



Second Sunday
of Advent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
December 8, 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.

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 to set up a time.

Upcoming New Members Join: December 15, 2024

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILION PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

All: **We long to meet and welcome the Messiah who will change the world—and change us.**

One: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

All: **We long to meet and welcome the Messiah who will change the world—and change us.**

One: In this season of Advent we come with open minds, open hands, and open hearts.

All: **Let us prepare to welcome the Messiah who will change the world—and change us. Let us worship God!**

*HYMN 10

Winchester New

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

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

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

CONFESSING & PRAISING

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Holy and loving God, you have promised so much to us yet we confess we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to the Savior once again.

Prepare us for life in your kingdom. Hear our prayers, O Lord...

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE



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

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!

*Chancel
steps for the
Children's
Message.*

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Presentation of Bibles

Elder Steve Burns

*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!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Amy Broadbent
(b. 1992)

Wartime Christmas

Led by a star, a golden star,

The youngest star, an olden star,

Here the kings and the shepherds are,

Akneeling on the ground.

What did they come to the inn to see?

God in the Highest, and this is He,

A baby asleep on His mother's knee

And with her kisses crowned.

Now is the earth a dreary place,

A troubled place, a weary place.

Peace has hidden her lovely face

And turned in tears away.

Yet the sun, through the war-cloud, sees

Babies asleep on their mother's knees.

While there are love and home - and these -

There shall be Christmas day.

SERMON

Preparing to be Found

David Gray

*HYMN 11

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH

We believe that God sends God's word into the wilderness times of our lives, calling us to seek forgiveness, reflect on our lives and prepare the way of the Lord. In worship we seek God, to prepare the way in us and in our world for the coming of the living Word, with the saving grace of Christ.

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

Nathan Jones
(b. 1983)

That Holy Thing

They all were looking for a king,
To slay their foes and lift them high.
Thou cam'st a little baby thing,
That made a woman cry.

O Son of Man, to right my lot,
Naught but Thy presence can avail;
Yet on the road Thy wheels are not,
Nor on the sea Thy said!

My how or when Thou wilt not heed,
But come down Thine on secret stair,
That Thou may'st answer all my need-
Yea, every bygone prayer.

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 & CELEBRATION

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 6

Helmsley

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Fuga in C Major

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Congregational Meeting | Today, after the 10:30 a.m. Service

There will be a brief congregational meeting today after worship in the sanctuary and online to elect our new class of elders and deacons. The Nominees for Elder are Melissa Kallas, Jenny Rymarcsuk, Steve Fox, Kirk Griffith and Brendan Gray as Youth Elder. The Nominees for Deacon are Jong Seok Kim, Benjamin Scribner, Tara Eliason and Daniella Ngah and CJ Kauffunger as Youth Deacons. We will also vote to amend the bylaws in its composition of the board of Deacons to include “up to two youth deacons,” rather than “one youth deacon.” The purpose of this amendment is to allow more youth to participate in leadership and service.

Preview of December 15

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall & 10:30 a.m. in-person and online
Chancel Players | Lessons and Carols | Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. A more casual service in Covenant Hall

9:15 a.m. Adult Education in the Lounge and on Zoom. *Childcare included.*

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

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 15 - Celebrating the Christmas Narratives: Join Pastor David Gray for a discussion of the historical, contextual and theological comparison of the birth of Jesus as told by Matthew and Luke.

December 22 - GOD is in the manger. God is in the MANGER. No matter how we emphasize it, the message of Christmas is, “The child in the manger is none other than God himself!” On the last Sunday of Advent, Pastor Denise will lead a discussion on incarnation (God becomes human) based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book, *God Is In the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas.*

Music Note

Wartime Christmas is a simple and tender setting by DC-based singer and composer Amy Broadbent. In this carol, Broadbent touchingly sets the words of Joyce Kilmer, who wrote this text a year before being killed in action, while serving in the US Army in France during the first world war.

Join us for Advent Devotions Centering Prayer

Thursday, December 12 & 19
12:00 - 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 8, 15 & 22
7:30 - 8:00 pm on ZOOM



Centering Prayer is a spiritual practice where we surrender ourselves in silence in order to open our hearts to the transformative presence and action of God in our lives.

All are welcome. No previous experience necessary. Come when you can.

Pastor Denise will be leading the sessions. For questions email her at Denise@bradleyhillschurch.org.

Connect via Zoom by scanning the QR code or using the link found in the weekly emails.



Meeting ID: 864 8829 7271 Passcode: 377764

Supporting God's Work through the Church

As we watch in Advent for the promised coming of Christ, God's greatest gift to the world, let's remember to bring our gifts to Bradley Hills so that the Church can spread the good news to neighbors near and far. If you haven't had a chance to pledge yet (make an estimate of your giving for 2025), you can easily do so on the front of our website or by filling out a pledge card in our pews.

Also, please consider making a year-end gift. If you haven't yet fulfilled your pledge for 2024, if your income was greater than you expected when you made last year's pledge, or if you find that you can be more generous for other reasons, a year-end gift to the church can minimize your tax burden and stretch your charitable dollars. Gifts must be postmarked or received by the church by December 31 to be deductible on your 2024 taxes.

Thank you.



Blue Christmas



AT BRADLEY HILLS



December 11
1 pm & 7:30 pm

*Reflection by
Pastor David*

Blue Christmas is a service of healing and wholeness for those feeling loss, grief, or sadness during the holidays.

Join us in the Sanctuary for prayer, candle lighting, meditation, music, and word.

For more Christmas events, go to:
www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/christmas



Lessons & Carols



AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 15

8:30 am - Lessons with the Chancel Players and carols with organ in Covenant Hall.

10:30 am - Full lessons and carols with the Chancel Players. The Chancel Choir with guest harpist performing Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*.

For more Christmas events, go to:
www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/christmas



Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS 



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH & CAROLING

December 22

After 10:30 Worship
in Memorial Hall

All are welcome!



Help Needed for Christmas Brunch

December 22 will be a fun day at Bradley Hills! Following the 10:30 am worship service, there will be a Christmas brunch and carol singing. In order for that to happen, we need help!

If interested in helping with the brunch,
contact david@bradleyhillchurch.org.

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.

Alternative Giving will be available to make donations in Covenant Hall and online now—December 31.

Questions for Angel Gift Tree or Alternate Giving? Contact Elizabeth St. John at estjohn20903@gmail.com or Bonnie Holcomb at bkholcomb@gmail.com for more info.

*Learn more about our 2024
Alternative Giving by scanning the QR
code or by visiting
[www.bradleyhillchurch.org/
alternative-giving/](http://www.bradleyhillchurch.org/alternative-giving/)*



Olive Oil Ministry

The Olive Oil Ministry (OOM) is a project which supports the Palestinian agriculture sector, promotes peace and justice, and raises awareness of the struggles in Gaza and the West Bank. The olive oil we sell is produced from olives grown by farmers in the West Bank and the earnings from sales go for medical supplies and services in Gaza. Many products qualify as organic and/or fair-trade certification.



Sales will be in Covenant Hall after the 10:30 service and continue weekly until all products are sold.

This year we are selling three types of olive oil: olive oil soap, za'atar spice packets, and jars of olive or tomato tapenade.

Contact Judy Ozone (judy.l.ozone@gmail.com) for more information.



Christmas Eve

AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 24

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

Children help tell the Christmas story.

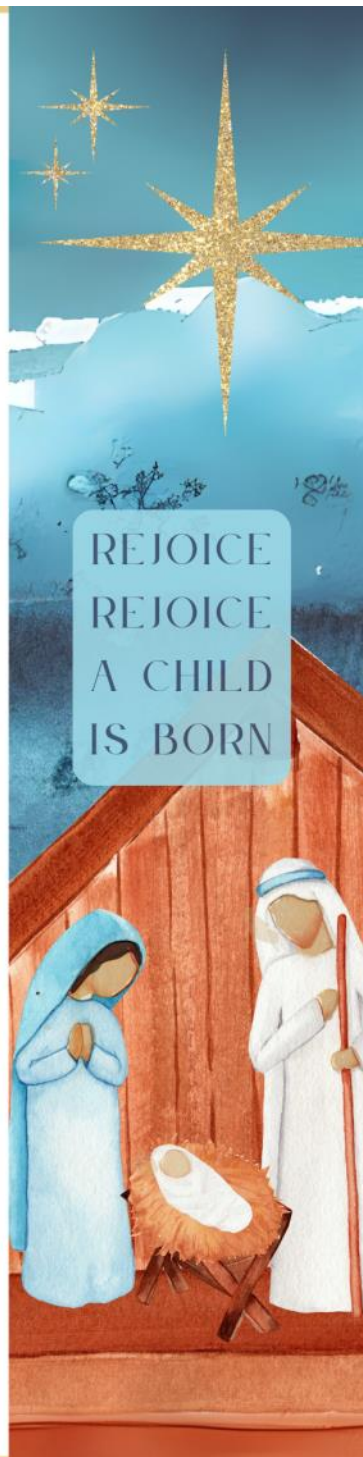
Sharing the Light of Christ

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.



REJOICE
REJOICE
A CHILD
IS BORN

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FRIDAY
DEC 13**

**CHELSEA
TOWERS**

7401 Westlake Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20817

**YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTY: 5 PM – 7:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL PARTY: 6:30 PM – 9 PM

Come with a white elephant gift to exchange (\$10 – \$15 suggested).
Bring your favorite holiday appetizer or dessert to share.

An Irish Christmas with Emmet Cahill, tenor

Saturday, December 14, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season in unforgettable fashion with Irish tenor Emmet Cahill, soloist and principal star of the internationally acclaimed PBS phenomenon Celtic Thunder. With recent sold-out debuts at Carnegie Hall and with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, An Irish Christmas is a must-see event. Hailing from Mullingar, Ireland, Cahill has been widely hailed as Ireland's most exciting young singer. Cahill's recent Irish album debuted at #1 on the Billboard Charts, leading to appearances on The Today Show, at Atlanta Symphony Hall, the Pentagon, and St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY.



An Irish Christmas features many well-loved holiday favorites from both sides of the Atlantic, performed in an intimate setting.

Visit www.bradleyhillchurch.org/concerts to purchase tickets.



Christmas Flower Orders

Purchase your Christmas flowers this year to support the Flower Guild. Purchase a white poinsettia, red poinsettia, or Christmas cacti to help decorate the Sanctuary during our Christmas Eve services! Each plant costs \$20.

You can place your order on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Outer Office or place your order through Sign-Up Genius by scanning the QR code. Pay by cash, check (made payable to BHPC with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo), or through Realm.



The deadline for flower orders is Monday, December 9. You can pick up your plants after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday, December 29.

Questions? Contact Bie Fox at smarterb@gmail.com.

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. Caroline and Dee are looking for volunteers from the congregation to take the arrangement from church and deliver it to the recipient right after the service. **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 or Dee Llewellyn to at gjee@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.

Ways to Give at BHPC

Cash or Check Giving



6601 Bradley Blvd
Bethesda, MD 20817



Text Giving

Mobile Giving



Download the Realm
Connect App



Realm Giving

www.bradleyhillchurch.org
Click the **GIVE NOW** button

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 - jennkline0329@gmail.com or 614-802-9537



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.

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

- Singing our favorite Christmas carols followed by the annual Christmas tree lighting and hot chocolate last Sunday.

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

- Marcia Hummers for health and well-being.
- Billy (16-month old grandson of Pat Grafton) for health and wellbeing.
- Lavon (Phyllis Sutherland's sister) who is recovering from pneumonia.
- Kerry Alberti (Phyllis & Donald Sutherland's daughter-in-law's father) for healing a wellbeing and prayers for his wife Lynn who is caregiver.
- Peg Flowe for health and well-being.
- Akiko (Susan Nordeen's mother) for healing and full recovery of a broken hip and wrist.
- Anna for continued healing.
- 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.
- Prayers for the people of South Korea.
- The people in the Middle East, 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).

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 in the Fall

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.

Alternative Giving | Through December 31.

Olive Oil Ministry Sales | Starts November 24.

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.

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

BHPC 70th Anniversary Celebration

To learn more about the upcoming
70th Anniversary at Bradley Hills, visit
www.bradleyhillchurch.org/about/70th/
or scan the QR code.



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 11 | Blue Christmas

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 15 | Lessons and Carols

December 22 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 24 | Christmas Eve Service

Service Times: 4pm - Family Pageant

6pm - Candlelight Service/David preaching/Section Leaders

10pm - Candlelight Service/David preaching/Choir

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



bradleyhillschurch.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