

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church  
August 17, 2025  
10:00 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 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](http://www.bradleyhillchurch.org)**

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | **[david@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto: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 or connect with David after the service. New members join October 26.

# GATHERING TOGETHER

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### CARILLON PEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

### GATHERING MUSIC

Trio

Annabel Hunter  
Julius Reubke

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pat Stocker

One: Love the Lord your God,

**All: with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind,**

One: Love you neighbor as yourself,

**All: with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!**

One: Do this and you will live!

**All: Let us worship God!**

### \*HYMN 479

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

*Lauda Anima*

### WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor Denise Diaab

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

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

### MINUTE FOR MEMORY

Steve Fox

## CONFESSING AND PRAISING

### PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

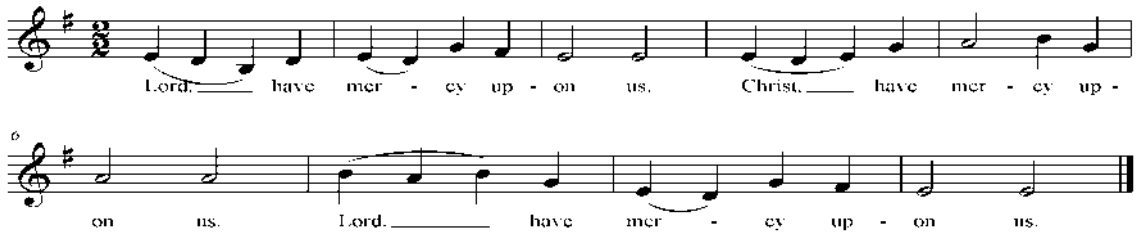
God of Mercy:

**We confess that we have failed to live as your beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things of this world, and we have neglected the inheritance of love you bestow upon your saints. We have pursued selfish aims in our daily business; we have harbored uncharitable thoughts toward our enemies and friends; we have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us we pray. Free us from our selfish ways and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.**

*Silence for personal confession.*

## KYRIE

arr. David Johnson



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.*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

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

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

*Kids ages 3 years old 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

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world;  
Every person, everywhere, Jesus holds them in His care,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Denise Diaab

## \*HYMN 341

Blessed Assurance

Assurance

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS

### CALL FOR THE 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

A Miniature

Gordon Phillips

## \*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

\*Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

### 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**

Standing on the Promises  
Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

### *Refrain*

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

### *Refrain*

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.

### *Refrain*

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING MUSIC**

Toccata in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**Community Reach of Montgomery County**, formally Community Ministries of Rockville, has been a mission partner of Bradley Hills for many years. Community Reach is sponsoring the coffee hour this morning as an expression of gratitude for Bradley Hills' continuous support for their mission projects. More information about Community Reach is available at <https://www.cmrocks.org/>

## Preview of August 24

**Join Us for Worship | One Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Hymn sing | Pulpit Exchange - Rabbi Eric Abbott from BJC |  
Organ - Annabel Hunter

**Coffee Hour** | Folks can bring food throughout the summer, if interested. The next organized coffee hour will be Welcome Back Sunday, September 7.

**A Note** | Pastor David is traveling today, but will be back in the office tomorrow.

**Congregational Meeting** | There will be a very brief congregational meeting on Sunday August 31 right after worship (11:00 a.m.) in person in the Sanctuary and online to elect our new nominating committee members.

Welcome Back Brunch Potluck

We're having a Birthday Party!

**Bradley Hills**  
is turning **70**

- ✓ GAMES FOR KIDS
- ✓ BIRTHDAY CAKE
- ✓ BOUNCY HOUSE
- ✓ SHAVED ICE
- ✓ "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" SING-A-LONG

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 11:30 A.M.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**70**

 Bradley Hills  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Invitation to Gatherings about BHPC's Future

Dear BHPC community,

We are anticipating an exciting fall at Bradley Hills. 70 years ago, spiritual friends dreamed of a church that would have a generational, life-changing impact on multitudes of people throughout the greater DC area and beyond. This year, we celebrate that, for 70 years, this bold vision has been manifested in and through the people of BHPC to have a positive impact on our community. As we celebrate our cherished past and honor our present, we now look to where God may be calling us for the future.

I'm inviting the members and friends of Bradley Hills to imagine the life-changing impact of a church that is prepared for that future. In 2023, our Session approved the recommendations of our Strategic Visioning Task Force Report which encouraged, among other things, the church to take bold action to ensure the long-term sustainability of BHPC at 6601 Bradley Blvd.

In that spirit, I invite you to join me for a time of dreaming and visioning as we consider our next steps as a church family.

**Here are the details for a series of "First Impressions Gatherings" scheduled for later this month and early September.** Because we want everyone to be able to attend a gathering, we are providing three opportunities. Why "first impressions?" Before launching into a potential capital campaign, we would like to receive feedback and input from our community. I would love for you to be at the table for one of these gatherings. If these dates don't work for you, I, and our Session, look forward to having a chance to connect with you in the coming weeks.

## First Impression Gatherings

1. (in person) Sunday, Aug 24, following 10:00 a.m. worship, in Covenant Hall
2. (in person) Sunday, Sept 7, following 10:30 a.m. worship, in Covenant Hall
3. (virtual) Sunday, Sept 7 by Zoom, 7:00 p.m., by scanning the QR code below:



Meeting ID: 835 6944 1971      Passcode: 001787

I look forward to seeing you soon. Grace and peace as we journey forward together.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David".



## In-Person Meeting to Provide Comments on Draft BHPC Antiracism Policy

Sunday, October 5

11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m. (immediately following worship service)

Covenant Hall

Earlier this spring, the Racial Justice Coordinating Committee (RJCC) invited volunteers from our congregation to participate in drafting an Antiracism Policy, which our PC (USA) denomination requires every church to have. After receiving feedback from the BHPC Session, members of the BHPC RJCC met with several of the Lay Ministry groups to receive comments. Following the worship service on October 5, we are inviting the congregation to meet to discuss the draft policy and provide comments.

Please scan the QR code to read the draft policy. Copies will also be available in the Narthex.



*If you have written comments, please forward them to Don Picard by October 5.*

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## Church School Teachers Needed

There is a need for church school teachers for the '25-'26 school year. *Church school starts on Sunday, September 7, 2025 and goes through Sunday, May 17, 2026.* Church school teachers usually teach once a month. Each classroom typically has 10-15 children in attendance.

### We need teachers for the following classrooms:

**Preschool Church School (ages 3-4)** | 4 lead teachers to collaborate with parent volunteers (in a co-op style format) to teach a basic curriculum of story, craft and snack. Training in best practices for preschool classroom instruction and management will be provided and supervised throughout the school year by DCYFM Rosanna Howard.

**Godly Play (Kindergarten)** | 2 lead teachers and 2 door persons to teach the Godly Play curriculum and support the Godly Play classroom. Training in the Godly Play curriculum with a GP trainer and DCYFM will be provided in late August.

**Godly Play (1-2 Grade)** | 2 lead teachers and 2 door persons to teach the Godly Play curriculum and support the Godly Play classroom. Training in the Godly Play curriculum with a GP trainer and DCYFM will be provided in late August.

**Club 3-4-5** | 3 lead teachers and 2 second adults to implement the Feasting on the Word Curriculum. Training in classroom management and best practices will be offered by the DCYFM in late August.

***To learn more about the commitment or ask any questions, reach out to DCYFM Rosanna Howard at [rosanna@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:rosanna@bradleyhillchurch.org).***

**Fall Small Group Leaders Needed** | Please contact Pastor Denise at [denise@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:denise@bradleyhillchurch.org) by Sunday, August 24 if you would be willing to be a Small Group conversation leader, or if you would like more information. See below for more information about the groups.

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## Register for Fall Small Groups

September 21 thru October 26

In-Person or Online

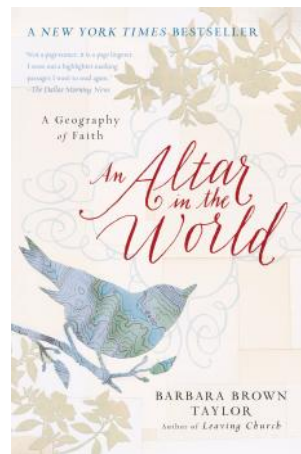
Resource: *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

If you had the pleasure of seeing and hearing Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor during our 70th Anniversary Gala weekend, you'll want to participate in Fall Small Groups as we use her book to "discover the spiritual treasures to be found by engaging with real life in the real world through ordinary physical activities." By engaging in the practices, Taylor "hopes that [these practices] will help us recognize some of the altars in this world - ordinary-looking places where human beings have met and may continue to meet up with the divine that they sometimes call God." Even if you missed the opportunity to see Dr. Taylor, you won't want to miss Fall Small Groups.

Using Taylor's book, each group will select six practices to explore during their time together between September 21 and October 26.

Below is the list of practices:

The Practice of Waking up to God - Vision  
The Practice of Paying Attention - Reverence  
The Practice of Wearing Skin - Incarnation  
The Practice of Walking on the Earth - Groundedness  
The Practice of Getting Lost - Wilderness  
The Practice of Encountering Others - Community  
The Practice of Living with Purpose - Vocation  
The Practice of Saying No - Sabbath  
The Practice of Carrying Water - Physical Labor  
The Practice of Feeling Pain - Breakthrough  
The Practice of Being Present to God - Prayer  
The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings - Benediction



## **Small Groups will meeting at the following times:**

Sunday, 7:00 p.m., in-person  
Sunday, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom  
Monday, 7:00 p.m. on zoom  
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

**Email Pastor Denise at [denise@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto:denise@bradleyhillchurch.org) to register. Please include your first and second choice of group time.**

**VBS Fresh Food Request** | Want to help with VBS but can't be here during the day next week? Well don't worry! We have 60+ volunteers that we need to keep happy and fed! We have tons of individually packaged snack food, but would love to have some fresh food to offer them daily. Please review the available slots and click on the button to sign up to bring baked goods, fruit or other fresh snacks. You can bring your food to the kitchen on the day before you sign up or the morning of the day of! Thank you for helping us feed our wonderful volunteers!

You can also help by donating to our food drive! Please bring all donations for Bethesda Help to the church on or before August 19 and place in the provided bins in the Main Office, Narthex and Gathering Space.



# FOOD DRIVE



VBS Participants will be making Snack  
Bags for Bethesda Help. You can help  
by donating:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| -juice boxes  | -pretzels       |
| -fruit cups   | -raisins        |
| -applesauce   | -granola bars   |
| -fruit snacks | -crackers/chips |
| -cookies      | -goldfish       |

*\*individual packages please\**

**PLEASE DROP OFF FOOD BY AUG. 17TH**



## *Bethesda Help*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need

It's a Bradley Hills  
**Summer**  
*Spectacular*  
**Send-Off!**

**LAUGHTER    MUSIC**  
**BLESSINGS    ICE CREAM**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**  
**10:00 am Worship**

Say goodbye to summer  
at this light, laughter-  
filled worship service.  
Celebrate the new  
school year too!  
+ Family friendly.  
+ Fun for all ages.



**Holy Humor Sunday**



- VBS Children's Choir
- Offering of "Hallelujah"  
by Tenor Section Leader



**Blessing of  
the Backpacks**



**Ice Cream Social**



**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.BradleyHillsChurch.org](http://www.BradleyHillsChurch.org)**

Click the **GIVE NOW** button

**A Note from Stewardship** | August is National Make-a-Will Month. If you do not have a will, the law of the state where you live, rather than your wishes and values, will determine where your remaining assets will go. And none of your assets will go to Bradley Hills or to any other charity. If you prepare a will, you can name Bradley Hills as a beneficiary of a portion of your estate, in order to perpetuate Christian traditions that you cherish and to provide continuing support for church programs and ministries that will keep your values alive for future generations.

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

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

- The family of Teddy Hill (Lee Anne Graeub's uncle) who died recently in New Jersey.
- The family of Victor Schwartz whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 23. All are invited to the reception which will be held at the family home immediately following the service.
- The family of Albert Pike (Vicki Pike's father) whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 10.
- The family of Bill Davis (Ellen Gagne's husband) whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall on Sunday, November 2, followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.
- The family of Suzanne Noonan (mother of Liz Sobrino (BHNS Director) whose memorial service will be held on September 26, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (Georgetown). The family is receiving visitors at 11:30. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Father McKenna House.

### **We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations.**

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

- Those hospitalized, injured, facing surgery, being treated for chronic illness, cancer, ALS, or Parkinson's, awaiting medical tests and/or results, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the community.
- Jan Hurt (Rosanna Howard's mother) as she recovers from surgery.
- Kay (Elaine's daughter-in-law) who is recovering from a stroke.
- Sharon Griffith for health and well-being.
- Ben Flowe for health and well-being.
- Todd McCreight for health and well-being.
- Dick Tustian for health and well-being.

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

- The people of Gaza who are in dire need for food and humanitarian aid.
- All government leaders to use wisdom to govern in the best interest and welfare of all the people.
- The welfare of our country.
- 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.
- All who are feeling anxious related to job loss and/or uncertainty regarding their job.
- The people in Bangladesh, South Korea, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.

# Summer at Bradley Hills

## Worship

**Worship at 10:00 a.m.** | In the Sanctuary and online

## Adult Education & Small Groups

**Adult Education** | On break for the summer. Will resume after Labor Day

**Bible Study** | Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom

## Mission

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

**Smart Sacks** | On break for the summer. Will resume after Labor Day

## Children and Family Programs

**Childcare** | Children 3 and under at 10:00 a.m. Worship

**Church School** | Sundays at 10:15 a.m. after the Children's Message

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

**Baby and Me** | Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Crib Room. Will resume after Labor Day.

**Vacation Bible School** | August 18-22

**Flower Dedication** | The flowers are dedicated in loving memory of Doug MacLean, by Janelle MacLean.

## **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.

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

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

## Our Staff

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@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
Pastoral Counselors	Samantha Steinfield	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)		

## **Worship Schedule**

One service this summer at 10:00 a.m.

August 24 | Hymn Sing | Pulpit Exchange | Organ: Annabel Hunter  
*Message: Rabbi Eric Abbott from BJC*

August 31 | Holy Humor Sunday | VBS Song | Blessing of the Backpacks  
Organ: Annabel Hunter | Section Leader Steven Slupe  
Congregational Meeting | Ice Cream Social  
*Preaching: Pastor David Gray*

September 7 | Welcome Back Sunday  
Fall schedule begins with Coffee Hour and Adult Education  
Two services at 8:30 a.m. (outside)/10:30 a.m.  
Fall sermon series begins – “Being a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
Commission church teachers | Communion  
*Preaching: Pastor David Gray*