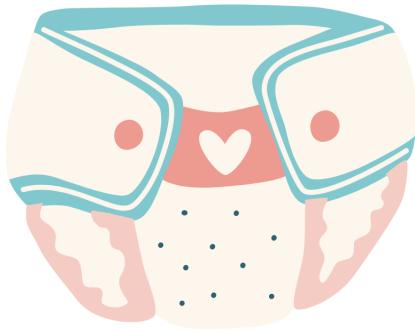


Address: 110 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812
Phone: 540-237-2120
Email: Bridgewaterpresbychurch@gmail.com
Website: www.Bridgewaterpc.com

On Facebook & YouTube as
Bridgewater Presbyterian Church



DIAPER DRIVE

NOW - JAN 28TH

In Honor of Jesus' Birthday, the Sunday School Students of BPC
are collecting disposable diapers & wipes.

Donations brought to BPC will be given to the *Corner Cupboard Food Pantry*
at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Harrisonburg.

They distribute over 200 packages of diapers per month and their numbers
have risen 165% from last year.

Especially Needed: sizes 4,5, 6, & 7

*Walmart brand "Parent's Choice" Fragrance free
but will gratefully take any diapers or wipes*

Thank You for helping with this special collection!

Be sure to check out our collection area in the Fellowship Hall
and play "guess the baby"!

Three Children will be Baptized on January 14:

- ~ Cameron Rees, , daughter of Lance & Erin Rees
- ~ Bryce Carter, son of Katherine & Michael Carter
- ~ Aiden Carter, son of Katherine & Michael Carter

Please stay for the reception in their honor following worship.



What If It Snows?

A reminder that, if Rockingham County Schools have a weather-related closing, the church office is closed as well. If it is Sunday, watch WHSV-tv3 or listen to WSVA 550AM/92.1FM.

Congregational Meeting January 7, 2024

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting during worship on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, for the purpose of electing the Elder Class of 2026. Installation and Commissioning will also take place.

Please express your appreciation to retiring elders Gretchen Collins & Merrill Simon for their years of faithful service and inspiring leadership.

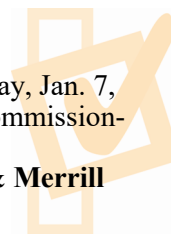
Inside this Issue:

- 2...Education
- 2...Member Care
- 2...Mission/Outrch
- 3...Spiritual Life
- 4...Birthdays
- 4...Groups
- 4...Volunteers
- 4...Session
- 4...Treasurer's Rprt
- 5...Calendar

Next Session
meeting is
Thursday,
January 18
At 6:30 p.m.

*Transitional
Pastor:*

Rev.
**Kate
Rascoe**



Member Care

~ Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship **over ice cream at Smiley's** on Wednesday, January 17th at 3:30 p.m. Bring a friend!



~ We express our deepest **sympathy to Heather Sellers** and her family on the death of her paternal grandmother, Joyce Lough.

~ **Updated Directory:** The address portion of the church directory has been updated. It was emailed as a PDF. If you prefer a paper copy, there are a few on the table by the windows in the Fellowship Hall.



Congratulations to Sean & Devin Eichlin on the birth of their daughter, **Ada Lark**, on Her grandparents are Dana & Scott and her great-grandfather is Dick Eichlin.

Mission & Outreach

~ **The Christmas Joy Offering totaled \$330.** Thank you for your generous support.

~ Thank you to all who participated with our **float in the Christmas Parade:**
Carroll Chewning, Tommy Glendye,
Robin Stanford, Linda West,
Alison McElroy, Lacey & Emory Johnson.



Save the Date: Sunday, February 11

- ~ Souper Bowl of Caring
- ~ 2¢-a-Meal Offering
- ~ Soup & Sandwich Lunch



The team is in the huddle discussing details & challenges. Watch for the Snap!

Christian Education

~ **The Adult Class will finish their Advent study** then choose another subject.

~ **The Children/Youth need teachers—sign up on the kiosk.**

This month, Pam Bailey is teaching about Jesus' Baptism and early ministry.



Confirmation Begins!

Presbyterians have the custom of baptizing infants - signaling through sacrament that God loves and claims us from our very beginning. We have used the tradition of Confirmation to allow believers to claim for themselves what was promised and prayed for them as children. It is both a chance to step into the process of faithful maturity and a discernment of what commitment to a faith community could be. BPC embarks on this journey with its youth - **Phoenix Johnson, and Evie & James Enterline** - this winter. Please pray for them as they learn, grow, and reflect.



Prayer for Epiphany Star Words*

God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.

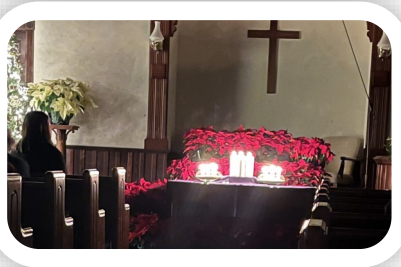
***Star Words** are a lighthearted way choose a word to guide your year. They are available for the taking in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a Star to provide perspective and opportunity to reflect, please take one or contact Pastor Kate.

REMINDER: Providing flower arrangements for worship is a perfect way to honor or remember a loved one and enhance our worship experience at the same time! The calendar for 2024 is on the kiosk. Simply sign up or contact Sally in the church office. Bring a houseplant for one Sunday, or cut blooms from your yard!

Thank you to everyone who made our Advent and Christmas worship experiences special.

- ☆ The decorations —inside and out— were beautiful
- ☆ The Chrismon Tree was cheery and bright
- ☆ The Advent Wreath was stunning, as always
- ☆ The Poinsettias, all 24 of them, were artfully arranged
- ☆ The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service was meaningful and we had several guests
- ☆ The Choir's cantata, anthems and other special music offerings were exceptional
- ☆ The Reception following the cantata was very elegant
- ☆ The Christmas Eve Candlelight is the perfect culmination of the season
- ☆ The Annual Ornament was a delightful keepsake (some still available!)

*Thank
You*





Birthdays

Aiden Carter
 Lauren West
 Jane Crockett
 Alex McElroy
 Charlette McQuilkin
 MJ Chewning
 Carolyn Anderson
 Lacey Johnson
 Jyl Gamble



Book Group's Next Read

"The Canary Girls" by Jennifer Chiaverini. They will meet for discussion and snacks on Monday, Jan. 22nd at 7:00 at Bridgewater Presbyterian Church. Everyone is welcome!



Men Meet for Breakfast

All males are invited to breakfast at **The Galley** in Harrisonburg on the **third Saturday** of each month at 8:30 a.m. All ages and guests are welcome. Our next date: **January 20th at 8:30 a.m.**

If you need a ride, or can provide one, contact Carroll Chewning

Our Building as a Blessing

A reminder that the healthy eating group **TOPS** meets in our Fellowship Hall every Tuesday, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For everyone's safety and privacy, whenever possible, do not come to the building during their designated time.

Worship at White Birch

Sunday, January 14th at 1:30 p.m. in their dining room.
 Leader: Judy Rees
 Piano: George Anderson



Meet at Smiley's on Wednesday, January 17th at 3:30 p.m.

Session meeting

Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 pm.

Newsletter Deadline January 29th

VPAS Café in Bridgewater



Anyone age 60+ is welcome. Programs happen on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month in Blue Ridge Room of the Houff Community Center at BRC.

Registration is required:

Call VPAS at 540-615-5341 and check online at www.vpas.info/calendar

	Ushering and Greeting share duties with one at each door	Acolyte/ Bell Ringer	Lay Leader	Highlight /Flowers
7	David & Charlette McQuilkin	Phoenix	Gracie Florence	Communion/Election/Installation
14	Carroll Chewning & Gracie Florence	Emory	Jon DeVier-Scott	Baptisms
21	Steve & Pat Humphreys	Phoenix	Betsy Glendye	Open
28	Emily Heatwole & Merrill Simon	Emory	Joe Crockett	Open

Finance Reports: prepared by Bev Carver, Disbursement Treasurer

<i>Account Balances</i> as of November 30, 2023	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Money Market</i>	<i>Payroll</i>	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Ed. Jones</i> (for stock gifts)
	\$ 40,983.34	\$ 49,483.13	\$ 2,156.36	\$ 635.77	0.00

Totals as of 11/30/2023	
Income	\$116,443.24
Expense	\$122,779.18
Difference	\$ 6,335.94

Fund Balances as of November 30, 2023


- Youth Event Fund: \$5,291.93 (monies reside in Money Market)
- Backpack Ministry Fund: \$295.56 (monies reside in Operating)
- Memorial Fund: \$ 39,782.50 (monies reside in Money Market)
- Raise the Roof Fund: \$4,398.70 (monies reside in Money Market)

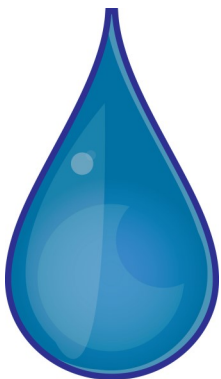
Watch for Your Giving Statement

I will be mailing the 2023 year-end giving statements at the end of January, as required by law. Please check it right away. It is much easier to correct an error in February than on April 14th. -Sally



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Office Closed	6 <i>Epiphany</i>
<i>Communion</i> 7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	8	9 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u>	10 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	11	12 Office Closed	13
<i>Baptisms</i> 14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Reception follows</i> 1:30 White Birch	15 MLK DAY	16 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u>	 17 <i>Smiley's</i> 3:30 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	18 6:30 Session	19 Office Closed	20 8:30 AM Men eat at the Galley
<i>Per Capita Day</i> 21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22 7:00 Book Group At church	23 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u>	24 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	25	26 Office Closed	27
<i>Diaper Drive ends</i> 28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	29 Newsletter Deadline	30 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u>	31 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	FEB 1	2 Office Closed	3 Confirmation Class retreat -Massanetta
FEBRUARY 4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5	6 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u>	7 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	8	9 Office Closed	10
<i>Transfiguration</i> 11 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Soup /Sandwich Lunch 2¢ Offering	12 No School in Rockingham	13 4:30 <u>T</u> <u>O</u> <u>P</u> <u>S</u> No School in Rockingham	14 <i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> 7:00 <u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>I</u> <u>R</u>	15 6:30 Session	16 Office Closed	17 8:30 AM Men eat at the Galley



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

WATER — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness, the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).