

Expressions

A Newsletter for the Congregation of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Coming Home in the Fall

These past few weeks I've been thinking about home. I went back to Ohio to see my parents. We went to the Friday night football game at my high school. I was down on the field for a time with friends at the beginning. Being in the stadium and with my folks took me back. Then it was homecoming at our local high school here in Bethesda. With three at Whitman, Bridget and I had a chance to see homecoming weekend through the eyes of our kids. Then our oldest came home on fall break - the first time we've had a child come home from college. It was good having the whole crew together - at home.

There is something about fall that reminds me of going home. The leaves, flavors, weather, sports, remind me of home. Fall at home settled me growing up after travels and camps of the summer. The programming of the season at church brings me home. BHPC comes alive in new ways each fall.

November is a month that encourages us to think about home.

- *November 2 is All Saints Sunday*, when we honor those who have gone before us in faith. Those church members who have returned home to God.
- *November 9 is Dedication Sunday*, when we bring forth our pledges of support for 2026 to care for our church home at BHPC.
- *November 16 is Interfaith Sunday*, when we celebrate that 6601 Bradley is home to a unique model of spiritual siblings sharing sacred space.
- *November 23 is Christ the King Sunday*, when we finish the liturgical year remembering that Jesus alone is our sovereign and we return to the one who prepares a place for us.
- *November 30 is the First Sunday of Advent*, when we come home in faith, and begin the new church spiritual year by focusing on the coming of the Christ into our world.

November is both an ending and a beginning. Both the end of one liturgical year and of one journey, and the beginning of new life to come. As we read in the Book of Revelation, which we often refer to in November, God is coming, to us, to bring us home.

This fall, around homecoming weekends, our Chancel Choir sang, both in worship and at a special memorial service, Stephen Paulus' haunting hymn, *The Road Home*. They beautifully sang,

*After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home.*

Friends, with all the challenges of our time, the Holy Spirit calls to us. Inviting us to follow Jesus. The love of Christ's heart is here for each of us. For in faith, our Lord comes to lead us home.

May this season be a meaningful one for you. See you at church.

In Christ's love,

David



November Worship

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online

November 2

All Saints Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Communion

Honoring those who have died in the past year.



World Communion Sunday | October 2025



November 9

Dedication Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Dedication Sunday is a chance to bring forward, as an act of worship, 2026 pledge cards with the amount we prayerfully hope to give next year.



Make your 2026
pledge here.



November 16

Interfaith Sunday

The 10:30 a.m. service will highlight an interfaith choir, prayers, dialogue and reading sacred texts from the three traditions. There will also be a brunch after the 10:30 service and an Interfaith Thanksgiving Assemble-a-Basket event.

November 23

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab



November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Labyrinth Walk: 9:15 a.m. (between services)

Get Connected | Explore Membership

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



Interfaith Service: 10:30 a.m. | Brunch: 11:30 a.m.

Join together in worship with members of three faiths as we celebrate our common spirit.

Brunch Registration: \$20 Adults | \$5 Kids 12 and Under. Please register by Nov. 13



Join us for brunch! We are happy to help if cost is a concern. Email us at icpc6601@gmail.com

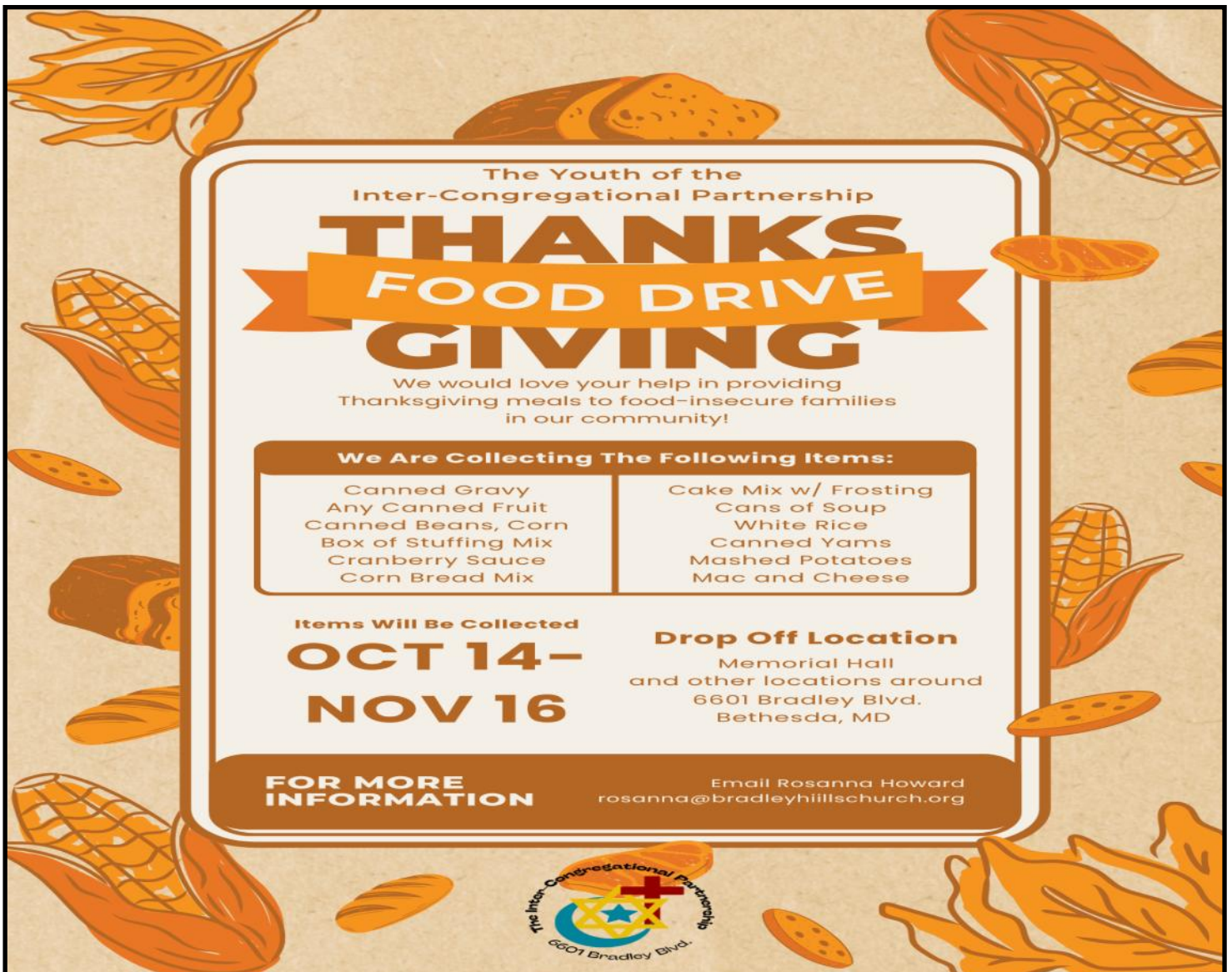
6601 Worship Partners

Bethesda Jewish Congregation
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center



**** Any funds remaining after all brunch expenses are paid will go to supporting Interfaith activities.**

Mission



If you prefer not to shop, a monetary donation enables us to include grocery store gift cards for each family to purchase a turkey or other perishable items for their meal. You can donate in several ways:

- Online by credit card (via Realm): Choose “Thanksgiving Baskets” in drop down box for “Fund”.
- Purchase a \$25 gift card from Giant and deliver them to Rosanna Howard at BHPC or the Bethesda Jewish Congregation office.
- Monetary donations may also be made by check, made payable to either Bethesda Jewish Congregation or Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, with “Thanksgiving Drive” in the memo. Mail or hand deliver to either BHPC or BJC.

Any donated funds and food remaining after making 100 baskets will be donated to *A Wider Circle*.

Smart Sacks | An opportunity for the whole family! Join us immediately after the 10:30 service to assemble the sacks, which will go to area families in need. We also need volunteers to help set up before the assembly. Set-up volunteers need to be able to do some lifting. We are also looking for volunteers to deliver food during the week to public schools. Delivery volunteers need to do some lifting as well.

Interested in joining the Smart Sacks team? Contact Elaine Henderson or Jim Kettler during the Smart Sacks assembly time after the 10:30 a.m. service.



Mission

Alternative Giving

Plan Your Holiday Giving



BHPC's tradition of Alternative Giving continues this Advent. The emphasis is on ways in which your support can help offset a small part of the damage caused by 2025's harsh, inhumane cuts. We invite you to view your gift as a way of **TAKING ACTION**.

Details of 2025 alternative giving choices will be reviewed during the November 9th Adult Education session. **You may fully participate in person on Sundays or online beginning on November 23 through the end of the year.**

TAKE ACTION in honor of friends, loved ones, co-workers and church staff.

Angel Gift Tree - Coming Soon

Give a gift to a child or senior citizen. A few names may be available on Sunday, Nov 9. **All the rest will be available on Nov 23 and Nov 30, in Covenant Hall.** Sign up, get the wish list and gift tag, go shopping, wrap the gift, bring it to the sanctuary **NO LATER THAN 10:30** on Sunday December 7. Have fun!

Gift recipients come from The Women's Collective, Dennis Avenue Health Center, and Patterson Elementary school. The Patterson children are from the neighborhood served by the Feeding Families program.

Stewardship

Dedication Sunday is November 9

We celebrate and appreciate the people from all generations who, over the past 70 years, have supported Bradley Hills through their pledges.

Dedication Sunday is a time where we bring our pledge cards forward during worship as a sacred act of love and commitment. This year Dedication Sunday will be on November 9.

So, if you are worshipping in person on November 9, please remember to bring your pledge card and take part in this tradition.

If you have pledged before November 9 on Realm, by email, snail mail, or otherwise, we will supply cards on November 9 that you can use to participate in that act of worship. If you are worshipping remotely November 9,

you may use any of these methods to send in your pledge.

We are grateful for every pledge and we thank you in advance for supporting the many programs at BHPC that help make us a church that nurtures all generations.



GENERATIONS
STEWARDSHIP 2026

Financial Lay Ministry | Third Quarter Update

Operating Budget

Thanks to the many members who have faithfully given, our revenue is tracking slightly ahead of budget. We experienced our typical summer giving slump and are grateful to everyone who has made the effort to “catch up.” We continue to be mindful of potential economic uncertainties within our community. However, our current financial position continues to provide a solid foundation for the months ahead.

REVENUE

Overall: Ahead of budget; 79.9% of year-to-date (YTD) budget achieved.

- **Congregational Giving:** Pledged giving at 79% and unpledged giving at 93% of annual budget
- **Building Use:** Congregational partners are on track.
- **Investment/Other Income:** Over 94.7% of annual budget, as we recorded the annual endowment draw income in January.

EXPENSES

Overall: Slightly ahead of budget; 75.9% of (YTD) budget achieved.

Program Areas: Generally at budget (74%).

- **Property Management:** Ahead of budget (106%) due to higher than anticipated snow removal expenses and unanticipated BHP CNS classroom expenses.
- **Mission (MCLM):** Significant portion spent early in the year (97.1%), supporting 16 mission partners as well as summer youth trips.
- **Session:** Ahead of budget (95%). This is due to a payment made in support of our Racial Justice Program which exceeded what had been budgeted. This overage was reviewed and approved by the Finance Lay Ministry.

Operating Budget Bottom Line: YTD Net Income: \$70,342 (vs. budgeted year-end surplus of \$6,640).

Outlook: Well-positioned, but recognizing potential employment uncertainty within our community.

Capital Budget

Capital spending is at 79% of the annual capital budget and all projects are completed. A large portion of the money budgeted for window replacement was offset by grant funds received.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to one of our FLM members: Dave Burgett, Chair; John Buchman, Session Liaison, Ed Hummers, Jalena Specht, Jim Everett, Jon Winslow, Bethany Frick, Jan Spencer (staff), and David Gray, Pastor.

Learning at Bradley Hills

Adult Education

November 2nd | Join us for a special treat this All-Souls' Sunday! In the 2nd of a two-part series, we've impaneled a select group of "21st century" men to share their influencers, insights, challenges, and experiences with us. Their perspectives will offer a unique and refreshing contrast to those of the last century. Venus Masselam will moderate our panelists of Cliff Ty, Jeff McCreight, Andrew Graeb, and David Munson. A brief Question & Answer session will follow.

November 9th | Planting Seeds for Justice: 2025 Alternative Giving at Bradley Hills. Bonnie Holcomb and Elizabeth St. John will help us look at this time-honored Advent tradition at Bradley Hills with a faith perspective that is appropriate to our times and offer alternative giving as a way to respond to the changes of 2025, so that making donations is a conscious act of planting seeds to rebuild the justice that has been lost.

When: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Where: Lounge

Childcare will be provided.

Join by Zoom:

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87254279672pwd=8bP8qyiNwbraADFcCkYzsI3VjAcCxCl>

Meeting ID: 872 5427 9672 **Passcode:** 505554

Audio only call: 1-301-715-8592



November 16th | Adult Education will not meet in support of Interfaith Sunday and the many activities surrounding it.

November 23rd | Prepare for the emotional challenges of the holiday season and increase your ability to experience happiness and joy. Join us and learn how to use Emotional Control Tools that allay social anxiety and reduce the intensity of fear, tension, and anger. Ed Philip, Certified Hypnotist, will share practices that have been adapted and widely used by professionals.

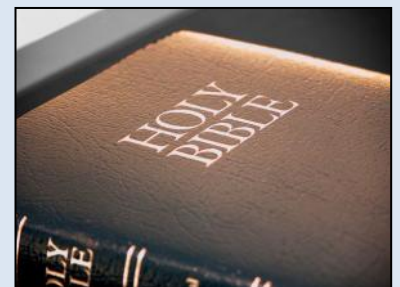
November 30th | Adult Ed will not meet over the Thanksgiving weekend. Join us for a Labyrinth walk outside between the two services.



Bible Study on Zoom November 6 and 19

Bible Study continues this fall. Join us by Zoom on Thursday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss scripture with Pastor David or Pastor Denise. You do not need to be a member of Bradley Hills to attend our Bible Study classes. Everyone in the community is invited! Whether you enjoy actively participating or simply wish to listen in, all are welcome.

Contact Kristen Abbott at the Church Office for the Bible Study Zoom link.



Children, Youth, and Families

Youth Group

Desserts and Devotion
Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Meet in the kitchen.

Youth Group Meeting
Sundays at noon.
Meet in the Youth Lounge.

Church School

We are excited to be a part of your family's spiritual formation, and we hope you will join us at Church School each Sunday and for our special events! During the 10:30 worship, children ages 3–5th grade are invited to head upstairs for Church School.

Ages 3–2nd grade | Godly Play 3rd–5th grade: | Club 3–4–5



INTERFAITH YOUTH GROUP



Lunch | Thanksgiving Service Project | Games

Saturday, November 8, 2025

11:30–2:00 PM

Memorial Hall

Middle and high schoolers from Bradley Hills Presbyterian, Bethesda Jewish Congregation, and Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center will come together for food, fellowship and service. We will be assembling 50 Thanksgiving baskets to deliver the following week to Anacostia, making crafts and cards to include in the baskets, and setting up the additional donations for assembly on Interfaith Sunday.

SSL hours are available.

RSVP



Music at BHPC

A Note from Paul

Members of the BHPC community continue to introduce themselves and it has been great to meet you and to hear what you've been noticing over the past weeks. This season of transition provides an opportunity to lean into music's unique role in congregational life and how it shapes our experience of worship. What is energizing or engaging you? What is challenging or disorienting? How might BHPC's music ministry continue to grow and evolve? What feels so important you hope it is sustained for years to come? Be sure to speak to a member of the musician search committee and help shape the vital discernment work they are doing.

Faith communities are one of the few places in our culture where we still make music together. As I shared in my Adult Education offering last month, the Reformed tradition sees the congregation as the principal choir of the church, and what a gift to sing our prayer and praise each week. I hope you feel that worship welcomes your voice – confident, wobbly, or somewhere in between. What we each contribute to worship makes our shared song even more complete and vibrant.

And our choirs are also vital, as they pray on our behalf with preparation and skill. As they do their ministry faithfully, we experience the presence of God in a tangible way and grow in faith and love for others.

So, participate as you're able, as a member of the congregation or in one of our singing or ringing choirs. We are quickly approaching the Advent/Christmas season and you are welcome to sing or ring for the holidays. The Community Choir gathers again on Dedication Sunday and there is an opportunity to sing with interfaith partners, too. An updated calendar with upcoming musical offerings is below and our next Friends of Music concert is right around the corner. Share in the joy and blessing of music at BHPC and join us!

Upcoming Music Opportunities

Interfaith Choir | Join singers from BJC and MIIC for two evening rehearsals in preparation for our annual Interfaith Service on Sunday, November 16. We'll gather in Covenant Hall at **7 pm on Thursday, November 6 and November 13** to enjoy 30 minutes of dessert and fellowship followed by an hour of rehearsal. We'll sing music that reflects our varied faith traditions and our shared values of hospitality, respect, and collaboration. Singers of all ages and skill levels warmly welcome.

Community Choir | On Sunday, November 9 at 9:30 am, the Community Choir welcomes youth and adults to rehearse and sing on Dedication Sunday. All are welcome, especially if you are new to BHPC or have sung in the past. Join us as we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God through music!

Chancel Choir | All voice parts are warmly welcome to join us for weekly rehearsals on **Thursday at 7:30 pm and on Sunday mornings**. We're happy to welcome singers for shorter-term singing commitments, too.

Make a Joyful Noise! Join a Children's Choir



Alleluia Singers | Pre-K to 2nd Grade
Select Sundays after worship from
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Lantern Chorale | 3rd-8th Grade
Select Thursday evenings from 5:30-
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



BRADLEY HILLS

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



**SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER TO BRING
CHILI OR TOPPINGS:**



**JOIN US FOR AN
EVENING OF
DELICIOUS CHILI
AND FELLOWSHIP.**

**PRIZES FOR THE
BEST CHILI'S!**

\$10/AGE 12 & UP |

\$5/AGE 5-11

**ALL FUNDS WILL GO TO
SUPPORT YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS.**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2025
5:00-7:00 P.M.
MEMORIAL HALL**



Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

**November 30
5:00-6:00 pm**

Gather in Sanctuary



Outside tree lighting followed by hot cocoa and fellowship (inside).

BHPC Zoom Presentation

SACRED MYSTERIES OF THE LABYRINTH - A TOOL TO GUIDE THE WAY

Monday, November 24, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In preparation for our annual Church Labyrinth Walk on the First Sunday of Advent, we invite you to join us via zoom to learn more about this ancient tool for awareness and spiritual connection.

We will be sharing a recorded presentation by labyrinth expert, Charles Bernstein on the symbolism, mysteries, and sacred geometry of the world-famous Chartres Cathedral labyrinth in France. He will help us explore how the labyrinth can assist us in:

- Finding inner peace – beyond outer circumstances
- Focusing and staying present to the moment
- Opening our minds and hearts to fresh perspectives



Join by Zoom

Meeting ID: 890 5763 4034

Passcode: 950663

Friends of Music

Reflections: Works for Cello by Bloch, Weinberg, Chopin

Sunday, November 9, 2025 | 5:00 pm

Amit Peled, cello

Stefan Petrov, piano

Hailed by the *New York Times* for his “glowing tone, seductive timbre and an emotionally pointed approach to phrasing that makes you want to hear him again,” Israel cellist Amit Peled returns to Bradley Hills Presents with pianist Stefan Petrov for a concert full of Eastern European flair! Recent performances include venues such as Carnegie and Alice Tulley Halls, the Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, and the Konzerthaus, Berlin.

Tickets (In Person only): \$40/30/15 for general admission, students, and children under age 15.



Purchase
tickets by
scanning the
QR code:

Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee

The What | The Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee, ICPC, is a decades-old partnership originally between the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC). In 2019, the Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC) joined the partnership when it began sharing sacred space at 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Why | The ICPC works to nurture connections among the three faith communities throughout the year through shared service projects, social and topical events, an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service, and an annual interfaith spring picnic. We believe that engaging one another face-to-face, having conversations over food, learning about each other's experiences, and sharing our faith traditions helps us to see one another more fully and build enduring relationships.



INTERCONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION TO ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS

A 3 Session Series

SESSION 3 - CHRISTIANITY

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
7 - 8:30 PM**

*** SPEAKER: PASTOR DAVID GRAY**



Covenant Hall, 6601 Bradley Blvd.,
Bethesda, MD 20817

REGISTER HERE

BHPC Nursery School



As we move into November, BHPCNS is so very thankful to our families for sharing their children with us, to our wonderful staff of dedicated teachers who teach and love the children each day, to our parents who support the school, and to BHPC for sharing their amazing campus and building with us. We wish everyone who is a member of the community at 6601 a safe and delicious Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends.

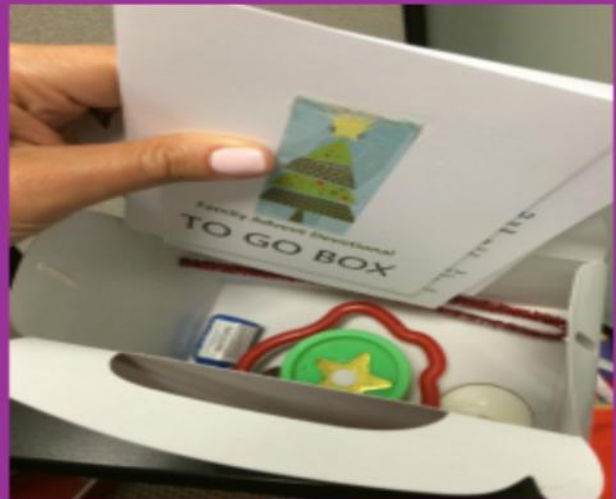
Registration is under way for the 2026-27 school year. BHPCNS is a community, play-based preschool where each child is embraced for their unique and special personalities. If you would like to learn more about how your child can play, grow, and learn with us, call for a tour, 301-365-2909 or visit our website, www.bhpcns.org for more information. BHPC members receive priority admission status in the program.

BHPC Families and Friends

Pick up your family's
very own
Advent-To-Go Box!

Advent Devotionals for
your family to use at
home!

Pick up outside Rosanna's
office at the end of
November.



An Important Note - Church Email and Text Scams

Religious communities nationally have scammers sending members emails and now texts pretending to be clergy and asking for financial or urgent help. If you receive an unusual email or text from someone pretending to be David or staff asking for a favor or money or for you to buy something for them quickly, please ignore them. BHPC pastors and staff will not send you such texts or emails, they are from scammers. Ignore and do not respond to the texts or emails. Sorry for the inconvenience.



Fall at BHPC | Flower Workshop, Fall Call, Trunk or Treat



Connect with Others

Join the Visiting Team

If you are looking for a way to serve Christ and build relationships, the Visiting Team may be a good fit for you. In conjunction with pastoral care offered by BHPC's clergy staff, deacons, and elders; our visiting team provides monthly visits to members of the congregation to provide caring support, Christian fellowship, and a nurturing relationship to those in need. At its core, the BHPC visiting team is a ministry of presence for those they visit. We meet monthly for training on topics such as: how to be present, protecting privacy, and managing challenging situations. We also provide mutual support to each other as we navigate the journey of being a visitor to those in need of connection as a means of showing Christ's love in the world. You are welcome to attend a meeting to investigate the Visiting Team without any obligation. For more information, please contact Denise Diaab at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org or Jennifer Kline at jennkline0329@gmail.com.

Happy November Birthdays

3 Nov	Bill Albershardt	12 Nov	Jackson Biggs	17 Nov	Melissa Gregory	28 Nov	Reme Guerrero
	Nora Grace Veghte		Pattie Howie		Leanne Frenkel		Jong Lee
	Katie Young		Benjamin Scribner		Ted Rabin-Rosfjord		Carolyn Fink
	Saul Weiner		Bruce Downey		Daniele Smith		Julia Anderson
	Christina Lane		Jan Spencer		Sharon Griffith		Zelamie Bremer
4 Nov	Fran Weaver		Noah Tadesse	18 Nov			
	Matthew Derry	13 Nov	Charles Martel	19 Nov	Scott Northup	29 Nov	Owen Cylke
	Christina Liu		Phil Mace	20 Nov	Robyn Sng	Margaret Rhoads	
	Rosanna Howard			Roger Sng	31 Nov	Melissa Kallas	
5 Nov	Isabel Meridith			21 Nov	Missy Kelly		Sam Biesi
	Amanda Owens	14 Nov	Marina Wong		Anna Liffiton		
6 Nov	Ethan Coffin		Lauren Behsudi	22 Nov	Valerie Hinrichs		
	James Hurtt	15 Nov	Josh Busch	23 Nov	Lillian Grace		
7 Nov	Imogen Schneck		John Bowis	24 Nov	Paul Harris		
9 Nov	Nancy Cooper		Laila Specht		Jeff McCreight		
10 Nov	Andrew Christensen		Catherine Payne		Sarah Brady		
	Kate Winslow	16 Nov	Margaret Rick	25 Nov	Emily Williams		
	Leon Zhou		Greta Mann		Brian Adams		
	Adam Specht		26 Nov	Brooke Rickett			
11 Nov	Gail Schlueter		Helen Drake	27 Nov	Christoph Herfarth		
	Kaitlyn Corno						

Photos & Announcements

Items for the December 2025 BHX should be sent to **Kristen Abbott** at kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org by 11/15.

Did We Miss Your Birthday?

Email **Kristen Abbott**,
Office Manager, at kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org
so we can celebrate with you.



Flower Sign Ups

Interested in dedicating flowers in honor or memory of someone? Use the QR code, or contact Susan Vanderver or Bie Fox. Each dedication costs \$65. All proceeds go to the Flower Guild and Sunday arrangements.



Flower Deliveries

Looking for volunteers to drive and deliver floral arrangements to members who are housebound or ill. To sign up, use the QR code or contact Dee Llewellyn or Caroline Simpson.



6601 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Interfaith Sunday - November 16



www.BradleyHillsChurch.org

6601 Bradley Blvd. ▪ Bethesda, MD 20817 ▪ 301-365-2850

Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 am to 4 pm; Fri. 9 am to 1 pm

If you would like to stop receiving a paper copy of the BHX, please email or call [Kristen Abbott](mailto:kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org) at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org | (301) 365-2850. Copies of the BHX are also available in the Narthex.