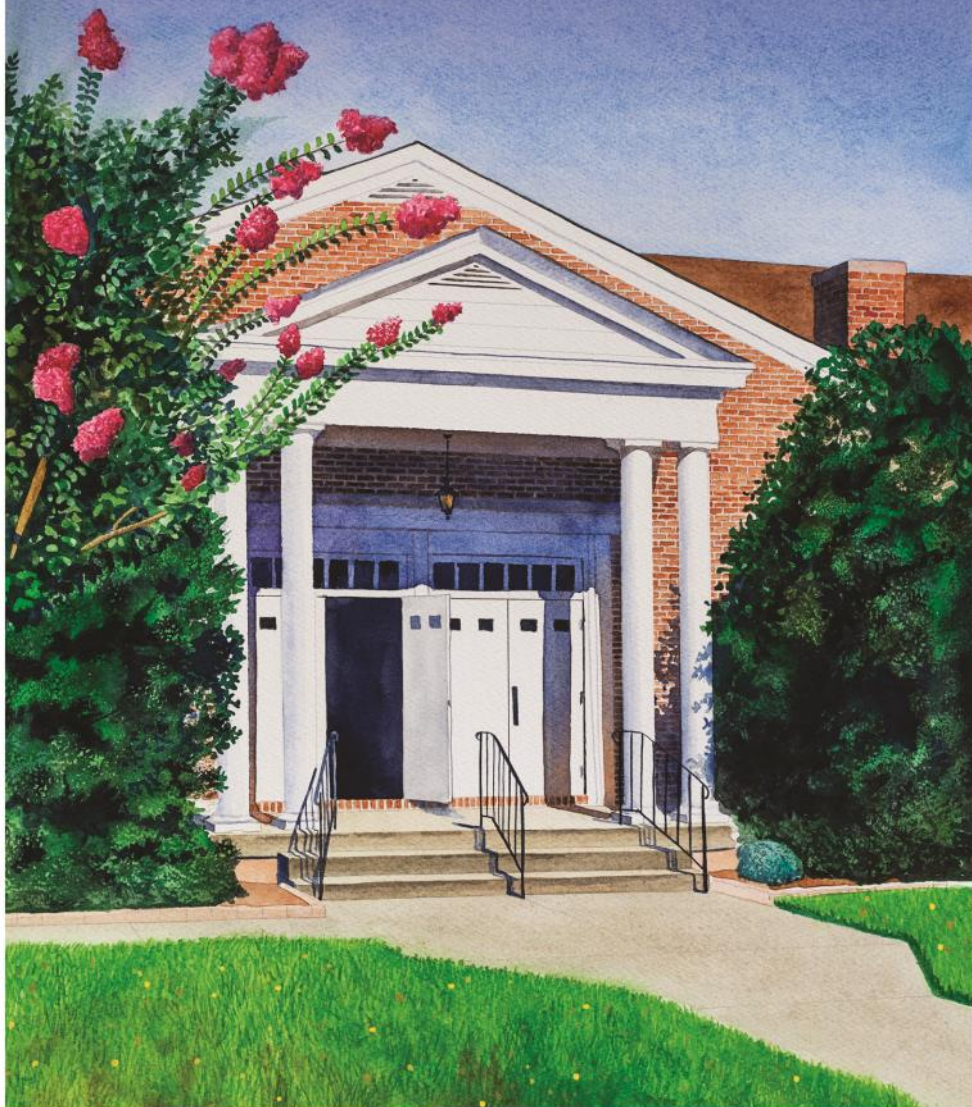




# LIBERTY

CHURCH, PCA



*Morning Worship Service*

*December 20, 2020*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements** - Pastor Nathan Moretto

**Silent Reflection and Meditation** - Psalm 108 - *Trinity Psalter Hymnal*

**Call to Worship** - Psalm 108:1-6

**\*Gathering Hymn** - Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just, he comes to thee, his chariot is humility,  
his kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sov' reign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## Confession of Faith - Westminster Confession of Faith, 8.2

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

## Confession of Sin

Holy God, as we remember the first coming of our Lord and Savior, we confess that we are not often ready for His second coming. Between these two advents, we are lazy with our faith, not striving towards holiness, not fighting for purity of soul. We are indifferent to our spiritual health, allowing the lusts of the flesh and the desires of our eyes to control us, rather than being controlled by the power of Your Holy Spirit. We are a wayward people, with lips that say one thing, but with hearts that believe another. Who are we, O God, that you should be merciful to us, for we are a rebellious, insolent, and faithless people? Yet, O God, great is Your mercy, and steadfast is Your love, through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

## Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon - Isaiah 40:1-2

## Invocation

**\*Hymn of Praise - Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Praise Team

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild, he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*Reading from the Prophets - Lamentations 3:21-26**

**\*Hymn of Praise - Silent Night! Holy Night!**

Praise Team

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

### **\*Reading of Scripture - Acts 6:1-7**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.<sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables."<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."<sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.<sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

### **Shepherding Prayer - Pastor Barry Cureton**

For children who are restless and vocal, please make use of the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

**Offertory**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Chuck Mitchell

### **Receiving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Sermon**

"Full of Grace and Power"

Pastor Nathan Moretto

**\*Hymn of Response - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes,  
on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry  
o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by  
thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows  
put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*Benediction**

## **\*Hymn of Glory - Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above the heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

## **\*Postlude**

### **Worship Leaders**

Reverend Nathan Moretto

Reverend Dr. Barry Cureton

Mr. Dave Tracht, Music Director

Mrs. Linda Runkles, Organist

Mr. Chuck Mitchell, Pianist

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# Announcements

## FROM THE OFFICE

Pastor Nathan will be out of town starting Christmas day through January 4th.

There will be no Zoom Sunday School class on December 27th.

## 2021 ENVELOPES/END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Please pick up your 2021 envelopes from the back table. If you would like envelopes but didn't get them, contact Henry Helweick at [44marlie@gmail.com](mailto:44marlie@gmail.com).

In order to receive a tax deduction for 2020, all giving must be postmarked no later than December 31st.

## COUNSELING AVAILABLE

During these times of COVID restrictions, Pastor Barry continues to counsel members online and by phone. With the holidays and the darker days of winter approaching, you may be feeling isolated or need help with a personal or marriage struggle. If so, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Barry by emailing him at [drbarrycureton@gmail.com](mailto:drbarrycureton@gmail.com) or calling him at 443-756-9777 and he would welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

## NOTE OF THANKS

To my dear church family,

Thanks to each of you who took the time to write a card, pray for me, or send me a text during this challenging time. I truly appreciate your prayers and thoughtfulness and I feel so grateful.

Love to you all,

Geneva Hoff





*Christmas  
Eve*  
SERVICE

Join us for our  
traditional candlelight  
Christmas Eve Service on  
Thursday, December 24th  
at 6:00 P.M.

This service will be live-streamed on  
our YouTube channel.



## Youth Ministry @ Liberty

Liberty's Youth Ministry (known as "Living Stones") is designed for students 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, w/ occasional events for younger children.

Our goal is to build up the character of our youth, by exploring biblical truth and how this truth impacts our lives. And how we interact with and see the world. We seek to come along side of parents to support them in strengthening the faith of our young people, pointing to belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as our only hope for salvation and everlasting life.

It is our ardent prayer that the youth at Liberty grow deeper in relationship with God and begin to take ownership of their faith as they grow, in order that they remain in the church as they navigate their lives and eventually come to raise and lead their own families in truth.

Our 2020-2021 theme is: "*Bet Your Life*"

This year, we will be approaching such questions as:

"Is the Bible true? How do we know?"

"Is Christianity really the only true religion?"

"What does it mean to have a Christian worldview?"

"What does the world and our society say about Christians?"

and many more...

We hope that your student will join us as we explore and challenge ideas!



*Dave Tracht*

Liberty Youth Director

## Children's Ministry @ Liberty

**Nursery** (for walking 12 month olds through 3 years of age) is now being held in the Nursery room with the "Healthy Child Policy" in place to protect our volunteers & children. Please remember to sign your children in upon arrival. Thank you!"

**Wonders of Worship** reopen is TBD

**Children's Sunday School** has been cancelled through 2020

**\*Interested in volunteering now or in the future?** Please contact Sarah Crowe

Sarah Crowe, Nursery & Children's Ministry Director

[scrowe@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:scrowe@libertychurchpca.org)

Dave Tracht, Youth & Family Ministry Director

[dtracht@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:dtracht@libertychurchpca.org)

## Upcoming Events

*Living Stones Youth Group* meets here at Liberty from 5:45-8:45pm on Friday nights, as noted below.

Pizza dinner provided. Fun, Games, Fellowship, opening God's word together and learning about what it means to be a Christian in this world. Hope to see you there! Contact Dave with any questions

Friday 12/18> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 12/25> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Wednesday 12/29> 2:30pm-8:00pm – Living Stones **\*Special Edition\***

\*we will play football, share food and fellowship, as well as working together to begin renovating the Block House!

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Many hands make light work!

Friday 1/1> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 1/8> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 1/15> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 1/22> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 1/29> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 2/5> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

Friday 2/12> 5:45-8:45pm – Living Stones YG

\*Family and Parent events will be held when possible and will be added to this schedule. Keep your eye out for these as well!

## Prayer List

### **For our church family and needs in the body:**

- Pray for recovery for Shawn Huey who had a total hip replacement surgery last week.
- Please pray for Geneva as she recovers from her foot injury. Praise God that the MRI showed no fracture. She is starting to slowly improve. Please continue to pray for healing from her chronic headaches.
- Pray for healing for Robbie and Josiah Byrd who had orthopedic surgery.
- Pray for Erich Hofmann.

### **For extended family, friends and others:**

- Pray for staff serving in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living and long-term care, for safety from coronavirus spread and personal safety.
- Pray for local, State and Federal managers for wisdom in their response to the pandemic and the ongoing social unrest.
- Pray for people who are struggling with isolation and unemployment due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Pray for first responders and our military and their families spiritual, emotional and physical health.
- Pray for repentance and revival in our country that many people would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Pray for the Lord's will regarding the election results that are still undecided and pending.

### **For Liberty Christian School:**

- Continue to pray for the administrators and school board as they make decisions about in-person learning.

### **For Our Missionaries**

Please pray for the following missionaries and the ministries that Liberty Church supports:

**Hugh and Martine Wessel**, missionaries with MTW on the faculty of John Calvin Seminary in Marseilles, France, requests:

Praise to God that:

- Hugh has fully recovered from double pneumonia of last winter!
- The church in Allauch has been recognized by the municipality. Over 4,000 booklets concerning COVID19 have been distributed in the area. There is ministry to street people and refugees living in camps of fortune (homeless camps). They are authorized to have a Christmas stand in the heart of the village.

- He has been mentoring relationships with 23 individuals and 5 couples.
- Pray for fruitfulness from his teaching Bible studies, preaching, and counseling via video-conferences.
- Pray for the seminary finances, as the crisis has caused giving to decline.
- Pray for 10 students to enroll in their Master of Public Theology, to be taught in English.

**Tom Homans**, director of the Christian Community Center in SW Baltimore asks for:

- Praise God for the many children from their program who have trusted Jesus and graduated this year.
- Pray for them as they continue to walk with the Lord. Many are going on to college.
- Praise God that the Summer Camp program did happen this year, despite the pandemic. It was such a blessing to the children to get out of the city and interact with many caring Christians.
- Praise God for the opportunity this year to tutor children because of the pandemic. It's exciting to see them make great strides and enjoy learning.
- Prayer for the Christmas parties they are planning this year, that they will be safe and be a blessing. They are also delivering packages to those who have not been able to participate or have had to move away.

*Giving to this program is welcome.*

**Gary Yagel**, the leader of Family Builders (and a Men's Ministry consultant to the Committee on Discipleship Ministries in the PCA), asks for:

Praise to God

- For the fruit He has brought despite the many obstacles brought by COVID.
- Presenting with his son at the Haycock, PA Men's Fall Camping Ministry Retreat.
- Growth in the "Mission Focused Men for Christ" podcast & blog.
- Pray for the new PCA committee that has started to develop coaching assistance strategies for churches in building discipleship ministries for men.
- Pray that God would use his book, "Anchoring Your Child to God's Truth in a Gender-Confused Culture", to help in an area of great need.
- Pray that God will fill the large deficit in his support, because of the loss of speaking and teaching engagements.

### Financial Report

	YTD	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Income:	\$581,214.05	\$674,453.78	(\$93,239.73)
Expense:	\$574,711.77	\$674,453.78	\$99,742.01
Gain/ (loss):	\$6,502.28		\$6,502.28

### Volunteer Schedule

	December 20	December 27
<b>Security</b>	Brian Moran Jacob Cote	Charlie Hancock Steve Vega
<b>Sound</b>	Daniel Hancock	Joe Kraus
<b>Nursery</b>	Erin T Falon M	Robin M Bri L

### Church Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday - Friday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Email address: [office@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:office@libertychurchpca.org)

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 20, 2020	Zoom Sunday School	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Online
	Morning Worship	10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Sanctuary & Online
	Evening Worship	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Monday, December 21, 2020			
Tuesday, December 22, 2020			
Wednesday, December 23, 2020	Prayer Meeting	6:00-7:00 pm	Room #3
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm	Sanctuary
	Men's Bible Study	7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, December 24, 2020	Office Closed Christmas Eve Candle-light Service	6:00 pm	Sanctuary & Online
Friday, December 25, 2020	Office Closed		
Saturday, December 26, 2020			
Sunday, December 27, 2020	No Zoom Sunday School today		
	Morning Worship	10:45 am - 12:15 am	Sanctuary & Online
	No Evening Worship this week		



CHURCH, PCA

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[www.libertychurchpca.org](http://www.libertychurchpca.org)

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS

Michael Anderson	410-356-2602	Chuck Klein	410-655-3753
Steve Bird	410-795-2463	Steve Madden	410-259-0798
Glenn Cote	410-489-0455	Nathan Moretto	410-655-5466
Barry Cureton	410-566-1829	Don Wheatley, Jr.	410-549-0730

### ELDER EMERITI

Ted Peiffer      Chuck Mitchell      Paul Weitzel

### DEACONS

Chris Byrd	443-878-3576	John Kitchen	410-795-7745
Tom Crone	410-356-2085	Brian Moran	410-984-2988
Mark Fuhrer	443-324-6623		

### DEACON EMERITI

Oliver Dearden      Jim Helm      Alan Hunzeker  
Joe Leeds      Will Somers      Chas Tracy

### Staff

Nathan Moretto, Senior Pastor - [nmoretto@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:nmoretto@libertychurchpca.org)

Barry Cureton, Shepherding Pastor - [bcureton@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:bcureton@libertychurchpca.org)

Lisa Maddox, Church Admin - [office@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:office@libertychurchpca.org)

Sarah Crowe, Children's Ministry - [scrowe@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:scrowe@libertychurchpca.org)

Dave Tracht, Youth & Praise Team - [dtracht@libertychurchpca.org](mailto:dtracht@libertychurchpca.org)