

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

### Week of December 8, 2019

|          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| Sun 8    | 11:30am | Congregational Meeting (No Coffee Fellowship)     |
|          | 6:00pm  | G3 Youth Group                                    |
| Mon 9    | 7:30pm  | Finance Committee Meeting                         |
| Tues 10  | 7:30pm  | Book Club Tea and Literary Society (Andersons')   |
| Wed 11   | 6:00pm  | Valley Forge Cottage Prayer (Millie Montgomery's) |
|          | 7:30pm  | Christian Education Committee Meeting             |
| Thurs 12 | 7:00am  | Men's Bible Study                                 |
|          | 9:15am  | Women's Bible Study                               |
|          | 7:00pm  | G3 Senior High Bible Study                        |
|          | 7:30pm  | Choir Rehearsal                                   |
|          | 7:30pm  | twenty: Bible Study for Young Adults              |
| Fri 13   | 10:00am | Preschool Christmas Program                       |
| Sat 14   | 8:45am  | Good Works Work Day                               |
|          | 9:00am  | Great Valley Prayer                               |
| Sun 15   | 9:00am  | Christian Education Hour                          |
|          | 10:00am | Corporate Worship with Christmas Cantata          |

\* 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 8, 2019**

*What Child Is This?*

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Prelude   | Noel – LeBegue   |
| Welcome and Announcements                                   |  |
| Spotlight on Ministry                                       | Philadelphia Homeless Run  |
| Call to Worship   |  |
| Advent Reading  | Jim and Irene Lackman  |
| Songs   | Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus – #86<br>My Soul Magnifies the Lord |
| Responsive Confession of Sin Followed By Private Confession |  |
| Affirmation of Forgiveness                                  |  |
| Song  | Immanuel   |
| Prayers of the People                                       |  |
| Offertory   | Joy to the World   |
| Doxology  | Praise God from Whom All Blessings – #556                          |
| Prayer of Thanksgiving                                      |  |

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Song (children dismissed)        | Reformation Hymn           |
| Old Testament                    | Psalms 2:7-9 – Chris Starr |
| Message                          | Rev. Keith Fink            |
| <b>The Firstborn of the Dead</b> |                            |
| Revelation 1:4-6                 |                            |

**WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Song        | Hark! the Herald Angels Sing – #97    |
| Benediction |                                       |
| Postlude    | God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen – Smith |

**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: Frani Hitzelberger.

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

**Jr. Church** (*1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders** in the **Library Lounge Area**. They are dismissed from the service during the song before the Scripture reading, and study the sermon text for the day. Today's leader: Paul B. Toms.

**Greeter** – Today's greeter is Kay Schaul.

**Flowers** – The flowers this morning are given by John and Frani Hitzelberger in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

**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 Helen Lee Potter 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** – Due to the congregational meeting, there will be no Coffee Fellowship today.

**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

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### December Book Club Tea and Literary Society

**December 10**

Great Valley Book Club's special December Tea and Literary Society will be held this Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30pm at the home of Kathy Anderson. There is no specific book this month. Instead, bring a favorite book that you would like to share with the group in hopes to interest them in a new read! Bring a small treat to share along with a gently used, wrapped book to exchange. All are invited; if you have never attended Book Club this would be the perfect month to start! Questions? Contact Carol Jones.

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### Valley Forge Cottage Prayer

**December 11**

This month's cottage prayer meeting will include dinner, and will be held Wednesday, December 11 at 6pm at the home of Millie Montgomery. Contact Millie if you'd like to get involved.

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### Good Works Work Day

**December 14**

Please consider volunteering with the Good Works team next Saturday from 8:45am to 3:30pm. You will have the opportunity to learn new skills while helping a neighbor have a warmer, safer and drier home. Consider inviting a friend, co-worker, or teenage son or daughter to join you. Lunch will be provided! Contact Brian Gilbert with questions and for directions to the work site.

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### 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.

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.

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### Cookies and Carols

**December 22**

All are welcome to attend the annual Great Valley Family gathering of Cookies and Carols on 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.

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### College Student of the Week

This week's college student is **Dina Corrado**. Dina is a junior at Penn State University. Please pray that Dina would be protected physically, mentally, and spiritually, and her "mind would not be led astray from her sincere and pure devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3b)."

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### 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 are encouraged to do so. Kindly mark your giving "2020 Sanctuary Campaign" so the Trustees may account for it properly. Stock gifts and transfers are simple; contact Ted Wray or our church Treasurer Alan Papsen for details on the church brokerage account and how to transfer.

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### 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).

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### Financial Report

We finished November needing \$112,000 to meet our unified budget goal of \$670,000 for the year. Here is where we stand as of December 8th:

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| December Contribution Goal  | \$ 112,000        |
| Received thru December 3    | 10,064            |
| Remainder to Reach Our Goal | <u>\$ 101,936</u> |

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

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## **Congregational Meeting**

**Today**

A Meeting of the Congregation is called immediately following today's Worship Service. The purpose of the Meeting is to elect Elders and Deacons, to elect members to the 2020 Congregation Nominating Committee, to present the 2020 Unified Budget, and to vote on the Pastor Terms of Call.

The following officer candidate slates are presented by the 2019 Nominating Committee:

### Elder/Class of 2022

Rees Hunt (1<sup>st</sup> term)

### Elder/Class of 2023

Glenn Anderson (1<sup>st</sup> term)

George Barstar (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Jane Porter (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Chris Starr (1<sup>st</sup> term)

### Deacon/Class of 2023

Frani Hitzelberger (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Susan Toms (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Julie Turner (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Jackie Welle (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Please recall that if you are considering nominating a candidate from the floor, that person should demonstrate the Biblical qualifications for the office, have been asked in advance regarding her/his willingness to serve, and be present at the Congregational meeting to accept the nomination. Thank you.

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## **Poinsettia Orders**

Today is the final opportunity to order Poinsettias. Complete an order form (found on the clipboard in your pew) and place it in the offering plate. Donors may take the plants home after the Christmas Eve service, or select the option to donate Poinsettias for Homebound members. Donated plants will be delivered early to be enjoyed during Advent. Questions? Contact Susan Toms.

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## **Giving Tree**

Today is the final collection day for gifts purchased for families in our community. Please be sure to deliver your gift to one of the helpers at the tree in Dickerson Hall. Forgot to bring it? Stop at the tree, or call Marcia Papson or Dale Garrison to arrange drop-off. Thank you for your help with this outreach project!

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## **Heard from the Mission Field**

Drs. David and Sunisha Henry, Heart Ministries, India – The Drs. Henry operate medical practices, schools, and training programs in Bilaspur, India. Their love for the Lord compels them to serve boldly in this Hindu area. By His grace, the ministry is providing physical, social and spiritual care to many who live in remote areas. The schools have approximately 350 students; many would not be able to attend without gifts from donors. Training is in place for good farming techniques to prevent malnutrition and provide extra income for the families.

The Henrys supervise 6 rural churches in tribal areas. More folks are now taking part in house churches because of the political situation. David and Sunisha ask that we pray for a youth convention planned for December; they expect over 300 young people. They are particularly grateful for the long-time support of Great Valley and wish us a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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## **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](http://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!



## 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UNISON: God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive,  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.  
Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

*God Sent His Son (Hymn #159)*

Leader: When God sent His Son to die for us, death lost  
its power over us. As scripture tells us in  
I Corinthians 15:55, "Where, O death, is your  
victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Lighter: On the 2nd Sunday in Advent, we light this candle  
to celebrate Jesus living in us and His assurance that  
we will live with Him in His heavenly home one day.

UNISON: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God  
spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these  
last days He has spoken to us by His Son...  
And when He brings the firstborn into the world,  
He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him."

*Hebrews 1:1-2,6*