

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
Address Service Requested



***What's Happening at Bush Creek - December Issue of "The Bridge"***



***Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
301-865-3013***

***office@bushcreekchurch.org – Church office  
http://bushcreekchurch.org/ - website***

***Sunday School – 9:30 – 10:15 am  
Worship – 10:30 am – 11:30 am***

***Interim Pastoral Team:  
Pastor Linda Lambert  
Pastor Bill Caputo***



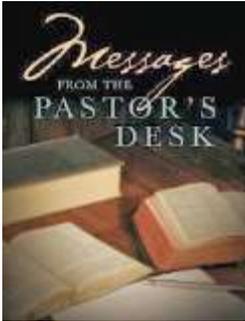
**The Bridge – December 2020 Volume 52, Number 12**

***CENTRAL VISION FOR BUSH CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Because of our commitment to Jesus Christ, we are a spiritual family who loves all people.***

## Interim Pastoral Team Contact Info.:

**Pastor Linda Lambert** – 240-815-1216 (lindalambert1544@gmail.com);

**Pastor Bill Caputo** – 240-626-9657 ([pbilltcob@comcast.net](mailto:pbilltcob@comcast.net))



**PASTOR PONDER** – from Pastor Bill Caputo – December 2020

Stress is defined as, "the presence of strong feelings of worry or anxiety." But another definition states that stress is "the normal, internal, psychological mechanism that adapts us to change." Makes it sound as if stress is a good thing, doesn't it? I guess maybe it's true for some. Maybe there's something that could be considered 'healthy stress.'

For the most part, though, we know it's a state of being that we don't like living in and, further, it doesn't feel too good to be around someone who's living there. Doctors and pastors tell us...heck, it's plain common sense...stress can cause physical harm, emotional chaos and damage to our relationships with friends, family...and with God. But we all spend time living in stress as life demands more of us than we can keep up with. Charles Stanley reminds us, however, that stress isn't the circumstance, "it is the response to circumstances." In other words, we can choose to respond differently. Inherent in that reminder however is this warning: it's not within our own power to change our response to circumstances but we can decide to allow God's grace to bring us up short, settle us down and lead us to the sanctuary of His rest.

Ironic and silly as it is, Christmas time can be a great stressor for many of us. We're supposed to recall the coming of the Lord...peace on earth, good will to those upon whom His favor rests! But, instead of internalizing that, we think it something meant for someone else, for some other reason. Maybe we think it means "world peace" is supposed to have come and since we don't see a lot of evidence of that, there's really no good reason to be any less anxiety-ridden than we usually are.

There is a good reason, though, and it's the best of all possible reasons...soul peace! It is soul peace that is given because the God of the universe has bent down from heaven to rescue His cherished ones, each and every one of us.

**So, this year, let's push back as hard as we can against the busyness and the noise of the season and, instead, to breathe in the silence of a Holy Night, to exist in the stillness of a Midnight Clear and to uncover the joy to be found in a Little Town called Bethlehem!**

Pastor Bill





## Worship Schedule for December:

### **Preaching:**

Dec. 6 – Pastor Linda Lambert  
Dec. 13 – Pastor Bill Caputo  
Dec. 20 – Pastor Linda Lambert  
Dec. 27 – Brother Art Frank

### **Worship Assistant:**

Jane Musselman  
Devin Clark  
Art Frank  
Ben & Claire Smith

### **Greeters:**

Jennifer, Ben & Claire Smith  
Chip & Jan Stitley  
Jeb & Hallie Cliber & family  
Brian & Chontelle Hockenbery



**In-Person Worship Services:** In person worship services are being held each week in the Bush Creek sanctuary at 10:30 am. All state and local regulations including **wearing a face mask/covering and practice distancing**, are being followed. Worship services are also being recorded

on Sunday morning and will be posted on our Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/BCCoB1855](https://www.facebook.com/BCCoB1855)) and website ([www.bushcreekchurch.org](http://www.bushcreekchurch.org)).

**Tithing - Thank you** for your weekly tithing in praise and honor of our Lord and Savior. If you are attending worship there is an offering plate located at the sanctuary door. If you are viewing from your home, please feel free to send your tithe in the mail addressed to Bush Creek Church of the Brethren, 4821A Green Valley Rd., Attn: Financial Sec., Monrovia, Md. 21770.





**BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE:**

**Wed. morning** in the fellowship hall from 10 am. - 12 noon. – Jean Hipkins

**Wed. evening** in the fellowship hall 6:30 – 7:30 pm - Pastor Linda Lambert leading.

**Thurs. evening** in the fellowship hall 6 – 7 pm - Nancy Pastor leading.

**\*Bush Creek Board meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 7 @ 7 pm in the fellowship hall.**

**\*Young Adults Class** – A class is available Sunday mornings for young adults. The group meets via Zoom from 9am – 10am. If interested in joining the weekly group discussions, please contact Mike or Kathie Tucker at [mbtucker22@gmail.com](mailto:mbtucker22@gmail.com).

**\*Adult Sunday School** is being held in the fellowship hall each week beginning at 9:30 am.

**\*Children's Church Worship (CCW)** will be held during worship on December 6 with Jennifer Smith leading in the fellowship hall.

**\*The foundation project** has been completed but, donations are gladly accepted to assist with the payoff of the loan balance now at **\$15,700**. If you would like to donate to the **foundation fund**, please make check payable to Bush Creek Church and mark in memo line "Church foundation fund". **Donations to date: \$18,341. Thank you for your generosity.**

**\*Christmas Caroling Dec. 11** with the youth (outside homes). Meet @ church 5:30 pm for pizza. Sign up on program table.

**\* Thank you to all for your participation in the Greater Urbana Food Bank gift program.** The gifts that were purchased by our members will support various families in the local area that are a part of the Food Bank. A total of 28 gifts were purchased out of your generosity. Gifts are due by Dec. 13. Please place gifts in the coat room and mark your name off the list. See Lou Gloyd or Jo Ann Schulze with any questions.

**\*End of Year Financial Giving** – Just a reminder that all giving for the year 2020 must be received at Bush Creek, or postmarked by December 31 in order to be included in the 2020 giving report. Thank you – Financial Secretary – Dorcas Bromhead.



**\* Poinsettia orders – You may order a poinsettia to be used in the sanctuary on Dec. 20 & 24.** Order forms are available each week. Please feel free to email the church office if you would like an order form sent. [Office@bushcreekchurch.org](mailto:Office@bushcreekchurch.org)  
Orders are due by Dec. 13.

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**\*Addresses - please submit any address or phone changes to the church office as soon as possible so a new address directory can be prepared.**

**\*Greeting Cards** – Greeting cards can be placed in the mail boxes in the middle narthex for our church family. Please do remember the boxes are provided for those members that attend on a regular basis. A mailbox for the interim pastors is located in the front narthex by the sanctuary doors.

**\*MESSENGER Subscriptions:** If you would like to renew your current subscription, or request a new subscription, please contact Anna Mae Poole by NLT Sunday, January 17, 2021. Payment is not due until later when we receive an invoice from MESSENGER. However, if you wish to pay now, please: Make the check payable to Bush Creek Church, Put "Messenger" in the Memo section; and **Give the check to Anna Mae (in her church mailbox or send by mail)**. Anna Mae will make note that you have paid, and will forward the check to the Bush Creek Treasurer to process. The cost remains at \$14.50/year; or \$27/2 years. Thank you!

**\*The Greater Urbana Food Bank** is accepting non-perishable food items to assist needy families in our area. If you would like to contribute please put donations in the container in the coat room. Financial support of the food bank is greatly appreciated as well. – **Missions & Service Commission**

**\*Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home is in need of financial support due to COVID-19** to provide much needed medical equipment to both residents and staff. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to Bush Creek Church and put a note in the memo line – Fahrney-Keedy. Thank you.

**\*Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries (Camp)** – Camping and other programs that are normally a part of Shepherd's Spring were unable to be held in the past nine months due to COVID-19. This has created a financial hardship for the camp in the planning of future programs and the maintenance of the camp properties, and supporting the various staff. Prayerfully consider financially supporting the camp by making a donation. Please make your check payable to Bush Creek Church and put a note in the memo line – Shepherd's Spring. Thank you.

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A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. Mary is seated on the right, holding the baby Jesus in a blue manger. Joseph stands behind her, holding a wooden staff. An angel with white wings and a halo kneels on the left, looking towards the manger. The scene is set on a patch of straw.

# ★ children's ★ Christmas Program & Party

**We will be holding our annual Christmas Program with youth and children creating a live nativity scene during our worship service on December 20<sup>th</sup>.** We will have new masks for all over the age of 5 to wear. We will also be social distancing non-family participants of the nativity scene (and as we always do in the congregation). You and your family are warmly invited to be a part of this meaningful annual tradition. Please arrive by 9:00 am (for the service and Program that will begin at 10:30am) if there are children or youth that would like to participate. We understand if you are not comfortable attending or taking part this year but we want you to know that, no matter what, we at Bush Creek Church are here for you.

**After the Christmas Program (for the remainder of the worship service and ending by 11:30am), we will hold a socially-distanced party in our Fellowship Hall.** We will have the costumed children and youth act out the entire Christmas Story while it is narrated and others watch from marked seats that are 6 feet apart. We will have activities for children and youth in family groups. Our snack will be in the form of packaged treats and drinks that are taken home. Again, we hope you can join us in this celebration of Jesus' birthday and we understand if you are uncomfortable doing so.

**Throughout this season, may you feel the love that God intended when he sent us his only Son.**



***From the Bush Creek Christian Education Commission***



***The Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
will be held at 7 pm.***

***Plan to attend this inspirational time of scripture readings,  
special music and candle lighting.***

***Please follow all state and local regulations including wearing a mask/face  
covering and observe social distancing.***

***Our sanctuary is prepared for social distancing seating, and overflow  
seating will be available in the fellowship hall with viewing of the service  
live on a large screen.***

***In the event of inclement weather or any changes,  
please consult our face book page and website @ [bushcreekchurch.org](http://bushcreekchurch.org).***

