

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Beginning today at 9:40 am (during Sunday School hour)
9th graders – all Adults encouraged to attend

For the purposes of:

1. Electing a new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons
2. Electing a new class for the Officer Nominating Committee
3. Receiving as information possible financial updates
4. To revise Nomination and Election process document to include the following statement:
"The Nominating Committee shall follow Biblical qualifications for Elders and Deacons as well as the EPC Book of Order in consideration of nominees, as outlined in 'Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church: Elders and Deacons.'"

YOUTH NEWS:

High School Christmas Party: All 9th-12th grade students and their parents are invited to Russell and Erika Matney's home for our Christmas celebration this evening! The festivities begin at 4:30 pm. Be sure to bring food to share according to the list below:
Lastnames A-E: Dessert, Lastnames F-I: Fruit/veggies/salad, Lastnames J-Z: Heavy appetizer.

Middle School Christmas Party: All 5th-8th grade students and their parents are invited to the Higey's home for our Christmas celebration! The festivities will take place from 6:30-8:30 pm on Friday, December 22. Please bring your favorite Christmas goodie or hot drink to share!

Parent Meeting: Next Sunday, December 24, there will be a parent meeting for all parents of students in 5th through 12th grade in the Quinlan (youth meeting room) at 10:20 am. You will hear information on summer conferences and receive the winter/spring events calendar. Please attend if you are able!

RINGING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL: Please sign up in the Cheatham Center to ring the Salvation Army Bell at the Kroger store on Timberlake Road. Our ringing days are December 19th through December 23rd. Please call Brian or Lyn Nash with any questions at 384-2071. Thank you in advance for answering this call to serve!

CHRISTMAS EVENING NURSERY HELP IS NEEDED for both morning services and also the 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm services. Please see Tonioremailherattoni@rivermont.org if you are able to help.

FLORAL FUND & CHRISTMAS MISSIONS PROJECT

Christmas floral decorations in our Sanctuary are made possible through the contributions of members, in memory or in honor of loved ones. Contributions may also be made to the **Christmas Missions Project**, which will go to support REPC's City Life Fund. The City Life Fund helps our Rivermont/Lynchburg neighbors through an extraordinary financial crisis. If you would like to contribute to either fund, please clip and complete the form below and send it with your check to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by today, December 17. All contributions in memory or in honor of loved ones will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Floral Fund/Missions Project Contribution

Donor's Name: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Floral Fund \$ _____

Missions Project \$ _____

Please make checks payable to REPC with notation:
"Floral Fund" or "Christmas Missions Project"
Due 12/17/17

Announcements (continued)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: The final decision to cancel Sunday worship services will be made early Sunday morning. An announcement will be placed on the church website, WSET-TV, and the church's voicemail, and a church wide email will be sent. If the 8:30 am service is cancelled, Sunday School is also cancelled. RFN will be held at the discretion of the pastoral staff. A decision will be made no later than noon on Wednesday. Music rehearsals will be held at the discretion of the Director of Music Ministry and notifications will be sent by email.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Save the date for the weekend of February 2-3, 2018 for a women's winter weekend of study and fellowship. Details to follow.

<p>General Ministry Fund as of November 30, 2017 (June 30 Year End)</p>	<p>Organ Chamber Wall Repair and Rebuild:</p>
Year-to-Date Receipts: \$ 731,659	Anticipated Cost: \$324,305
Year-to-Date Expenses: \$681,595	Campaign Goal: \$250,000
Receipts Over Expenses: \$ 50,064	Donations Received: \$ 55,960
Year-to-Date Budget: \$742,278	Remaining Need: \$194,040
Year-to-Date Receipts: \$731,659	
Budget Deficit: \$(10,619)	

Calendar

<p>Sunday, December 17 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 8:30 am Worship 9:40 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) 9:45 am College Hour 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth HS Christmas Party (9-12 Graders) (Matneys' Home) 6:00 pm Mission Service (Chapel)</p> <p>Monday, December 18 9:00 am Preschool 10:00 am Prayer Group (Family Room)</p> <p>Tuesday, December 19 6:30 am Dawn Patrol 6:15 pm Deacons' Meeting (John Knox) 7:00 pm Officers' Prayer Meeting (John Knox) 7:30 pm Session Meeting (John Knox)</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 20 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>Friday, December 22 6:30 pm Middle School Christmas Party (Higeys')</p> <p>Saturday, December 23 9:00 am Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</p> <p>Sunday, December 24 8:00 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship (No Sunday School) Nursery to 3 years old. 10:20 am Youth (grades 5-12) Parent Meeting (Q) 10:30 am Pre-service Prayer (Family Room) 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service (Nursery to 3 years old) 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service (Nursery to 3 years old) 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service (No Nursery)</p>
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Contact Us

<p>MAIL: 2424 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503</p> <p>PHONE: (434) 846-3441</p> <p>FAX: (434) 846-1002</p> <p>EMAIL: donna@rivermont.org</p> <p>WEB: www.rivermont.org</p> <p>FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/rivermontepc</p> <p>OFFICE: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM Saturday 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p>	<p>MINISTRY STAFF</p> <p>David Weber SENIOR PASTOR</p> <p>Ron Cox EXECUTIVE PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF</p> <p>Brett Eubank PASTOR OF OUTREACH AND ASSIMILATION</p> <p>Mike Palombo PASTOR OF RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP</p> <p>Shane Whelan PASTOR OF STUDENT FAMILIES</p> <p>Peggy Bettcher DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY</p> <p>Ann Knight DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES</p> <p>Josh Dempsey DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES</p> <p>Matt Bradner REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CAMPUS OUTREACH</p> <p>Alisha Meador CARE COORDINATOR</p>
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OUR MISSION

REPC SEEKS THE RENEWING OF LIVES THROUGH GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE
IN LYNCHBURG AND THE WORLD.

Third Sunday in Advent | December 17, 2017 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Order Of Worship

The prelude is a time for the body of Christ to spiritually prepare to enter into His presence in worship. As the prelude begins, please assume a quiet, prayerful and reverent attitude of worship. (Please silence your mobile devices.)

PRELUDE: **Carillon Handbells**
arr. Ron Mallory

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

"I Wonder As I Wander"
arr. Peggy Bettcher

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordn'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wisemen and farmers and
Shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of the ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause He was the King.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION:
Gracious and ever faithful God, over the centuries Your people have prayed
Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus, come! As we continue our journey this Advent
season, be among us with Your guiding Spirit. Open our eyes that we might
see, open our ears that we might truly worship in spirit and truth Your Son
Who is coming again. In anticipation we pray this in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Pastor Whelan**

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalms 16:11; 35:27 (responsively)**
You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore . . .
Let those who delight in Your righteousness shout for joy
and be glad and say forevermore,
"Great is the LORD!"

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE: #195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"** ANTIOCH

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

8:30 am: Keith and Sue Currie, together with their family Rodney & Heidi Foster, Bailey, Dalton and Emme Sue

11:00 am: Scott and Amy Hall

In Luke 2:10 the angel told the shepherds, "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

May we experience the joy of God as we wait for Christ to return.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE:**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates:" (vs. 5 & 6) TRURO

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

**So come my Sovereign enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.**

***THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*"Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come." (Rev. 1:4)
Even as the Lord greets us in His word, let us greet one another.*

SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE INTERLUDE:

Children pre-K through first grade may be dismissed for Children's Church.

8:30: Pre-K thru First Grade meet in the ORANGE room, #115

11:00: First Grade meet in ORANGE room, #115;
Pre-K/K meet in RED room, #114

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44 (pg. 819)

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON: "The Joy of the Kingdom" Dr. Weber

THE PRAYER FOR A RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED (in unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***THE GLORIA: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)** GLORIA

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o, Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o!
(meaning, "Glory to God in the highest" - Luke 2:14)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER, concluding with

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison):

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 RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Carillon Handbells

"Lo, How a Rose" arr. Cathy Moklebust

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Charis Jantomaso – organ

***THE DOXOLOGY: OLD HUNDREDTH**

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)**

Dear Father, in response to Your great gift to us, we offer ourselves to You, with thanksgiving and joy. Accept these tokens of our lives; bless and multiply them for the spread of the gospel, the strengthening of Your church, and the increase of Your kingdom, to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE: #203 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHORAL AMEN (sung by all):**

"A-men, A-men, A-men!"

***POSTLUDE: "Overture from 'Unto Us a Child is Born'"** J. S. Bach

*The congregation standing. Please feel free to be seated if you need to do so.
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Concerns of the Church

ATTENDANCE: Morning Worship: 8:30 service: Canceled; 11:00: service: 517.
Total: 517. Sunday School: Canceled. Choir Cantata 6:30 pm: 400.

Usher Schedule

Ushers Serving December 24 - Christmas Eve am Services: Head Deacon: Blair Nelligan

Assistant Deacon: Evan Harris Morning Only: Susan Crawford

8:30 am: Josh Alley, Beth Dunn, Ken Dunn, Wistar Nelligan

11:00 am: Scooter Harris, Ned Hudson, Ned Hudson, Jr., Steve McCann

Ushers Serving December 24 - Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm:

Head Deacon: Lee Newland Assistant Deacon: Michele Dameron

Ushers: Chris Burch, Pheby Dameron, Noah Jantomaso, Elijah Jantomaso

Ushers Serving December 24 - Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm:

Head Deacon: Treasa Plude Assistant: Jeff Griffith

Ushers: Jarrett Dodd, Stewart Dodd, Daniel Lass, Brad Weaver

Ushers Serving December 24 - Christmas Eve at 9:00 pm:

Head Deacon: Baxter Gordon Assistant: Mark Smith

Ushers: Kelly Crawford, Sherwood Day, Jim Petrey, Scott Wade

SERMON NOTES

1. The kingdom of heaven is God's reign.

2. The kingdom of heaven is God's treasure.

3. The kingdom of heaven is God's mystery.

PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army, well known throughout the world for its ministry of compassion to people in need, ministers in the city of Lynchburg through a number of programs, like the Red Kettle program (REPC rings the bells at the Timberlake Kroger the week before Christmas). Pray for gospel transformation in the lives of those the Lynchburg Salvation Army serves through casework and counseling, youth services, rehabilitation ministry, feeding programs, emergency shelter for the homeless, transitional housing for women and children, and day care.

SUNDAY EVENING AT RIVERMONT MISSIONS FOCUS SERVICE TONIGHT at 6:00 pm in the Chapel