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# Marple Presbyterian Church

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2025

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**“We love because He first loved us.”** 1 John 4:19

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
105 N. SPROUL ROAD | BROOMALL, PA 19008  
610-356-1098 | marplepc@gmail.com | www.marplepres.org

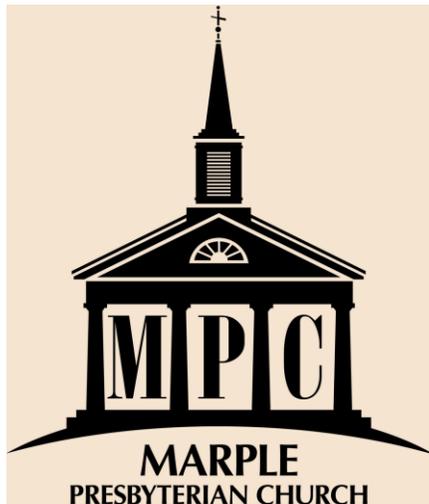
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# Welcome

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2025

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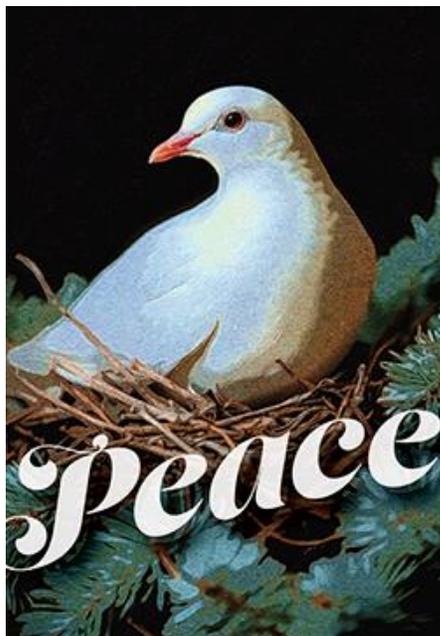
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## Today – 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Advent

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LITURGIST: Terry Canny

HEAD USHER: Tom Trumbetas



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## New Here?

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Welcome to Marple Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you came to worship with us and want to do all we can to help you feel at home.

- All visitors are encouraged to take the information brochure in the pew and place the visitor's section in the offering plate.
- Children are welcome in the service! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Nursery care is also available for children thru age 3. The nursery is located directly underneath the sanctuary.
- Assistive Listening Units are also available – please see any usher.

## RESOURCES

**Contact Us** | 610-356-1098

[marplepc@gmail.com](mailto:marplepc@gmail.com)

**Website** | [www.marplepres.org](http://www.marplepres.org)

[facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian](https://facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian)

## HOW DO I CONNECT?

Clerk of Session | [Kristen Mitchell](#)

Christian Education | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Deacons | [Linda Pursley & Joyce Holmwood](#)  
[marplepresdeacons@gmail.com](mailto:marplepresdeacons@gmail.com)

Fellowship | [Debbie Pettinelli](#)

Finance | [Kerri Robinson](#)

Membership Development |

Mission | [Session Members](#)

Music | [Susan Greene](#)

Nursery | [Amy Eckels](#)

Personnel | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Property Management | [Paul Avazier](#)

Rentals | [Church Office](#)

Stewardship | [Joanne Trumbetas](#)

Treasurer | [Bill Brower](#)  
[marlepctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:marlepctreasurer@gmail.com)

Worship | [Amy Eckels](#)

Youth Group | [Ben Mitchell](#)

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For more contact info, please contact the church office.

*There must be always remaining in every person's life some place for the singing of angels – some place for that which is breathlessly beautiful...The commonplace is shot through now with new glory – old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old, old hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear. Despite all the crassness of life, despite all the hardness of life, despite all the harsh discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels.*

- Howard Thurman, "The Mood of Christmas"

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude** | Susan B. Greene

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: We light the second Advent candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in the days to come  
the wolf shall dwell with the lambs,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**People: the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together  
and a little child will lead them.**

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn | *Prepare the Way* | #13

#### \*Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

\*Please stand as you are able

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Prepare the Way: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent by Joel Raney

#### Choral Opening with Congregation

#### Call and Response Litany

**Leader:** Today we light two candles; the candle of hope and the candle of peace. In this season of Advent, we wait for the Prince of Peace, who will come to bring wholeness to a fractured world.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

**Leader:** When division and conflict surround us, we turn to Christ, the source of true peace, and long for his reconciliation in our hearts and in the world.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

**Leader:** In our homes, in our communities, and in our nations, we seek to be instruments of peace, reflecting the love of Christ in all we do.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

**Leader:** When anger and strife seem overwhelming, we trust in the calm presence of Christ, who can still the storms in our hearts and minds.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

**Leader:** In moments of anxiety, fear, or uncertainty, we invite the peace of Christ to fill our hearts and guide our actions.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

**Leader:** O God of peace, we await the coming of your Son, who will bring peace to all the earth. We remember that true peace comes not from the absence of conflict, but from the presence of Christ.

**People:** **Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.**

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath (the second candle is lit)

#### Choral Response with Congregation

(for cue)  
Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Make  
way for the Prince of Peace, King of kings,  
Lord of lords, Je - sus, Em - man - nu - el.  
Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way.

*(repeat this chorus after the candle lighting and litany)*

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## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

God of the future: we confess that we have often prayed “The Kingdom Come” without any real hope of its happening. So we have many times failed to recognize Christ and rejoice in Him who came, and ever comes, in answer to our prayers. Forgive us our lack of faith and sight. Restore within us in this Advent season a sense of eager expectation, to the end that we might experience the fullness of your presence in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Musical response for personal confession and reflection.*

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: These are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.

**People: He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

### \*Congregational Response *Gloria Patri* | #579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

### Passing of the Peace

Leader: As God’s own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you.

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: Peace be with our family members, our friends and neighbors.  
Peace be with all the stranger and the sojourner in our midst.  
Peace be with us all.**

### Choir Anthem | *The Yearning* by Craig Courtney

### Time with Children

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 12:2-6

Old Testament pg. 603

Luke 1:39-45

New Testament pg. 53

### Sermon | The Support Group | Pastor Jim Reisner

Text: Luke 1:45 *"Blessed is she who believed that there would be  
A fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

### \*Hymn | *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* | #2100

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### \* **Affirmation of Faith** | Nathan Nettleton, Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.  
We believe in Jesus the Christ – God coming to us in the fragile promise of a  
baby yet unborn, who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the  
face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is  
leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to  
birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all  
that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.  
We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn  
near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth  
and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will  
be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the  
joyous fulfillment of God's desire. For the coming of that day on this day, we  
work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

### Sharing Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

# THE SERVICE OF THE UPPER ROOM

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

## Congregational Response *\*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) | #592*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### The Invitation

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars ...

... With saints, and angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living word ...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **The Bread**

Choral Reflection: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
arr. Melissa Malvar-Keylock and Jill Friedsersdorf

## **The Cup**

Choral Reflection: *In the Bleak Midwinter*  
arr. Victor Cohen Johnson

## **The Acclamation | Psalm 103**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**People: and all that is within me bless God's holy name.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**People: and forget not all God's benefits.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

# **WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Closing Hymn | *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* | #2**

## **Charge and Benediction**

## **Postlude | Susan B. Greene**

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## This Week

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### MONDAY

Cub Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

### TUESDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am–3 pm

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

[zoom.us/j/6103561098](https://zoom.us/j/6103561098) PW MPC

### WEDNESDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

[zoom.us/j/6103561098](https://zoom.us/j/6103561098) PW MPC

Boy Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 7-8 pm

### SATURDAY

Breakfast with Santa 9 am – 12 pm

Thrift Shop 10 am-4 pm

### SUNDAY

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 8-9 am

Cantata

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## Looking Ahead

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### DECEMBER 21

Longest Night 7:00 pm

### DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm

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## Learn More

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**Sunday School** - MPC Sunday School is open to children ages 3 and up and runs weekly during the 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service.



Youth Group is open to all youth from 6th to 12th grade and meets twice a month between October and May. Please see the full Youth Group calendar for meeting dates, special events, and retreats. Contact the Youth Group Leaders at [youthgroup@marplepres.org](mailto:youthgroup@marplepres.org) for additional information.



### Angel Tree 2025

Marion Brower is again leading our Angel Tree Campaign. CYS is assisting with the clothing for the children and resources for clothing for the parents.

However, the parents will need household items as they transition to permanent housing.

**Household items needed** – laundry detergent, light bulbs, dish detergent, towels, small appliances, plates, cups, glasses, silverware, kitchen utensils, etc.

**Robes** – unisex, one size (15 needed)

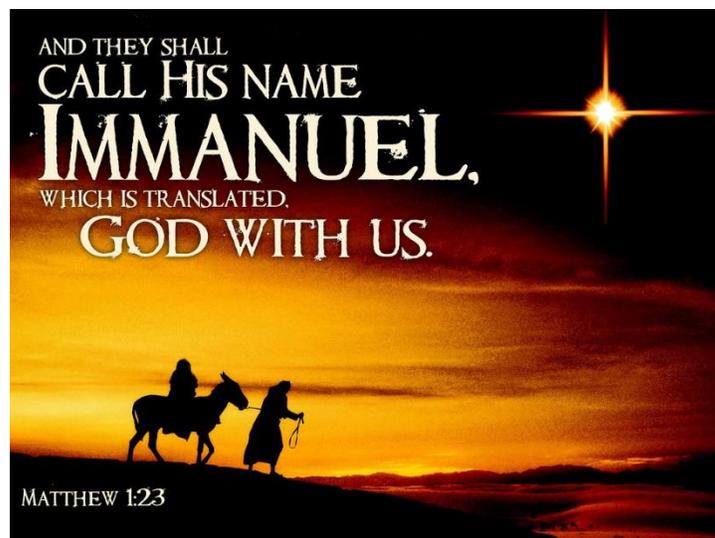
## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Advent, a season of anticipation and hope, as Christians prepare for the birth of Christ. Although Advent is often associated with spiritual preparation, it should also be an opportunity to reflect on our giving and stewardship. Advent calls us to examine what we treasure and to direct our resources toward what matters most. The nativity story is steeped in generosity: wise men bearing gifts, and Mary and Joseph opening their lives to a divine call.

It can be difficult today when the focus is on the event and the preparation to take time to reflect on how we share our resources, time, and talents with others. The Advent season reminds us that true giving is purposeful and reflects Christ's love in our world. It is not just about personal reflection but about reaching out in generosity, echoing the selfless love of Christ. Advent reminds us that generosity isn't measured by the size of the gift, but the heart behind it. Whether it's sharing our time, resources, or kindness, each act reflects God's grace.

Advent reminds us of the most profound act of generosity—the gift of Christ. God's love was made manifest in the form of a child, the ultimate example of sacrificial giving. When we give during Advent, we participate in the same spirit that brought Jesus into the world. As we offer love to others through generosity, we honor the incredible gift God gave us, and with this the spirit of giving and stewardship being a source of joy, growth, and connection with others – we constantly draw closer to the true meaning of Christmas.

Matthew 1:23: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."



## YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR 2025-2026

MPC's Youth Group is open to all youth currently in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of membership at Marple Presbyterian Church. We typically meet a few Sundays per month from 4 – 7 pm in the Rowland Room at MPC, 105 N. Sproul Rd, Broomall, Pennsylvania. See below for meeting dates and special events!

### Youth Group Meeting Dates:

October 19	February 15
November 2	March 1
December 7	March 15
December 21* – Christmas Party!	April 5
January 11*	April 19
January 25*	May 3
February 1	May 17

*\*For the Christmas Party, Youth Group will run from 3 pm to 6 pm. Youth are invited and encouraged to stay and attend MPC's Longest Night Service which is from 7-8 pm.*

*\*For January meetings, we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at the normal time.*

### Special Events:

November 15-16 – Lock-in @ MPC

December 27 – Go Karts Trip

*\*\*We would like to plan an away retreat once we have a sense availability for our members in the Spring. We will announce dates and information after the holiday season.*

June 6 – Youth Group BBQ

*\*\*We are considering turning the BBQ into a campout at the Mitchells' house if members are interested in trying this. We have access to two campers, some indoor accommodations and may be able to procure tents for anyone really wanting to "rough" it.*

For more information, contact Kristen Mitchell at [klizzano@gmail.com](mailto:klizzano@gmail.com) or 302-494-1146.

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
invites you  
to their annual

# Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, 13th December

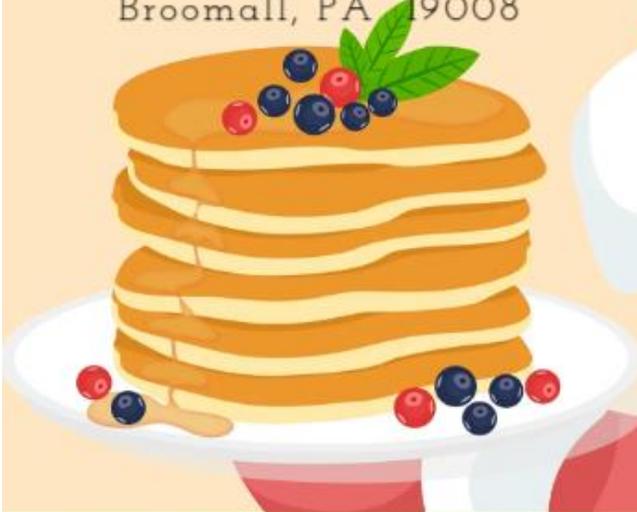
9:00am to 12:00pm

\$7 for 5 years and up    \$4 for 4 years and under  
Includes: eggs, french toast sticks, pancakes, sausage,  
fruit, baked goods, juice, milk, coffee/tea

Families are invited to have breakfast with Santa  
in our Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to  
bring your camera to photograph the event.

**Marple Presbyterian Church**

105 N Sproul Road  
Broomall, PA 19008



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[www.marplepres.org](http://www.marplepres.org)

Volunteers needed for Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Please call the church office or speak to Debbie Pettinelli if interested in helping with this festive event.  
We will also need homemade baked goods and treats.  
Sign-up sheets available in the narthex.



**Please fill out this form and return to the church office with your payment, no later than Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to place a poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary for Christmas. Poinsettias may be taken home at the conclusion of the Candlelight Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

*\*\*Names will appear in the bulletin exactly as printed below.\*\**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8/plant      Paid via:  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Breakfast with Santa**

12/13, 9 am – 12 pm

### **Cantata**

12/14, 10:30 am

### **Longest Night Service**

12/21, 7 pm

## *Christmas Eve Service*

December 24 at 7:30 pm

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
105 N SPROUL RD, BROOMALL  
[marplepc@gmail.com](mailto:marplepc@gmail.com)



Our Thrift Shop is open:

**Tuesdays from 10 am – 3 pm**

**Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm**

Please come by to shop the new arrivals.

We are thankful for Amy and her team of faithful volunteers. We are always grateful for any help. It is a great way to volunteer at MPC.

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs.

You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood

[jholmwood433@comcast.net](mailto:jholmwood433@comcast.net)

610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley

[lpursley1981@gmail.com](mailto:lpursley1981@gmail.com)

631-942-5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Listening devices are available for individuals who have a hearing impairment. Please speak to an usher for more information or to request a device.



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**SESSION****DEACONS**

<i>Paul Avazier '26</i>	<i>Douglas Ballard '25</i>
<i>Amy Eckels '25</i>	<i>Marion Brower '27</i>
<i>Ben Mitchell '27</i>	<i>Bette Downs '27</i>
<i>Kristen Mitchell, Clerk</i>	<i>Virginia Geisbert '25</i>
<i>Debbie Pettinelli '27</i>	<i>Patricia Gwartz '26</i>
<i>Kerri Robinson '26</i>	<i>Greg Hoffman '27</i>
<i>John Strain '27</i>	<i>Joyce Holmwood '26</i>
<i>Joanne Trumbetas '25</i>	<i>Linda Pursley '27</i>
<i>Kim Wertz '25</i>	<i>Diane Valaitis '26</i>
<i>Alfie Wilkes '25</i>	<i>Shirley Wise '26</i>