

# Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER OF BRIDGEPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2009 – VOLUME 16 NUMBER 12  
WWW.BRIDGEPORTPRESBYTERIAN.COM

*the Light*

Children      Community      Compassion

Christmas 2009

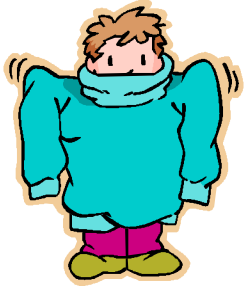


Christians know that the Christmas season is about the “presence” of God in Jesus Christ, and not the “presents” that we open Christmas morning. This advent, we have a special opportunity to give the gift of love to our children and members of the Christian community, both local and global, through our Alternative Gift program. The three choices highlighted in this year’s program are establishing a fund for Youth Triennium, supporting the Davis-Stuart Home, and providing for the work of Christian missionary, Dr. Nuhad Tomeh. Please prayerfully consider supporting any or all of these wonderful programs this year in gratitude for the gift we have received in Jesus Christ.

## Church Events

- Dec 2 Pastors Brown Bag
- Dec 6 Kids Klub- Youth Group
- Dec 7 PW Bible Study
- Dec 9 Pastors Brown Bag
- Dec 11 Parents Night Out
- Dec 13 Christmas Dinner/Program
- Dec 16 Pastors Brown Bag
- Dec 16 Men’s Breakfast
- Dec 17 PW Christmas Party
- Dec 20 Open House - Manse
- Dec 24 Christmas Worship
- Oct 29 PW Bible Study

## Mission



# Neighborhood Coat/Sweater Drive

Have you ever been so cold that your teeth chattered or so cold that your body shivered? The answer is probably yes. But, have you ever been cold and not had a warm coat or sweater to wear? The answer is probably no.

Last year the "Neighborhood Sweater Drive" inspired by the Rev. Fred (Mister) Rogers and the Presbyterian Media Mission (PMM) collected more than 6,000 sweaters that were distributed by charities to those that were facing the cold without a sweater or a coat. The Bridgeport Presbyterian Church was part of that drive.

The Worship Committee is asking you to again "Warm your Soul while warming the bodies of those less fortunate." Please search your closets, drawers and souls and think of those who may not have anything warm to wear this winter.

With the spirit of gifting in your heart this Advent Season, please donate a gently use or new sweater/coat to this worthwhile cause between **November 1 and December 14.**

**Our Hope is to Bring  
Everyone in the Neighborhood  
Out of the Cold.**

## Annual Poinsettia Sale

**Nov. 15 to Dec. 6**

Purchase a flower and help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. Envelopes are available in the Narthex or see Teri or Gene Laurent Sunday's in Fellowship Hall



Did you know that the newsletter is now available to be delivered right to your email? Contact the office and let us know that you would prefer the newsletter to be delivered via email instead of printed copy. It is also available for download from the website.

# Mission

## Holiday Gift Giving Goes Alternative

The hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping begins on Black Friday. People rush to find the perfect gift for their loved ones, and they try to find it for the least amount of money. But in this season of giving, when you could give someone some gift that would be repackaged or put on a shelf and forgotten about, why not give them a gift that means something. This would be a gift that not only means something to just the person you do this for, but it means something to the world and a whole different family struggling through hard times. This gift would be what would give them a new start in life, and a way to survive when hope is often thinly spread. This is an opportunity to give an Alternative Gift.

An Alternative Gift is a gift in which you donate to an organization of your choice in the name of a loved one. This year we are offering you three different opportunities for support:

### **Stuart Davis School-A Presbyterian Residential Care for Adolescents**

**Their Vision-** In showing the Spirit of Christ, Davis-Stuart is committed to helping children and their families find the spiritual, physical, and emotional wholeness for which they have been created. "By providing therapeutic residential care, we strive to meet the special needs of the residents ages 12-19 in a supervised setting. Our goal is to reunify the young person with his or her family when possible, or give them the necessary skills to enter into independence."

**Dr. Nuhad Tomeh-**shared the work of Presbyterian mission workers worldwide and his work with the Middle East Council of Churches, in charge at present of the Iraq relief and rehabilitation program. The effort is focused on relief supplies and assistance in rehabilitating schools, health care centers and other community centers. Your donation would help support him and his work in this relief effort.

### **Presbyterian Youth Triennium**

From July 20th to July 24th, 2010 Presbyterian young people from around the country (and the world!) will gather for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Indeed, Presbyterians of all ages and from all places will come together on the campus of Purdue University and complete the statement FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...!

Every three years the Presbyterian Church (USA), Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America gather thousands of young people together for worship, Bible Study and recreation at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium – otherwise known as PYT.

This is an incredible experience for all young people and your donations will help support our youth attend this life changing event.

## Education

### Presbyterian Women, Study of Joshua Monday's 10 am

The morning circle will study Joshua, 10 am in the lounge. In the nine lessons of *“Joshua: A Journey of Faith”*, author Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of “holy war,” and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God. For details or interest please contact Sue Davis, morning circle chair. Child care provided.

### Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited Sunday Mornings 11:15 Lounge

We will meet on December 6, 13 and 20 in the Parlor as we listen to the stories of those who waited for the Messiah to come. We will begin with the Old Testament and the Book of Isaiah. First, the prophets in the book of Isaiah present us with the idea of waiting and preparing for the Messiah—our work for Advent. Next we meet John the Baptist who announces the coming of the Messiah. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the main subject of sessions three and four. Protestants, until recently, have not given her much consideration, but we have much to learn about patience and courage from the mother of Jesus. Finally, we learn from Elizabeth about how to accept a blessing so long in coming that it is no longer expected.

Dave Davis, Pastor Robin Teachers

### Pastor's Brown Bag Wednesday's Noon

Do you love your congregation—your community—your country enough to pray for it? No, I mean *really* pray for it... as Daniel prayed for Israel?

*So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes (9:3).*

Like Daniel, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in time. Powers are shifting, our world is changing. Whatever we may think about the changes from a worldly point of view, it behooves us all to bring it to God in prayer. Daniel models for us how a prayer-driven, word-shaped life is a deliberate choice and intentional act of submission. We are reminded through Daniel's prayer of the faithfulness of God, the brokenness of our human condition, and the urgency to which we are called to pray. What becomes clear is that Daniel not only knew himself and his people, he knew and trusted in God's faithfulness...even in the midst of surprises.

Join us as we finish the book of Daniel as we meet on December 2, 9, and 16 at noon in the lounge.

#### December Schedule

December 2	Daniel Chapter 9
December 9	Chapter 10
December 16	Chapter 11

# Education

## Youth Activities

We will once again join with Kid's Klub on Sunday, **December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.** as we gather to share in Christmas activities. What is your favorite Christmas movie-bring it along for us to watch! We will make something special for our homebound members and of course you know there will be food.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> we will meet up at 4:00 at Pastor Robin's and Craig's open house and then head over to the church for some games. Bring your favorite board or card game with you. There will be plenty to eat at Pastor Robin's!



Gary and Nathan Lhotsky



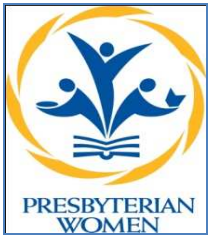
Courtney Miller and her friend Sam

## Kid's Klub

Our younger members in these two groups have gathered for two activities this fall. The latest was on Sunday, November 15. 16 children and youth and their friends met at Skate World for an afternoon of roller skating. Although we missed the dazzling skating of Wanda Lhotsky and Stacey McMullen (both who could join a roller derby team), we were impressed by the techniques of Samantha Silva. Thanks to the teens that helped teach the little ones how to maneuver the slippery boards of the skating rink.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 6**. All children and youth are invited to come to the church fellowship hall at **4 PM**. We will enjoy watching Christmas videos and participating in other fun Christmas activities (including making special things for our homebound members). We will sing some Christmas carols and conclude with sharing a simple meal together. In order to provide adequate food and supplies, please **tell Pastor Robin or Sue Davis if you plan to attend by Friday, December 4**. This is a great way to kick-off the Christmas season.

As always, friends are invited to join us.



## Presbyterian Women

### 2009: Sisterhood

*"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates." Proverbs 31:30-31*

As I look back on the last year that we have had, I get so many emotions about our time together. The Women of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church have been active, as they always are, in the life of our church. It never ceases to amaze me how much the women of our church work to spread the Word of God, not only in our community, but around the world. The church could not function without their tireless devotion.

I have been privileged to have been elected Moderator for the past 12 months. The time has flown by and I have some highlights that I would like to share.

From our very first meeting in January, I knew that I had a special group of women on the Coordinating Team! Beth, Sue, Caroline, Kathy, Barb, Erma, my Mom Lois and dear sweet Carole. Little did we know that we would start out our year together and by the end, one would go Home to be with God. We lost Carole and her loss has been felt. Not feeling it was right to replace her, we kept her seat open and tried to go on, but feeling her loss greatly.

2009 also saw the loss of another faithful member, Diane Elder. Her Biblical knowledge has been missed in our Bible study time together.

We also had some great times! Bible study, as always has been a time when women can come together to study God's Word and fellowship as sisters in Christ. Thank you to Beth McCaugherty for leading the morning study and Sue Davis for coordinating. And thank you to Lois Withrow for leading our evening group.

The trips we have taken have been memorable. To seeing a play together in Morgantown and then going to Pennsylvania to Falling Waters, we know how to take our fun on the road!!!! Thank you to all who participated and planned these trips. They were a blast!

Our Women's Retreat in September makes the first of my top 2 events of 2009, closely followed by Women's Sunday in October. Both of these events were fun, refreshing, meaningful and deeply rewarding. Hopefully not just for me, but everyone who attended and participated. Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning of these events.

Our year is not over until we have our annual Christmas gathering. We will meet at Oliverio's Restaurant on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange.

Thank you to everyone who has made 2009 a great year for Presbyterian Women. And if you have not yet joined in on all the PW fun, please consider it in 2010! Thank you to the greatest CT ever! I would also like to thank our new pastor, Rev. Robin Ray for coming into our congregation and being a part of PW and supporting our efforts.

I pray that each and every woman look into her heart about her service to the Church in 2010. The need to spread the Word of Jesus Christ is greater than ever, but the hands to do the work are so few. May we all be reminded in this holiday season of the little child born into humble beginnings but became Lord of All! May you have a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy and bountiful New Year. God Bless us All!

In Christ,

*Anna Winans*

2009 Moderator

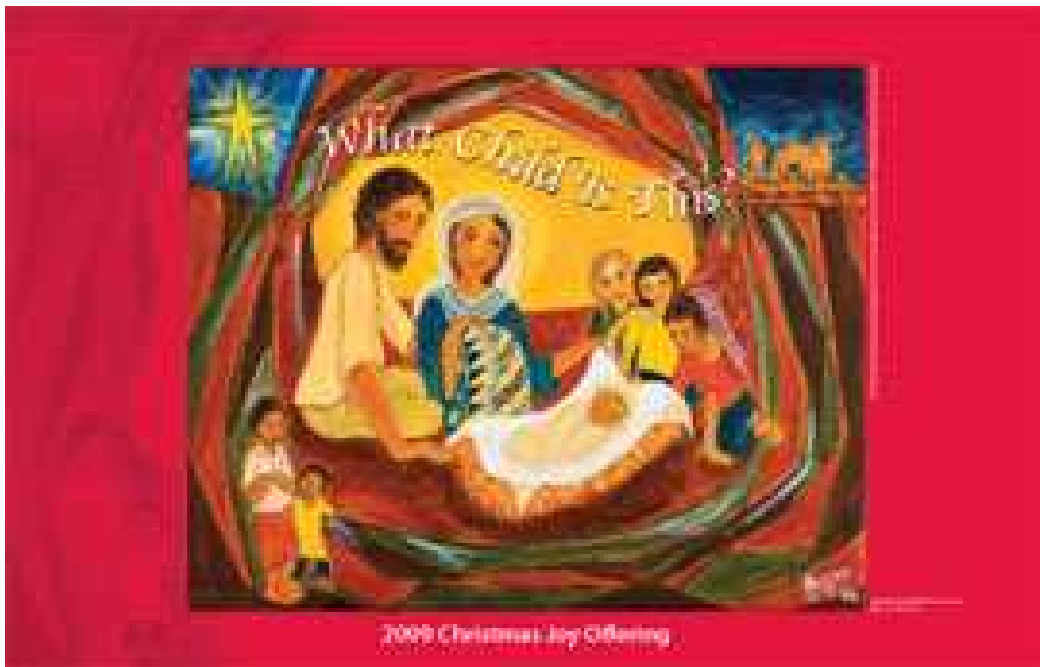
## Parents Night Out      Date: Dec 11

This popular activity is scheduled for **Friday, December 11** in the church fellowship hall. Children ages infant through age 10 will be served a delicious dinner prepared by Betty Jo Jones. Dinner will be followed by times for creative play, watching videos, reading stories and making crafts. The fun will begin at **6 PM** and conclude by 9:30 PM. While the children enjoy their time under the care of nurturing adults, the parents are free to go shopping, partake of a quiet meal together, go to a movie or just enjoy some one-on-one time.

In order to provide adequate staffing, food and supplies, please contact **Betty Jo Jones (842-2669)** or **Sue Davis (842-6532)** with your reservations by **Wednesday, December 9**. Invite your friends and family to participate in this activity as well.

For your information, the adults who are providing the child care have been screened through background checks processed through the WV Presbytery office.

## What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?



2009 Christmas Joy Offering Promotional Poster

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the [Board of Pensions](#) for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports [Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education](#) through the General Assembly Council.

This year the Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 20. You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to our congregation's offering.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>  
3:00-5:00 P.M. AT THE MANSE  
PASTOR ROBIN AND CRAIG

Annual Presbyterian Women  
Christmas Gathering

Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>  
6pm

Oliverio's Restaurant

Please bring a wrapped  
Christmas ornament to  
exchange.

My Friends,

I hope these words find you having enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with family or friends, and that together we may welcome the season of Advent and the joy of Christmas. Looking back on our church history, the truth is for the first 400 years or so Christmas was no big deal. In fact, second only to Easter, Epiphany was THE big day in the early church's calendar. Epiphany, usually the 5th or 6th of January, was originally a feast day in celebration of the Baptism of Christ. Through this focus we can understand that the early church was far more concerned with the *call* of Jesus as the messiah ("*This is my son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased.*"), rather than the *birth* of Jesus as a human. However, beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> century and continuing through the 6th century C.E., a very divisive and charged debate raged about the nature of Christ (Christology). Was Jesus the greatest prophet, though still human? Was he wholly divine? Or, was he some mix of the two; and if so, in what proportion?

During these two centuries great emphasis was placed on the humanity of Jesus as the Christ, while still maintaining his sonship and divinity. As this shift in thought and belief began to take place, a corresponding shift took place away from Epiphany and toward Christmas. I tell you all this because originally the real importance of Christmas was the *humanity of Christ*, found in the *humanness of Jesus*.

I know that once Thanksgiving has past, things will really begin to heat up around the church, and around your house with preparations for Christmas. As we rush head long into the season though, I'd like to ask you to consider "the **humanity** of Christmas." The **hospitality** of the innkeeper to welcome strangers, **homeless** and socially outcast. The **humility** of the stable, shared with God's creation. The **abiding presence** of the shepherds. The **generosity** of the magi, and the **great effort** required of them to be in a position to give their gifts. And the **love of parents** for their child, both human and Divine.

As we enter the season of Advent, I ask you to join me in seeking to find and share the humanity of Christmas with family, neighbor, church and stranger. May this season be bright and your Christmas merry!

**Pastor Robin**

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7



# From the Choir Director

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” – words by James Montgomery

Understanding the loss of one’s parents or other loved ones is difficult at any age. We’re angry. We may scream out a heartfelt, “Why, Lord?” The writer of “Angels from the Realms of Glory” had the right to shout these words and more, but didn’t.

As a boy of six, his parents had left him in the Moravian village of Bracehill, Ireland, as they sailed away to be missionaries in Barbados. He would never see them again. He was then enrolled in a school in England, but faltered there and was apprenticed out to a baker. He failed as a baker too, and ran away, spending most of his teenage years drifting from place to place.

However, James discovered during his drifting that he had a gift – the gift of writing. So, in his early twenties, after settling in Sheffield, England, he bought a newspaper and began writing about his favorite issues. One of his favorites was the gospel. James had never lost his faith, even with the loss of his parents and a troubled childhood. His writings would support the cause of foreign missions and the British Bible Society.

Later in life, James became one of the most respected leaders in Sheffield. It was during these years that he would write the poem, “Angels from the Realms of Glory.” The heralding angels of Luke 2, verse 13 inspired him, and the poem was published in the newspaper on Christmas Day, 1816. Eventually, the poem was set to music by Henry T. Smart and performed for the first time on Christmas Day in 1821 at a Moravian Church in England.

My sincerest wishes that you all have a blessed holiday - a Merry Christmas from all the Davis girls.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne A. Davis Director of Music

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Congregational Christmas Dinner sponsored by Session is Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 5:00 pm. Ham, bread and drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite covered dish.

### December Anniversaries

14 Linda & Dean Burns  
17 Naomi & Charles Burkhammer  
27 Dave & Sue Davis  
27 Caroline & Drew Tate

### December Birthdays

1 Emily Gray  
1 Bob Oneacre  
1 Eugene Snyder  
2 Jesse Liebig  
3 Jason Withrow  
4 Kendall McCaugherty  
6 Teresa Scott  
7 Rod Jennings  
10 Joe Timms  
11 Margaret Spransy  
14 Iva Ehrhart  
16 Victoria Giffen  
22 Tom Carpenter  
22 Lynda Pike  
24 Scott Faris  
26 Renee Mathews  
26 Urlin Mathews II  
26 Ryan Yager  
30 Loran Davis  
30 Michelle Ehrhart  
30 Joe Pinti

# This is the Advent Season Celebrate

## Nov 29—First Sunday of Advent

### 10:00 AM—Worship Service

- “Hanging of the Greens” Worship Service with member participations
- Lighting of the 1st Advent candle
- Readings by Garth and Jessica Leech
- “Hanging of the Crismons”

### 11:00 AM—Fellowship Events

- Coat and Sweater Drive
- Annual Poinsettia Sale
- Decorating the church
- Light lunch

## Dec 6—Second Sunday of Advent

### 10:00 AM—Worship Service

- Lighting of the 2nd Advent candle
- Readings by Gene and Teri Laurent

### 11:00 AM—Last day of the Poinsettia sale

### 4:00-6:00 PM—Kid’s Klub and Youth Meeting

## Dec 13—Third Sunday of Advent

### 10:00 AM—Worship Service

- “Cantata”
- Lighting of the 3rd Advent candle
- Readings by Lois Withrow and the Winans Family

### 5:00 PM—Christmas Celebration

- “Grandpa’s Story” presented by the youth
- Singing of Christmas Carols

## Dec 17—Presbyterian Women

### 6:00 PM—Dinner at Oliverio’s

- Ornament exchange

## Dec 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

### 10:00 AM—Worship Service

- Lighting of the 4th Advent candle
- Readings by the Liebig Family

### 3:00-5:00 PM—Manse Open House

## Dec 24—Christmas Eve

### 7:00 PM—Candlelight Worship Service

- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
- Readings by the Ranson Family

## Dec 25—Christmas Day

- celebrate the birth of Jesus

# Session Notes

The Session of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church met for their Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Lounge. The meeting was called to order and moderated by Reverend Robin Ray. The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions by Tom Giffen.

Highlights of the meeting included:

Pastor Robin distributed cards to be signed by Session members and sent to Steve Loar’s mother, Janice, Ava McMullen and Peg Mercer.

Session approved Pastor Robin attending RHINO in February, 2010.

PW will hold their business meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 pm. The Thank Offering will be collected. The slate of officers for 2010 will be presented. They are: Sue Davis, Moderator, Lori Gray, AM Circle Chair, Erma Reel, Treasurer, Penny Ranson, Historian, Anna Winans, Secretary, and Nominating Committee: Nancy Atkinson, Rita Friebel and Jo Tetrick.

Session approved the distribution by Trustees of \$3,300.00 from the estate of Diane Elder tithe in the following manner: \$1,300.00 be added to our PCUSA Shared Mission Offering to Presbytery, \$1,000.00 be placed in the Children’s Health Pantry fund and \$1,000.00 be placed in a new fund for Education and Mission Projects for Children and Youth.

Session approved a recommendation by the Outreach Committee for a proposal to make the alternate gift giving this year to be a cooperative effort between Christian Education, Resource Management and Outreach and to include giving opportunities for Davis Stuart Home, sending youth to Triennium and to Dr. Tomeh’s mission.

The Congregational Life Committee hosted a Presbytery meeting at our Church on Sunday, November 1, with four members from our church in attendance.

Session approved changing the wording in the Personnel Policy & Procedure Manual as follows: Page 50, Section 2, Work Hours Time off to “Any deviation from an employee’s expected work schedule requires prior approval from the Pastor, or Clerk of Session in the absence of the Pastor.” And Page 52 N) – Study Leave – “Ordained employees are entitled to study leave as stipulated in their contracts. This leave is to be discussed and approved by the Session.”

Session approved Christmas Bonuses for the Church Secretary, Director of Music, Church Accompanist and Janitorial Employee for the year 2009, to be given with the December 15 paycheck.

The next Stated Meeting is December 8 at 6:30 pm.

Naomi Burkhammer, Clerk

# December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School 4:00p Kids Club-Youth Group Christmas Party</p>	<p>7 10:00a PW Bible Study 7:00p Outreach</p>	<p>1 7:00p Christian Education</p>	<p>2 12:00p Pastor's Brown Bag 3:30p CHP Setup 6:30p Choir practice</p>	<p>3 9:00a CHP Kit Assembly 1:00p PW/CHP Meeting 7:00p Stewardship</p>	<p>4 5:30p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5 7:45p AA -- FH</p>
<p>13 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School 5:00p Christmas Dinner &amp; Program</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8 6:30p Session meeting</p>	<p>9 12:00p Pastor's Brown Bag 6:30p Choir practice</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:00p Parent's Night Out</p>	<p>12 7:45p AA -- FH</p>
<p>20 10:00a Worship - Christmas Joy 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School 3:00p Open House at Manse</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>15 6:30p Congregational Life</p>	<p>16 7:00a Men's Breakfast @ Eat 'N Park 12:00p Pastor's Brown Bag 6:30p Choir practice</p>	<p>17 1:00p Stephen Ministry 6:00p PW Christmas Party - Oliverio</p>	<p>18 5:30p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 7:45p AA -- FH</p>
<p>27 10:00a Worship - Guest Speaker 11:00a Coffee and Conversation 11:15a Sunday School</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6:30p Choir practice</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 7:00p Worship Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 7:45p AA -- FH</p>



## Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday 9:30am – 12:30pm

Email: Pastor Robin Ray [pastorrobin@bridgeportpresbyterian.com](mailto:pastorrobin@bridgeportpresbyterian.com)

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Website: [www.bridgeportpresbyterian.com](http://www.bridgeportpresbyterian.com)

Pastor	Robin Ray	842-3332
Clerk of Session	Naomi Burkhammer	842-2819
Treasurer	Nancy Aucremanne	842-4659
Director of Music	Lynne Davis	842-2211
Organist	Beth Armentrout	745-4881
Presbyterian Women	Anna Winans	838-2707
Janitorial Support	Sharon Salate	842-2211
Church Secretary	Janice Oldaker	842-2211

*the Light*

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