

# Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

## Stewardship 2021



Abundant  
Blessings

Abundant  
Gratitude

Abundant  
Giving

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Please visit [BradleyHillsChurch.org](http://BradleyHillsChurch.org)

to see and print:

2021 Commitment Card

Guidance for Giving at Bradley Hills

Ways to Give to Bradley Hills

6601 Bradley Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
[www.bradleyhillschurch.org](http://www.bradleyhillschurch.org)



Bradley  
Hills

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Abundant Blessings

God is good.

When we face challenges, God is there. When we are apart, God is present. When we struggle to make sense of the world, God is our refuge and our strength.

God is in the faces of family members we greet online from afar, and those we spend more time with than we ever thought possible. God is in the waves of neighbors walking past wearing masks. God shines through our screens every Sunday when our pastors and musicians inspire us to worship together in new and amazing ways.

In spite of the unimagined difficulty and pain of this time, we are truly blessed. We have a strong community of faithful friends, whose creativity and dedication have opened new channels for connection, reflection, and action. We have powerful partnerships with our spiritual siblings and community groups at 6601 Bradley Boulevard, enabling us to support and sustain each other.

In a year when our beloved building has been largely empty, the people of Bradley Hills embody the truth of Pastor David's words: we don't just go to church, we **are** the church.

As we enter a season of planning for 2021, and pledging to God a portion of our gifts, let us reflect with wonder and awe on God's abundant blessings.



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## Abundant Gratitude

In a wonderful TED Talk, David Steindl-Rast, a ninety-year-old Benedictine monk, talks about gratitude. He argues that the happiest people in the world are those who choose to be grateful.

He suggests that many of us know people who have "everything going for them," on paper, yet seem miserable. We also know people whose lives seem really difficult and have lots of issues and yet seem to be happy, almost radiating an inner light.

Steindl-Rast suggests that most of us incorrectly believe that happiness makes us grateful. In reality, he says, gratitude makes us happy. Steindl-Rast argues that we feel gratitude when we realize that something important has been gifted to us. Something important - as a gift. That yields gratitude. And gratitude, according to this monk, is the key to happiness.

That makes gratitude a choice. And if you choose gratitude, you will find happiness.

There are many reasons Bridget and I are grateful for Bradley Hills. We are grateful for you and for our shared ministry.

We love this "home" where you help us raise our children in the faith. We love our friendships and our joint work on mission, learning, outreach, justice, music and care. We love that together we find and experience God in this sacred place. Things no virus nor separation can change.

We find real value at Bradley Hills. We are increasing our pledge to the church for 2021 as a result. We also realize that the blessings we find through BHPC are gifts from God. They are blessings of faith.

These gifts make us grateful. Grateful, and happy, to be in ministry with you. Thank you for your support of BHPC. See you online at church.

In Christ's love,



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## Abundant Giving

*"All shall give as they are able, according to the blessings of the Lord your God that he has given you." Deuteronomy 16:17*

We are experiencing uncertain and unsettling times because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the precautions required to combat the pandemic in 2020, we have had to temporarily close our building. As this situation continues, it will add to our budget challenges for 2021.

The financial impact caused by our closed building has been a reduction of monetary contributions of approximately \$262,000.

In order to offset these shortfalls, our financial leadership reduced program and mission expenditures by 40%. These reductions, along with the receipt of the Payroll Protection Plan funds of \$195,000, will help balance our 2020 budget. Nonetheless, we will experience these lost monetary contributions in 2021 for as long as the building is unavailable for worship and to users. Thus, a priority for our 2021 stewardship pledges will be budgeting appropriately for these lost contributions.

Another financial priority for 2021 is the hiring of a full-time associate pastor. Our budget will need to make the necessary preparation for appropriate salary and benefits for this hire.

So, where does our church stewardship effort and your pledge commitment fit in this pandemic time? Pledged income accounts for approximately 70% of total church income. Your pledge is the primary support for all our ministries— worship, education, mission, music, and connection. Your pledge also covers critical expenses— staff compensation, utilities, and building maintenance.



Our church encourages every member household to make a financial commitment for the calendar year. If you give but have not pledged to the church, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge this year, providing even more reliable support for the church and its ministries.

In uncertain times – especially in uncertain times – we have much to be thankful for, and our giving grows out of gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to serve Him. Every gift counts ... all to the glory of God.

## Where are you? Where could you be? Guidance for Abundant Giving

Household Annual Income	2.5% Pledge		5% Pledge		Tithe (10% Pledge)	
	Weekly*	Annual	Weekly*	Annual	Weekly*	Annual
\$20,000	\$10	\$500	\$20	\$1,000	\$40	\$2,000
\$40,000	\$20	\$1,000	\$20	\$2,000	\$80	\$4,000
\$60,000	\$30	\$1,500	\$60	\$3,000	\$120	\$6,000
\$80,000	\$40	\$2,000	\$80	\$4,000	\$160	\$8,000
\$100,000	\$50	\$2,500	\$100	\$5,000	\$200	\$10,000
\$200,000	\$100	\$5,000	\$200	\$10,000	\$400	\$20,000
\$300,000	\$150	\$7,500	\$300	\$15,000	\$600	\$30,000

\*Based on 50 weeks



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## Ways to Give

During this time when we cannot gather in person, we hope that each of you recognize how God continues to shower his 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.

We want to ensure that everyone is aware of the many methods of giving that are available. Here is a 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 the "fund" to receive your gift, and choose the giving frequency of your gift. For all online giving, you will need a credit or debit card. The online methods are:

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

**Check:** You can mail a check to the church, 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. Please indicate any special designation in the memo field; gifts without a designation will be directed to general giving. Please make all checks payable to "Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church."

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

Thank you for supporting our mission to reflect God's gracious love and abundant blessings.