

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021 ~ 10:30 am

Common Ground

The Presbyterian USA Congregation
in the Colonial Heights Neighborhood



*Bethlehem is wherever people
cannot tolerate inhumanity and
where they have a hunger and
thirst for God's justice.
Their hearts are so in tune with
God's that God can be born in
them, and live in them.*

Our bulletin has rubrics to guide your time of worship, and a play list on YouTube for the music selected for the service. If you have a hymnal at home you can sing or read the hymns--We can see that you have them! We are offering limited (up to 25 people) in-person worship and online live worship through Zoom (hosted by Kate Belt). Please RSVP so we can prepare for your participation. All of our worship resources are on the website (chpcpx.org) for everyone's use each week.

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WELCOME

GREETING

The Rev. Ms. Linda Stewart-Kalen

THE LIGHTING OF OUR ADVENT CANDLES & INVITATION

God became one of us, so that we could see the face of love,
hear the voice of peace, be touched by the hand of grace, know the heart of mercy.
God comes to us, offering us forgiveness and peace.

PRELUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Ms. Ivona Schacker, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Join us in lighting candles to come together in light this Season of the Incarnation

CALL TO WORSHIP #143 *Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Into our world as into Mary's womb...

Come Jesus, Come.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

Come Jesus, Come.

Into the lives of the poor bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

And into our lives and our longings whatever our estate...

Come Jesus, Come.

This is the good news; Christ has come, Christ is coming, Christ will come again.

And blessed are those who wait and work, and wonder at God's coming

Come quickly Jesus. Come Emmanuel, God with us!

HYMN OF PRAISE #110 *Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Please be seated. We will begin our Prayer for Wholeness in a time of silence.

OUR PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS #159 **O Sing a Song of Bethlehem**

KINGSFOLD CMD

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Yes, in this most extraordinary year we have learned that our song breaks forth in new ways and in strange patterns. Yet, as children of God: we know surprising patterns are God's way, for a babe comes to comfort us, like a mother rocking her son to sleep, like a father wiping away the tears of his daughter. God's promise to be with us extends to times just like this, places just like these, a people gathered or scatters just as we are.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We invite you to greet one another in the grace and love we have received—that which turns strangers and neighbors into a beloved community of God's children.

For those on Zoom, this is a time to un-mute and give your greeting, and when the music begins, we invite you to mute the device you are using online— mute is usually in the lower left corner.

#126 *Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child* sung twice

WONDERFUL CHILD

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;

new life, new hope the Child will bring. Listen to the angels sing,

"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

WORD

HEARING THE STORY TOGETHER

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 148

*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Luke 2:1-20

The Message of the Birds by Kate Westerlaund, with pictures by Feridun Oral

LESSONS FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Colossians 3:12-17

***RESPONDING WITH A BLESSING FOR THE WORLD-OUR GIFTS**

OUR AFFIRMATION #125 *Before the Marvel of This Night*

We invite all our guests in the Chapel are invited to bring the offering of the nativity pieces to form our crèche scene. You are welcome to place your tithes and gifts in the offering plate.

OUR PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Please unmute to join in the responses.*

Near: Light of God, guide our way;

Far: Joy of God, fill our hearts;

All: *Peace of God, change our lives.*

TABLE

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE ALL ARE WELCOME.

*An open invitation to communion is practiced within this Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation. We invite all guests and friends who trust in Christ to join us today in being nourished at this Table. The gold and white cloth on the table is an ancient design woven and embroidered in Syria from the earliest days of Christianity. It is a gift from Dr. Mary Mikhael, former president of the **Near East School of Theology** in Beirut. We pray for peace for all people, and for the Christians celebrating all around the world in their continuing role as peacemakers.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING see insert

SHARING THE BREAD ~ DRINKING THE CUP

We invite all to receive God's love for the world through communion or a blessing.

SENDING

***HYMN OF PEACE & PARTING PH \$34 *In Bethlehem a Babe was Born* DISCOVERY**

***BLESSING, PEACE & PARTING**

Go in peace to love and serve God rejoicing in the power of the Spirit to make the world a place of God's blessing.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the faithfulness of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

And may Our God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Ms. Ivona Schacker, MUSIC DIRECTOR

*Common Ground, the Presbyterian Church (USA) Congregation
in the Colonial Heights Neighborhood*

This congregation began as a merger among three United Presbyterian congregations. Holt Chinese, First United Presbyterian (itself a merger of 1st, 3rd & the Italian United), and Mizpah Presbyterian Churches. They shared a new venture in 1961 of together welcoming the diversity of God in humanity. It was, in part, a vision for the Beloved Community—a multi-ethnic community welcoming all people.

We treasure the heritage of these predecessor congregations, who cherished fine music, offered a welcome to all people, earnestly supported mission, and nurtured children.

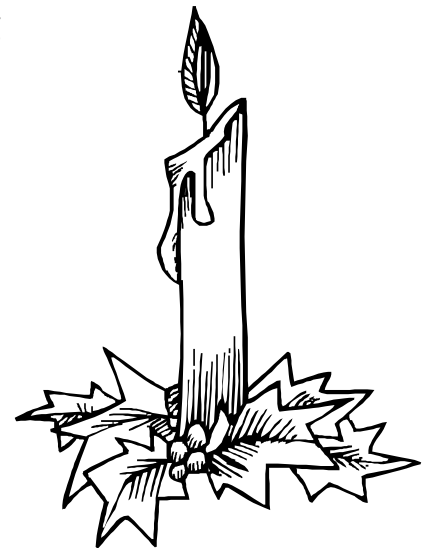
Connected to and appreciative of our past, we are a church of the present—a community seeking God's leading here and now. Our ministry today seeks to:

- Honor Diversity & Support Vulnerable Communities,
- Increase Stewardship of the Environment / Care of Creation,
- Promote Music & the Arts,
- Strengthen Families & Children,
- Support Education & Nurture Across Generations

We worship each Sunday at 10:30 am with both online and in-person expressions of gathering for the celebration of *Word, Wonder and Responding to God's love*. During this time of COVID, our a children's ministry and nurture for little ones happens in their own households and one to one through the week as families desire.

We welcome an opportunity to share a tour of the building along with a chance to explore your interest in the church, its mission, and ministry. We invite those who wish to unite with us in this journey of faith to speak with the pastor or any church member.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23 following worship. The Session has invited members of the Presbytery to join us that day as they come along side us to discern possible paths forward in the new year. Please plan on attending. The date if the weather prohibits our meeting that day is set for January 30.



All are welcome.



There are limited office hours this week and next.

The schedule on the back page are the activities approved for winter term by the Session.

Session hopes to meet on the 15th of January to approve the Annual Report.

Pastor Linda is available by appointment, email & phone.

*Dear Congregation Members and Friends,
So many of you have sent expressions of condolence to us with the death of my mom, Beverly (Harris) Stewart. The time to be with her and care for her in her transition from life through death and beyond the limits of our sight was a gift that is so much appreciated. Your kind words are deeply felt and treasured. Thank you for the kindness you shared with our family.*

The blessings and care in your lovely Christmas gift are also appreciated. We are overwhelmed with your generosity and well wishes. We wish you a deep and abiding joy this Christmas & New Years. Thank you!

Linda, Peter, Elizabeth & Seth

Rev. Tim Winslea, PUN nurse, is on vacation this and next week—so there is no mid-day, mid-week prayer gathering on Zoom.

Most activities of the church are taking a break as we close out the year and prepare Annual Report information.



2021 CURRENT BUILDING USE

Sunday	9:00-10:00 am	Musician Rehearsals Chapel & Sanctuary
	10:00-11:00 am	MCC Worship-Sanctuary in-person and on Facebook
	10:15 am	Welcome & Greeting for Common Ground in the Chapel
	10:30 am	Common Ground Worship in the Chapel & Zoom
Monday	11:00 am-6:30 pm	Meg Dixon, MIR- Voice & Piano Lessons-Chapel
	12:00 -2:00 pm	Office Hours
	12:00-5:00 pm	Megan Cronin, MIR-Violin & Viola lessons-Friendship Room
	4:30 pm	Session Meets at the home of Kate Belt December 21, January ?
Tuesday	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Office Hours
	6:00-8:00 pm	Clarinet & Woodwind Ensemble-Sanctuary or Social Hall **New Building Partners**
	6:45 pm	3rd Tuesdays Monthly Reading & Reflection Book Group-Zoom & at the home of Kate Belt Jan, 18,
Wednesday	11:00 am-3:00 pm	Possible Office Hours—can you help?
	11:00 am-1:00 pm	Quiet Space in the Sanctuary or Chapel
	12:00 pm	Mid-day, Midweek Prayer—Rev. Tim Winslea, RN via Zoom, onsite office or Chapel
	6:30-8:30 pm	HFP Board Meetings (first Wednesdays): 1/5
	6:30-8:30 pm	Community Meetings (typically 3rd Wednesdays)
	7:00-9:00 pm	2nd Wednesdays MCC Board Meeting-Social Hall
	7:00-10:00 pm	Logan Thane Brown, MIR- Brass groups- Sanctuary
Thursday	9:30-11:30 am	Office Hours
	10:00-11:00 am	Weekly Tai Chi Joan Smith-Front Porch or Grounds,
	11:00 am-12:00 noon	Carols for a Front Porch sing along 12/23 only
Friday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service jointly celebrated with MCC in the Sanctuary-Carols on the Front Porch following the service
	7:00 am	MA Friendship Room or Social Hall Returning January 7
Saturday		Christmas Day—Merry Christmas
	10:00 -11:30 am	<i>Overeaters Anonymous in-person mtg. possible soon-Social Hall</i>
	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Logan Thane Brown, MIR- Brass groups- Sanctuary
	1:30-6:30 pm	Gregor McGee, MIR—Sanctuary
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00-10:00 am	Musician Rehearsals preparation, Chapel & Sanctuary
	10:00-11:00 am	MCC Worship-Sanctuary with in-person and on Facebook We will not be scheduling Sanctuary use without MCC coordination
	10:15 am	Welcome & Greeting for Common Ground in the Chapel
	10:30 am	Common Ground Worship in the Chapel & Zoom or use website resources for personal at home devotions
	12:00 noon	2nd Sundays-Conversations and Skill Building for Mental Health & Wellness January 9, February 13, March 13, no meeting in April, May? (mother's day is 2 nd Sunday, June 12
	1:30 pm	4th Sundays-PUN- January 23 Zoom or in the building