

Expressions

A Newsletter for the Congregation of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Happy Easter

Friends,

Easter Sunday is such a special time. When the brass starts warming up, I get a special feeling. We see friends on Easter that we haven't seen in a while. Folks dress up. There is a special energy in the air.

2000 ago, Jesus came from Galilee to Jerusalem with his followers for Passover. Jerusalem during Passover would be like our narthex right before an Easter Sunday service. Pilgrims arriving for annual religious devotion. It was packed and loud and exciting. Jesus walked through the crowds on Palm Sunday bringing a message about the kingdom of God. They arrested and tried Jesus, asked the crowds what to do with him and publicly crucified him on what we call Good Friday to make an example of him before the crowds.

Yet by Easter Sunday, everything had changed. The crowds around Jesus had mostly gone from where Jesus was. However, those who courageously stayed made the miraculous discovery that Jesus had risen. As the Holy Week journey progressed, the Gospel writers shifted their focus from the crowds to the personal reactions of folks responding to the excitement of Easter morning. They wrote of the women and the disciples whose lives would never be the same.

It can be too easy to shift away from Easter after worship is over, the eggs have filled the baskets, the lamb is eaten and we have returned from spring break. Yet because of the resurrection of Jesus, life is never the same. Because he lives, our time horizon is eternal. Because he lives, our lives have new meaning. Because he lives, we are connected to God and each other in startling new ways. Because he lives, death is no longer our captor or enemy. Death has lost its sting. The tomb door is open. We are forever free.

We are Easter people. We declare the good news that Jesus is alive. Alive on Easter and alive in and for all who profess to partner with Jesus along the journey of life. Our celebration of the Easter season has a variety of opportunities as you read in this newsletter.

But it all starts with Easter Sunday - this year at BHPC we'll have two identical services at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on-line. I look forward to seeing you there.

May we respond with excitement to the spirit of Easter morning. May we declare that we are to be counted among those disciples who stay in the Easter spirit all month long.

May we celebrate, with God and each other, Christ's victory. Because of the experience of Jesus' love, our lives will never be the same.

See you at church.

In Christ's love,

David



April Worship

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online

April 2

Maundy Thursday

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

7:30 p.m.

April 3

Good Friday

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

Noon and 7:30 p.m.

April 5

Easter Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | on John 20

Identical services at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

April 12

Communion

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 19

Creation Care Sunday

8:30 service | Blessing of the Animals

10:30 service | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 26

Youth Sunday

May 3

Communion

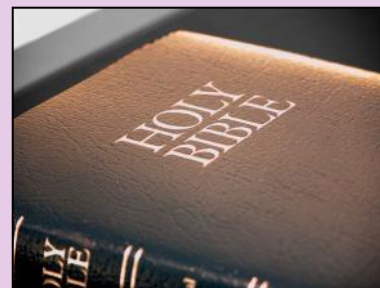
Preaching: Pastor David Gray



Bible Study on Zoom April 8, 15, and 29

Bible Study continues this spring. Join us by Zoom at 2:00 p.m. to discuss scripture with Pastor David and/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 participating or simply wish to listen in, all are welcome.

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



Easter

At Bradley Hills

Sunday, April 5

IDENTICAL SERVICES AT
9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

Message by Pastor David Gray

WITH BRASS AND CHOIR





Easter Egg Hunt

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5
10:30 AM**

Join us for Easter Sunday!

Services at 9:15 & 11:15 AM

Egg Hunt will be between services.

Meet at the playground!



THE DEACONS INVITE YOU TO

EASTER COFFEE HOUR

COFFEE | BEVERAGES | SWEET AND
SAVORY BITES | FELLOWSHIP

IN MEMORIAL HALL
FOLLOWING THE 9:15 AND
11:15 A.M. WORSHIP
SERVICES

Blessing of the Animals



SUNDAY, APRIL 19
8:30 a.m. | Labyrinth



All Church BBQ



JUNE 7, 2026 | 11 AM

➤ *After 10 am service* ➤

Bring a side, salad,
or dessert to share.

Kick off your summer at Bradley Hills' all-church BBQ. Enjoy good food and great company. Bring a friend! Everyone in the neighborhood is invited.



We'll provide the drinks, hotdogs,
& hamburgers

Mission

Sign Up to Provide a Meal | 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.

Sign-ups are now open for 2026.



Sign up to provide a meal at Becky's House:



Sign up to provide a meal at Lon's House:



Distribute Groceries in Anacostia

Help Is Needed the Third Saturday Each Month!

BHPC is proud to support Faith Presbyterian Church's monthly "Feeding Families" project. The demand is now higher than ever for families in the church's neighborhood.

Up to 4-5 BHPC volunteers help Faith's team from 9:00-10:40 am, rain or shine. Volunteers pack 60 grocery bags at the church in Anacostia and distribute them on the church property. Adults, families and teens are welcome.

Sign up on Sign Up Genius or send and email to Joan Burns, BHPC liaison to Faith Presbyterian Church.



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.



Learning at Bradley Hills

Adult Education

April 12 | Meaningful Outreach in Africa: Despite the demise of USAID, Bradley Hills members are working to improve the quality of life in Africa. Learn about projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya supported by BHPC members. Learn about irrigation projects in Congo from Clint Kelly, retired engineer who led research and advanced technology projects in both government and industry. He is best known for initiating the development of the technology base for autonomous driving and demonstrating the first autonomous vehicle in 1985 that operated on ordinary roads. Karl Klontz, a physician-epidemiologist with forty years' experience working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will discuss the concept of portable solar power for those in remote areas. Robyn Nietert, President and Founder of Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI), along with WMI board members June Kyakobye and Montana Stevenson (a BHPC confirmand) will provide an update on the program's outreach to the rural women of East Africa. Now in its 19th year of operation, WMI is building a road out of poverty for thousands of village women and their families through their own hard work, determination, and support from WMI business loans and skills training. Robyn started WMI with June as an outgrowth of a BHPC global service project in Buyobo, Uganda (original home of BHPC member Edith Mafabi).

April 19 | Making Environmental Stewardship Work - Join us for an engaging in-person workshop with a local expert on invasive plant species and their impact on our local ecosystems and waterways. Participants will learn how to identify common invasive plants, explore best practices for safe and effective removal, and discover native plant alternatives that support pollinators, wildlife, and healthier landscapes. Whether you're

caring for church grounds, a home garden, or a community space, this workshop will provide practical tips to help restore biodiversity and protect the health of our local environment.

Dr. Stacy Small-Lorenz is the Statewide Specialist for Residential Landscape Ecology at University of Maryland Extension, where she leads the "Bay-Wise 2.0" Maryland Living Landscapes Program, focused on enhancing biodiversity, water quality, and climate resilience in Maryland watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. With over 30 years of experience in conservation science, working across the U.S., she has called Maryland home for nearly 15 years. Dr. Small-Lorenz holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a B.A.S. in Ecology and Photography from Yale University and The Evergreen State College. Her doctoral work involved studying songbird population response to riparian forest restoration in California's Sacramento River Valley.

April 26 | Immigration Policy and Enforcement

Immigration policy and enforcement in the United States has become a deeply contested issue.

In this discussion, Ekontang (Eko) Makia will present his perspective on the current conversation surrounding this topic. The goal is to provide an understanding of the Trump administration approach to immigration while comparing it with the policies implemented by the Biden administration. Ekontang (Eko) Makia, Bradley Hills member, is originally from Cameroon. He holds an LLB in English Private Law from the University of Yaoundé II in Cameroon and a master's degree in economics and international development from the Protestant University of Yaoundé, Cameroon. He also earned an LLM in International Investment and Trade from the University of Oregon and another LLM with a focus on International Business and Trade from the American University Washington College of Law.

Stewardship

Stewardship is more than giving money. It is also giving our time and talent to support programs that benefit the church, our community, and the world.

One of the programs that Bradley Hills members support with their time and effort is Smart Sacks, which distributes 225 sacks of food each week during the school year to three public elementary schools in Montgomery County, including Sargent Shriver Elementary School and Wheaton Woods Elementary School.

The history. About 10-12 years ago, Hannah Low, the daughter of BHPC member John Low, participated in the Smart Sacks program through Manna Food Center with her high school. She suggested to her father that Bradley Hills could also support this mission, and as BHPC had been searching for a significant on-site mission project, John started it here.. Initially BHPC members assembled and delivered between 50 and 75 sacks of food to one or two elementary schools. The program has gradually grown, both in the number of sacks of food we provide and the number of schools we support. It also has expanded its footprint within the church. At first the work of assembling sacks was done in the hall between the Lounge and Memorial Hall. As the mission grew, the assembly work moved into the Lounge.

Where does the food come from? Manna Food Center, a nonprofit food bank, supplies nonperishable, shelf-stable food items every other week. Two BHPC volunteers receive the food deliveries and stack them in the hall closet across from the kitchen.

The process. Each Sunday morning, 2 or 3 BHPC volunteers set up the food for that week's bags in the Lounge after Adult Education has concluded. They arrange the bags and the food so that everything is

ready for assembly after the 10:30 worship.

After worship, our dedicated members assemble the bags, putting the food items into the bags and stacking bags so that they're ready for delivery to the schools. On average, between 10 and 15 worshippers, ages ranging from 3 to 93, show up for that job. Then, during the week, 3 people out of a team of 10 take the bags to the schools. Each Smart Sack contains 1 protein, 1 vegetable, 1 carbohydrate, 1 fruit, and other items, for a total of 6 to 10 items per bag.

Where does the food go? The schools distribute the Smart Sacks toward the end of the week to students experiencing food insecurity. The food will help sustain the children at home through the weekend, when they do not receive the free or subsidized breakfasts and lunches that schools provide on school days.

We are very proud of what our volunteers have accomplished in the Smart Sacks program and we look forward to expanding the program in the future. All generations in the church can participate in this mission, and there are multiple levels of time commitments in the volunteer jobs. If you can help, either show up after 10:30 worship on a Sunday and speak with the organizers who are there, or email Elaine Henderson at eelnc@aol.com.



Friends of Music

Individual Tickets: \$40 adult | \$30 student | \$15 child (under 15 years)
Get \$5 off when you advance purchase individual tickets.

For more info and to purchase a subscription or tickets, go to
www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/concerts

The Love Triangle: Music and Letters of Johannes Brahms and Robert & Clara Schumann Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 7:30 pm

Alon Goldstein, *piano*

Join acclaimed pianist **Alon Goldstein** for an intimate exploration of one of classical music's most compelling love stories. Interweaving passionate piano works with excerpts from personal letters, this program reveals the emotional and artistic bonds between Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms. From Schumann's poetic *Fantasiestücke* to Brahms' tender *Intermezzi*, each piece offers a glimpse into a world where music and emotion are inseparable.



Goldstein, a Steinway Artist and recipient of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars award, has performed with leading orchestras worldwide and is renowned for his musical intelligence and dynamic personality. His innovative programming and artistic vision have made him a favorite with audiences and critics alike throughout the United States, Europe, and Israel.



American Brass Quintet Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 7:30 pm

The American Brass Quintet is internationally recognized as one of the premier chamber music ensembles of our time, celebrated for peerless leadership in the brass world. "The most distinguished" of brass quintets (*American Record Guide*), ABQ has earned its stellar reputation through its celebrated performances, genre-defining commissioned works, and an ongoing commitment to the education of generations of musicians.

The *New York Times* wrote that "among North American brass ensembles, none is more venerable than the American Brass Quintet." Join The American Brass Quintet in concert to experience their unparalleled legacy in the brass field firsthand.

Scenes from Our Community



The Chancel Choir on Special Music Sunday, March 8.



ICPC book discussion on March 25.



ICPC farewell party for longtime member, Judy Ozone.

Bradley Hills Nursery School

Wishing everyone a Joyous Easter season!

As our thoughts turn to new beginnings, warmer weather, and springtime, our children and their teachers are busy exploring all the outdoor areas we love. The school is grateful to have such an amazing campus to teach an appreciation of nature. We have been busy planting marigolds and tomato seeds. The children have cared for them and will transplant them into our Children's Garden as soon as the weather warms.

We are excited to announce the return of Transportation Days at BHP CNS! Please join us on April 14th and 15th between 9:30 and 11:30am and explore all sorts of amazing vehicles-fire truck, front loader, police car, moving van, boat, and more. If you have a cool vehicle you'd like to share with our children please contact Kim Goodstein at kgoodstein@bhpcns.org



Connect with Others

Join the Visiting Team | Are you looking for a way to serve Christ and build relationships? Please consider joining the visiting team. We are a ministry of connection and presence. We meet monthly for training and to provide each other mutual support. Our mission is to share Christ's love by visiting one person once a month. Please reach out to Jennifer Kline at jennkline0329@gmail.com - (614-802-9537) or Pastor Denise Diaab for more information at Denise@bradleyhillschurch.org - (301-365-2850).

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@bradleyhillschurch.org to set up a time or connect with David after the service.

Happy April Birthdays

1 Apr	Michael Gibson	Charlotte Viereck	Dodge Kneessi
	Polly Poffenroth	9 Apr	Genevieve Leary
2 Apr	Laurel Petrides	10 Apr	Kyle Peterson
	Brigid Maihot		Adam Behsudi
	Garret Papillon	11 Apr	Elizabeth Hickey
	Shayne Viereck		Kent Wilson
	Nat Gleason	12 Apr	Andrew Chalfant
3 Apr	Abby Adams		Riley Harb
	Liam Alderton	13 Apr	Mark Kindig
4 Apr	Joan Beddow		Parker Zedak
5 Apr	Kristen Liffiton	14 Apr	George Fomum-Mugri
	Max Nordeen		Susan Reutershan
	Sam West	15 Apr	Helen Hopson
	Adley Adams		Matthew Laclef
	Teddy Fritz		Sophie Laclef
6 Apr	Bridget Bowis		30 Apr
	CJ Kauffunger	16 Apr	Rob Snow
	Kelley Edelblut	17 Apr	Kristin Lane
	Ella Griffin	18 Apr	Ronan Maihot
7 Apr	Colin Hauck		Hadley Brown
	Susie Wellman		Hannah Haake
	Katie Frick	19 Apr	Chauncey Liffiton
	Charlotte Cordisco		Betty Lee
	Ben Franklin		Luke Wright-Nguyen
8 Apr	Helen Fomum-Mugri	20 Apr	Ebu U
	Bill Silvermann		Braden Silverman
		21 Apr	Tucker Barbour

Photos & Announcements

Items for the May 2026 BHX should be sent to **Kristen Abbott** at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org by 4/15.

Did We Miss Your Birthday?

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



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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.