

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Today at 9:45 am, during the first half of 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 and facebook page, WSET-TV, and the church's voicemail, and a churchwide email will be sent. If the 8:30 service is cancelled, Sunday School is also cancelled. RFN will be held at the discretion of 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 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 **TODAY**, 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 TODAY, December 16

Announcements (Cont.)

YOUTH NEWS:
High School Christmas Party: This Saturday from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, all 9th to 12th grade students and their parents are invited to the Whelans' for our Christmas celebration!

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.

NURSERY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: The Nursery is in need of volunteers for the 5:00 and 7:00 pm services on Christmas Eve. If you are able to help, please see Toni or email her at toni@rivermont.org. Thank you!

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 have a table set up in the Cheatham Center today with more information. Please consider donating to this great cause.

UPCOMING USHER SCHEDULE

Tonight's Choir Cantata:
7:00 pm: Andrea Adams, Evan Harris, Alan Pettigrew, Mick Ritchie

Next Sunday, December 23:
Head Deacon: MaryByrd Denham **Assistant Deacon:** Paul Lass **Morning Only:** PatYeatts
8:30 am: Paul Denham, Wistar Nelligan, Alec Terrell, Massie Ware
11:00 am: Isaiah Bradner, Matt Bradner, Steve Cooper, Ray Ganthner

Christmas Eve Services Next Monday:
5:00 pm: Head Deacon: Calvin Dameron **Assistant:** Michele Dameron
Ushers: Pheby Dameron, Russ Matney
7:00 pm: Head Deacon: Jeff Griffith **Assistant:** Kenn Dunn
Ushers: Andrea Adams, Kelly Crawford, Beth Dunn, PatYeatts
*We are still in need of two ushers for this service.
9:00 pm: Head Deacon: Baxtor Gordon **Assistant:** Todd Matthews
Ushers: Susan Pettyjohn
*We are still in need of one usher for this service.

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 MINISTRY</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.

Third Sunday in Advent | December 16, 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: **Carillon Handbells**
arr. Michael Helmen

"In Dulci Jubilo (Good Christian Men, Rejoice)"

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before Him bow and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
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 SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:
Gracious and ever-faithful God, over the centuries Your people have prayed Ma-ranatha: Come, Lord Jesus, Come! As we continue our journey this Advent season, be among us with Your guiding Spirit. Open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we might in spirit and truth worship Your Son Who is coming again. In anticipation we pray this in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Pastor Mike Palombo**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalms 16:11; 35:27 (responsively)**
You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Let those who delight in Your righteousness shout for joy
and be glad and say forevermore,
"Great is the Lord!"

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE:**

8:30 #196	"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	<small>HYFRYDOL</small>
11:00 #195	"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"	<small>ANTIOCH</small>

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

8:30: PEACE

Sam and Mary Ruth Mizener

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.

11:00: JOY

Amy Dobler together with her children

Anna, Natalie, Katharina, and Zoe

In Luke 2:10 the angel told the shepherds, "And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.' "

(Luke 2:10-11)

May we experience the joy of God as we wait for Christ to return.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Psalm 32:1,11**

***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)

THE SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES:

Chapel Choir

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. Victor C. Johnson

Lori Flowers – Director; Rebecca Edmiston – 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:

8:30: Isaiah 9:1-7 (page 573)

11:00: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 (page 965)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON:

Dr. David Weber

8:30: "The Promise of Light"

11:00: "The Transformation of Light"

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:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Carillon Handbells

arr. Michael Helmen

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

***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:**

8:30: #197

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

THIRSTING

11:00: #203

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

***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, DECEMBER 2:

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: The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, well-known throughout the world for its ministry of compassion to people in need, ministers in the city of Lynchburg through a number of programs, like the Red Kettle program (REPC rings the bells for this at the Timberlake Kroger the week before Christmas). Pray for gospel transformation in the lives of those the Lynchburg Salvation Army serves through casework and counseling, youth services, rehabilitation ministry, feeding programs, emergency shelter for the homeless, transitional housing for women and children, and day care.

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)