



SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Worship Schedule: 10 AM
In-person and livestreamed

OFFICE STAFF**Bridge Pastor, Nona Holy**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS!](#)**Pastor's Ponderings**

The Rev. Nona Holy

Blessed New Year to You All!

As 2022 begins there is the blessing of a new beginning, a fresh start which beckons us to faithfulness in fresh ways. And in that spirit, I offer you these words shared with me by the former Dean of Students at Trinity University, my alma mater. It reminds us that in moments small and large, we have the opportunity to embody the love of Jesus to those around us.

We also know that as 2022 begins, some things are very much the same as they were days ago when 2021 ended. The virus continues to shape our lives and require us to respond faithfully and thoughtfully. In that spirit, the Session has met to consider how we as a congregation respond to the surge of the Omicron variant. Seeking to care not only for our members but for the larger community as well, your leaders have decided to request anyone in the church building to wear a mask.

So what this means for worship is that all those worshipping will be asked to wear a mask, including the choir. The preacher and liturgist will be unmasked only when speaking. Further, we ask that the congregation seek to space themselves within the sanctuary and also refrain from singing.

Following worship we will continue to gather for a simplified time of fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to spread out in the fellowship hall and to wear their masks except when eating or drinking.

Though this is not what we all hoped for as this new year begins, it is where we are. And as God's faithful people, we meet these moments of self-sacrifice with resolve born of the charge we have from God to love one another as God loves us. In that spirit, let us extend grace and care to one another, and to all those whom God calls us to love.

Peace, be well –

Pastor Nona

"I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers will say 'bless you' when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. 'Don't die,' we are saying. And, sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say 'thank you' to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pickup truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, 'Here, have my seat,' 'Go ahead. You first,' and, 'I like your hat.'"

"Small Kindnesses" by Danusha Lameris

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM JANUARY 2, 2022

Our pastor's contact information can be found on the front page of this newsletter. Pastor Holy is available for conversation and prayer. Also, please continue to share your joys and concerns with us so that we may continue to support each other in specific prayer requests.

Joys and concerns may be submitted to the office via email or by phone. We check messages regularly.

Please let us know of answers to prayer – so that we can give thanks to God!

Please keep the entire Smith family in your prayers this week. The whole family tested positive for Covid over the Christmas break and some even have had strep! Mostly their symptoms are mild and they are on the mend.

We also ask that you pray for Jason Casper and his family. His father suffered a bad fall and is currently in rehab, and his brother is now home after being hospitalized with Covid.

We pray for our church and our communities as we deal with another surge of Covid.



2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Year to Date Total Giving 2021: | \$252,450 |
| Budgeted Giving 2021: | \$244,249 |
| 2022 Pledged Giving: | \$185,064 |
| 2022 Budgeted Giving: | \$210,000 |

WORSHIP LINKS

January 2, 2022

◇ [Audio/Video link](#)

◇ [Bulletin/Liturgy link](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW



We are still accepting pledges for 2022! At this time we are \$24,936 away from reaching our goal of \$210,000. **Simply email your 2021 pledge commitment to Linda Natali at finance@lowerbrandywine.org.**

We cannot know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our church.



I have decided, after much deliberation, it is time for me to retire from singing in the senior choir. My mother and I sang in the alto section before the family became official members of Lower Brandywine in 1945. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life to participate through the years, lending my voice to a multitude of most talented musicians sharing their love of God through song. Life is so good! - Joanna Kelly

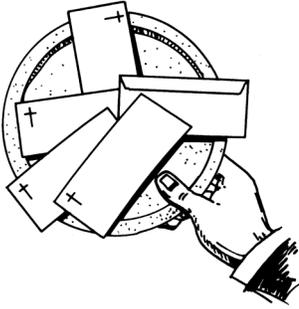


The office is compiling the 2021 annual report which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 30, 2022. If you are a staff member or chairperson that heads a group or committee, you are responsible for submitting a report that summarizes your activities for the year 2021. All submissions are due in the office by January 14th. Reports should be emailed to lbpc@lowerbrandywine.org. If you have questions or need some help, please contact either Linda Natali or Becky Kennedy in the church office. Thank you for sharing the goodness of your ministry! Blessings to all!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

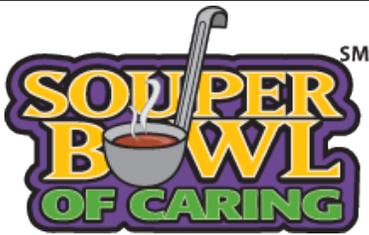


GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

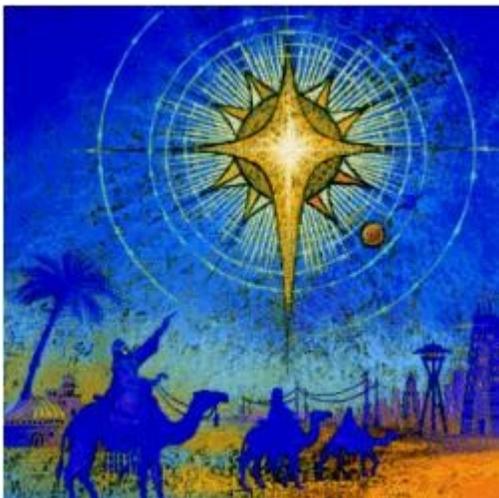
Last year, through your generosity, Sunday Breakfast Mission received close to \$1000 in donations from LBPC.

The “Good Sam” collection is received on the first Sunday of each month, and proceeds benefit such charities.

Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need!



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th, LIFT will once again be collecting canned goods for the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. Collection baskets will be located in the Sanctuary and in the Social Hall. Proceeds benefit the Delaware Food Bank.



Epiphany is the celebration of God’s manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God’s promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God’s covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Christ.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God’s true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God’s gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas. *Epiphany of the Lord is Thursday, January 6th.*

CALENDAR

JANUARY 3RD—JANUARY 16TH

| Start Date | Start Time | Subject |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 01/05/2022 | 12:00 PM | Alanon |
| | 7:30 PM | Senior Choir Rehearsal |
| 01/06/2022 | 10:30 AM | Staff Meeting |
| | 6:30 PM | Confirmation Meeting |
| 01/09/2022 | | Baptism of the Lord |
| | 8:00 AM | Adult Topical Study (Zoom) |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed) |
| | 10:15 AM | Children's Sunday School |
| | 11:00 AM | Fellowship |
| | 11:15 AM | Fellowship Committee Meeting |
| | 5:00 PM | Sr. Choir Christmas Party |
| 01/10/2022 | 7:00 PM | Alanon |
| | 7:00 PM | Alateen |
| 01/12/2022 | 12:00 PM | Alanon |
| 01/13/2022 | 12:00 PM | Brown Bag Bible Study |
| | 6:00 PM | LIFT/Confirmation |
| 01/16/2022 | | Second Sunday after Epiphany |
| | | Adult Topical Study (Zoom) |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed) |
| | 10:15 AM | Children's Sunday School |
| | 11:00 AM | Fellowship |

January 2022 Readings

Second Sunday of Christmas—January 2

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalm 147:12–20

Ephesians 1:3–14 John 1:(1–9) 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 9

Isaiah 43:1–7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14–17

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Sunday, January 16

Isaiah 62:1–5

Psalm 36:5–10

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

John 2:1–11

Sunday, January 23

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Luke 4:14–21

Sunday, January 30

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Psalm 71:1–6 1

Corinthians 13:1–13

Luke 4:21–30

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 01/02 | Jacob Jury |
| 01/03 | Kristin Armstrong |
| 01/03 | Erin Walther |
| 01/04 | Paul Kenton |
| 01/06 | Alex Schwendeman |
| 01/07 | Hunter Witmer |
| 01/09 | Dara Main |
| 01/15 | William Martinez |
| 01/16 | Molly Kenton |
| 01/16 | Adrienne Underwood |
| 01/18 | Susan Latimer |
| 01/21 | Janis Kumpf |
| 01/22 | Dennis Witmer |
| 01/24 | Hanna Firment |
| 01/24 | Hunter Firment |
| 01/24 | Marilyn Roberts |
| 01/26 | Xande Robertson |
| 01/26 | George Salmons |
| 01/27 | Paul Haldeman |
| 01/28 | Carey Kaiser |
| 01/29 | Carolyn Hooper |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 01/01 | Joan & Doug Cummings |
| 01/01 | Jonathan & Barbara Sypher |
| 01/29 | David & Barbara Heckman |

Keep up with the latest news from the PCUSA and the NCP (New Castle Presbytery) by subscribing to one of the many available e-newsletters. There is so much happening in our denomination beyond our walls! Learn more about how other Presbyterians are responding to the needs of our world. Follow the links below to subscribe:



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