



Bradley Hills  
Presbyterian Church



Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
January 14, 2024  
10:30 a.m. Worship

## A Special Welcome

**Thank you for joining us for worship today!**

We hope that the presence of the Holy Spirit and the warmth of Christ's love are gifts to you as we worship God together. **We encourage you to explore our bulletin, fill out a Visitor Card or the red fellowship pad at the end of your pew, and take home a welcome folder found just outside the Sanctuary.**

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 care and nurture of children and families, our love of learning, our appreciation of music and worship, our passion for service, and our desire to deepen our spiritual lives. Bradley Hills is a safe place to ask the deep questions of life and a community that embraces each spiritual journey.

We seek to be 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 a variety of denominational backgrounds and from around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers ages 3 and under in our nursery. All children are welcome to grab an activity board and children's bulletins for the service. We are a mask optional community. We have masks available just outside the Sanctuary if you would like one.

We hope we have a chance to greet you and get to know you. There are a lot of exciting activities happening at BHPC that we would love for you to be a part of. If we can share any information about the church or be of support to you in any way, just let us know. We invite you to explore our website at [www.bradleyhillschurch.org](http://www.bradleyhillschurch.org).

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | [david@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:david@bradleyhillschurch.org)

**Interested in joining the church?** Email David to set up a time to talk.

### Get Connected | Explore Membership

BHPC is excited to welcome you to our growing community. Pastor David will be available after worship or during the week to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email David at [david@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:david@bradleyhillschurch.org) to set up a time.

New members will be received next in **late February/early March**.

**Our next Exploring Membership class is on Sunday, February 4 at 11:45 a.m. in Covenant Hall and on Zoom.** If you are interested in joining the winter new member class, please contact David.

# GATHERING TOGETHER

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Pastor Denise Diaab

### GATHERING MUSIC

Liebster Jesu, wir sind heir *BWV 731*

J. S. Bach

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Lily Bello & Ahyoon Kim

One: In the beginning...

**All: God.**

One: In the beginning...

**All: God's Spirit.**

One: In the beginning...

**All: God's Word.**

One: In the beginning...

**All: God's light.**

One: In the beginning...

**All: A new day.**

One: A new beginning for every day.

**All: God's gift of creation.**

One: Give thanks to God, and bless God's name.

**All: Come, let us worship.**

### \*HYMN 469

Morning Has Broken

*Bunessan*

### WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: We gather in this holy place,

**All: That we might know and understand God better.**

# CONFESSING & PRAISING

*Said in unison.*

## PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

Creator God, who spoke all that is into being; merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who pardons all who truly repent and turn to you: we humbly confess our sins and implore your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justly, not loved mercy, not walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us. As you ordered the chaos of creation, so order the chaos of our lives. Speak to us tender words of love and forgiveness. Renew a right spirit within us to do what is pleasing in your sight.

*Silence for personal confession.*

## KYRIE

Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo-ple's ev - er - last - ing light, O  
Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, We pray You, hear us when we call.

One: We pray.

All: Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God speaks again and again words of love and forgiveness, "You are my child, my beloved, with you I am well pleased." Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE & INVITATION TO CHILDREN

*Children are invited, with the permission of their parents, to come forward and sit on the Chancel steps for the Children's Message.*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*St. Denio*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy name we praise.

# EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children at the education doors beside the nursery after the worship service.*

## REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Go Now in Peace

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Go Now in Peace". It consists of two staves of music. The top staff is labeled "Instruments" and features a treble clef, a 3/2 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a whole rest, followed by a repeat sign, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is for the vocal line, also in treble clef and 3/2 time. The lyrics are: "Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go." The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

I Am His Child

Moses Hogan

I may not be all that you are,  
I may not be a shining star  
but what I am  
I thank the Lord for making me His child.

Thank you Lord for hearing ev'ry prayer,  
Thank you Lord for just being there,  
Thank you Lord, for I am not worthy of your Love.

So don't use me or abuse me, for I am His child.  
Don't tease me, or mistreat me, for I'm still His child,  
You can even talk about me.  
But I'm still His child.

**\*HYMN 322**

Spirit of the Living God

*Living God*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### RESPONSE IN FAITH - REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

One: Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers, the church, Christ's body, made visible in the world. We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.

This common font, is a sign of our connection through baptism and our commitment to strive for a more Beloved Community as siblings in Christ, formed in the same Womb of Life, animated by the breath of the same spirit.

*Sung in unison.*

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

One: For the blessing of the waters of creation at the sound of your voice,

**All: We give you thanks, Holy One.**

One: For the blessing of the waters of liberation you parted for your people,

**All: We give you thanks, Holy One.**

One: For the blessings of the waters of a womb that bore us redeeming love,

**All: We give you thanks, Holy One.**

One: For the blessing of the waters of baptism that called us to community,

**All: We give you thanks, Holy One.**

One: As you affirm your baptism, remember you are God's beloved child. Amen.

*Sung in unison.*

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

## RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS - CALL FOR OFFERING

*Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate. As we make our offerings, guests are encouraged to fill out the Visitor Card or the fellowship pads in the pews; fellowship pads can be passed to the end of your row and back so that we might greet each other in our rows by name following the service.*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler

R. Nathaniel Dett

*Refrain:* Let us cheer the weary traveler  
along the heavenly way.

I'll take my gospel trumpet,  
and I'll begin to blow,  
and if my saviour helps me  
I'll blow wherever I go. *Refrain.*

And if you meet with crosses,  
and trials along the way,  
just keep your trust in Jesus,  
and don't forget to pray. *Refrain.*

## \*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

**Response for Concerns:**

One: O Lord,  
All: Hear our prayers.

**Response for Celebrations:**

One: With thanksgiving,  
All: We praise the Lord.

*Said in unison.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE

### \*SENDING HYMN 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Lift Every Voice*

### \*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*Seated.*

### SENDING MUSIC

In dir ist Freude *BWV 615*

J. S. Bach

### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST



## Preview of January 21

8:30 a.m. **Worship** in Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary & online

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray | From Ephesians 1 & 2

**Matt Nabinger Recognition** | Bradley Ringers

Adult Education | 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge & on Zoom

### **Topic: *A Biblical Look at Baptism***

As we begin 2024, the church calendar moves next week from Baptism of the Lord Sunday to ordinary time. Baptism is our sacrament of new beginnings, much like January is the month that begins a new year. Join **Pastor David** for a Biblical look at baptism and what the sacrament says about our spiritual journey through the “ordinary.” For families thinking about or considering baptism, or anyone “remembering their baptism,” this may be a helpful class as we share the meaning of baptism.



## Recognition of Matt Nabinger January 21, 2024

Join us after worship on Sunday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall/Gathering Space on his final Sunday during coffee hour as we share gratitude and send best wishes to Matt for his next steps in ministry.

### Lenten Small Group Leaders Needed!

Contact Pastor Denise by January 14

**Lenten Small Groups will meet weekly for five-six sessions beginning Thursday, February 15 through Thursday, March 27.**



This year we will be using the Horizon Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble, to consider how the commandments were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding can unlock fresh insights for our lives today. For example, “Thou shall not kill” can mean more than taking someone’s life with a gun. It can also apply to assassinating someone’s character or killing someone’s spirit. This promises to be a rich study with opportunities for stimulating discussion.

We hope to have group sessions that will be held in person and via Zoom. If you are interested in leading or co-leading one of the small groups of 8-10, **please contact Denise by January 14 at [denise@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:denise@bradleyhillchurch.org) or 562-335-4506.**

### LENTEN SMALL GROUPS:

***LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments***

**Please register by February 2, 2024**

Gather with familiar and new friends for fellowship and stimulating conversation **February 18 thru March 24**. Everyone is welcome as we look at new ways to understand the Ten Commandments.

In-person and Zoom options available. Sign-up by contacting Pastor Denise or by filling out the Small Groups form in the Narthex with your first and second preferred group meetings.

**Return the form to Pastor Denise by February 2!**



## Children's Ministry Survey

BHPC Children's Ministry would like your input as we continue to grow and expand our programming and ministry for our youngest congregants and their families! Please take a moment to scan the QR code to provide us with your thoughts and feedback! We are so grateful for the opportunity to minister to your families and we look forward to learning how we can best serve you.

FAMILY  
**SCAVENGER**  
HUNT

JANUARY 21 11:45AM - 12:45PM  
STARTING IN MEMORIAL HALL

Use clues from the Bible to find prizes throughout the church  
Pizza lunch provided! All ages welcome!  
For questions, contact Matt (Matt@bradleyhillschurch.org)



Mission Forum  
January 28 11:40 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
in Covenant Hall

**OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF BHPC!  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW, SUSTAINABLE IDEAS  
FROM YOU!**

Mission LM has **new funding available** and we need **your leadership and creativity!**  
The group will listen to each idea and take a short time for Q & A. **Present attendees get to discuss and VOTE at 12:45 p.m.!**

**Free lunch! Free childcare! More info to come!**

## Volunteers Needed: Becky's House Meals

On the second Monday of every month, volunteers from Bradley Hills provide dinner for the eight women living at Becky's House, a shelter operated by Interfaith Ministries. Becky's House is a long-term shelter for elderly disabled women who would otherwise be homeless. The shelter is in a residential neighborhood in Rockville. This is a great opportunity for an individual, family, or group of friends to help feed those who would otherwise be homeless. **Open dates in 2024 include: April 8th, July 8th, September 9th, October 14th, and December 9th.**

Scan the QR code to sign up or look for the sign up link in the weekly emails. Questions? Contact Jennifer Kline or Pastor Denise for more info.



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## Preparing for the February 18 Adult Education Hour

The Adult Education speaker on February 18 will be **Dr. Robert P. Jones**, bestselling author and president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute. He will discuss his recent book, New York Times bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. The book examines the legacy of racism in America that predates the arrival of enslaved Africans. To quote from the New York Times review (9/5/23), "Full of urgency and insight, his book is a compelling and necessary undertaking."

The Adult Education Lay Ministry and the Racial Justice Coordinating Committee encourage you to read Dr. Jones' book before February 18. It is available for purchase in hardback, Kindle, or audio CD at <https://www.amazon.com/Hidden-Roots-White-Supremacy-American/dp/166800951X>. Copy the link or scan the QR code. We are also making five copies of the book available on a rotating loan basis between now and February 18. Stop by the book table during Coffee Hour after the 10:30 worship service to sign out one of the books.



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## 2024 Sign-Ups for Flower Deliveries & Dedications Available Now!

Scan the QR code to the right or contact Bie Fox or Caroline Simpson if you are available to **deliver flowers to congregational members** who are isolated from the community, need TLC, or simply in celebration of life's joys. We urge those who can to please help in this ministry of care. **Families, adults, and youth are welcome to participate in putting a smile on someone's face!**



Scan the QR code to the left or contact Elizabeth Bullock or the Flower Guild if you are **interested in dedicating flowers in honor or in memory of someone.** Each dedication costs \$65.00. All proceeds go to funding the Flower Guild and Sunday morning flower arrangements.

## Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

### **We hold in God's healing presence those experiencing grief and loss including:**

- With thanksgiving we praise the Lord for Matt Nabinger's service as DCE and pray God's blessings as he answers the call to pastor Oakland Presbyterian Church.

### **We hold in God's healing presence those who are suffering or have other concerns:**

Those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for cancer, serious or chronic illness, awaiting medical results, facing weighty decisions, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the church community.

- Carol Starr who is recovering from a planned surgical procedure on January 11.
- Hannah MacLean who is recovering from surgery on January 10.
- Prayers for Pat Stocker and for her brother Bob's comfort and peace.
- Eric and Sharon Griffith.

### **We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and those who are experiencing hurt and division including:**

- The people on the Noto Peninsula in Japan as they recover from the devastation caused by the earthquake on January 1.
- Peace for the people of the Holy Land, Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence.
- Healing for the division of the United States.
- Those suffering from mental illness.
- Those suffering from addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.

If you would like to join our prayer chain or share a prayer concern, contact Pastor Denise ([denise@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:denise@bradleyhillchurch.org)).

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## A Note From Stewardship

Poet Maya Angelou has said, "If you live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased." The service and sacrifice that Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave for the cause of civil rights made that kind of unerasable mark on our society. Making a mark here at Bradley Hills can be much easier. It can be as simple as remembering one or more of the church Endowment Funds in your estate plans. A Legacy Gift will light the way for future generations! And if you have a planned gift to Bradley Hills in your will, trust, insurance policy or retirement plan, please tell us by emailing [jan@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:jan@bradleyhillchurch.org) so that you can be included in the Lantern Legacy Circle.

# Our Staff & Partners in Ministry Directory

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Music	Matthew Robertson	matthew@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Christian Education	Matt Nabinger	matt@bradleyhillschurch.org
Financial Manager	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Manager of Facilities	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Communications & Administrative Ministries	Elizabeth Bullock	elizabeth@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator for Spiritual Life	Gail Brown	polserbrown@hotmail.com
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	lsobrino@bhpcns.org
Friends Club Director	Ken Silverstein	ken@friendclubbethesda.org

Our Sextons - Juan Mendez Sr., Leonel Bruno, Juan Mendez Jr., & Jorge Miranda

Our Child Caregivers - Nora Mendez, DelCarla Shorter, & Liz Allen

Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland

Our Section Leaders - Marie Marquis (soprano), Kaytlin Withers (alto), Kyle Tomlin (tenor), Steven Slupe (bass)

## Stewardship 2024 | How to Make Your Pledge

**Bring Your Pledge to  
Church**



Place it in the offering  
plate or in Jan's mailbox

**Mail Your Pledge Card**



6601 Bradley Blvd.  
Bethesda, MD 20817

**Scan the QR Code**



Make Your Pledge  
Directly in Realm

**Email the Director of  
Financial Ministries**



Jan Spencer  
[jan@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:jan@bradleyhillschurch.org)

Extra Stewardship materials are available in the Narthex document holder or can be mailed to you by reaching out to the church office at (301)365-2850. *Thank you for your support during this Stewardship season!*

## Get Involved This Week at BHPC

Smart Sacks in the Lounge | 11:30 a.m. A **family-friendly mission opportunity** that provides supplemental food to families in Montgomery County who are food deficient over the weekends.

Alleluia Singers Rehearsals | Sundays at 11:45 a.m. Open to children in **Kindergarten to 5th grade**, the Alleluia Singers make a joyful noise in the Choir Room starting after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. Join the pastors to **discuss upcoming scripture**. Group participants and listeners are both welcome.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Do you like to sing? The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service. Join us on Thursdays for rehearsals.

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### Upcoming Sermons

As 2024 begins, we realize the unique challenges of this year to come. The world is at war in several places. It's an election year. How do we find peace, unity, and common ground in a divided world?

This is a time when federal health officials, some who are members of our own congregation, tell us that loneliness is the greatest health issue facing Americans. Where do we find community in a time of isolation?

At a time when there is an absence of meaning in the world, where do we find purpose in life?

The next few months at BHPC, we'll look at Jesus' teachings on several of these issues through the lens of Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus and through the early parts of the Gospel of Matthew.

Studies at several major research institutions reveal that relationships seem to be a major key to happiness. Jesus' life helps us see that through relationships with God and other people, we can find blessings. There is no better sanctuary for common ground than to view Jesus at the center of what we seek. No better place to make friends, even if you live in another state, than through the church. No better place to see how God can work through us to bless others and give meaning than seeing how Jesus acted.

Let's see how the books of Ephesians and Matthew can prepare us for this unusual year. To see what might be possible for us. See you at church.

In Christ's hope, David

Connect ▪ Celebrate ▪ Nurture ▪ Serve ▪ Steward

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## Worship Schedule: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

January 21

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray | Bradley Ringers

**After Worship:** Family Connections Scavenger Hunt

January 28

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray | **Ordination & Installation of New Officers**

**After Worship:** Mission Forum

February 4

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray | **Communion**

February 11

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray | **Annual Meeting**

February 14 | Ash Wednesday Services at 1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**Preaching:** Pastor Denise Diaab

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### ***Interested in Staying Up-to-Date on BHPC? Get Connected!***

Sign up for our weekly email updates, *Weekly Expressions*, to stay connected and informed about BHPC. If you are interested, you can contact our Director of Communications & Administrative Ministries,

**Elizabeth Bullock**, at [elizabeth@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@bradleyhillchurch.org).



[bradleyhillchurch.org](http://bradleyhillchurch.org)

6601 Bradley Blvd. ▪ Bethesda, MD 20817 ▪ 301-365-2850

Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.