

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church  
December 22, 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)

### 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 to set up a time.

New members will be received next in **late February/early March**. If you are interested in joining the winter new member class, please contact David.

# GATHERING TOGETHER

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### CARILION PEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

### GATHERING MUSIC

In dulci jubilo

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(c. 1637-1707)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Alleluia Singers  
*Traditional*

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

### \*HYMN 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*Regent Square*

### WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor David Gray

# CONFESSING & PRAISING

### PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

You are near, O Lord. Yet, in your presence, we confess our need for repentance. We have not lived in peace with you or your creation. We have not trusted your word, and live with fear. Forgive us. Restore us. Turn our shame into praise. We pray for the sake of the one who brings good news.

*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: 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.*

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!

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

*Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children upstairs in the education hallway at their classroom doors.*

### REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

This Little Light of Mine

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 9:2-7

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM**

William K. Perry

Wonderful Counselor

Unto us, a child is born.

Unto us, his son is given.

Wonderful, counselor, prince of peace.

He is come, so humbly born  
to bear the weight of all sin forgiven.

Wonderful, counselor, prince of peace.

Will we follow his teachings and live as he lives?  
Will we be humble and learn to forgive?  
Are we worthy of him and the great price he will pay  
for this selfless act of love God has given us?

What can we do to love this child,  
to honor him and the gift he brings us?  
Follow his star; you'll find your way  
to this wonderful counselor.  
Follow him, and hear the words  
of this wonderful counselor,  
and live in peace.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 1: 18-23

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

What's in a Name?

David Gray

**\*HYMN 53**

*Greensleeves*

What Child Is This

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## RESPONSE IN FAITH

We believe that Jesus was born of a woman as is every child, but born of God's power as was no other child. In the life and work of Jesus, God and people are united but not one, different but not separated. The coming of Jesus was the coming of God. Through His birth, life, death and resurrection, Jesus brings God and people together in the relationship God intended.

*- from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

## RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS—INVITATION FOR PLEDGES, TITHES, & OFFERINGS

*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

Away in a Manger

arr. Ola Gjeilo  
(b. 1978)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

## 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.

## RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Response for Concerns:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Response for Celebrations:

One: With thanksgiving,

All: We praise the Lord.

*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 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*In Dulci Jubilo*

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### SENDING MUSIC

III. For the Armor of Light *from Collects*

Daniel Pinkham

(1923-2006)

### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## Preview of December 29

Join Us for Worship | One service at 10:30 a.m. in-person and online

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

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

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## Music Note

Ola Gjeilo, a Norwegian composer whose work often draws inspiration from nature, captures the icy stillness of winter in the harmonies supporting two solo voices in his arrangement of *Away in a Manger*.



# Christmas Brunch & Caroling

AT BRADLEY HILLS

**December 22**

Join us for Brunch after  
10:30 Worship

Memorial Hall





# Christmas Eve

AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 24

**4 pm – Family Service &  
Children's Pageant**

Children help tell the Christmas story.

*Sharing the Light of Christ*

**6 pm – Candlelight Service**

Music from the choir section leaders.  
Message: Pastor David Gray.

**10 pm – Candlelight Service**

A musical prelude at 9:30 pm.  
Chancel Choir and brass.  
Message: Pastor David Gray.



*Christmas* AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 24  
4:00 pm

# CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE & PAGEANT

**No rehearsal necessary!**

Bring your little one to  
Covenant Hall for a  
costume: 3:40-4:00 pm.  
Interested in a speaking  
part for your older child or  
youth? Let DCYFM  
Rosanna know.

*All are welcome!*



## 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

**The 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship** includes Section Leaders, Chancel Players, prayer, and Pastor David preaching "The Peace of the Manger". Experience this beautiful candlelit service with favorite carols and special music, all concluding with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

**The 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship** will start with a Prelude at 9:30 p.m. Join us for Chancel Choir, brass instruments, and Pastor David preaching. Experience this beautiful candlelit service with favorite carols, including special music by the Chancel Choir and Brass Quintet, all concluding with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

## Upcoming Adult Education

The Bradley Hills Adult Education Lay Ministry provides sessions each Sunday from 9:15–10:15 a.m. *Childcare is provided.*

**December 29** - No Adult Education this week.

**January 5** - Prior to Dan Brown's novel, The Da Vinci Code, which suggests that Mary Magdalene was the wife of Jesus and carried Jesus' bloodline, Mary Magdalene was remembered primarily as the sinful woman (euphemism for prostitute) who was healed by Jesus and became one of his followers. Few people think of Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

Based on the works of Cynthia Bourgeault and John Beverley Butcher, Pastor Denise Diaab will lead a discussion, examining Mary Magdalene's role as an "apostolic leader, teacher, and spiritual master" and her contribution to Christianity.

**January 12** - The Living History and Beauty of Bradley Hills Sanctuary: Much of the modern 1960s design and spiritual symbolism of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is steeped in the designs of old Gothic cathedrals, medieval churches, and temples. Corky Hicky, Steve Fox, and Rosanna Morrison will open Bradley Hills' 70th-anniversary celebration with newly developed colorful videos, photos, and history that bring to life Christian spiritual symbolism in the sanctuary's design. This tour will include the background and interpretation of the more recent additions of the Sanctuary's Resurrection Window, Pentecost Window, Columbarium, Baptismal Font, Apostles cushions in the Chancel, and the liturgical banners that adorn the Sanctuary and help explain and interpret the Presbyterian Church's liturgical calendar.

Interested in past Adult Education recordings? Scan the QR code.



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## Join us for the Final Advent Devotion Centering Prayer

Sunday, December 22  
7:30 - 8:00 pm on ZOOM

Meeting ID: 864 8829 7271  
Passcode: 377764



# Alternative Giving

*Now-December 31*

Give the gift of giving this season to your friends, loved ones, and coworkers! BHPC Mission Coordination Lay Ministry will be offering 17 important and vetted charities and organizations that need your support.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth St. John at [estjohn20903@gmail.com](mailto:estjohn20903@gmail.com) or Bonnie Holcomb at [bkholcomb@gmail.com](mailto:bkholcomb@gmail.com) for more info.

*Learn more about our 2024  
Alternative Giving by  
scanning the QR code*



## Welcome New Members!



Kathleen and Jess Petitt



Yared Medhane,  
Makida Hailemariam  
and family



Tristram Kruger

## Join us in 2025!

We are so glad you have chosen to worship God at BHPC this Christmas. We hope you will join us in 2025. My wife and I and our four kids are passionate about Bradley Hills. Its mission and service opportunities to help those in need. Its tradition of meaningful music, worship, education and spiritual growth. The ways this healthy community supports each other.

Next year is our 70th anniversary and you'll see all sorts of fun celebrations and activities. This community is a wonderful one for families. Our church has fellowship groups, kids' choirs to teach music, Vacation Bible School, summer trips for youth, a preschool and counselors on site. We have communities from several faith traditions here, and many interfaith families have found our community welcoming. My family has appreciated working on service projects for kids, like our Smart Sacks food distribution program, where children can learn about community service. The church offers classes for families on "how to pray with kids," "how to share the Bible with children," and on the meaning of baptism and communion, etc.

Perhaps you may be looking for a church home. A community in which to connect with other families, help your children learn religious traditions, develop an understanding of and relationship with God, and a fellowship to support you as you grow in faith.

If you'd like to learn more about BHPC, I'd welcome a chance to connect. Our main weekly worship service is Sundays at 10:30 am, in person in our sanctuary and on livestream, and we offer Sunday school for children at that time too. For more information, or if you'd like to connect, or if there is any way I could be of support, my email is [David@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:David@bradleyhillschurch.org).

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## Sign-Ups for Flower Deliveries and Dedications

When a member of the Flower Guild team creates an arrangement for the Sunday worship service, the deacons partner with the Flower Guild to deliver the flowers to share the natural beauty of creation with someone in the congregation. These people are either unable to attend the service in person, need a little TLC, or are celebrating life's joys. Deacons Caroline Simpson and Dee Llewellyn coordinate the delivery of the flowers to recipients. **If you are interested in doing this one Sunday, the deacons welcome you to scan the QR code, or contact Caroline Simpson at [ccdale@gmail.com](mailto:ccdale@gmail.com) or Dee Llewellyn to at [gidee@aol.com](mailto:gidee@aol.com) to select your Sunday.**



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.

## Christmas Joy Offering, 2024

Dear Friends,

There is so much to appreciate as we approach the arrival of the perfect gift, the very vulnerable baby Jesus. He walks alongside us on our journey through life and is ever present through every vulnerable human moment.

It is at those vulnerable moments that we are intended to care for each other and lift each other up. The Christmas Joy Offering is an opportunity for you to offer what you can to uplift fellow human beings at times of need:

\*Support for church workers, their families and retired ministers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and other unexpected costs.

\*Support for students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts of service to the church and to the world.

We do not walk alone. Our gifts combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout The Presbyterian Church USA to do our part to repair the world and ensure that our siblings have the resources that they need to flourish.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be accepted December 15th, 22nd and 29th. The special offering envelopes will be in the pews. You may also make your contribution online and designate it for this offering.

Thank you for joining together to walk alongside the vulnerable, in honor of our beloved Jesus Christ.

With gratitude,  
Elizabeth St. John  
For the Mission Coordination Lay Ministry

# Making a Year-End Financial Gift to the Church

As we wind up 2024, we have so much to celebrate as a church. Your faithfulness and generosity allows Bradley Hills to continue to change lives within and outside our community. The gifts of faithful friends like you make up the vast majority of the funds we use to support our worship, education programs, mission work, music and general operations.

As you think about your year-end giving, we appreciate your considering making a gift to the church. Or a pledge for 2025. As we think of the wise men bringing their best to the Christ child, there are many ways one can make a financial contribution to Bradley Hills:

- **Write a check or put cash** in the offering plate, bring it to the office, or mailing it to the church 6601 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817.
- **Going to the website** using the Give Now icon at [bradleyhillschurch.org](http://bradleyhillschurch.org).
- **Make a secure gift through Realm**, our online giving program, by scanning the QR code below.
- **Text “BHPC” to 73256** and click on the link to make your gift.
- **Transfer securities** - this is a great way to donate appreciated securities to the church while avoiding capital gains taxes. For details on how to donate stock and securities to BHPC, email our Financial Director, Jan Spencer, [Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org) for information.

*Tax deductible gifts for 2024 must be postmarked or received by the church on or before December 31, 2024. One can bring gifts to church or put through the mail slot in the church office door.*

For questions, contact Jan Spencer at the church office 301-365-2850 or by e-mail [Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org).

Thank you. Together we can accomplish wonderful things for this world which God comes to love at Christmas.

*Make a secure gift  
through Realm, by  
scanning the QR code.*



**BHPC 70<sup>th</sup>**

## **Anniversary Celebration**

To learn more about the upcoming 70th Anniversary at Bradley Hills, visit [www.bradleyhillchurch.org/about/70th/](http://www.bradleyhillchurch.org/about/70th/) or scan the QR code.



## **Interfaith Works Partnership Monthly Dinners**

For many years Bradley Hills has fed the hungry through a ministry with shelters for those who would otherwise be homeless.

We have partnered with Interfaith Works to provide dinner once a month to Becky's House, a shelter for eight women and Lon's House, a home for eight men both located in Rockville.



**Signups for the early months of 2025, especially January are needed.**

Questions, please contact Jennifer Kline -



Sign up to serve a meal at Becky's House in 2025.



Sign up to serve a meal at Lon's House in 2025.

## **Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us**

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

- The family of Kathryn Hayes, who died on December 15.
- All the families affected by the shooting at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin.

**We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations, including:**

- A warm welcome to new members, Jess and Kathleen Pettitt, Tristram Kruger, Yared Medhane and Makida Hailemariam.
- The wonderful concert, an Irish Christmas with Emmet Cahill singing holiday favorites on December 14.

**We hold in God's healing presence those who suffer pain, ill health or other concerns including:**

- Todd McCreight for health and wellbeing.
- Dick Tustian for health and wellbeing.
- Lavon (Phyllis Sutherland's sister) who is recovering from pneumonia.
- Anna for continued healing.
- Katherine Rigler for healing and full recovery from car accident in November.
- Yvonne Tohidloo (BHPC visitor) for healing and full recovery from recent surgery.
- Those facing challenging issues and/or difficult decisions.

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

- Prayers for our present and incoming government leaders and for healing and unity for our country.
- The people in the Syria, Palestine, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or 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)).

# Get Involved at Bradley Hills

## Worship

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

8:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person**) | 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

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

## Mission

**Alternative Giving** | Through December 31.

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

**Feeding Families** | Collaborating with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia.

**Smart Sacks** | Pack sacks of food for families in need.

## 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

**Youth Group** | Sundays at 12:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

## Music

**Chancel Choir** | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Lantern Chorale** | Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

**Alleluia Singers** | Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Choir Room

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## Christmas Flowers - Reminder

If you signed up for Christmas flowers and haven't yet paid, you can pay by cash, check (made payable to BHPC with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo), or pay through Realm.

Plants can be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, or the following Sunday, December 29, after morning worship.

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## Flower Dedication

From Mary and Corky Hickey, in memory of our parents: Clarence R Hickey Sr and Grace Allen Hickey; Howard Tomlinson and Sara Masteller Tomlinson.

## Our Staff

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
Director of Financial Ministries	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Facilities Manager	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Office Manager	Kristen Abbott	kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator of External Communication	Beth Beisel	beth@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator for Spiritual Life	Gail Brown	polserbrown@hotmail.com
Pastoral Counselors	Samantha Steinfeld	samantha.steinfeld@imagocenterdc.com
	Tory Joseph	victoria.joseph@imagocenterdc.com
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	lsobrino@bhpcns.org 301-365-2909
Friends Club Director	Ken Silverstein	ken@friendclubbethesda.org (301) 469-0070

Sextons - Juan Mendez, Leonel Bruno, Juan E. Mendez and Jorge Miranda

Child Caregivers - Nora Mendez, DelCarla Shorter and Liz Allen

Parish Associates - Wally Harman and Jong Mi Lee

Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland

### ***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.

# Worship Schedule

Services at 8:30 & 10:30 am

December 24 | Christmas Eve Service

**Service Times:** 4pm - Family Pageant

6pm - Candlelight Service/David preaching/Section Leaders

10pm - Candlelight Service/David preaching/Choir and Brass

December 29 | One Service at 10:30 am

**Preaching:** Pastor Denise Diaab

January 5 | Epiphany

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray

January 12 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday | Start of 70th Celebration

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray

January 19

**Preaching:** Pastor Denise Diaab

January 26 | Ordination of New Officers

**Preaching:** Pastor David Gray

## BHPC Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be **closed December 25, 26, & 27**

and will be **open December 31** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Checks, letters, and notes can be dropped through the mail slot  
of the church office door anytime.



[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