

EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Holy Humor Sunday
September 1, 2024

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.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | david@bradleyhillschurch.org

Get Connected | Explore Membership

BHPC is excited to welcome you to our growing community. Pastor David will be available to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org to set up a time.

New Members will be received next on October 27.

If you are interested in joining the new member class, please contact Pastor David.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILION PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Air, from Water Music

Georg Frederick Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor, What's His Name Again?

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Gladys.

All: Gladys who?

One: Glad it's Sunday, aren't you?

All: Knock, knock!

One: Who's there?

All: Babylon.

One: Babylon who?

All: Babylon, we aren't here to listen to your gibberish anyway.

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Owen.

All: Owen who?

One: Owen the saints, come marchin' in!

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Lettuce.

All: Lettuce who?

One: Let us worship God.

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

***HYMN 430**

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Dardwall's 148th

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: We gather in this holy place,

All: That we might know and understand God better.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRIES

“Recognition of Worship Items”

“Welcome Back Brunch”

Deacon Becky Sczudlo

CONFESSING & PRAISING

Said in unison.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

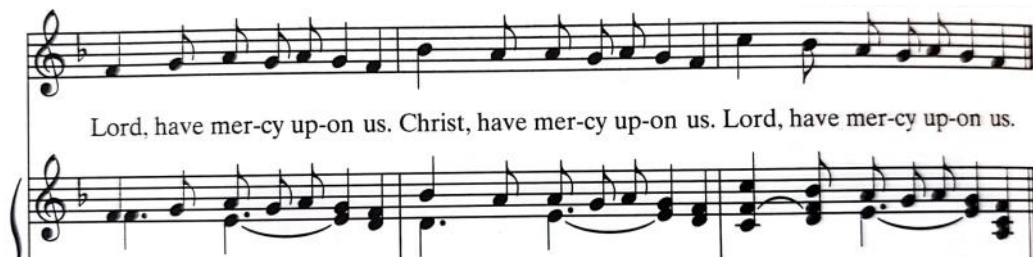
Pastor Denise Diaab

Loving God, as we rejoice in the gift of joy, we also confess the ways we have abused the gifts you give us. We fall short of your glory when we laugh at the expense of another; when we use humor to tear others down. So we ask for the wisdom to promote and enjoy good humor. God, teach us to take ourselves lightly, for you have promised to love and save us; to laugh when the moment is right, to defuse tension with an injection of humor, and to distinguish between that which builds up and that which tears down.

Open our hearts to your forgiveness as we confess...

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE 572



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

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

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

Spirit of the Living God

Living God

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.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Blessing of the Backpacks* DCYFM Rosanna Howard

PRAYER FOR OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES (UNISON)

“Holy God, as these children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry their books and notebooks, markers, and pens and pencils. Bless their teachers and administrators. Bless, each child gathered here and on line that they will grow in knowledge of you. We have promised to love and nurture them at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited about school, keep them ever seeking to learn and to develop their gifts. Grant that they may gain the tools to grow in love, faith and service, all their days. Amen.”

Kids ages 3 to 4th grade are invited to Summer Church School with all ages combined together during the 10:00 a.m. service. Parents may pick up their children upstairs in the education hallway.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,

And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 17:22

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

David Gray

“Celebration”

HYMN SING

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

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

Fugue on *Pi*

Gregory Ristow

*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God whom we adore.

The congregation may be seated.

RESPONSE IN FAITH - SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

One: The gifts of God given for all.

All: For all.

***SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Improvisation on *Darwell's 148th*

Said in unison.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - 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

***HYMN 415**

Come, Labor On

Ora Labora

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Welcome Back Brunch



SUNDAY, SEPT. 8, 2024, 11:30 A.M.
MEMORIAL HALL

*Please RSVP >
& bring your favorite dish!*



Welcome Back Brunch Additional Info

For this year's brunch potluck, Deacons will be supplying the main dishes. When registering in Realm, please let us know what you will be bringing (side dish, salad or dessert.)

Preview of September 8 | Welcome Back Sunday

We are returning to our two-service schedule starting September 8!

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in-person & 10:30 a.m. in-person and online

Preacher: Pastor David Gray | *Belonging* | From John 10:27-28 & Romans 14:8

8:30 a.m. A more casual service outside at the cross through much of the Fall season.

9:15 a.m. Adult Education in the lounge.

10:30 a.m. Our traditional service with music from the Chancel Choir and Church School for our little ones through 5th grade.

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

** As the program year begins, we are looking forward to coffee hour beginning after worship formally on 9/15. Elizabeth Barker will be in touch with our rotating “alphabetical teams” to invite folks to bring food. Thank you in advance for this fellowship ministry.*

Fall Sermon Series

Back to Basics: Exploring Pillars of Our Faith

In several conversations with members this summer, I was struck by the questions folks asked about the existence of God. We all wonder, at some level, about whether we are alone in the universe. Surveys tell us that Americans belief in God has fallen from 98% believing in the late 60’s, to around 80% today. Yet, they also reveal more of us are open to God and the spiritual life now than before the pandemic. A lot of our attitude towards life flows from whether or not we believe in God.

This fall at Bradley Hills, our messages in worship will explore some of the building blocks of our faith. Some of the fundamental questions of religion, like “Does God Exist?”, “How do we know this God,” and “What does this God want us to do?”

It will be a meaningful time of exploring together what our scriptures and tradition say about some of the basics of our Christian calling. And the journey of life we are on. All of it connecting to our music, fellowship and prayers in worship. Looking forward to seeing you at church.

In Christ’s love,

David

A Note from Pastor David

God has brought new staff to our church family. We are thrilled to introduce Kristen Abbott as our new Office Manager and Beth Beisel as our new Coordinator of External Communications. Our strategic plan emphasizes our need to enhance our operations capacity and ability to communicate Christ's love broadly with the world.

Towards those ends, we are excited for the gifts Kristen and Beth bring to our church. We look forward to your getting to know them and to our being in ministry together. We are grateful for those who have helped with the hiring of Kristen, Beth, as well as Rosanna Howard, this year. With our new staff in place, we greatly anticipate fall and where God will lead us.

Meet Kristen (Office Manager): Born and raised in North Carolina, Kristen lived in Chicago for 15 years and considers herself equally a Midwesterner and Southerner. She moved to Silver Spring in December 2022 and welcomed her daughter Adaline shortly thereafter. She is excited to join the Bradley Hills community after a wonderful 18 months at home with her daughter.

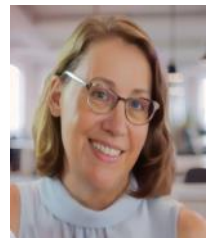
Kristen holds a degree in Elementary Education from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in Social Justice and Community Development from Loyola University - Chicago. She taught preschool for many years, and most recently worked as a Senior Project Manager in operations for an Illinois charter school system. Kristen loves cooking new recipes, attending concerts, traveling, and long family hikes with her dog, Wally.



Meet Beth (Coordinator of External Communications): Born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, Beth Beisel is a long-time resident of Chevy Chase in Washington, DC. Beth's work has focused on publishing, internet services, marketing, and communications for local nonprofits.

After graduating with an English degree from Dickinson College, Beth worked in book publishing in London for three years. On her return, she became the managing editor of the environmental book publisher, Island Press. She later worked as a developmental editor for the American Psychological Association's book publishing program. During the early years of the internet, she was recruited by the APA's internet staff for her editorial skills and ended up managing its busy website, which received over 30,000 visitors a day.

More recently, she has focused on communications and marketing for small nonprofit organizations, including a local jazz program and a senior service organization. In her spare time, Beth enjoys yoga, jazz, tennis, cooking, and hiking.



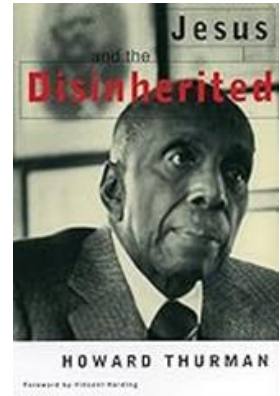
Register for Fall Small Groups by September 8!

This year we'll be using the book *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. This timeless classic offers insights on how the teachings of Jesus help us hold on to our integrity and walk in love and forgiveness during challenging times. Thurman's reflections and insights on "the religion of Jesus" offer opportunities for rich discussion as we encourage and support one another in our faith journey today.

Small groups are meeting weekly for six weeks from **September 22 to October 31** both **in-person** and **online**. Preferences are on a first-come basis.

Registration ends on **September 8**. Please indicate your **1st, 2nd, & 3rd choices** in an email to Pastor Denise. Choices for small group sessions are:

- Sundays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in-person
- Sundays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Fridays, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Fridays, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in-person (at BHPC)
- Fridays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom



Please purchase your book and plan to read Chapter 1 prior to your first group meeting! The facilitator of your group will contact you around September 15 with additional information. Contact Pastor Denise (denise@bradleyhillchurch.org) for additional info and to register.

Discussion Leaders are still needed for Fall Small Groups Please contact Pastor Denise (denise@bradleyhillchurch.org) if you are interested or have questions.

Young Families are Invited to Register for FAMILY Fall Small Groups!

The Family Small Group will meet weekly for six sessions on **Mondays from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Questions? Contact Rosanna Howard (rosanna@bradleyhillchurch.org). **Scan the QR code to learn more about Family Small Group and to register!**



Bradley Hills Presents: Announcing 2024/25 Concert Series

This year's concerts feature returning and new ensembles, a variety of music, and all are guaranteed to be a joy to experience. *Concerts are in-person.*

Tickets are \$40/adult, \$30/student, and \$15/child under 15 years old, with \$5 off for tickets that are purchased in advance. Or you can purchase a subscription for the entire series.

First up are the Yale Whiffenpoofs, **Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** The Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and most renowned collegiate a cappella group, will present a night of jazz, oldies, classic rock, and everything in between.



Other concerts in the series include:

Chopin & Beethoven with Brian Ganz, piano - **November 9, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

An Irish Christmas with Emmet Cahill, tenor - **December 14, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

Love and Sorcery with Davin-Levin Guitar-Harp Duo - **February 16, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

Ken Cowan, organ - **April 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

Questions? Contact Director of Music, Matthew Robertson.

Service Never Sleeps invites you to ALLY TRAINING 2024

Tuesday, September 10 & Wednesday, September 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
on ZOOM

(Registration confirms you will attend both sessions)

Contact Pastor David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org or Pastor Denise at denise@bradleyhillschurch.org for more information or to register.

VBS Update!



This past week, we partnered with Geneva Presbyterian for an amazing week of Vacation Bible School! We had 60 children age 4 to 5th grade participating as campers, over 25 youth in middle and high school volunteering as leaders, and more than 16 adults from both churches working to support us throughout the week. Our theme this year was Just Like Me!, an

intersectional and inclusive curriculum that explored what it means to be a unique child of God and how the stories of the Bible show us how to live in community and love one another. Our mission this year for VBS was Bethesda Help, and thanks to the donations made by the campers and both congregations, we were able to make over 125 snack bags for children in our community experiencing food scarcity.



Bradley Hills Nursery School Update

Once again, summer has flown by and BHP CNS is busy getting ready to open our doors for our 67th school year! So much has happened in early childhood education and at BHP CNS over the past 6 decades. We are proud of our play based approach to early childhood education, our commitment to each child's social-emotional development, and the amazing age-appropriate programming our teachers provide daily for our students.

In 2023, thanks to overwhelming community support, BHP CNS was voted the Best Preschool in Bethesda by Bethesda Magazine. We hope to regain this honor in 2025. To do so, we need your vote. Vote for BHP CNS and your other local favorites, at: <https://moco360.media/best-of-bethesda/>. Thank you, in advance, for your support of our school.



We have limited openings for the 2024-25 school year. Our play-based program, taught by loving teachers, is the ideal first school experience for your child or grandchild. To arrange a tour or for more information, visit our website, www.bhpcns.com, call the office at 301-365-2909, or email us at info@bhpcns.org.

Adult Education starts back September 8th!

The Bradley Hills Adult Education Lay Ministry provides sessions each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

In community, participants have the opportunity to explore, live, and strengthen their faith. These sessions are provided in the Lounge from 9:15-10:15 a.m. and via Zoom. Childcare will be provided.

September 8, 15, 22. Dr. R. Bruce Douglass – Director Emeritus, Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington and former Chair, Department of Government at Georgetown University will present the impact of Righteous Statecraft: Reformed Political Thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries and its relevance for today.

September 29. The Reverend Jermaine Ross-Allam – Director for the Center for Repair of Historic Harms, Presbyterian Mission PCUSA – will share Reparations and the Ministry of Planetary Peace and its implications for our church and its members.

A New Program Year at Bradley Hills

Worship Beginning September 8

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

8:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person**) | In the Garden (with good weather)
or Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person & online**) | Sanctuary

Adult Education & Small Groups

Adult Education | Sundays at 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. in the Lounge or on Zoom | Begins Sept 8

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom | Discussion of upcoming scripture

Fall Small Groups | Six-week study on *Jesus and the Disinherited* | Begins Sept. 22

Mission in the Fall

Becky's House & Lon's House | Make a one-time meal for eight.

Coat Drive | Donate or purchase a new coat. | Sept. 29, Oct. 6, & Oct. 13

Day of Service | Assembling Disaster Kits | October 6

Feeding Families | Collaborating with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia.

Smart Sacks | Pack sacks of food for families in need. | Start Date TBD

Children, Youth, & Family Programs

Childcare | Children 3 and under at 10:30 a.m. Worship

Church School | Sundays at 10:45 a.m. after the Children's Message

Pre-K to Kindergarten | 1st to 2nd Grade | 3rd to 5th Grade

Confirmation | Sundays at 9:10 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. | Classes begin Sept. 29

Youth Group | Sundays at 12:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge | Begins Sept. 15

MUSIC

Chancel Choir | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary | Begins Sept. 5

Children's Choirs | Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Choir Room | Begins Sept. 22

Lantern Chorale | Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary | Begins Sept. 26

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We hold in God's healing presence those who are experiencing grief and loss including:

- The family of Douglas Rigler (Katherine Rigler's husband) who died on August 22.
- The family of Linda Caldwell (Joanie Friend's sister) who died on August 22.
- The family of Dagmar Georgiev, who died on August 18.
- The family of Debbie Zimmerman (Linda Kauskay's friend and colleague) who died recently.
- The family of Lindsay Holmberg.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations including:

- Welcoming new staff members Kristen Abbott (Office Manager) and Beth Beisel (Coordinator of External Communications).
- Pastor David preaching at BJC's Shabbat Service on August 23 as part of the pulpit exchange with BJC.
- Prayers for a blessed school year for all those heading to school.

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

- Those recovering from Covid.
- Those hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for chronic illness, ALS, or Parkinson's, awaiting medical results, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the community.
- Jeff Weber who is recovering from a complicated hip replacement surgery.
- Gary Smith (Dianne Whitaker's father) who is in a rehab center to strengthen his body.
- Dick and Jeanne Tustian and Tim.

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and all the places where people are experiencing hurt and division:

- Those affected by the recent anti-Semitic graffiti on buildings in Bethesda.
- 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 and healing for the division in America.
- The people in Palestine, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.
- Those traveling within and outside of the United States.

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

Ways to Give at BHPC

Cash or Check Giving



6601 Bradley Blvd
Bethesda, MD 20817

Text Giving



Text "BHPC"
to 73256

Mobile Giving



Download the Realm
Connect App

Realm Giving



Access the **Bradley Hills Giving Page**

www.bradleyhillchurch.org

Click the **GIVE NOW** button

A Note From Stewardship

We are grateful for our partner congregations, Jewish, Muslim, and all who are willing to share with us as we share with them. Your gifts support alliances that can unify our world. Thank you.

Did you know that you can **gift securities** (stocks, bonds, etc.)? Transferring securities to Bradley Hills' brokerage account is a great way to donate appreciated securities while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes. For more info on this, **give the office a call at (301)365-2850**.

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 Kristen Abbott 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.



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 Children, Youth, & Family Ministries | Rosanna Howard | rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org |
| Financial Manager | Jan Spencer | jan@bradleyhillschurch.org |
| Manager of Facilities | Farid Beltran | farid@bradleyhillschurch.org |
| Office Manager | Kristen Abbott | kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org |
| Coordinator of External Communications | Beth Biesel | beth@bradleyhillschurch.org |
| Nursery School Director | Liz Sobrino | lsobrino@bhpcns.org |
| Friends Club Director | Ken Silverstein | ken@friendsclubbethesda.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) | | |

Being part of worship

As we enter the new program year, we would like to encourage community members to be a part of worship. If you would like to read scripture or lead a call to worship some Sunday, **contact Pastor David or Pastor Denise.**

Serving as an Elder or Deacon

Later in September, our Nominating Committee will begin following the Spirit to lift up the names of potential elders and deacons to serve our congregation. If you would like to suggest someone to serve on either board, including yourself, **contact Curt West (jcwest67@gmail.com) or Pastor David.**

Worship Schedule

Starting September 8, Services at 8:30 & 10:30 am

September 8 | Welcome Back Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: Belonging

September 15

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: Is there a God?

September 22

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: What does this God do?

September 29

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

Topic: Holy Spirit

October 6 | World Communion Day

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: How do we know this God?

October 13

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: What are we supposed to do with this God?

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

Interested in staying connected and informed about BHPC? Contact our Office Manager at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org, and ask her to add you to our weekly email list.