

Soul Food



"What we have most in common is not religion but humanity. I learned this from my religion, which also teaches me that encountering another human being is as close to God as I may ever get - in the eye-to-eye thing, the person-to-person thing - which is where God's Beloved has promised to show up. Paradoxically, the point is not to see him. The point is to see the person standing right in front of me, who has no substitute, who can never be replaced, whose heart holds things for which there is no language, whose life is an unsolved mystery. The moment I turn that person into a character in my own story, the encounter is over. I have stopped being a human being and have become a fiction writer instead." - Barbara Brown Taylor, *Altars in the World*

WEEKLY WORD



GLITTER BOMBING, invented specially for YPW, gave us great joy during our Advent worship celebrating joy! We expressed how each of us uniquely and joyously sparkles, then sprinkled—some might say poured—glitter on each other to honor these qualities and gifts!

Susan Betz, Buckingham's Office Administrator will be away on vacation beginning Monday, December 22nd. The office will reopen December 29th.

Rev. Lindsey will be on vacation Christmas Day through January 2nd.

Worship and the Arts

This Sunday, we explore the concept and experience of ‘residing’, of the soul’s longing for home and how God makes a home in us on this 4th and last Sunday of Advent. We lift ourselves out of the routines of each day to sing, pray, cry, let go and be renewed. Come and worship! Scripture: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16, Luke 1: 26-38

Take a break from the hectic meal preparations and from your busy households on Christmas Eve to center yourself:

Buckingham UCC Christmas Eve Worship Services, Wednesday, December 24th:

5:00p.m., Pageant and Candlelight

10:00p.m., A Reflective Service and Candlelight

Children and Youth

“Advent and Christmas are cues for ministers to panic...’How can I possibly make the story NEW?’ Most of the children I know, and a good number of the grown-ups, don’t want a new Christmas story. They like the old one, told with gusto. There is something about repetition that works on us in holy ways...” These insights from UCC Senior Minister Molly Baskette inspire this Sunday’s YPW! We’ll tell the Christmas story with gusto and let the Holy work within us!

LAST CALL for Christmas Pageant 2014! Another opportunity to tell the Christmas story with gusto, our pageant takes place during the 5 p.m. family service on Christmas Eve. One rehearsal and costuming begin at 4 p.m. that day in the sanctuary. All children, junior and senior youth welcome! E-mail or text Mrs. Fisher right away if you haven’t already: buckinghamkids@bcc.necoxmail.com or 860-805-3264.

This Sunday, December 21st youth in grades 6-12 and returning college kids join together for our Annual Christmas Soup & Sing following worship until 4:30/5 p.m. All are invited (friends too!) as we begin at church, making soup and cookies, then delivering them to church family members in need of cheer this Christmas season. Come in your Santa gear, ready to sing those carols loudly!

Fun and Fellowship

DAYBREAK UPDATE: Rev. Lindsey **will be at Daybreak from 1:00 - 2:00 tomorrow. Come for coffee and conversation.** Rev. Lindsey **will not** be at Daybreak the following week, Christmas Eve day.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Concert and Cookie Walk! You are all so appreciated!
Hatti

Ministries of Care and Justice

Christmas Meals for MACC families: All food needs to be at the church on the morning of Sunday, December 21. We need help assembling the "baskets" after worship. We also need volunteers to deliver food and gifts to the families that day.

Giving Tree: The gifts for MACC family members should be **wrapped** and brought to the church by Sunday, December 21 in the morning.

If you want to volunteer to deliver some of the food and gifts, please email or call Fred D. @ 860 228-0852 or bebenfred@sbcglobal.net.

The Caring Ministry: Please continue your prayers for Bob Orr, Barbara Hartenstein, and for former member Nancy Butler who has been diagnosed with PLS (Primary Lateral Sclerosis).

If you know of someone who needs a card, a visit, or a meal, please let one of the members of the Caring Ministry Team know: Bebe Dudley, Frank Fuchs, Sue Tanner.

Stewardship of Our Resources

Thanks to all who have thus far shared their blessings by making a pledge to our 2015 Stewardship Campaign. To date we have received 66 pledges totaling \$144,680. While we are close to achieving our goal of exceeding last year's total number of pledges, there is still work to be done. Our Church and its ministries depend entirely on your financial support.

Your pledge will help us meet our goal! If you have not already made a pledge for 2015, please do so by December 31, 2014 by sending in your pledge to the Church Office (attention Stewardship). Thank you!

Reminder: If you currently give through EFT and are changing your pledge for 2015 please fill out a new EFT form and return it to the office by December 29th. If you are new to electronic giving and need a form please speak to Susan in the office.

Fall Fair Conversation Follow Up: On October 19th, **32** of you gathered to reflect on and share your perspectives about Buckingham's Fall Fair! There was a shared appreciation of the values the Fair has sought to lift up including: *community-building, teamwork, intergeneration relationships, education, fun and financial stewardship of the church* alongside a shared acknowledgment of the need for adjustments to the Fair. Please mark your calendars to join after worship on **January 4th 11:30-12:30** to continue this conversation and come to a shared understanding of how we will steward the values that the Fair has promoted in a way that works for who we are in this time and place.

Spiritual Formation



The Sounding Board: Coming soon to a church dear to your heart!

We are very happy to announce that Charity Clark will be joining the Buckingham Church Ministry Team as our Vocal Music Leader early in the New Year! The search committee: Paul Dudley, Debbie Sweet, Judy Orr and Rev. Lindsey were all very impressed with Charity's experience, perspective and presence and believe she will be a good fit for nurturing the singing heart of our community. More details about Charity and how her position will work in the January Steeple!

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