

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 2021 Volume 53, 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 – cell - 240-815-1216

lindalambert1544@gmail.com);

Pastor Bill Caputo – 240-626-9657 (pbilltcob@comcast.net)

bushcreekchurch.org

office@bushcreekchurch.org



PASTOR PONDER – Pastor Bill Caputo

There's a well-known account in chapter 3 of the Book of 1st Kings when God appears to Solomon and says, "Ask and I will give it to you" (v. 5). Solomon's desire and therefore his response? Well, being a young man, inexperienced in his role as King, Solomon asks for "an understanding heart to judge [God's] people and to discern between good and evil" (v. 9). This greatly pleased the Lord who granted that blessing, saying, "Behold, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart" (v. 12).

I think this bears weight and witness to where we find ourselves in the living of these days. After going along relatively smoothly for many years, just doing life, doing church, doing the things we've always done, we suddenly find ourselves living in an extremely fractured period of our existence together. Our culture has never embraced the worldly so fully. Licentiousness is exalted and God's design for human sexuality is rejected. Our economic systems seems to be falling apart. Our government is dysfunctional, oppressive and corrupt. Lockdowns, mandates, failing schools, unconstrained violence across our nation! And, of course...churches and denominations that have become contaminated by the world and the evil one.

But, you know, the world has *always* been a violent, craven, chaotic and dangerous place. It is, after all, the world! So, as bad as things are, this really isn't the worst it's ever been (although it might be, I don't know). But I'm saying that WE certainly have never been in this place before...together. We will be facing challenges and decisions in the coming days, weeks and months, the likes of which we couldn't or wouldn't have imagined before now.

And so, in this season of Advent, let's both closeout this year and begin the new one like Solomon, aware of our need for God's wisdom. Let's approach the throne of grace of the Lord most High who has shown great and faithful Love to us by sending His One and Only Begotten Son. Let us come in humility with a receptive heart and ask that He would guide us to judge rightly, and to discern between good and evil, ever desirous of walking in His ways, His statutes and commands.

As we celebrate, express joy and find peace at the coming of the Christ, let us also ask for wisdom, and while we're at it, a heavy portion of courage. Wisdom to discern between good and evil and the courage to hold that holy ground.





IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR DECEMBER 12:

***Special Council meeting scheduled for 9 am has been rescheduled to January 16, 2022.**

***Adult Sunday School has been cancelled and will resume December 19.**

***Family Christmas Meal has been cancelled.**



Poinsettia orders are being accepted through December 12. Please complete an order form found on the program table or email to the church office. Poinsettias will be on display beginning December 19 through December 24 and then can be taken home.

Board Meeting, December 13 @ 7 pm. Mark calendars now please.

Church key distribution – Please see Lou Gloyd following worship Dec. 12 to pick up your new church key(s). Please contact the church office to pick them up at another time if you will not be in worship. Please remember to treat the church keys to God's house the same as your own home. Please lock doors behind you when you enter during the week and remember to lock again. Thank you.

Christmas Caroling – Dec. 18. Meet at church at 4 pm. Please bring cookies to be prepared into trays to deliver when caroling. Please see sign up in narthex. See Jennifer Smith with questions.

American Red Cross Blood Drive Dates for your calendar: December 21, January 25, February 24 and March 29. Please mark your calendars now.

End of the Year Giving – Just a reminder that all end of the year financial giving should be received by December 26 in offering on Sunday. If you are mailing your offering it should be postmarked by December 31 in order to be recorded for the year 2021. Thank you.



In the event of inclement causing cancellation of worship services or other church related events, please check our website @ bushcreekchurch.org and [Face Book](#). In addition, you will receive a call from your deacon caregiver to inform you of cancellations.

Special Council meeting originally scheduled for December 12 @ 9 am has been rescheduled to Jan. 16 after worship. An information packet will be available on Jan. 2 for preview. Please mark your calendars.



IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:



The Christian Education Commission started Elementary Sunday School on September 19. Classes will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for children in grades K – grade 5. Teachers - Jess Dixon and Beth Green. If you'd like to assist in teaching, please contact the Christian Education Commission

Youth will be meeting in the classroom on second level beside the Library during the month of December. All youth are welcomed to attend. Please see Jennifer Smith for more information.

Adult Sunday School - Beginning Nov 21st the Fellowship Hall Sunday school class (meeting each Sunday at 9:30) will be presenting an in-depth study on Proverbs 31. It's a chapter which on one level looks at the characteristics of a godly woman. But more than that it features the hallmarks which Heaven expects of the believer in Jesus. No other portion of Scripture allows so much space and meticulous detail and description of God's standards for us. Join us. Don't miss out on this vital learning. The teachers: Jean Hipkins, Anna Mae Poole, Art Frank and Sam Weinberg, cordially invite you to come and join them and the class each week to grow in grace and in the knowledge of **The Truth.** ***Adult Sunday School will not be held on December 12, but will resume on December 19.***

Children's Church Worship will be held each Sunday during the worship hour. Please contact the Christian Education Commission if you'd like to volunteer for a Sunday.

Nursery will be available during the worship hour from 10:15 until 11:30 am for children from 0-4 y/o. The nursery will be located at the top of the stairs to the right, at the end of the hall on your right.

Bible Studies:

1) Wed. morning is being held by Zoom at this time.

Please see Jean Hipkins for further details.

2) Wed. evening in the sanctuary 6:30 – 7:30 pm – (Pastor Linda Lambert)



Welcome to
Our Church

Preaching:

Dec 05 – Pastor Bill

Dec 12 – Pastor Bill

Dec 19 – Pastor Linda

Dec 26 – Brother Art Frank

Worship Assistant:

Devin Clark

Jennifer Smith

Art Frank

Anna Mae Poole

Greeter(s):

Gary White Family

Steve & Dana Shultz

Pastor Bill & Kasia Caputo

Jeff & Jane Musselman

*BSA meeting every Wed. in fellowship hall 6:30 pm



Month of December Dates to Remember:

Dec. 4 – Breakfast with Santa – CANCELLED

Dec. 12 – Special Council meeting – RESCHEDULED (January 2022)

Dec. 12 – Family Christmas Meal – CANCELLED

Dec. 12 – Urbana Food Bank Family gifts due

Dec. 18 – Christmas Caroling @ 4 pm – meet at church

Dec. 19 – Children's Christmas Program during worship

Dec. 19 – Children's Christmas Party in fellowship hall after program

Dec. 21 – American Red Cross Blood Drive – fellowship hall

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Dec. 26 – Deacons meeting after worship



Christmas
Program

December 19 – Children’s Program during morning worship. All children are welcome to participate. Please wear a white shirt and nice jeans (no holes please) and be at church by 9 am. Please plan to attend this opportunity for children/youth to participate in worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.



Following the Children’s program during worship will be a Christmas Party in the fellowship hall. Children will enjoy the Christmas story, a Wiseman craft and snacks. Children age four and under should be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Christian Ed. Comm.



The Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

will be held at 7 pm on December 24.

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

***Our pastors have planned this service to present an opportunity for families
to gather and receive a blessing through a time of worship and light, as we
celebrate the birth of our Savior.***

***In the event of inclement weather or any changes,
please consult our facebook page and website @ bushcreekchurch.org.***



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Storage Room – Fellowship Hall. An expansion of the storage in the fellowship hall has been approved by our Church Board of Admin. The new storage area will be located on the south side of the fellowship hall wall and used to store tables, chairs and kitchen equipment. The storage room measurements will be 11 ft. x 33 ft. An estimate on this project is \$50 - \$60,000. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make checks payable to Bush Creek COB and mark it “storage room”.

Tithing - *Thank you* for tithing in praise and honor of our Lord and Savior. If viewing the worship service from your home, please feel free to send your love gift addressed to Bush Creek Church of the Brethren, 4821A Green Valley Rd., Attn: Financial Sec., Monrovia, Md. 21770.

The Greater Urbana Food Bank is accepting non-perishable food items. 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 along with grocery store certificates. – **Missions & Service Commission**

Giving opportunities for consideration are listed below. Please give prayerful thought to financial support to any of these programs by making a check payable to Bush Creek Church, and put a note in the memo line so your gift can be directed.

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM), Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS)

Church World Service Blanket Program

Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village13, Heifer International, Meat Canning

Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Auction (ads, donations of items, financial support)

Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministries