



December 2018

STEEPLE TALK

Dear Friends,

My favorite memories of Christmas are of times spent with my family and with my church family over the years. They have been times of great love as we celebrated God's incredible gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Some years, our everyday lives were filled with great and positive things while other years were filled with tough times and sorrow. Through them all, God's light and love filled our hearts.

I have always loved the Advent wreath and the fact that the light grows ever brighter each week, reminding us that the darkness has never been able to overcome the light. It has also been amazing that as we gather together and sing "Joy to the World," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," the light glows even brighter.

I am very grateful to be able to spend this Christmas with my family and with Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church. Thank you for being such a loving and caring family to Sandy and me. We are so thankful.

I am excited about the opportunities for ministry and mission here at BRPC. Please know that you all will be continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as we engage in new ministry and mission in the name of the new born King. May you have a blessed Christmas and may God continue to bless you in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Ron

A Prayer for Advent

O God, this Advent season is a time when your light radiates through the world. Inasmuch as we can, let us be bright for you. Shine your light through us as though we were pieces in a stain-glass window. Flow through us into others as the warm glow of colors seeps into a church. Fill us with your light as though we were lighthouses on the shore. Use us to guide others and to keep them from danger. Set us aflame with your light as though we were candles, even candles in a storm. Enable us to burn steadily with your Spirit and to push aside all forms of darkness. Turn us on with your light as though we were Christmas bulbs all connected to one another. Help us as a community of faith to celebrate the good news of Jesus' coming birth. Be present with us throughout this Advent season as we prepare, live and worship.

AMEN



Session at Work

YOUR SESSION AT WORK

May this wonderful season of Christmas fill your heart with the love of Christ. Here at BRPC we have many events to help anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ's coming to our homes and our hearts.

At our last session meeting, we agreed it was a bit early to elect our pastor nominating committee. As anxious as we are to begin the task of finding a pastor for our church, it is necessary for all of us to know which direction we wish to take. The Presbytery has a checklist for calling a pastor, and as a session, we were being negligent in following each step in order .

This next step is to work with our interim pastor, Pastor Ron, to spiritually consider just who we are and what we want and need in a new pastor. This will guide the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) when they begin deliberations.

Pastor Ron will lead several discussion groups. Each member can pray individually and together. Then together we will decide the direction we need to go to strengthen our church. We call ourselves a family and we are. But in families there are disagreements and disappointments as well as many joys and blessings. These group discussions should bring us closer together with greater understanding of each other and what we need.

Calling a pastor is tedious procedure. We must do it right. Please attend the discussion groups when they are scheduled. There will be several at different times. Until then, have a blessed Christmas season as we remember what we are celebrating.

In Christ's name,
Avis Odenbaugh, clerk of session

Deacon Report

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS THE PERFECT TIME to reflect our blessings and seek ways to bring joy and the spirit of the season to our flocks, our friends and Congregation.

In doing this the Deacons try to represent the five candles of the advent season:

HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE and of course the center candle represents the *LIGHT OF CHRIST*.

Our thanks to all of you for allowing the Deacons to serve you.

May the spirit of the season and love of God give you peace throughout the coming year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

CONNIE OLIVER



Christian Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL at 9:30 AM. Come and join as we learn together and grow closer to God. Breakfast treats will be available at 9:15 AM.

Please note - Christmas Pageant – children and youth will present a Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 23rd** during worship led by musical director Grace Cox-Johnson. Practices will be scheduled during Sunday School hour. When not practicing, children and youth will have a Sunday School lesson.

K-4th Grades will begin the study of David and learn how God prepared him to slay one Big Giant. In each lesson children explore the BIGS in David's life – Big Giant, Big Choice, Big Challenge and Big Faith.

5th-8th Grades will explore the story *Jesus Calls Peter, James and John* and study the *Classic Birth Story of Jesus*.

9th-12 Grades faith journey will continue and discussions will focus on the topics *Helicopter View* and a Christmas lesson.

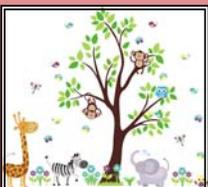
Adult Class will continue studying Advent led by Rev Dr. Ron Galvin.

Praise GOD!



The Nursery Hours are 9:30 AM—12:15 AM

Children are welcome to join us in worship each Sunday.



WORSHIP



Advent is a time of anticipation, joy and hope as we prepare for the miracle of Christmas - the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Throughout this season, we hope you can join us in some of the ways BRPC will celebrate.

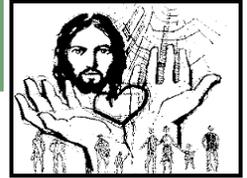
On Sunday, December 2, a variety of Advent Devotion books will be available for you to choose one to take home. By then, our sanctuary will be decorated with festive greenery, and the Christmas tree will light up the parlor, thanks to the Worship Committee and other volunteers. Poinsettias will soon add warmth and beauty to the chancel area. The annual Advent dinner after worship will be on December 2, the Christmas Pageant featuring our youth will be December 23, and the Chancel Choir will present their Cantata on December 16.

Please make plans now with your family, friends, and neighbors to attend one or both of our beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve services. They will be held again at **4PM and 8 PM** here at BRPC on Monday evening, December 24. Worship Committee members have already begun preparing special gifts for each person in attendance. Christmas Eve is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers who do not have a church home. What better way to introduce or reintroduce them to the Savior than by celebrating the birth of the Lord?

"He will be a joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice because of His birth, for He will be great in the sight of the Lord." Luke 1: 14-15.

Merry Christmas to all from the Worship Committee.

PRAYING FOR YOU



Carol McCoy
Don Young
Joe Cox
Larry MacDonald
John Denham
Melissa Doyle
Rose Fitzgerald
Lynn Forsythe
Barbara Gregory
Vi Guinn
Kerri McCorkle

Marion Martin
Dixie Miller
Mary Lou Oberlander
Betty Schroeffer
Lee Starcke

Lee Starckes' friend **Lisa**

Georgia McCauley-brother in hospital

Jim Orr, Friend of Sandy Moore

Bill Banks, Betty Schroeffer's brother, with acute health issues

Ed and Lucy Becka, Ed recovering from stroke

Bob Johannesen who is receiving hospice support as he continues to share in worship and activities at BRPC.

Brent McWilliams who has been deployed to Kosovo with his army unit.

Sandy MacMorran, brother of Marsha Elbasani, and his wife, Ellen.

Todd Radenbaugh, Oberlanders' nephew, facing a recurrence of cancer

Barry Holmes Family, daughter-in-law Heather in physical rehab in Iowa

Lori Burroughs, mother of roofing contractor

BRPC Sunday Schedule

9:15 AM - 12:15 PM - Nursery available for children up through 2nd grade

9:15 AM - Breakfast snacks

9:30 AM - Adult & Youth Sunday School classes

10:30 AM—Chancel Choir

10:45 AM - Worship

Coffee Fellowship in the parlor following Worship, everyone is welcome!

Communion 1st Sunday



THANK YOU

*Thank You
Thank you so much for prayers and cards you
are a terrific church family.
Barbara Gregory*

*Dear Choir Members,
Thank you so much for the plant you sent
to Charlie's memorial! I'm not sure what
kind it is, but it is just beautiful! So,
thanks again.
Connie, Lee & Theresa*

**THANK YOU TO Mike and Linda Schumacher for
Hanging of the Greens
AND
To all BRPC volunteers who work so hard**

Notes & Info

**Please use extreme caution as you are out and
about
during inclement weather**

CLOAK ROOM REMINDER
Please remove all keys from coat pockets.

A loving heart is the truest wisdom
Charles Dickens



Missions and Outreach

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ by giving to the Joy offering. The Joy offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in need and helps develop future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Special Santas

Thank you to all who have adopted children for a Micah Christmas-24 children Amen

Do remember gifts are due to BRPC no later than 9th of Dec, unwrapped with the child's code and name on their sack

Raytown Emergency Assistance

Do remember REAP at this holiday season

Micah

needs during cold weather

heavy socks, hand warmers, XL or above winter coats, clothing for men and women

"God Bless us everyone" - Tiny Tim



Finance Committee

INCOME

Budget YTD	Actual YTD
\$170,204.18	\$163,242.25

EXPENSES

Budget YTD	Actual YTD
\$170,204.10	\$166,594.21

Income is down, but expenses are also down.

If you have not made a pledge for 2019 we urge you to Prayerfully consider doing so. Our pledges, so far, are \$18,000.00 less than they were in 2018. We will be discussing where we can cut expenses in our next meeting.

Thanks so much!

Sandy

Property

Building Security

Please help us! We recently had two instances in a week where someone walked into our building. The doors were locked, but they were not closed completely. *Please* **WAIT** to check that all doors securely close and lock **AFTER** exiting the building. Also, please check restroom lights, coffee pots, ovens, etc. Thank you!

Roof Replacement

Blue Rain Roofing and Restoration will be starting roof replacement soon. Storage unit placement, equipment delivery, solar panel removal, and actual shingle removal and replacement work is slated to now begin **on or before December 15**. Work may very likely begin sooner, but this is the agreed upon start by date.

We will have on-site storage units and large equipment in our south parking lot. **Please be aware that the alley and east portion of the south parking lot will be CLOSED and off limits to car and pedestrian traffic. Workers will be using the parking lot's driving lane immediately next to the south side of the church during work each day. At the end of each day, this lane will reopen for our use at evening activities.**

Thank you for helping everyone stay safe.

Please plan to use the front entrance or kitchen entrance during the day once work begins, unless notified otherwise. We will be flexible to accommodate the roof company's needs as well as ours. If needed, we will halt work on the roof to accommodate BRPC needs, but we want to optimize work as it can occur.

Once work begins, on the flat roof first, we anticipate approximately 2-3 weeks of prep, labor, and reinstallation of solar panels. Of course, this estimate can change, but we will do our best to keep everyone apprised of the work status. Thank you in advance for your patience. We will have a new roof in 2019!

Building Request Forms

Please remember to **submit a building use request form** for any event that is not regularly scheduled. Thank you.

Fellowship

Hello and Merry Christmas from the Fellowship committee. On a brief personal note I want to say that serving on the Fellowship committee with these amazing people has been the best gift anyone could ask for. I've never worked with a group who step up almost before they are asked, and do it so willingly and beautifully. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this committee, and I wish them all the best of Christmas'.

Fellowship will work hard in the upcoming year to help create events to gather and share with our church family. And I'm going on record that we will get an extension/update of our church cookbook out this year for all to share !!

Thanks and warm Christmas wishes to all!

Love

Debbie Jones

Fellowship committee

Grace Notes

This year marks the 200th anniversary of our beloved Christmas Carol, "Silent Night". You can find more information but here's a quick look. The melody was composed by [Franz Xaver Gruber](#), schoolmaster and [organist](#) in the nearby village of [Arnsdorf](#). Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and [guitar](#) accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass. It is unknown what inspired Mohr to write the lyrics, or what prompted him to create a new carol.

I think I can certainly speak for most of us when I say simple truth sung with a straight forward melody can pierce our heart like a candle flame in a dark room. The trappings of this season are enormous so I invite and remind all of us, especially me, to keep it simple. It's so hard for all of us to take a quiet moment to find Emmanuel, God with us, down deep in the dark chambers of our soul. God is with us all in the silence in the night as in each moment of love and joy.

Please join us in each worship moment this Advent and Christmas at BRPC as we come before the Christ Child again to search for answers and to bare one another's burdens because, "Christ our Savior is born!"

Blessings,

Grace-Cox Johnson



OWLS

Why didn't the turkey eat dessert? Because he was stuffed! And so were the OWLS on November 21st—although I think most of us ate our dessert. We owe the Oberlander's a huge thank you for shopping for and preparing our Thanksgiving feast. And, a big thanks to Jana Henderson and Don Young for joining us to help lead our Italian Poker game tables. The room was filled with laughter and joy.



December 19th join us for our Christmas dinner followed by a fun **gift exchange** loosely based on the right-left-center game we have played in the past with a few modifications from last year. Please bring a **WRAPPED non-gender specific gift** - value not to exceed \$10.00. But, you do not need to spend money at all. Feel free to re-gift something you already have that is new or gently used. Sign up in the narthex.



January 16, 2019. We will once again ring in the new year by playing **BINGO!** If you have a new or gently used item to add to our prizes, it would be appreciated. But we do have some prizes so don't feel like you have to bring something

Linda Schumacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 20th Annual **SNOWVILLE** **CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12/7	12/8	12/9
7:00 PM	7:00 PM	5:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate this Christmas season with our exciting new musical. All three **FREE** performances are open to everyone!

First Bible Baptist Church

1441 SE Adams Dairy Parkway

Blue Springs, MO 64014

(816) 220-2337

FirstBibleADP.com/snowville

OWLS

December 19, 2018

11:30 a.m.—gathering time

12:00 p.m.—lunch—\$5

**1:00 p.m.—“Switch, Swap,
Unwrap”**

**(a dice game of gifts and
giggles**

**Please bring a WRAPPED
(non-gender specific) gift
with a value of no more
than \$10. Feel free to bring
an item you no longer or
never did love that you al-
ready have at home**

Sign up in the narthex!

SPECIAL SANTA TIME

Two important ways to support disadvantaged children this holiday season . . .

REAP – Donations of toys and money

MICAH – Adopt a Child “wish” list items should be returned to the church by December 9th.



December Worship Volunteers

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Pastor & Liturgists</u>	<u>Youth Message</u>	<u>Nursery</u> <u>9:30 am</u>	<u>Tech Ministry</u> <u>Slides Audio Camera</u>	<u>Guest Book</u>
2	P: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin L: Jim Bagby	Christi Neal	9:15 Angela McCorkle 10:15 Debbie Cardona	S Jo Riggs A Mary Ziegenhorn C Mike Schumacher	Donna Vance
9	P: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin L: Marsha Elbasani	Dot Mitchell	9:15 Mary Z. 10:15 Edgar Urriola	S Linda Schumacher A Bryland Flowers C Don Young	Don Pine
16	P: Rev, Dr. Ron Galvin L: Jana Henderson	Jana Henderson	9:15 Misty Urriola 10:15 Marleen Merrill	S Michelle Miller A Mary Zigenhorn C Bobby Neal	Carol Pine
23	P: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin L: Barry Holmes	Christi Neal	9:15 Donna Vance 10:15 Joann Bagby	S Bobby Neal A Alex Banks C John Starcke	Kellie Wentz
24	P: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin			S Carol S./Jana H. A Bobby N/Don Y C Mike S/Bill M.	
30	P: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin L: Gary Oberlander	Gary Oberlander	9:15 Karen Clevenger 10:15 Linda Lockwood	S Mary Ziegenhorn A Craig Ziegenhorn C Don Young	Paul Vance

December Coffee Fellowship

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Helpers</u>	
2	Advent Dinner		
9	Carol McCoy 356-5743	Mann, McCauley, McCorkle,	
16	Dot Mitchell 356-9783	Melewski, Merrill, "All Millers"	
23	Deanna Nolan 590-3919	Mohr, Moore, "All Neals"	
30	Connie Oliver 718-0755	Oberlander, Odenbaugh, Pine	

Money Matters

- **Boxes containing 12 offering envelopes and an “Initial Offering” envelope are available on the round table outside the office door.**
 - ◇ there are no names, dates, or numbers on these envelopes so that leftover boxes can be easily used in another year
 - ◇ those folks who have historically given more often than monthly will be given a box with 52 envelopes - if you would like a box with 52 envelopes and did not receive one, see Linda Schumacher and she will give you one.
 - ◇ Everyone is encouraged to contribute some amount in an “initial offering” envelope at the beginning of the year to help defray the cost of the envelopes. We are suggesting an **initial offering of \$3.00.**
 - ◇ if you will use envelopes (whether or not you pledged in 2019), please take a box
- **"Special Offerings" envelopes.**
 - ◇ each family will receive a packet of 5 envelopes in January
 - ◇ this packet will include an envelope for Per Capita, Peacemaking, Joy Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Pentecost
 - ◇ information will be received with these envelopes describing the purpose of each of these offerings as well as the dates which these offerings are collected
- **Other information about your giving:**
 - ◇ It is helpful to me (even if you have put this information on the envelope) if you put something in the memo of your checks to indicate how you wish your contribution to be used (e.g. pledge, offering, memorial with name, etc.).
 - ◇ **If you want your contribution to be credited to 2018, I must have your money on or by December 29th.** Any funds received after that date will be posted to 2019.
 - ◇ **If you would like to join those of us who conveniently have our pledge withheld from our bank accounts, let me know and I will give you the form that needs to be filled out.**

Thank you,
Linda Schumacher
Financial Secretary

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 9:30 AM Sunday School for Youth and Adults 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM Coffee Fellowship 12:15 PM Hanging of the Greens	26 7:00 PM Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	27 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	28 1:00 PM Book Club 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study) 5:45 PM 5X5 Bells 6:15 PM Chancel Chimes 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Classical Conversations Pizza Day	30 BRPC Business Office Closed	1 2:00 PM Sweet Adelines/Barbershop Chorus Unity Village Concert 3:00 PM Raytown Community Choir
2 Communion Sunday 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 9:30 AM Sunday School for Youth and Adults 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:15 PM Advent Pot Luck	3 6:30 PM Finance Committee Mtg. 7:00 PM Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	4 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Garden Club Mtg (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 AM All Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout High Trail District Mtg. (Church-wide usage) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	5 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study) 5:45 PM 5 x 5 Bells 6:15 PM Chancel Chimes 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Classical Conversations-December Break 11:30 AM Faiths of Raytown at Southwood UCC 6:00 PM Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	7 BRPC Business Office Closed 6:00 PM Deacons and Elders Christmas Dinner	8
9 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 9:30 AM Sunday School for Youth and Adults 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:30 PM Elliott Place Worship	10 7:00 PM Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	11 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Hidden Lake Services 12:00 PM Missions&Outreach Cmtee Mtg. 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM Property Cmtee Mtg	12 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study) 5:45 PM 5 X 5 Bells 6:15 PM Chancel Chimes 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 6:00 PM Christian Education Cmtee Mtg 7:30 PM Worship Comm. Meeting	14 BRPC Business Office Closed 7:00 PM Quiddler Hosted by Barbara Ham	15
16 Chancel Choir Cantata 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 9:30 AM Sunday School for Youth and Adults 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM Coffee Fellowship 12:15PM Lunch for Carolers/Caroling	17 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM New Harmony Handful Rehearsal 7:00 PM Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	18 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	19 11:30 AM OWLS 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study) 5:45 PM 5 x 5 Bells 6:15 PM Chancel Chimes 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 Newsltr Deadline 6:00 PM Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM Session Meeting	21 BRPC Business Office Closed 6:00 PM Bridge	22
23 Children's Pageant 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 9:30 AM Sunday School for Youth and Adults 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM Coffee Fellowship 12:15 PM Deacon's mtg	24 4:00 PM Family Candlelight Worship Service 8:00 PM Family Candlelight Worship Service	25 Christmas Day	26 1:00 PM Book Club 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study)	27	28 BRPC Business Office Closed	29
30 9:15 AM Breakfast Snacks 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM Coffee Fellowship	31 7:00 PM Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM New Year's Eve Party	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Connect with Pastor Ron (Pastor's Study)	3 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Classical Conversations 11:30 AM Faiths of Raytown at REAP 6:00 PM Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	4 BRPC Business Office Closed	5



Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church

6429 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Raytown, MO 64133

Phone: 816 353-2296

office@brpcraytown.org

Website: www.brpcraytown.org

December 2018

In God We Trust

The Mission of BRPC is to

- ❖ **Proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- ❖ **Worship God** with reverence, warmth and joy;
- ❖ **Nourish faith and discipleship** through prayer, fellowship, giving, study and service;
- ❖ **Work** for justice and peace; and
- ❖ **Share the love of Christ** with the community and the world.

BRPC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin Cell Phone: 816-868-6155
email: fchurch142@aol.com

Office Manager: Karen Argo
email: office@brpcraytown.org

Director of Music: Grace Cox-Johnson
email: fuscia567@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Mann
email: themanns@manneco.com

Nursery Supervisor: Kerri McCorkle
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