

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*
Week of December 15, 2019

Sun 15	6:00pm	G3 Youth Group
Mon 16	7:30pm	Session Meeting
Wed 18	10:30am	Missionary Society with Bob Beggs
Thurs 19	7:00am	Men's Bible Study
	9:15am	Women's Bible Study
	7:00pm	G3 Senior High Bible Study
	7:00pm	PHR Sandwich Making
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30pm	twenty: Bible Study for Young Adults
Sat 21	8:00am	Philadelphia Homeless Run (departs from Zans')
	9:00am	Great Valley Prayer
Sun 22	9:00am	Christian Education Hour
	10:00am	Corporate Worship

* There are a variety of weekly Life Groups that meet in individuals' homes. Pick up a spreadsheet in Dickerson Hall or check out our website for more info.

STAFF

Pastor	Keith Fink
Director of Ministries	Jim Shackleton
Pastoral Associate	Robert Scott
Director of Worship and Communications	Christopher Starr
Organist	Sharon Smoker
Director of Preschool in the Valley	Karen Erickson
Facilities Supervisor	Christopher White

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Great Valley is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

What Child Is This?

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude	Noel in G – Louis-Claude Daquin
Welcome and Announcements	
Call to Worship	
Advent Reading	The Watson Family
Songs	Angels from the Realms of Glory – #108 Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)
Prayers of the People	
Offertory	Glory to God in the Highest – Chris Starr
Doxology	Praise God from Whom All Blessings – #556
Prayer of Thanksgiving	

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Song (children dismissed)	Reformation Hymn
Old Testament	Psalms 2:10-12 – Rev. Paul E. Toms
Message	Rev. Keith Fink
	The Ruler of Kings on Earth Revelation 1:4-6
Cantata	What Child

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Song	Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (verses 1, 4 & 5) – #118
Benediction	
Postlude	Angels from the Realm of Glory – Thygeson

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

It is a joy and a privilege to gather together to praise our God. May you sense His presence here today in worship and fellowship (Heb. 10:25).

Families – Please see the cards in the pew racks for an explanation of family worship at GVPC. Children are welcome to stay with you during the worship service or participate in the following ministries:

Infant Care (*up to 18 months*) in the Nursery. Today's caregiver: Helen Lee Potter.

Rompers Church (*18 mos. – K*) in Room 1 of the Children's Wing. Today's leader: Sally Farrell.

Jr. Church (*1st - 4th graders*) in the Library. Children are dismissed from the service during the song before the Scripture reading. A parent or older sibling should pick them up after the service. Today's leader: Peggy Gould.

5th - 8th graders stay in the service today.

Greeters – Today's greeters are Bob and Linda Wert.

Public and Private Prayer – The yellow cards in the pew racks are for praise or prayer requests to be read during the Prayers of the People. Fill one out and pass it to the center aisle for the prayer leader to collect during the second song. If you prefer your request to be private, please meet Jackie Welle in the Prayer Room following the service.

Deacons on Call – In December, our deacons Marcia Papson and Rick Constable are on call for assistance.

Following the Service – Please join us in the chapel after the service for Coffee Fellowship.

Bearing One Another's Burdens (Gal. 6:2) – If you have or know of special needs, concerns, or illnesses among our church family, please call the church office at 610-644-1995.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Missionary Society

December 18

Bob Beggs, Executive Director of Good Works, will speak at the December meeting of Great Valley Missionary Society. While providing home repairs at no cost to low-income families in our area, the goal of this nonprofit organization is to see homeowners rise out of their level of poverty and experience the hope, joy, and dignity of knowing their circumstances matter to their community and to God. We'll hear about the involvement of Great Valley and other churches in this local ministry. Bob did a great job teaching our Sunday morning elective in September – come check out his talk!

Join us for Missionary Society Wednesday, December 18; devotions and a brief business meeting begin at 10:30 am, with Bob's message at 11:00 followed by lunch at noon. See Paul or Susan Toms with any questions.

Coulson/Boensel Wedding

December 21

The congregation is invited to attend the wedding ceremony of Lexie Coulson (daughter of Wendy Leland) and Stephen Boensel this Saturday, December 21 at 11:00am in the sanctuary. Come and celebrate with us!

Cookies and Carols

December 22

All are welcome to attend the annual Great Valley family gathering of *Cookies and Carols* next Sunday, December 22 at 3:00pm in the Chapel. This is a wonderful, informal time of singing Christmas Carols together and enjoying some delicious treats. Come with old acquaintances and meet some new friends as we celebrate Christ's birth in song! Sign up on the clipboards if you'd like to bring cookies, and contact Carol Jones with questions.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

Great Valley's take on the traditional Lessons & Carols service, this year we will celebrate with a message from Mark 10:45 entitled "Welcome to Our World," plus readings from God's Word, a variety of solo and ensemble musical presentations, plenty of carols, and Silent Night sung by candlelight.

Interested in assisting with childcare at this service? Contact Jim Shackleton.

College Student of the Week

This week's college student is **Gavin Dunkerton**. Gavin is studying entrepreneurial and small business management at Bucks County Community College. Please pray that Gavin will live for Christ in that "whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men," and remember that "it is the Lord Christ you are serving (Colossians 3:23,24b)."

Philadelphia Homeless Run

December 21

You can serve Philadelphia's homeless by joining the Philadelphia Homeless Run (PHR) on this Saturday, December 21, departing from the Zans' at 8:00am. You can also help by making sandwiches at the church on Thursday (12/19) at 7pm, or by supporting PHR's Winter Fundraiser. Christmas floral arrangements for your home, created by Irene Zan, can be purchased in the Chapel; all proceeds go to funding special needs of PHR. Enjoy decorating while helping to serve the homeless. Your generosity will go a long way in helping us engage with the homeless population in Philadelphia as we show the love of Christ through our words and deeds.

Heard from the Mission Field

Rich and Janice Dunkerton, Africa Inland Mission, Media Retirement Center, Florida – In their December newsletter, Janice reports that Rich continues to heal from his stroke; he mows the grass around the grounds of the retirement center and helps as needed with repairs/upkeep of the buildings. Janice still manages her autoimmune disease with medication and treatments and plans activities for the residents. Their son, Zachary, helps his parents and does so with patience and a positive attitude! It has been a struggle for him to find a job and a place of his own; please pray for him. Rich and Janice are low on support and they still have a balance due on the house. They are confident God, who has provided for them in amazing ways, will continue to do so, but would appreciate your prayers. They end with an affirmation that "God is good!"

Christmas Cards for Missionaries

Why not include one or two of our extended Great Valley family on your Christmas card list this year? The Missions Team has addressed and stamped several cards for each of our supported missionaries and will have those available before and after church today. Stop by Dickerson Hall and pick up a card or two, write a personal note inside, and mail.

Don't know who these folks are? A description of each individual or family is available on the missions tab at our website, gvpres.org. If you do not see a card for the missionary you would like to write to, a complete list is posted on the bulletin board in Dickerson Hall and in the directory of missionaries on the table below.

Join us in taking part in this effort to brighten the Christmas season for these dedicated servants of Christ!

Capital Campaign

In the next few months we will be seeing a capital campaign for a sanctuary make over to hopefully occur in the Summer of 2020. Project particulars will be coming late this winter and spring, but anyone caring to contribute early to the coming campaign in the 2019 tax year is encouraged to do so. Kindly mark your giving "2020 Sanctuary Campaign" so the Trustees may account for it properly.

Bond or Stock Contributions

If you are considering a bond or stock certificate gift to Great Valley, we recommend two things: 1) contact the church office (610-644-1995) for the instructions to follow in making a contribution, and 2) leave adequate time for the process (we suggest at least a week).

Financial Report

We need \$112,000 in December to meet our unified budget goal of \$670,000 for the year. Praise God for a very generous offering this past Sunday, December 8th, plus a number of donations given electronically via the online giving page at gvpres.org. Here is where we stand as of December 9th with three Sundays remaining in the year:

December Contribution Goal	\$ 112,000
Received thru December 9	<u>35,228</u>
Remainder to Reach Our Goal	<u>\$ 76,772</u>

Thank you for your generous support of Great Valley's ministries, locally as well as around the world. We pray that it may it be used to proclaim the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!





3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UNISON: Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthy-minded,
For with blessings in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of woman
As of old on earth He stood.
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Hymn #114)

Leader: Even though we are reflecting at this season
Jesus' birth as a baby, the scripture tells
us in Revelation 17:14 that Christ is the
Lord of lords and the King of kings.

Lighter: We light this candle on the third Sunday in
Advent to celebrate Jesus as the King of kings
and Lord of lords.

UNISON: God gave Jesus authority over heaven and earth.
On the basis of that authority, Jesus told His
disciples to make more disciples as they preached,
baptized and taught.

from Life Application Bible Commentary