

EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.

1st Sunday of Lent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
March 9, 2025
8:30 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.bradleyhillchurch.org**.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | **david@bradleyhillchurch.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 to set up a time.

New Member classes will be offered March 9 and March 16 after worship and new members will join March 23.

GATHERING TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: Come to the Lord with openness.

All: We come seeking God's presence for the journey.

One: Bring your doubts, your belief, your hopes, your fears, your dreams.

All: Let us be open to God's vision for our Lenten journey.

*HYMN 87

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt Uns, Herr

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;

For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting, Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;

And to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lion's might;

And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like then be true, consumed in fast and prayer with You;

Our spirits strengthen with Your grace, and give us joy to see Your face.

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

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we begin Lent we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. We confess...

Silence for personal confession

One: We pray.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- One: God is for us and not against us!
All: For that very reason, God sent God's Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
- One: Friends, believe the good news.
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 1:3-6, 12-14; 2:1-11

- One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Lenten Hope for Unsettling Times

David Gray

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

*You are invited to come forward and gather around the table for the remainder of the service. Bring your bulletin with you. **Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate.***



*HYMN 370

Just as I Am, Without One Plea
Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Woodworth

Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

RESPONSE IN FAITH - FROM PCUSA CONFSSION OF 1983

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.**

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATION

Said in unison.

Response for Concerns:

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayers.

Response for Celebrations:

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

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 371**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

Refrain.

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim.
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Refrain.

Refrain.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified,
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.

Refrain.

Refrain.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally.

Refrain.

Refrain.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Preview of March 16

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

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Confirmation Sunday | Baptism

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.

March 9: Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible, Wesley Theological Seminary, **The Book of Lamentations: Hope for a Fragmented Community Then and Now?** Denise Hopkins continues to lead the exploration of this short, 5-chapter book of Lamentations to uncover how it weaves together the voices of individual suffering to shape collective unity and identity in the aftermath of the trauma of the Babylonian Exile. This prompts us to ask whether we in the U.S. can follow a similar process to create shared memory in the midst of our current fragmentation. If you missed last week, you can join us this week as we focus on its contemporary relevance.

March 16: Vision and Understanding as a response to volatility and uncertainty: A facilitated open forum discussion to process the uncertainty of our current times

- How do we process the last 90 days of volatile change and loss?
- What spiritual practices and readings are helping you manage your response to these changes?
- How are we providing community to each other?
- What are some ways we can support each other, especially those in our community who may be facing job loss?
- How can we provide safety, support, and care to vulnerable members of our community, especially immigrants and LGBTQ community members?

Pastor David will kick off the session/meeting and set the framework for constructive discussion moderated by Dianne Whittaker and Venus Masselam. Participants will be able to engage securely within our community, both in person and remotely. **This session will not be recorded.**

BHPC Support for Federal Workers Group

Monday March 10, 2025 6:30pm – 7:30pm

During these anxious, unknown, challenging times, BHPC is offering a support group for federal workers, both in and outside our congregation, to have a chance to connect, and to share thoughts, advice, and strategies, and to support each other. Venus Masselam will lead the group.

For the Zoom link, reach out to Venus Masselam at venus@masselam.com

For individual support, reach out to David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org or Denise at denise@bradleyhillschurch.org.



Looking to Connect?
Want to Explore Membership?

Your Journey to Belong Starts Here

March 9 or March 16
11:45 am–12:45 pm | Library

LUNCH & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Looking to connect with Bradley Hills? Join us for an hour-long ‘Get Connected’ class. Choose either March 9 or March 16 for an hour of relaxed conversation with Pastor David about how you can become more involved with church activities or become a member.

For those interested in membership, we’ll celebrate your journey with a special welcome ceremony during worship on March 23.

INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Pastor David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Sunday
March 16

10:30 AM Service

Join us in welcoming
our new Confirmands!

They will be confirmed
at 10:30 worship and
then celebrated with a
special coffee hour in
Memorial Hall.



The Milestone Workshop for Fourth Graders on Psalm 23



March 23 | Room 303

9:15-10:15 am



Led by Rosanna Howard

Emergency Fundraising to Support Refugee Resettlement - Interfaith Refugee Family Support Initiative

The abrupt termination of federal financial support for refugee resettlement has led to chaos and hardship among newly arrived refugees, and other legal immigrants to the US. Our Interfaith Refugee Family Support Initiative is appealing to our congregations to help bridge the gap left by the funding cutoff. We are hoping to raise \$30,000 over a 3 week period. Funds will be used to provide support which families otherwise would have received, including initial cash assistance to cover family necessities, rent, case management, employment, and other services. Emergency rent payments are critical to avoid eviction for refugees who have not yet obtained employment to pay for this on their own. With our members' volunteer and financial support, the Interfaith Refugee Family Support Initiative has helped resettle numerous refugee families over the last 8 years.

If you are able, please contribute to the Interfaith Refugee initiative. All donations are tax deductible. Given the fluidity of the situation, donated funds will be used to fill gaps as needed. Most funds collected will be used to make donations for specified purposes to registered 501 (c) (3) organizations such as Homes Not Borders and Solutions in Hometown Connections (SHC) that have partnered with resettlement agencies and congregations such as ours. Some funds may be used to provide direct support to individual refugee families who need emergency assistance. The Refugee Support Initiative has done this responsibly with several families since its inception in 2016.

Contributions can be made on Realm under the fund category - REFUGEE PROJECT. If paying by check, please make checks payable to BHPC with REFUGEE PROJECT in the memo line.

Questions? Reach out to Brigitte Burgett at bkburgett@gmail.com and Evelyn Ganzglass at eganzglass@gmail.com

Upcoming 70th Anniversary Events:

April 6 – 50th anniversary recognition of the sanctuary organ

May 3 – 70th Anniversary Gala

May 4 – Barbara Brown Taylor preaching

September 21 – 70th Anniversary Welcome Back, Family focused, look to the future Sunday

To learn more,
scan the QR code:



ADD YOUR PICTURES TO THE 70th ANNIVERSARY PHOTO COLLECTION

(could be used for slide show, games, decoration, etc.)

- 1) Email digital pictures to BHPCPhotos@gmail.com, or
- 2) Bring hard copy pictures to the Gathering Space to be scanned after worship every Sunday February 23 through April 13th.
- 3) Label each photo(s) as follows: (Post-it note on back of print images works)
 - Date -- at least Month and Year photo was taken,
 - Location or event depicted,
 - Name(s) of people in picture,
 - Who took the picture &/or who it belongs to

Questions? Call Bonnie Holcomb at (301) 523-5565. (Text first to say who is calling.)

Join us for an evening of
*Celebration, Remembrance,
& Joy* at the

Anniversary Gala 

May 3, 2025 | 6 pm

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Dinner & Entertainment	Purchase via Realm
Casually Elegant Attire	In-Person sales start Feb. 23
\$70/person	Childcare Will Be Available

bradleyhillschurch.org/70th | [#CelebrateBHPC70](https://twitter.com/CelebrateBHPC70)



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

This is the first Sunday of Lent. As we meditate on Christ's coming sacrifice and look for ways to serve, we are grateful for all the Bradley Hills members and friends whose gifts make our worship and service possible.

Sign-Ups for Flower Dedications



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.

Realm Update



Moving forward, all Realm accounts will require two factor authentication.

Reach out to Kristen at kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org with any questions.

Setting up two factor authentication? Now is the perfect time to update your profile! Add a recent picture, confirm your contact details, and much more!

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:

- The baptism of Lillian Frances Grace (Lilly), daughter of Caroline & Dan Grace, grandparents Gail & George Brown.
- The fellowship, DELICIOUS pancakes and other delectables at the Annual Youth Pancake Lunch. Thanks to all who supported this youth fund raiser for mission trips.

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

- Elizabeth St. John who is having surgery next week.
- Larry Friend (Joanie Friend's husband) for healing and well-being as he recovers from a mild stroke.
- Todd McCreight for health and well-being.
- Dick Tustian for health and well-being.
- Paul (Rebekah Liu's brother) who is receiving treatment for pharyngeal cancer.
- Anna for continued healing.
- Bruce (David's friend) who fell.
- 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:

- All federal employees and others who are feeling anxious related to job loss and/or uncertainty regarding their job.
- The President, his administration, and all government leaders for wisdom to govern in the best interest and welfare of all the people.
- The welfare our country.
- Safety and compassion for undocumented refugee families.
- The people in the Bangladesh, South Korea, 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.

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

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. | 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Lounge

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

BHPCNS is a play based nursery school located on the lower level of BHPC. We have programming for children between the ages of 2 and 5. We currently have over 180 children enrolled in our classes. BHPCNS is proud to be a wonderful first school experience for children in the community. Did you know the playgrounds are open to the community to play after school hours and on the weekends? With the warmer weather and day light savings time we hope you will come and play!

To learn more about BHPCNS, our affordable rates, our registration process, and so much more, call us at 301-365-2909 to arrange a tour. For more information, visit our website, <http://www.bhpcns.org>



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@friendsclubbethesda.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

Section Leaders—Marie Marquis (soprano), Kaytlin Withers (alto), Brynn Farlow (tenor), Steven Slupe (bass)

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

March 16 | Confirmation Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

March 23 | Music Sunday with the Chancel Choir performing Morton Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*

March 30 | Youth Sunday

April 6 | Communion | Celebration of Organ and Sutherland Ministry

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 13 | Palm Sunday

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

April 17 | Maunday Thursday | 7:30 p.m.

April 18 | Good Friday | Noon and 7:30 p.m.

April 20 | Easter Sunday | 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 27 | Blessing of the Animals | 8:30 a.m.

Creation Care Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

May 4 | One Service at 10:30 a.m.

Preaching: Barbara Brown Taylor



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