.org). Those needing an update on their donations before the end of the year, please contact Kelly at the church office (434) 846-3441 or by email at kelly@rivermont.org.

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 16. 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 12/16/18

Announcements (Cont.)

YOUTH NEWS:
6:36: All high school boys and girls are invited for a time of early morning fellowship this Tuesday! Students will join Shane and Ciera at the Old Forest Road Bojangles at 6:36 am.

Middle School Christmas Party: This Saturday, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, all 5th to 8th grade students and their parents are invited to the Higey home for our Christmas celebration! Please bring your favorite Christmas goodie or hot drink to share.

CIRCLE 1 will meet this Tuesday in the Library from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our study will be "A Prayer of Jesus" taken from Matthew 26:36-46. Ladies, anyone is welcome to join us, even if you are unable to attend regularly!

SIXTY PLUS OR MINUS: Celebrate the joys of Christmas with our luncheon this Wednesday 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 10**, on the sign-up sheet by the Library or by calling the church office.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT: Ladies, please join us for our annual Advent Teaching and Fellowship this Thursday! Bring a friend and meet us in the Cheatham Center at 7:00 pm. Please be sure also to bring a dessert to share. Our speaker will be Barb Bell.

RINGING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL: Please sign up in the Cheatham Center to ring the Salvation Army Bell at the Timberlake Kroger! Our ringing days are December 18 to 22, and December 24. Please call Brian or Lyn Nash with any questions at (434) 384-2071.

GUATEMALA FOOD AID: On December 29, the Dodd family will be returning to Guatemala with Project Hope to serve in a poor and remote mountain village where malnutrition is a big problem. While sharing the gospel, they will also help provide the food these families need. Twenty-five dollars will provide a bag of non-perishable food items that could sustain a family anywhere from two to four weeks. The Dodds will have a table set up in the Cheatham Center with more information. Please consider donating to this great cause.

USHERS SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16: **Head Deacon:** Evan Harris
Assistant Deacon: Andrea Adams **Morning Only:** Mick Ritchie
8:30 am: Nick Adams, Brian Nash, Lyn Nash, Jeff Widmeyer
11:00 am: Brandon Miller, Drew Neiderer, Andrew Shields, Earl Weaver
7:00 pm: Andrea Adams, Evan Harris, Alan Pettigrew, Mick Ritchie

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: ciera@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>Julia Sansone DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS AND ACCOMPANIST</p> <p>Alisha Meador CARE COORDINATOR</p>
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Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a group of churches whose beliefs are summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. For more information, go to www.epc.org.



OUR MISSION

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

Second Sunday in Advent | December 9, 2018 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Order Of Worship

The prelude is a time for the body of Christ to prepare spiritually 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**
Pachelbel, arr. Andrea Handley
"Canon"

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 Ron Cox**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 66:1-2 (responsively)**
*Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool;
 what is the house that you will 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** HYFRYDOL
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Peace
**8:30 am: Matt and Johanna Schubert together with their children
 Tatyana Elya, Hannah Joy, Sam, and Joshua**
11:00 am: Joshua and Audrey Ashcroft

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 CALL TO CONFESSION: Isaiah 1:2-4, 18

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION: (responsively)

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: Isaiah 40:1-2**

***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."
(Revelation 1:4)*

ANTHEM FOR PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

New Song

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry, Greene, arr. Fettke

Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby Boy has come to make you new;
This Child that you've delivered will soon deliver you?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby Boy has walked where angels trod,

And when you kiss your little Baby, you've kissed the face of God?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby Boy was heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great, the Great I AM?
Mary, did you know?

Maryah Haley – Accompanist

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church to the orange room, #115.

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:1-7 (page 573)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

"The Promise of Light"

Dr. David 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)

A WORD FROM THE SESSION:

Norman Darden

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:

"Bells Ringing, Angels Singing"

Praise Ringers

arr. Dan Edwards

(Ding, Dong Merrily on High/Angels from the Realms of Glory)

***THE DOXOLOGY:**

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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:**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.
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Concerns of the Church

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO Peggy Bettcher and family in the death of her father, Donald R. Abel, who went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 5. A memorial service will be held after Christmas in Somonauk, Illinois.

ATTENDANCE: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: 375; 11:00 service: 299; Total: 674.
Sunday School: 398. Hanging of the Greens Service: 184.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: Brandon and Sarah Miller, Campus Outreach
Please pray for Campus Outreach's New Year's Conference, which will be held December 28 to January 1 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Please join Brandon in praying that twelve men from Liberty University will give up part of their winter break and commit themselves to grow with Campus Outreach. May this conference result in unique friendships between students to take back to campus, as well as a renewed vision for community and ministry.

General Fund as of November 31, 2018	
Budget to date:	\$767,007
Behind Budget:	(\$112,977)
Year-to-date contributions:	\$654,030
Year-to-date expenses:	\$713,722
Shortfall:	(\$59,692)