Christmas Is Coming

Several familiar Christmas stories for the young and the young at heart touch on the threat of there being no Christmas at all. Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Santa Claus is Coming to Town all deal with the possibility that Christmas won’t come because either the Whos in Whoville will have no toys or food to celebrate, the terrible storm will ground Santa and his sleigh, or the restrictions against toys and celebrations ordered by the “Burgermeister Meisterburger.”

We know Christmas is about more than gifts, toys and food, but we also know that there is a lot of lamenting going on this holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas and New Year’s because we can’t gather with family and friends in the way we’re used to; it’s painful not to be able to see, talk, hug, and be with people we care about. This appears to be a year when Christmas as we’ve known it for most of our lives is not to be. Like the Whos, the tall and the small, we may need to cope with the reality of a different type of Christmas, and sadly unlike the Whos we won’t be clasping hands and singing together.

In the midst of the world’s despair and our own lamenting and regrets, it’s helpful to remember Christmas is about the ultimate gift of God’s son, who is born into the turmoil, uncertainty and pain of the world. Perhaps it helps to remind ourselves that in the story we share every year at Christmas, Mary and Joseph cope with a lot more uncertainty and turmoil than we are right now.

As we mercifully near the end of 2020, it seems fitting in Advent and at Christmas to think about the aspect of Christmas which doesn’t and indeed can’t be changed, and that is “What God Does for Us at Christmas.” Through the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of Luke, we hear the ancient message of hope still speaking to us. Isaiah shares that God rends the heavens and comes down to us and is a part of our lives in this world. God speaks and brings comfort to us when we’re hurting and grieving. God brings good news of comfort and joy even during the trials we face. Mary sings how the God of the Bible so often turns human expectations upside down. Finally, being born as a human baby, God becomes utterly dependent and vulnerable for our sakes. The God we worship is willing to become weak; most gods in mythology are about being strong, dominating, threatening, and imposing. The God we worship is willing to become weak that we might become strong.

We look forward to sharing Advent and Christmas together no matter what form it takes. Christmas will come once again!

Grace and Peace,
Doug Scalise
The church office will be closed December 28, 2020 — January 1, 2021

Returning to our winter schedule of two services at 8:30am and 10:00am on Sunday mornings, beginning December 27, 2020 through March 21, 2021.

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Worship in December
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Advent Series: What God Does for Us at Christmas

December 6, 2020
Advent Week 2
“God Comforts Us”
Isaiah 40:1–11

December 13, 2020
Advent Week 3
“God Sends Good News... of Comfort and Joy”
Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
Reverend Barbara Burrill

December 20, 2020
Advent Week 4
“God Turns Things Upside Down”

December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve – Remote
“God Becomes Vulnerable”
Luke 2:1–20

December 27, 2020
8:30am & 10:00am
Testimonies to God’s Goodness and Faithfulness

Table of Contents
Advent Scripture & Prayer of the Day . 12–13
Advisory Council ........................................ 4
Angel Tree Toy Drive .................................... 6
Anniversaries & Birthdays .......................... 15
Caring Ministries ...................................... 10
Children’s Worship ..................................... 7
Christmas Is Coming .................................. 1
Financial Update ...................................... 5
Flower Donations ...................................... 8
Holiday Fair (Flower Shoppe) .................... 5
Looking Ahead to 2021 ............................. 3
Meditation Garden ..................................... 9
TABCOM Church Leadership Day ............ 11
Virtual Christmas Caroling ....................... 6–7
Women’s Book Discussion Group .............. 11

Brewster Baptist Church
1848 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631
Office: (508) 896-3381
Fax: (508) 896-5051
www.brewsterbaptistchurch.org
e-mail: bbc@brewsterbaptistchurch.org

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year
New Series Beginning in January: Tools to Build Your Spiritual Life

Based on Richard Foster’s book Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth

Home Depot uses the tagline, “You can do it, we can help” to encourage people doing their own home improvement and renovation projects. In a similar way, the role of the church is to help equip individuals to grow, mature and develop their spiritual life and their relationship with God. “You can do it, we can help,” can also be said of the church.

As we face a winter in which it will continue to be difficult to meet in person, one of the best things we can do as a church is to give you the tools you need to renovate and improve your spiritual life. The tools we see people use in the Bible and throughout Christian history are called spiritual disciplines. These are practices that we actually do (we don’t just talk about them) like meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, and more that shape and form our spirit and put us in a place where it’s much more likely we will encounter and hear from the Lord.

We are encouraging people to get a copy of Richard Foster’s book Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth and we’re encouraging all our small groups and Bible studies to consider being part of our 12-week focus on “Tools to Build Your Spiritual Life.” Especially because we can’t gather in large groups, there is a sense of unity we can still foster in participating and knowing we’re all reading, discussing and seeking to practice the same material. We will kick off this new series on January 3 and will be encouraging groups to discuss each “tool” or discipline during the week following each message.

We hope you will participate with us so that your spiritual toolbox will be full and ready to help you renovate your heart and soul.

Doug Scalise

Looking Ahead to 2021
Well, 2020 is about to come to an end, and I wish I could say that COVID was coming to an end. We’ve endured a change in our lifestyle, separations from loved ones, quarantines and lockdowns, and plans near and distant are always contingent on the direction of the virus. It is easy to get discouraged, but then I hear some encouraging words from the pastors at Church, or I see a smile in the eyes of a BBC brother or sister in Christ, and I’m back remembering God’s presence in my life, and how very blessed I am.

The Advisory Council continues to grapple with an ever-changing environment. By the time this is published, a prayerfully considered decision to have Christmas services remotely will have been made to ensure the safety of our congregation as well as their extended families who gather for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Pastor Joe recently directed the taping of the Christmas Carols, and although it will be remote, it will include a brass ensemble, children of the Church, scriptures, a message from Pastor Doug, and of course, the talented praise team. Although not our ‘traditional’ approach, it will be a celebration that can be accessed and enjoyed by many as often as they wish.

Pastor Doug has mentioned the generosity of people who attend BBC and how God has blessed our efforts to love, grow, share historically and in the future. One such person was Flo Roberts, who has left her house to the Church. We are working through the paperwork to assume ownership and decide how best to use this gift for the glory of God.

In a year when the words “shut down” are far too frequently heard, BBC has:

• Called a new pastor extraordinaire and his wonderful family.
• Purchased and renovated a parsonage thanks to dedicated and talented volunteers.
• Celebrated Pastor Doug’s 30th Anniversary of his ordination on February 23, 2020.
• Celebrated Pastor Barbara Burrill’s ordination.
• Celebrated Pastor Doug’s 25th Anniversary at BBC on October 25, 2020.
• Celebrated Pastor Joe’s installation.
• Installed new lighting, soundboard and cameras; moved from taping services to live services with streaming to YouTube and Facebook in addition to recording and uploading the services. We are still learning all the nuances of our new capabilities and your patience is greatly appreciated.
• Managed to raise and give away more than $20k from a virtual Holiday Fair.
• Continued in faith and trusted the Lord in many other ways throughout the year!

Although 2020 is not like any other in recent history, we have not lingered in the “valley of the shadow,” but stepped out in faith with an ever faithful and loving Lord. We are, in fact, entering the most wonderful time of the year... God gave us the gift above all gifts, and with Him all things are possible. Let us rejoice in the generosity of a loving God to whom we should bring all praise in good times and bad.

May God continue to bless you and your family this Advent and Christmas season. I am grateful for all of your efforts to worship in a variety of ways, and look forward to 2021 and the possibility of a safe and healthy New Year.

Su
The Beacon

Financial Update

Brewster Baptist Church has been very blessed in 2020. Through your generosity as a congregation, we are above budget. Plus, our special giving is above last year’s total. Thank you for your generous support over these past eleven months.

The following numbers represent figures through November 30, 2020 of our current budget year.

Brewster Baptist Church’s overall budget through November 30 is $1,029,383. Currently, BBC has taken in $1,060,465. This is an increase of close to 14% over last year.

Projected expenses through November 30 are $1,029,383. Currently, we have spent $1,008,489. This includes the upgrade to the audio/visual equipment, lighting and the purchase of three cameras for live streaming.

BBC has always taken special offerings to help people in need. This has been one of our strengths as a congregation. In 2020, BBC has raised more than $74,071. This is a 17.5% increase over the previous year. The Deacon Assistance Fund has raised more than $29,851, OGHS $13,630, and WMO $18,502. More than $1,325 has come in for the food pantry, as well.

Remember, you can give to the church on Sunday mornings, by text, by mail, or online. If you need help or have any questions, please contact Pastor David Pranga or Treasurer Dan Ryan.

---

2020 Holiday Fair “Part Three”

Flower Shoppe

Exciting news! The beautiful FLOWER SHOPPE will be held the first full week of December Sunday, Dec 6 thru Friday, Dec 11 in Fellowship Hall

Sunday will be a preview (no sales) and there will be in-person sales the rest of the week.

The Shoppe will be open during the church office hours. Please feel free to come Monday through Friday between 9:30 am and 3:00 pm.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED

Only checks will be accepted; made out to BBC. There will be a box to place the payments in.

Every item will be individually priced. You will love the assortment we have and be delighted by the beautiful Christmas arrangements, trees and wreaths. There will be different shell wreaths and whimsical wreaths as well. In addition to all of this, there will be small gifts to put in Christmas stockings. Solid glass paperweights, wine glass coasters and more!

Please come and see for yourselves.
We will have a limited number of Angels that will be given out on Sunday, December 6 at each service. Once you pick up your angel, you will bring it to the table in the lobby where you will be given the specifics of the gift that you will need to buy. You will need to purchase, wrap and return the gift (or gift card) by Sunday, December 13. We will also accept any cash donations for last minute gifts needed for our families or last-minute foster children placed with one of our foster families. If you are currently not attending in person but want to still help, kindly contact Pastor Barbara at bburrill@brewsterbaptistchurch.org. Thank you for your generosity to make this a special Christmas for all! If you are a person who needs assistance with anything this Advent Season, please let us know.
This year, several of our musicians have been working hard to bring you quality music during the pandemic. Of course, this would not be possible without our incredibly generous and gifted staff, tech team and support system! We are grateful for the collaborative efforts over the past three months. The quintessence of this partnership will be on virtual display in mid-December.

Chris Morris along with several vocalists, children, readers, and instrumentalists will be bringing a variety of music, songs both familiar and new, to cheer your heart by the hearth this season. These are some of my most beloved and cherished songs of the year because they point us to the joy of our salvation (Psalm 51:12). We hope you enjoy a virtual presentation of holiday joy in lieu of in-person Christmas Caroling this December. We have been blessed by the work of Producer Zack Miele (Trinity Christian Academy, Barnstable), Regency Brass, featuring a familiar and well-loved musician in Dan LePage, and a host of participating players including Pastors Doug and Barbara, newly-baptized Susanna Creel, Greg Scalise, and members of our praise and tech teams. Special thanks to the Kautz, Pranga and Greemore children and to Pastor Barbara for amping up our excitement to the next level. We plan to release the final version of this multi-level production via CD and DVD for those that are homebound or in nursing homes as well as a link via Facebook and YouTube on December 17, 2020, one week before Christmas Eve.

I have missed the in-person component many of us have enjoyed in years past during weekly worship. I pray the powerful, pervasive presence of God’s Spirit will inspire us to give our very best presents and will continue to connect our hearts and enliven our hope, grant us peace, inspire our joy, root us in Christ, and bind us together with love throughout these holidays.

Wishing blessings of good health from our home to yours,

Joe, Shelby, Corbany, Addyson, and Greyson
The Greemore Family

Children’s Church Mission Project
During November and December, we are collecting size 6 diapers, wipes and formula for A Baby Center in Hyannis. We will deliver to Hyannis on Monday, December 21.

NO Children’s Worship on December 27!
We continue to offer Children’s Worship in person on Sunday mornings during the 9:30am service. We will not have Children’s Worship on Sunday, December 27 and encourage families to worship together. We will be offering services with testimonies from our congregation.
The flowers beautifying our Sanctuary are given by

- Bob & Patty Bartolucci in memory of Frances & Richard Murphy and Leo Bartolucci
- John & Erika Crawford in memory of Walter W. Kraft
- Cindy Dolinger in memory of Harold & Nancy Swetland and Joyce Dolinger
- Gerald & Terry Fiore in memory of Terry’s mother, Louise and in honor of Gerald’s parents, Frank & Ann
- Don & Evelyn Foster in memory of their loved ones
- Bill & Jane Harwood in memory of Bill’s parents, Henry & Margaret Harwood and Jane’s mother, Flora Wilson
- Charles Hilton in memory of Linda Diane Hilton and Mary Jose Hilton
- Russel & Susan Hubler in honor of Nicole, Karl, Brooke, and Madeline
- Bonnie Jacobs in memory of her husband, Henry Jacobs
- Narola Kautz in memory of her friend, Aubree Piebes
- Lorna Larson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Larson
- Bob & Dot Linnell in memory of their parents, Betty & Charles Linnell, and Bud & Edith Anderson
- Chuck MacMillin in memory of Mac & Barbara MacMillin
- Glenn & Cindi Maker in honor of Melanie Stone and Ellen & Mitch Summey
- The Maker Family in memory of David Brownville
- Cathy Marino in memory of her dad, Robert C. Dings
- Cynthia Mathison in honor of Ken, Molly, Anna, and Ben
- The McGrath Family in memory of Elaine “Nina” Barrett
- Nathan Nickerson in memory of Ellen Buckley and Helen Becker and in honor of Cheryl Banks
- Bud & Marcia Nugent in memory of Roger & Corinne Everett, Bess Clifford, and Jane & Jeff Nugent
- Jackie Reycroft in memory of Bill and family
- Audrey C. Smith in memory of Charles B. Smith
- Mark & Betsey Strum in memory of Howard & Sherry Strum
Meditation Garden

Autumn Update

The all-season beauty of BBC’s well-designed Mediation Garden has transitioned from the spring and summer flowers to the elegant colors of autumn. Increasing numbers of our Brewster neighbors have recently discovered our beautiful and peaceful garden, and are astounded by this “hidden gem.” Six weeks of Vespers were held in the garden this summer and considered a great success.

One of the aims of the past three years of my renovations in the Meditation Garden has been to encourage more people to use this tranquil garden space. Keeping the garden’s paths cleaned up year-round has helped make the garden more inviting. Tom Swaida, Chuck Hilton & Geoff Larkin from Buildings & Grounds did a fabulous job this season by cleaning up the path edging with three pallets of new slate. Beautiful, inviting, colorful entrances was another aim. Three new spectacularly colored rhododendrons have just been planted near the south entrance, which you’ll want to check out in the spring. This traditional Cape Cod garden with its permanent seaweed and leaf mulch provides low-maintenance organic plant nutrition, weed control and moisture retention during a severe drought year like this one.

Please take the time to come and pray or meditate in our garden and as one of the signs says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 64:10

Daffodil Bulbs (plain or fancy) are still being accepted to plant and increase the perpetual beauty of the garden’s spring awakening.
Caring Ministries

Cooks Who Care Ready to Help and Seeking Volunteers

The BBC Cooks Who Care Ministry is ready to deliver occasional home-cooked meals to those in our congregation who have been in the hospital, health care rehab facility, or to folks going through a difficult life transition or event. When possible please give us several days notice and let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies. Face masks and gloves must be worn for food deliveries and BBC can supply them. This ministry provides blessings to those being helped as well as the Cooks themselves. No professional cooks required just a willingness to help!

Contact Linda Viprino at 508-247-7482 or lindervip2@aol.com.

Update BBC if you have had surgery, or have been in the hospital or rehab.

Please let BBC know if you have upcoming surgery or if you have recently been in the hospital or a rehabilitation or nursing home facility.

Our Caring Ministry team is available to help. For more info contact Lisa Freeman, RN at 508-896-3299 or email her at Lfree125@comcast.net.

Updated Emergency Contact Info Needed

Just a reminder to please take a minute to make sure that BBC has your Emergency Contact Information!

There are a few ways to do this:

1. Log in Online through BBC connections. 
   https://brewsterbaptistchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/login
   Click on People. Search for your name. Click on your name. Click on “Edit Profile.” Scroll down to find the fields for “Emergency Contact Name” and “Emergency Contact Number.” Enter information. Click on “Save.”
2. If you don’t have access to the internet, email the office at BBC@brewsterbaptistchurch.org or call the office at 508-896-3381.
WOMEN’S BOOK DISCUSSION

All Women Welcome!
Contact Janet Bantly at 508-237-0030 or janet_bantly@comcast.net

December 2020
The Silent Sister
by Dianne Chamberlain

January 2021
By the Book
by Amanda Sellet

February 2021
Leadership in Turbulent Times
by Doris Kearns Goodwin

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts
TABCOM
Churches Partnering to Transform Lives and Communities

Church Leadership Day 2021
Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 23!
This day will feature great learning opportunities for the leaders of your church. We will have a variety of workshops including Effective Deacon Ministry, Church Safety & Security, Financial Best Practices, and MORE! Several of our workshops will be specifically addressing the challenges of ministry during COVID-19. Details and registration options will arrive shortly!
Advent Scripture and Prayer of the Day with Walter Rauschenbusch

Walter Rauschenbusch was born in 1861 in America and was a second-generation Baptist. He grew up to become a pastor in the part of New York City known as Hell’s Kitchen. In the introduction to his book, *To Live in God – Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch*, author Dennis Johnson (a retired American Baptist pastor with more than 40 years of congregational ministry and a colleague of Joe Greemore and Doug Scalise) shares the following quote from a member of Rauschenbusch’s church, “We have found in him more that is Christlike than in any human being we have ever met.” He died in 1918.

For our daily devotions in Advent, the four weeks of preparation leading up to the celebration of Christ’s birth, we are going to share a scripture followed by a brief reflection and prayer by Walter Rauschenbusch. For your convenience, the scripture readings are listed on the following page. During the four weeks of Advent, we will reflect on Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope. Readings have also been selected to take us to the end of the year. If you’d like to buy your own copy of Dennis Johnson’s book, it’s available from Judson Press: [https://www.judsonpress.com/Products/J276/to-live-in-god.aspx](https://www.judsonpress.com/Products/J276/to-live-in-god.aspx)

We encourage you to purchase your own book. If you want the church to order one for you, please contact the church office by December 14.
**Advent Scripture & Prayer of the Day**

**First Week of Advent – Reflections on Love**

**Sun 11/29** The Spirit of True Christianity
Philippians 4:4–9

**Mon 11/30** Only Love Disarms
Matthew 5:44–45

**Tue 12/01** The Thing We Live By
Galatians 5:13–15

**Wed 12/02** A Synonym of Love
Romans 12:9–21

**Thu 12/03** Love at the Center

**Fri 12/04** The Universal Power of Love
1 Corinthians 13:7, 8, 13

**Sat 12/05** The Great Intensifier of Life
Romans 5:6–11

**Second Week of Advent – Reflections on Peace**

**Sun 12/06** Real Worship
Psalm 116

**Mon 12/07** The Greatest of These
1 Corinthians 12:31

**Tue 12/08** Love and Justice
1 Corinthians 1:26–31

**Wed 12/09** The Convictions of Jesus
Colossians 2:6–7

**Thu 12/10** All Life Filled with Divine Purpose
Psalm 8

**Fri 12/11** What God Wants
Amos 5:21–24

**Sat 12/12** The Source of Our Life
Philippians 4:10–13

**Third Week of Advent – Reflections of Joy**

**Sun 12/13** God’s Country
Isaiah 61:1–4

**Mon 12/14** God is the Great Joy
Lamentations 3:17–26

**Tue 12/15** The Joy of Prayer
Psalm 139:1–18

**Wed 12/16** The Joy of Play
Proverbs 15:13; 17:22

**Thu 12/17** Beauty
Psalm 27:4

**Fri 12/18** Enter into God
Psalm 23:1–3

**Sat 12/19** The Homeland of My Soul
Psalm 23:4–6

**Fourth Week of Advent – Reflections on Hope**

**Sun 12/20** Revolution and Reversal

**Mon 12/21** God in the Midst of Us
John 1:1–5, 14

**Tue 12/22** The Revelation of God
John 12:44–50

**Wed 12/23** Culminating Revelation of God
Hebrews 1:1–4

**Thu 12/24** Christmas Eve It Shall Be

**Fri 12/25** Christmas Day Living as a Child of God
John 1:8–13

**Sat 12/26** The Life of God in Our Souls
Isaiah 40:21–31

**Sun 12/27** From Old Habits to New Life
John 3:1–21

**Mon 12/28** That Kind of God
Luke 15:1–10

**Tue 12/29** Social Transformation Now
John 5:1–17

**Wed 12/30** What Keeps Us Growing
2 Thessalonians 1:3–5

**Thu 12/31** The Church’s Orientation
Luke 12:22–32
FUNDS AVAILABLE: New Brewster Rental Assistance Program

Short-term assistance for Brewster renters
with challenges paying their rent during COVID-19

AND

On-going monthly rental assistance to help make
year-round rentals affordable for low to moderate income residents.

This new **Brewster Rental Assistance Program**, created by the Brewster Affordable Housing Trust, with Town Community Preservation funds, has resources available for both year round affordability and emergency COVID-19 assistance. Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) is administering the program which also has a case management component.

Requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Income limits. Up to 80 or 100% Area Median Income (AMI) depending on program.
- Brewster resident or employee or child in public elementary schools.
- Rental unit in Brewster.
- Lease payments made directly to landlord.

To apply, contact HAC at 508-771-5400, email hac@haconcapecod.org or apply online at www.haconcapecod.org/programs/homeless-prevention.

For more information about the creation of the Town program, contact Jill Scalise, Brewster Housing Coordinator at jscalise@brewster-ma.gov or 508-896-3701, ext. 1169
Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

3  Stephen & Margaret Rochette
    Stephen & Nancy Whitehurst
5  Bob & Nancy Renn
14 Dale & Mary Ormon
16 Roger & Nancy Bray
21 Thomas & Brenda Halliday
28 Christian & Paola Diaz-Collazos

Birthdays

1  Dawn Hunt
    Renee Nunnally
2  Kate Wrobel
4  Katie Hoffman
5  Dwight Ritter
Bob Reynolds
Cindy Parker
Nicholas Stagakis
6  Jonathan Covell
7  Nancy Kiehnle
Lillian Costa
Muriel Rodgers
8  John Bailer
Joan Clark
Bud Griffin
Richard Watson
McKenna Cobill
9  Linda Houghton
Eileen Johnston
Stephen Gimmi
10 Neide Clinton
11 Jim Crystaloski
Andy Hossfeld
Shawn Butler
Stephen Whitehurst
12 Leslie Ingram
13 J.D. Fougere
David Pranga
Diane LeDuc
14 Abigail Kautz
Alida Peters
Jim Thomas
15 Brianna Mello
17 Laecio De Oliveira
Matthew Metz
18 Michael Leyden
David Condon
Joyce Fowler
Mary Ann De Oliveira
Donna Branco
Paul Graves
Karen Young
Mary Boone
Neil Gibree
19 Joseph Lopez
20 Frances McLaughlin
Linda Pells
Joan Holding
Pat Bertschy
Betty Hyde-McGuire
21 Geraldine Dugan
22 Joan Holding
23 Helen Williams
24 Joseph Lopez
25 Russell Ritchie
26 Margaret McCray
27 Jason Lussier
Sandra Henry
Jayvion Henry
28 Ben Gregson
29 Emma Byrne
29 Susan Crowley
Jenny Hilbig
29 Carol Meymaris
Fiona Hilley
30 Hannah Preu
31 Felipe Diaz-Collazos
Kelly Allen
The Adventure of a Lifetime Begins Here

Jesus said, “Come, follow me…”

Mark 1:17