



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Worship Schedule: 10 AM

In –person and livestreamed

Worship lead by The Rev. Nona Holy

OFFICE STAFF

Bridge Pastor, Nona Holy

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS!](#)

Pastor's Ponderings

The Rev. Nona Holy

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.
Meister Eckhart

It's amazing how thanksgiving, a spirit of gratitude, can change our lives, or at least how we experience our lives. As Willie Nelson is said to have reflected, "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." When we are conscious of our blessings, we live in an attitude of abundance instead of deprivation. Noticing how we experience good fortune, or grace, changes how we see and understand our lives, even when our losses and challenges are very real.

One way to be more mindful of our blessings, to cultivate a spirit of gratitude, is a practice called examen. A spiritual discipline that invites us to pause each day and name the things for which we are grateful. Doing this at the end of the day can take a harried, frustrating day and help us to see the good, the unexpected, the undeserved grace in the midst of that day.

Perhaps Thanksgiving might be more than a day for you this year. Maybe the practice of examen can help you take the spirit of gratitude into the coming weeks and months.

*There are only two ways to live your life.
One is though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as if everything is a miracle. Albert Einstein*

Peace, be well –
Pastor Nona

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2021

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!

We give thanks for the worship leadership of the Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan!

We ask for travelling mercies for all those who will be travelling over the Thanksgiving holiday.

We continue to pray for those in our congregation who are suffering from injury and illness.

We lift up those who are facing this holiday season after having lost friends and loved ones.

We prayer for our communities and our country after another weekend of violence and unrest.



2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Year to Date Total Giving 2021:	\$220,137
Budgeted Giving 2021:	\$244,249

WORSHIP LINKS

November 21, 2021

“ Whose Is This”

◇ [Audio/Video link](#)

◇ [Bulletin/Liturgy link](#)



**LOWER BRANDYWINE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

SEASON OF ADVENT

**NOV ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING
7:00 PM**

23 SHOWING OF THE ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN THE LBPC SANCTUARY FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION IN THE SOCIAL HALL. OFFERING BENEFICIARY IS THE ALS PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER.

**NOV 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
10:00 AM**

28

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS WE LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE SYMBOLIZING *HOPE*.

**DEC 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
10:00 AM**

5

WE LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE IN THE ADVENT WREATH SYMBOLIZING *PEACE*, AND CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. A PANCAKE BREAKFAST BENEFITING THE YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP WILL FOLLOW.

**DEC 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
10:00 AM**

12

WE LIGHT THE THIRD CANDLE SYMBOLIZING *JOY*. DR. DONNA BEECH AND THE LBPC SR. CHOIR PRESENT THEIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA, 'GLORIA,' BY VIVALDI.

**DEC 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
10:00 AM**

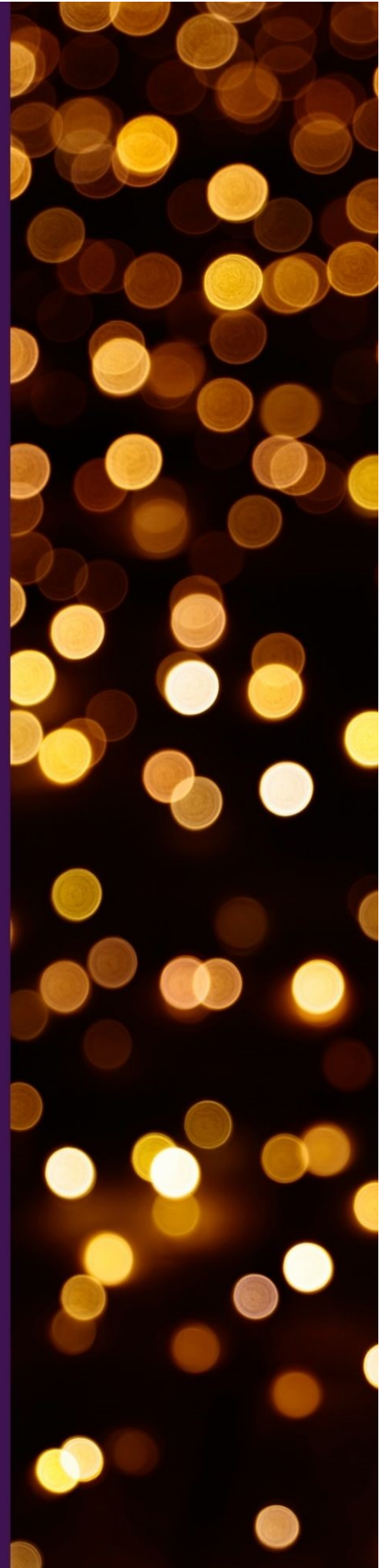
19

WE LIGHT THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE SYMBOLIZING *LOVE*. CHILDREN AND YOUTH RETELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN, "AN IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT."

**DEC CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
5:00 PM**

24

COME CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD IN THIS TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS! WE LIGHT THE *CHRIST CANDLE* AND THEN SHARE IT'S LIGHT WHILE WE SING, "SILENT NIGHT."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW



Our next LIFT meeting is Thursday, December 2nd at 6:00 PM. Then, **MARK YOUR CALENDAR...** Thursday, December 16th we will meet for a special Christmas celebration dinner. Time and location to be announced. Stay tuned! Also, Urban Promise is slowly sending us their families' Christmas wish list. We'll schedule a time for shopping and wrapping at our next meeting.



LET'S CELEBRATE! The Major family will be hosting a Christmas party for the LBPC children on Sunday, December 19th following the worship service. For more information, please contact Miss Candace at candacesmithevents@gmail.com



The Missions Committee would like to remind everyone that the deadline for turning in Walmart gift cards to support the families of the Refuge is December 15th. Need a reminder? Grab a tag off the giving tree in the social hall. Gift cards may be submitted to the office or dropped in the offering plate.



Special birthday wishes to Dr. Herbert Oettgen who celebrates 98 years today!!



A BIG thank you to Betsy Coons for sharing her cooking gifts with the LBPC children and youth by showing them how to make delicious spring rolls! Yumm!!!



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 15TH—NOVEMBER 28TH

Start Date	Start Time	Subject
11/22/2021	10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	AI-Anon
	7:00 PM	AI-Ateen
11/23/2021	7:00 PM	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
	8:00 PM	Fellowship
11/24/2021	12:00 PM	AI-Anon
	7:30 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal
11/25/2021	12:00 AM	**OFFICE CLOSED**
11/26/2021	12:00 AM	**OFFICE CLOSED**
11/28/2021		First Sunday of Advent
	8:00 AM	Adult Topical Study
	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed)
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Fellowship
11/29/2021	7:00 PM	Session
	7:00 PM	AI-Anon
	7:00 PM	AI-Ateen
12/01/2021	12:00 PM	AI-Anon
	7:30 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal
12/02/2021	11:00 AM	Brown Bag Bible Study
	6:00 PM	LIFT
12/05/2021		Second Sunday of Advent
		Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Good Samaritan Offering
	8:00 AM	Adult Topical Study
	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship Service (In-Person and Livestreamed)
	11:00 AM	Fellowship: LIFT Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

November 2021 Readings

All Saints' Day—November 1

Isaiah 25:6–9
 Psalm 24:1–10
 Revelation 21:1–6a
 John 11:32–44

Sunday, November 7 (Proper 27)

Semicontinuous
 Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17
 Psalm 127
 Hebrews 9:24–28
 Mark 12:38–44

Sunday, November 14 (Proper 28)

Semicontinuous
 1 Samuel 1:4–20
 1 Samuel 2:1–10
 Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25
 Mark 13:1–8

Christ the King (or Reign of Christ)—November 20

Semicontinuous
 2 Samuel 23:1–7
 Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18)
 Revelation 1:4b–8
 John 18:33–37

[Begin Year C]

First Sunday of Advent—November 28

Jeremiah 33:14–16
 Psalm 25:1–10
 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13
 Luke 21:25–36

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/3 Akin Odutola
 11/4 Barbara Heckman
 11/7 Sandra Borrer
 11/7 Joan Kenton
 11/10 Pdraig Kennedy
 11/12 Carl DeMartino
 11/14 Joan Wysham
 11/15 Bob Hartman
 11/16 Francine Craven
 11/17 Thomas McGraw
 11/22 Beverley Jones
 11/22 Herbert Oettgen
 11/23 Carlee Bennett
 11/23 John Hileman
 11/24 Joshua Csuy
 11/26 Caroline Kenton
 11/30 Don Coats

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/14 Darlene & Robert Sullivan
 11/16 Susan Latimer & Ralph
 Schwendeman
 11/17 William & Christa Kaiser



November 2, 2021

Friends:

Lower Brandywine has served as a focal point in our lives, our refuge where we gather as God's family in faith, giving one another comfort in times of illness and loss, sharing our happiness at weddings and baptisms, working together on mission projects, encouraging and praying for one another and for peace in the world, joining in songs of praise and joining in true fellowship with one another.

This year reminds us that financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, is vital to carry out the church's work. Whether we gather for worship inside our building, in our parking lots, or online, we continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another. As in past years, we have attached a narrative budget explaining expenses for the year with a 3% increase.

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.

In recognition of the many, many blessings that God continues to bestow on us, and as stewards of the message of God's unceasing love, I ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2022 using the enclosed pledge card to communicate your commitment. You may mail the pledge card, email your pledge to the address below, or bring it to the church office; however, please consider bringing it for dedication on Stewardship Sunday, November 21st.

On behalf of the Session and each of your fellow congregants, I thank you for every offering that you give. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further making a financial pledge to Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

To pledge directly, please email finance@lowerbrandywine.org.

Faithfully,

Linda Natali

Financial Assistant

finance@lowerbrandywine.org

Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church 2022 Asking Budget

These income figures were developed by the Finance Committee to show the level of support required to meet the financial challenges of the church, and to make the congregation aware of the sources of income that support our mission and ministry.

2021 Budget	INCOME	Asking 2022
\$204,000	Pledges	\$210,000
36,250	Donations (identifiable gifts)	36,000
2,000	Plate cash	2,000
18,600	Rental income	18,600
29,000	Other (flower fund, interest)	27,200
\$288,850	Total	\$291,800

Lower Brandywine Mission & Ministry

The session, in response to the budget requests and program needs of each committee, proposes the following budget for 2022. This preliminary budget shows pledges remaining flat to 2021 expected levels, however, this is a challenging environment for predicting costs and revenues due to the uncertainty presented by the Covid pandemic. The proposed spending levels will allow Lower Brandywine to continue maintaining all of the worship, education, and mission programs we currently enjoy.

Christian Education (2021 - \$36,430)

2022 - \$36,430

Adult education, Sunday School, Nursery Care, Vacation Bible School and Youth Ministry are supported by this ministry area. Christian Education is an area of focus for Lower Brandywine Church, and we intend to continue this support in the 2022 budget.

Worship (2021 - \$57,030)

2022 - \$59,980

Our worship experience includes traditional and alternative services and offers praise through music, drama, liturgy, speakers and special programs. Funds support chancel and communion supplies, bulletins, guest speakers, and a portion of the minister salary and property costs.

Music (2021 - \$40,630)

2022 - \$40,630

Music is an important part of our worship experience, providing praise and setting a mood for reflection and prayer. Funds support our Music Director, supplies, instrumentalists, vocalists, and a portion of our property budget to support the building use.

Church Administration and Member Communication (2021 - \$30,900)**2022 - \$30,900**

This budget enables us to stay in touch with one another and the communities around us. Newsletters, advertising, office supplies, postage, and a portion of the church secretary's wages are covered in this budget. A member per capita of \$6,500 paid to the presbytery is also included in this amount.

Member Care and Recruitment (2021 - \$64,860)**2022 - \$64,860**

We continue to reach out as a church family, striving to bring each other closer to God and His word. This budget supports our fellowship, pastoral care and community outreach efforts, and includes a portion of the Minister's salary as well as property costs utilized to support these efforts.

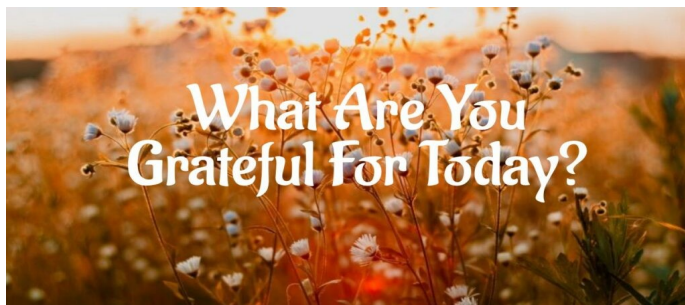
Finance, Administration, and Stewardship (2021 - \$27,400)**2022 - \$27,400**

This group plans and carries out financial campaigns, tracks and reports the church's financial condition, and educates the congregation on the importance of regular financial giving throughout the year. This budget supports a portion of the office and administration costs, stewardship materials, computer equipment and supplies.

Missions (2021 - \$31,600)**2022 - \$31,600**

This budget supports a variety of local mission projects including Sunday Breakfast Mission, Salvation Army, The Refuge, and Tick Tock Early Learning Center. 2022 continues to include additional funds for local and international outreach; including youth mission trips, and greater opportunities for the entire congregation to participate in mission works and education.





Draw, write, create a collage, or in some other way express your gratitude here!

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Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church

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