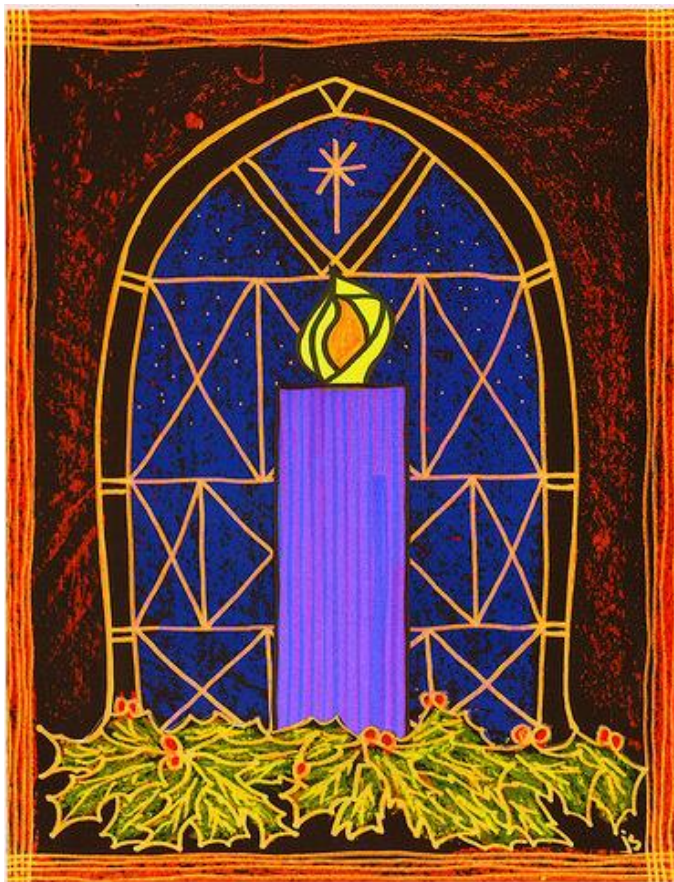


Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

*Embracing Journeys
Engaging Faith*



First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam

Dieterich Buxtehude
(c. 1637-1707)

CALL TO WORSHIP THROUGH THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Owens Family

One: We wait for the coming Messiah,

All: We watch with hope and expectation.

One: We open our lives to the promise of Advent,

All: God loves us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

One: We open our minds, and hearts to God's presence and call,

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

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!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven'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.

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: This is the day the Lord has made

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Joel Fickett

Introduction of Associate Pastor Denise Diaab

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

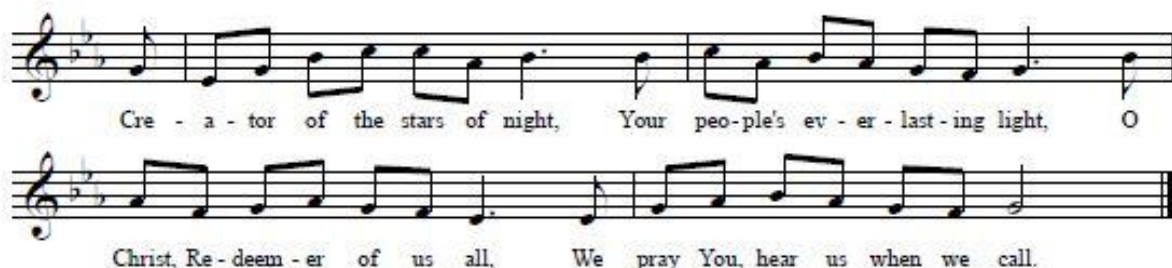
Pastor Denise Diaab

Loving God, you have called us to watch for your arrival. Yet we confess that we have been content with smaller things and have failed to open our hearts to the majesty that awaits. Rather than watching for your grace among us, we cover our eyes and ears and hide our hearts. Rather than expecting hope, we remain mired in our fear. Rather than preparing for joy, we have crowded our lives with frantic schedules and disappointing expectations. Forgive us for living as if you will not come. Free us to receive your advent. Hear us as we pray...

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE

Conditio Almae Siderum



One: We pray.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE & INVITATION TO CHILDREN

HYMN 1 - Stuttgart

Children are invited to remain with their families for the Children's Moment for the time being.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Baptisms of
Aurora Elizabeth Williams
Owen Armon Williams
Children of Cathleen Elizabeth and Scott Thomas Williams

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN *(seated, in unison)*

This Little Light of Mine

Following the Children's Message, children are invited to Children's Church in Memorial Hall. Please pick up your children immediately following the service.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-2; 14-20

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One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Plainsong
arr. Thomas Lloyd

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, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
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 wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

HYMN 3*Comfort, Comfort You My People***Psalm 42*

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

Response for Concerns:	○ Lord, hear our prayers.
Response for Celebrations:	With thanksgiving, we praise the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS

Call for the Offering

Please reflect on your blessings and how you might, during these times, present your offering to God in time, talent or treasure. You can give on your phone by texting to 73256, then enter BHPC (space) and the amount of the gift, press "send" and click on the link.

Offertory Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Sleepers, wake!

Sleepers wake! a voice is calling,
It is the watchman on the walls:
Thou City of Jerusalem!
For lo! the Bridegroom comes!
Arise, and take your lamps! Hallelujah!
Awake! His kingdom is at hand!
Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord!

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Loving God, help us to hear your voice and watch for your signs calling us into deeper relationship with and commitment to you. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN 6**

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Jesus comes with clouds descending;
See the Lamb for sinner slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Every eye shall then behold You
Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who jeered and mocked and sold You,
Pierced and nailed You to the tree,
Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,
Shamed and grieving, Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, Amen! Let all adore You
High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before You,
Claim the kingdom for Your own:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus, Everlasting Christ, come down!.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

SENDING MUSIC (*Seated*)

Fugue in B Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



*As we seek to maintain distancing from the chancel, we plan to keep
the first four rows in the nave empty for the time being.*

Parish concerns & celebrations: Our prayers are with those who are ill, injured, or facing/ recovering from surgery. If you would like to join our prayer chain or share a prayer concern, contact David or Faith Community Nurse Joanie Friend (jfriend@pobox.com).

Next week: David preaching on middle of Isaiah 40, Communion and Chancel players.

As we lift our prayers to God during our concerns and celebrations, even if we all cannot hear each other's prayers, we know that God can, and that we support each other by affirming each other's prayers.

Update on Security and Sunday Doors: For the safety of all, we ask that everyone enter through the sanctuary, outer office and choir room doors for the time being when coming for worship on Sundays. With fewer folks here than pre-covid and so that the ushers can greet and have a sense of those arriving, we will try to keep the other outside doors locked for now. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our commitment to hospitality and caring for the vulnerable remains unwavering, and we feel this will help ensure a safe and welcoming facility for all.

We are grateful to our Flower Guild for our beautiful flowers on the Chancel each Sunday.

We are so grateful especially now for our wonderful sound and video ministry team:
Bruce Liffiton, Jim Kettler, Min Lee, Bruce Hunter and Max Kuzmyak.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. There will be a meeting of the BHPC congregation at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and online after worship on Sunday, December 5 for the purpose of electing new classes of elders and deacons. Elders: Gina Perry Naomi Kettler, Joel Fickett, Bob Reutershan and Lauren Ty. Deacons: Becky Sczudlo, Linda McReynolds, Andrew Bremer and Adam Specht



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We are a caring community of friends who come from a variety of backgrounds to seek God in this place. We are united by our faith in Christ, our love of learning, our appreciation of music and worship, our passion for service and our desire to deepen our spiritual lives. We believe you will find Bradley Hills an open and safe place to ask the difficult questions of life and a community that embraces each spiritual journey. Our history is connected to the care and nurture of children and to our supporting each other as we seek God. We encourage you to explore our bulletin and website. We hope we have a chance to greet you following worship or that you'll contact us. See you next week at church!

Many blessings,

David, the BHPC Staff, and Congregation
David@bradleyhillschurch.org

Bradley Hills is a welcoming witness to the love of Jesus Christ. We believe that diversity in our membership – different ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities, races, sexual orientations, ideological and theological beliefs and experiences - is an important strength. We come from across the nation, from different denominational backgrounds and from around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love.

Music Notes

Given Mendelssohn's high regard for the choral masterpieces of Bach, Handel and Haydn, it is no surprise to find that his oratorio *St Paul* is modelled on similar lines, with an integrated scheme of recitatives, arias and choruses. His use of chorales to demarcate important points in the story and to reflect on the action is clearly influenced by the Passion music of Bach. One of Bach's favorite chorales, 'Wachet auf' (*Sleepers, wake*), is heard at the very beginning of the overture and later on in the chorus, replete with trumpet fanfares.

The larger part of Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) enormous output for organ dates from early in his life, especially the Weimar period that ended with his move to Cöthen in 1717. From 1723 on, he focused more on liturgical works as Cantor of the Leipzig Thomaskirche, where he worked until his death in 1750. The Cöthen period is particularly rich in instrumental works, including many for organ, but the long Leipzig period proved fertile as well. The Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544 dates from about 1730, a few years after his inventive Trio Sonatas, which were essentially the first such works conceived for solo organ. They also follow his first of two books of preludes and fugues in all keys collected under the rubric *The Well-tempered Clavier*. By the time he composed BWV 544, he had therefore gained ample experience in creating the two-part combination that would serve him so well.

Welcome Associate Pastor Denise Diaab



Denise Diaab comes from Southern California. She spent her formative years in Los Angeles but has called Long Beach home for the past 40 years. After receiving a BA in Economics from Cal State University Fullerton, Denise began her public utility career at Southern California Edison Company (SCE) as an Economic Analyst. During her time at SCE Denise held positions in Investor Relations, Regulatory Cost, Regulatory Case Management, and Customer Service Benchmarking. Following retirement from SCE as a Project Manager, Denise built upon her life-long commitment to the Christian faith as demonstrated by her numerous acts of service and attended San Francisco Theological Seminary where she received a Master of Divinity in 2019 and served as a Teaching Assistant in Hebrew. Denise has served as a Transitional Associate Pastor at Grace First Presbyterian Church in Long Beach and as part-time pastoral staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. She was ordained by Los Ranchos Presbytery in June 2021. Denise loves spending quality time with her four children and five (soon to be six) grandchildren. She also enjoys writing, reading, hiking, traveling, and gardening.

**Bible Study is possible because of your gifts to
Bradley Hills. Thank You.**

The call has gone out for us to prayerfully consider how we will return our blessings to God with our 2022 pledges to Bradley Hills. Many of us participated in Dedication Sunday on November 7, but if you have not yet made your pledge, we encourage you to do so in any way that works for you: make your pledge through Realm or the website, send your pledge card to the church office, or simply email Amy deCourt (amy@bradleyhillchurch.org)



Your Stewardship Lay Ministry,
Rick Arndt, Dave Burgett,
Walt Hill, Frank Randall and Lisa Wilson



Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti are Back!

We will again be selling white and red poinsettias and Christmas cacti to benefit the Flower Guild. The price is \$20 each – buy as many of each as you want.

You can place your order on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or by sending an e-mail to Bie Fox (SmarterB@gmail.com) or Pam Hammers (PamHammers1@verizon.net), specifying clearly how many of each type of plant you want – red or white poinsettias or Christmas cacti. You can pay by check payable to BHPC, with "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line, or via Realm, noting "Christmas Flowers" in your payment.

The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 5 following the 10:30 am service.. You can pick up your plants after the 10 pm service on Christmas Eve, or after the service on December 26.

Thanks for supporting the Flower Guild and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Family Advent Services

Begin on November 28 at 9:30 a.m.



Join Matt and David online each Sunday of Advent. Families are invited to a 20-30 minute time of family worship on Zoom on all four Sundays of Advent beginning November 28! We will sing beloved Christmas and Advent carols during a time of interactive worship together. Open to all members, but of special interest to families with children in preschool and elementary school.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Children's Church is a worship service designed specifically for children. After the Children's Message in the Sanctuary, all children ages 3 - fifth grade are invited to join Matt and two co-leaders for Children's Church in Memorial Hall. Masks and physical distancing will be required for all participants as we encounter God's word together and respond with prayer, thanks-

giving, and creative projects. We would still like each family to register the children who will be attending in grades pre-K through fifth grade. You can find the link at www.bradleyhillchurch.org/church-school.

Bible Study on Zoom, Wednesday, December 1, at 2:00p.m. Join David on Zoom on Wednesday to discuss upcoming scripture. Contact Terry Brady (terry_48@mac.com) for Zoom information.

Alleluia Singers (grades K-5), today at 1:45 a.m. Join Miss Marie and the rest of the Alleluia Singers for music, friendship, and fun!

Mission Opportunity!! Volunteers are needed to provide dinners to the 16-18 men at Dorothy Day Place (formerly Bethesda House) during 2022. For many years, BHPC members have been delivering dinner to the shelter the second Monday of each month. Gourmet cooking is not required, just a wholesome meal, delivered before 5:30 p.m. to the shelter in southern Rockville (may be delivered on Sunday for the next day). Ideal for a family mission project. Please sign up using [this link](#), or contact Kate Picard (k8picard@gmail.com) or Jennifer Kline (jennkline3019@gmail.com) for the details and for menu suggestions or directions.

Youth Prayer Stations: Our youth group has created prayer stations about issues they care about and want the congregation to pray for. You are invited to visit the prayer stations in the north transept of the sanctuary. The prayer stations will be set up for the next few weeks for all to enjoy.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols, Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Children, families, and all BHPC friends are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with stories, carols, and crafts underneath the lights of BHPC's very own outdoor Christmas tree! This event will take place outdoors in the parking lot adjacent to the church office. Children and youth are invited to bring along a pinecone (or two!) for a special craft. There will be pinecones available for those who are not easily able to bring their own. RSVP required for all participants.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)



Bradley Hills Presents 2021-2022 Season

A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS
THE THIRTEEN
MARVIN MILLS, ORGAN
December 19, 2021 5:00PM



Celebrate the holiday festivities with the acclaimed vocal ensemble The Thirteen as they sing carols for the holiday season from the English Cathedral tradition. Said to "transfigure the listener" (The Washington Post), The Thirteen will perform the great and unbroken tradition of English-language carols and anthems, with many of them featuring the majestic Holtkamp organ at Bradley Hills. From 16th century roots through to a new work written for The Thirteen by Indian composer Juhi Bansal, A Cathedral Christmas celebrates the joyful sounds of Christmas choral music full of warmth and joy with the matchless voices of The Thirteen and the King of Instruments!

Tickets (In Person and Virtual): \$35/25/10 for general admission, students, and children under age 15. \$5 off if purchased in advance.

This performance will be livestreamed and available On Demand through December 25, 2021. Links to the livestream and program will be sent out immediately prior to the concert via email to all concertgoers.

[Click here to Buy Tickets](#)



Advent Devotions

Join David for a brief prayerful devotion time at noon each weekday of Advent through December 23. We'll be using technology to aid us. You can call in from wherever you are to our line and participate or just listen to the prayer and devotion. Call 712-451-1098 and enter access code: 413906. Please mute your phone as you call in.

Welcome New Members

Jeff and Elizabeth Barker lived in the Chicago area for more than ten years when they decided to move to Bethesda this past December to be closer to family. Born and raised in Bethesda, Jeff went to school at Bradley Hills as a child! Elizabeth grew up in Memphis and was a member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church. They keep busy with their careers in e-commerce and non-profit as well as keeping up with their three-year-old and five-month-old. Having both been active at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, they're excited to find a church home in Bethesda.

Kathleen Elliott grew up in Albuquerque, NM but has lived in Maryland for the last seven years. She graduated from George Washington University with a Master's in Public Health and works as an epidemiologist. Kathleen and her husband Cyrus currently live in Rockville with their cat, Tito.



Helen Frick worked at the World Bank as a manager in Human Resources. She now spends part of the year in California and Colorado but enjoys the spring and fall in Bethesda, and is looking forward to being more a part of the church because she has appreciated worshiping here with her son and his family.

Scott and Cathleen Williams

Upcoming Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 28 - Advent One

David preaching on beginning of Isaiah 40

Recognition of New Members

Baptism

Welcoming Pastor Denise Diaab



Sunday, December 5 - Advent Two

David preaching on middle of Isaiah 40

Communion

Chancel players

Sunday, December 12 - Advent Three

Music Sunday

Carol Sing at 8:30

Special Music at 10:30

Wednesday, December 15

Blue Christmas

Noon in person

7 :30 p.m. in person

Sunday, December 19– Advent Four

David preaching on end of Isaiah 40

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

Family Pageant online

6:00 p.m.

Traditional service with section leaders
and sermon in the sanctuary.

Pastor David preaching

10:00 p.m.

Candlelight service in the sanctuary and
online with music prelude at 9:30, with
choir, sermon and sharing the candlelight.

Pastor David preaching

Chancel Players



Sunday, December 26

One service at 10:00 a.m.

Joyful Giving Mission Bazaar

Saturday, December 4

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Please mark your calendars to join us in support of our first
"In Church Missions Bazaar" in two years!**

Olive Oil Ministry



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, along with 28 other area congregations, will be joining Westmoreland Congregational Church in its Mission of selling Olive Oil produced by a consortium of Palestinian farming cooperatives. This year proceeds from the sale of Olive Oil will go toward supporting Tent of Nations, the Gaza Food Security Program, and the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. Our Olive Oil sales provide vital support for Palestinian agriculture and help to promote peace and justice between Palestinians and Israelis.

At this year's Bazaar we will be selling two varieties of Olive Oil: The Al'Ard organic Nabali is our "mild" choice and Rumi is the "zesty" selection, both of which have been declared by 20+ taste testers to be the best of the best! *Now* is the time to preorder so we can set your favorites aside for you. Please email kate.wise@verizon.net before November 30 to preorder the quantity and variety you wish to purchase.

Payments must either be in cash or check made out to Bradley Hill Presbyterian Church with "Olive Oil Ministry" in the memo line. Each bottle of Olive Oil costs \$20. All pickups (including prepaid orders) will be on Saturday, December 4 between 11-2. If you are unable to come during that time, we will work with you to arrange a better time to pick up your prepaid order.

Please note: When you come to church on December 4 between 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to get your olive oil, you may also purchase chocolate and coffee. And, you may drop off your wrapped Angel gift tree gifts at the same time. Park on the side of the church adjacent to the office. Enter through Door 4 which leads into the Outer Office. Our Bazaar requires Face Masks and safe Covid practices.



Seasons of Joyful Giving - 2021

Sign up online now!



Gifts for Children and Families from Three Groups

Women's Collective/ Children Wrapped Gifts Sign Up Here Label with care	Dennis Avenue Wrapped gifts for children and adults Sign Up Here Label with care	A Wider Circle Use Amazon Wish List No Gift Wrap
Gifts due in sanctuary before 10:30 on December 5. Bring gifts on Sunday or during church office hours. Gifts may also be left in bin outside entrance #5. Volunteers Two volunteers are needed to work on final preparation of Gifts on Dec. 5 from 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Contact Elizabeth St. John, estjohn20903@gmail.com	Gifts are due in the sanctuary before 10:30 on December 5. Bring gifts on Sundays or during church office hours. Gifts may also be left in bin outside Entrance #5. Volunteers Three volunteers are needed to work on Dennis Avenue final preparation on Dec. 5 from 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Contact Elizabeth St. John, estjohn20903@gmail.com	Order online. Gifts will be automatically be delivered to A Wider Circle Note: In the Amazon wish list, these three items are sourced from minority owned businesses: Rhyme Antics Little Like Kids Memory Game Qai Qai Doll Volunteer in the North Pole at A Wider Circle's Silver Spring location.

Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian Church USA

This traditional Christmas Season offering supports racial ethnic colleges of the denomination as well as providing support for retired church workers. The offering will be received around the Christmas Eve services.

Alternative Giving – Shop Less, Give More - 2021

Support alternative gifts at Christmas. Honor someone by financially supporting projects which are connected to our congregation. [Click here](#) to participate.

1. A Wider Circle: Striving to end poverty.
2. Dennis Avenue HIV/AIDS Care in our county. Offers clinic services, dental care and counseling. Donations support the Client Fund, to help with urgent necessities.
3. Women's Collective HIV/AIDS Care: NE and SE DC. Solid emphasis on prevention and appropriate physical and mental health care.
4. 2022 Mission Trip: Relationships are built, new skills learned and mutual respect grows.
5. Uganda Village Health Teams: Buyobo is the first community in Uganda to achieve a fully functioning volunteer health team. Your support has been key.
6. EDEN at Faith in Anacostia: Everyone deserves to eat naturally. Eco conscious, fresh food, nutrition education, agricultural skills, employment opportunities.
7. Peace in Israel/Palestine - New Story Leadership equips Palestinian and Israeli change agents with the tools needed to create social, economic and political change in the region. Creative adaptations allowed work to continue during Covid-19. The current plan is to return to in-person work in 2022.
8. Gaza - Al Ahli Arab Hospital - Haven of peace in a troubled place. Quality care offered to all who need it. This region has been very hard hit by Covid-19, while also responding to care needs brought on by political violence.
9. Mexico - Kids First: Free orthopedic care in Guanajuato. Care and surgical trips by volunteer surgeons will be up and running with caution in 2022.
10. Asia Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC): Protecting civil and legal rights of low income Asian immigrants in DC area. Culturally appropriate and linguistically accessible.
11. GenOUT Choir for LGBTQ+ & Allies: Giving LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice while connecting that voice to the larger community. We welcomed GenOUT in 2019 and hope to see them back leading worship when safety allows. Voice lessons and other forms of mutual online support are keeping connections strong during Covid-19.

12. Ethiopia/Oromia Educating Girls: A creative approach combines funding for schooling, for the girl's family and for a mentor. This lowers barriers and protects the girls from the dangers of land grabs, Covid-19 and political turmoil. A girl from REAL (Resources for Enrichment of African Lives) program said it all, "We are not poor. We have a vision!"
13. Habitat for Humanity: The inequity in access to safe housing is astounding. Habitat helps. Don't be silent. Support Habitat.
14. Asia - Forman Christian College/Pakistan: Scholarships for Christian and Muslim Women in Pakistan. Combining Alternative Gifts, mission budget funds and Asia Fund proceeds, we are supporting 11 women (six Christians/five Muslims). Forman offers a place to learn together with mutual respect.
15. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Kits: PDA excels at disaster response. The kits are an essential part of that response in the US and overseas. Supplies for the kits will be purchased with your donations.
16. Bethesda Cares: offers compassionate assistance to local homeless and working poor. They have been working hard to protect their clients during Covid-19. BHPC's Kitchen Ministry is suspended due to the pandemic.
17. Bethesda Help offers immediate short-term help our neighbors in crisis, including emergency groceries, rides to medical appointments, help with utility bills and more.
18. Friends Club reopened September of 2021 offering careful, appropriate social interaction for men in early to mid stages of Alzheimers.
19. Interfaith Refugee Family Support BHPC, Bethesda Jewish Congregation, Idara e Jaferia and Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center work together to integrate new refugees into our community.
20. Alternative Gifts General Fund. Donations allow flexibility to respond to the needs of our recipient groups that are not covered by specific donations. In the past, we have been able to help with emergency clothing needs and grocery gift cards for new parents dealing with expenses such as diapers and baby clothes.

Adult Education in December

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Join Dianne Whitaker and other members of the BHPC Adult Education Lay Ministry on a journey through the emotions of Advent and Christmas, under the guidance of three of the most prominent thinkers of the 20th and 21st centuries. These sessions are designed to be thought-provoking and to put us all in the frame of mind to welcome Christ's birth on Christmas.

Classes begin at 9:00, but we open the Zoom meeting at 8:45 for fellowship. Bring your own coffee - no need to dress up!

All sessions will be via Zoom.

[Click here to Join the Zoom Meeting each Sunday](#)

Or you can dial in for audio only at 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 815 0426 9624

Passcode: 454038

December 5: *What is Christmas Peace and How Do We Experience It?* We will read and consider Maya Angelou's poem "Amazing Peace," ([text here](#)), written for the 2005 White House Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

December 12: *What is Christmas Joy and How Do We Experience It?* We will look at the essay "Christmas Joy," by German theologian Emmy Arnold, from *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*.

December 19: *What is the Experience of Christmas Faith and Hope?* We will consider Karl Barth's message in his essay "To Believe," also from *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*.

December 26: No adult education class. Enjoy Boxing Day with your family.

Note: *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*, is an anthology of 44 short devotional essays that lead the reader from the first Sunday of Advent (whatever date that may fall on) through Epiphany on January 6. Authors range from St. John Chrysostom (ca. 350-407) through Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Annie Dillard (1945 -).

Support the Interfaith Refugee Family Project

With thousands of Afghan refugee families needing to be resettled, the current need is greater than ever. The Interfaith Refugee Family Project team thanks those of you who made your financial contribution to the project in conjunction with our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. If you have not already done so, please consider supporting our efforts with a tax-deductible contribution. Please make your checks payable to BHPC and designate the contribution for the Interfaith Refugee Family Project.

We are trying to raise an additional \$30,000 so that we can sponsor a family through Lutheran Social Services (LSS) much as we did in previous years for the Karimi and Yousufi families. This sponsorship would entail subsidizing the family's rent on a declining basis for a 9 to 12-month period as well as providing a full initial apartment set-up and a range of on-going transportation, education, mentoring and other supports that will be tailored to the needs of the family with which we would be matched. In addition, to this longer-term commitment, we plan to continue providing short-term assistance by setting up apartments for families. We have set up four apartments since August with your donations and enthusiastic volunteers of all ages. Although, furniture and furnishings are donated, there are other costs that must be covered. Here is the sign up genius link for donations (updated periodically) that are needed for two more apartments [sign up](#) .

A committed group of volunteers is forming for this extended effort, but we cannot make the sponsorship commitment without the needed financial resources. It is not too late to volunteer your time. We will hold our first organizational meeting on Monday, November 29 from 7:00 to 9:30. Please let Evelyn Ganzglass eganzglass@gmail.com or Brigitte Burgett bkburgett@gmail.com know of your interest in volunteering and we will send you more information on the meeting. Feel free to direct any questions to her. A representative from LSS will give a presentation.

Smart Sacks Today in Memorial Hallway after Worship



Bradley Hills' Smart Sacks Project resumed after worship on Sunday, October 3, with Covid safety protocols in place! We've been paired with Weller Elementary School

(3301 Weller Rd. in Silver Spring) and JoAnn Leleck Elementary School (710 Beacon Rd. in Silver Spring). But to sustain this service project, we need additional volunteers!

Two to three Drivers Per School: Once every two to three weeks, a driver picks up from church the tote bags (23 for Weller Elementary, or 25 for JoAnn Leleck Elementary) and delivers them to the school between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on a weekday. Each tote weighs 12 to 15 lbs. and contains four packed Smart Sack bags. Food is non-perishable, so you can load up on Sundays right after the bags are packed following worship, and keep them in your car for delivery later in the week. Or you can pick them up from church on a weekday (other than Monday, when the church is closed).

Packing Table Setup On Sundays Outside Memorial Hall: We'd like to have teams of two (perfect for couples) to help set up the packing tables each Sunday before the 10:30 service. This is a great opportunity for 8:30 attendees to participate. This responsibility would be to take the boxes of food (menus for each week are already decided) from the storage closet

and arrange them on the tables so they're ready for packing into sacks. The boxes can be a bit heavy to lift out of the closet, but we have a cart that eliminates the need to carry them.

Plastic Bag Openers: We use plastic grocery bags provided by Manna to create each Smart Sack. It would be a huge help if one or two volunteers (perfect opportunity for our youth members!) could open the sacks just before or during the packing operation on Sunday mornings.

To volunteer or ask questions: Please call John Low at 301-996-2778.

Background on Smart Sacks: Smart Sacks helps bridge the gap between Friday and Monday by providing nutritious foods for children and their families who might not have another meal until after the weekend. The food is provided by Manna Food Center, a nonprofit striving to end hunger in Montgomery County. Bradley Hills member John Schmiedigen picks up the food each week from Manna's warehouse and delivers it to our church, for the congregation to assemble into Smart Sacks after the 10:30 worship service

For more information on the program:

<https://www.mannafood.org/smart-sacks/>

ORDAINED AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Session: Bethany Frick ('21), Walter Hill ('21), Louise Meyer ('21), Sean Owens ('21), Brent Coffey ('22), Neil Imus ('22), Rebekah Liu ('22), Rosanna Morrison ('22), Doug Anderson ('23), Dave Burgett ('23), Stacey Milne ('23), Shizuko Sei ('23) and Jackson Biggs ('21)

Deacons: Jana Coffey ('21), Bill Edelblut ('21), Bie Fox ('21), James Scroggs ('21), Mike Frenkel ('22), June Kyakobye ('22), Judy Ozone ('22), Frank Randall ('22), Carol Frenkel ('23), Mark Kindig ('23), Cliff Ty ('23), Tamae Wong ('23) and Allie Coffey ('21)

Lay Ministry Chairs: Eva Caldera (Worship & Arts), Myla Williams (Mission Coordination), Todd McCreight (Finance), Linda Kauskay (Property Management), Andrew Milne (Personnel), Cathie Lutter and Amanda Owens (Children's Ministry), Tara Eliason (Youth Ministry), Steve Fox and Dianne Whitaker (Adult Education), Fam SaeChao Chock (Outreach and New Members), Rick Arndt (Stewardship), Stacey Milne (Nominating), and Bonnie Holcomb and Sara Inati (Connectional)

Worship Captains: Mary Hickey (Chancel Guild), Lisa Suggs Wilson and Jon Winslow (Communion Team), Joy Panagides and Bie Fox (Flower Guild), Corky Hickey and Susie Wellman (Usher Team), Bruce Liffiton (Sound System), Andrew Wolvin (Chancel Players), Tom Biggs (Lay Readers)

Mission Statement

To reflect God's gracious love by following
Christ's example to welcome, nurture, heal and serve.

Vision Statement

A vibrant caring community that draws
and energizes people to grow in faith,
serving together to make every breath count.

KEEPING UP WITH GIVING



BHPC's 2021 Stewardship theme – Abundant Blessing, Abundant Gratitude, Abundant Giving – continues to frame the life our church. Even during this time when we cannot gather in person, we hope that each of you can discern how God continues to shower blessings on us all, individually and as a church family, and in gratitude for those blessings, give abundantly to support God's work at BHPC.

Now more than ever, we want to ensure that everyone is aware of the many methods of giving that are available, whether you are a long-time BHPC member, a virtual visitor, or looking to simplify your giving habits. So, here is a comprehensive list of the ways you can give to BHPC.

Online: All methods of online giving will direct you to Realm, BHPC's virtual connection tool, where you can securely enter any giving amount; designate which "fund" should receive your donation (e.g., "General Giving," the "Annual Pledge" or even the "Easter Fund"); and choose whether to make a one-time donation or a recurring donation and how you want to give; *by credit/debit card or by ACH transaction using your bank account*. All methods of online giving incur a processing expense for the church. To help offset this expense, the donor is offered the opportunity to contribute 1.5% of the gift amount for ACH transactions and 3% of the gift amount for credit/debit card transactions.

- **The "Give" Button:** Simply click the red "Give" button found on the top right corner of the BHPC website and you be directed to Realm.
- Text "BHPC" [space] dollar amount" (ex. "BHPC 150" for a \$150 gift) to 73256 (REALM) and follow the link.
- **Log into Realm** via the App or from the website and choose the "Giving" option.

Donors can setup online giving by providing the information for credit/debit card, for ACH transactions, or for both. If both giving options are setup for a donor, the selection of which donation method to used is made at the time of each gift of when setting up recurring gifts.

Check: Please make checks payable to Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and place a check through the office door (Door #4) mail slot, or you can set up automated bill payment through your bank and the bank will mail a check to the church at a frequency and amount you choose. For all checks, you can indicate a special designation in the memo field; gifts without a designation will be directed to general giving.

Gifts of Securities (e.g., stocks, bonds, etc.): Transferring securities to Bradley Hills' brokerage account is a great way to donate appreciated securities while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes. To learn more about this giving option, please see our website under the **SERVE** tab and then "Ways for You to Give."

Thank you for supporting our mission to reflect God's gracious love by following Christ's example to welcome, nurture, heal and serve.

Every gift counts ... to the glory of God.