

May 2026



Expressions

A Newsletter for the Congregation of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

We invite you to prayerfully consider joining us to help ensure that BHPC is *Here for Good* by making a commitment to the church's five-year capital campaign.

For 70 years, BHPC has been a spiritual home where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and lives are shaped by God's love. Our campus is more than a building—it is the place where we worship, learn, serve, and connect. It is where children grow in faith, where music and prayer lift our spirits, and where we find strength in times of both joy and struggle.

Today, BHPC is thriving. Our ministries are active, our partnerships are strong, and our building serves not only our congregation but also the wider community. We host a vibrant preschool, support groups, music programs, and interfaith partners who share this sacred space. In a divided world, BHPC stands as a powerful witness to unity, compassion, and hope.

But even as we thrive, we face a long-term challenge. Our building, which supports so much of our programming, is aging. For decades, we had to defer maintenance and relied on limited funds to care for our facilities.

This campaign is about changing that story. Our goal is to create a permanent endowment that will provide ongoing funding for the care of our campus. By doing so, we can ensure that future generations will inherit a church that is strong, welcoming, and ready to serve. The fruits of this campaign also will allow us to address critical, long-delayed needs in the near term, including making improvements to our sanctuary floor, organ, and livestream technology, and will allow us to double the number of families we serve through Smart Sacks, our on-site food insecurity program.

Significantly, this effort not only will ensure our long-term sustainability as a church but also will allow us to increase spending on our missional and

programmatic goals now. When we are no longer burdened by capital building needs, we will be able to invest more deeply in the ministry and outreach that reflect Christ's love in the world.

Psalm 121 reminds us to "lift up our eyes to the hills." When we look at Bradley Hills, we see a place filled with meaning, memory, and possibility. Now is our time to ensure that this place continues to shine as a beacon of faith for generations to come.

You will soon receive a "Here for Good" campaign mailing or may have seen our campaign guide on the BHPC website. We invite you to prayerfully consider your part in this shared work. Ask, "God, what do you want to do through me?" Then fill out a commitment card by May 17 if possible, bringing it to church or mailing it in, or make a commitment through our website, www.bradleyhillchurch.org/giving/. Commitments may be fulfilled over five years, between now and 2030. Every gift, every prayer, every commitment, is an act of faith in the future of this church and its mission.

Together, we can ensure that BHPC remains *Here for Good* - a place of welcome, hope, transformation, and love for years to come.

In Christ,

Pastors David Gray and Denise Diaab and Campaign Co-Chairs Bethany Frick, Yoshi Sei, Michelle Scott, and Corky Hickey



HERE FOR GOOD

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May Worship

May 3

Communion

Celebrating BHPC Ministries

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

8:30 | Cross Garden

10:30 | Sanctuary and online

May 10

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

8:30 | Cross Garden

10:30 | Sanctuary and online

May 17

Here for Good Campaign Commitment

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

8:30 | Cross Garden

10:30 | Sanctuary and online

May 24

Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

One Service at 10 am | Sanctuary and online

May 31

Baptisms

New Members Join

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

One Service at 10 am | Covenant Hall and
online



Sanctuary Update

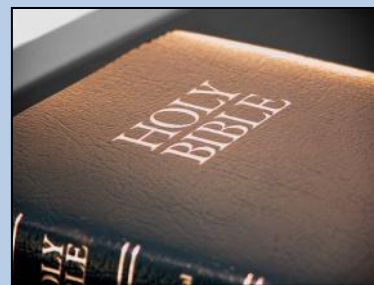
We will be worshipping in Covenant Hall from May 31-August 31 while the sanctuary is closed for floor installation.

Upcoming Memorial Service

The service for Dick Tustian will be held on May 24 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception.

Bible Study on Zoom May 6, 13, 20 and 27

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.



Spring at BHPC



Community Choir |
Easter | Blessing of
the Animals |
Houston Music
Festival Trio |
Gratitude and
Youth Sunday





everyone is welcome to our

INTERFAITH SPRING PICNIC

Join us for an evening of food, fun and laughter. Experience the unique spirit of our interfaith community!

FROM 5 PM - 7 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 17

6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817

Fun games, henna, arts & crafts
Free ice cream

Free food vouchers for everyone under 18

Food for purchase for adults

Halal and vegetarian options available

Friends and family welcome

Held rain or shine. If it rains, we'll move indoors

Email icpc6601@gmail.com for more information



Looking for Community? Purpose?
Join our Bradley Hills family.
All are welcome!

Sunday, May 17

Childcare and lunch included.

Pastor David would be happy to speak with you about your faith journey and fill you in on the many offerings here and how you can get involved. For those interested in membership, a new member class will be held May 17. We'll celebrate your journey with a special welcome ceremony during worship on May 31.



Contact Pastor David at
david@bradleyhillschurch.org



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.

Lon's House Available Dates | June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th and December 14th

Becky's House Available Dates | July 13th and August 10th



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 an 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

May 3 | In summing up the **significance and responsibility of fatherhood**, Sigmund Freud wrote: “I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father’s protection.”

No pressure, dads.

More currently, Richard Reeves points out ways the shape of fatherhood is shifting, and often coming up short, in his 2022 book, *Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do About It*.

Drawing on her career as a family counselor and therapist, BHPC member **Venus Masselam** will lead a discussion on the role of fatherhood, the changing dynamics between fathers and children, and what our faith teaches us about the call to family stewardship.

She’ll be joined by BHPC member **Bob Deans**, whose forthcoming book, *Fishing with My Father: Field Notes from a Boyhood*, explores his own relationship with a complicated man who ushered him into the wonders of childhood and the splendor of the natural world in days they spent together on ancient Virginia waters with Indian names. Join us for thoughtful insights and an opportunity to reflect on how the meaning of fatherhood continues to evolve.

May 10 | **Why do bad things happen to good people?**

This session will deal with this very important, perhaps the most important, theological question. It will be led by John Gaffney, long-time Bradley Hills member and former Session member, and Pastor David. Prospective attendees/participants might consider reading the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, as well as the Book of Job. A kind of inverse book is Mark Levinson's

Why Good Things Happen to Bad People. Job challenges retribution theology: that suffering comes from wrongdoing or lack of faith. Kushner’s message is that randomness affects life; we weren’t looking and were struck crossing a road, or our friend Joe caught COVID and died.

There will also be time for questions and discussion about the possibility of miracles. The Catholic Church claims to have authenticated a few.

May 17 | **Addressing the Church’s Future and Continuing to Take Action Over the Summer**

This is the last adult education program before summer break. We’ll focus on the importance of the Capital Campaign: BHPC is *Here for Good*. If successful, the Campaign will solve our decades-long challenge: affording our building while maintaining our worship, community, and missional focus.

During the second half of the program, we’ll explore ways members can stay in touch over the summer and continue taking action to resist the current administration's harmful policies and promote peace and justice.

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

Where: Lounge

Childcare will be provided.

Join by Zoom:

Meeting ID: 872 5427 9672

Passcode: 505554

Audio only call: 1-301-715-8592



Financial Lay Ministry - First Quarter Update

Operating Budget

Thanks to the generosity of many members fulfilling their annual pledges early in the year, our revenue is tracking ahead. This has positioned BHPC to expend much of its Mission budget and denominational support in the first quarter, getting valuable funds in the hands of those who need it most. We anticipate the usual lower summer giving trends and are mindful of potential economic uncertainties within our community. However, our current financial position provides a solid foundation for the months ahead.

REVENUE

Overall: Ahead of budget, 47% of year-to-date (YTD) budget achieved.

- **Congregational Giving:** Ahead of budget (approximately 3 months).
- **Building Use:** Congregational partners are on track.
- **Investment/Other Income:** Over 77% of annual budget, as we recorded the annual endowment draw income in January.

EXPENSES

Overall: Ahead of budget (33% of YTD budget).

Program Areas: Generally at budget (25%).

Mission (MCLM): Significant portion spent early (47%), and in a position to spend the balance in April, supporting 16 mission partners as well as BHPC's summer youth trips.

Apportionment & Denominational Support: Paid in full (100%).

Operating Budget Bottom Line: YTD Net Income: \$359,641 (vs. budgeted year-end surplus of \$18,824).

Outlook: Well-positioned, but mindful of potential summer giving slowdown and potential economic uncertainty within our community.

Capital Budget

Approximately half of our capital budget has been spent through March. Key projects so far this year:

External Concrete Work: \$7,500 spent to date of \$12,000 project budget (partially complete)

Sanctuary Flooring Replacement: \$166 spent of \$310,000 project budget (major expenses expected soon as contracts are finalized and deposits paid)

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.

Stewardship

How Our Stewardship Supports the Larger Presbyterian Church

When we give to BHPC, we support far more than the ministries within our own walls. Our stewardship also connects us to the wider work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), allowing our congregation to participate in mission, service, and leadership far beyond Bethesda.

Each year BHPC pays per capita, a set amount per church member, to the National Capital Presbytery, which then shares a portion with the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and the national church. Per capita supports the shared governance and administrative work that allow our denomination to function.

For 2026 the total rate is \$51.28 per member, and BHPC's total per capita payment was just over \$32,000, funded through the church's annual budget.

BHPC also contributes \$36,500 each year in benevolence to the National Capital Presbytery through our Missions budget. These funds support shared ministries across the region, including mission grants, leadership development,

congregational support, and outreach.

Our Missions budget also supports the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, which provides public policy advocacy for the denomination, as well as UKirk, a Presbyterian campus ministry serving students at the University of Maryland. It also underwrites our All-Church Day of Service, when members assemble disaster-relief kits distributed worldwide by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

In addition, our congregation participates in three special offerings each year that support national PC(USA) ministries: One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and Easter, the Peacemaking/World Communion Offering in October, and the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent. Together these offerings support disaster relief, hunger programs, justice and peacemaking efforts, leadership development, and assistance for those serving the church.

Through these shared commitments, BHPC's stewardship extends well beyond our congregation—joining thousands of Presbyterians in ministries that serve communities, advocate for justice, and bring hope to people in need.

Friends of Music

For more info and to purchase tickets, go to

www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/concerts

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.





**BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026
COMPASSION CAMP: UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

When: August 2026 (either August 17-19 or August 17-20, depending on MCPS calendar updates)

Where: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Cost: Early Bird Registration by May 31, 2026 - \$50/per child
Regular Registration by August 5, 2026 - \$65/per child
Registration opens on May 1, 2026

Bradley Hills Nursery School

The **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School's** year is quickly coming to an end. Our last day of school is May 22nd. We will spend the last week of May deep cleaning our classrooms and getting ready for our 4 weeks of Summer Camp - **Bradley Bear Goes to Outer Space** - it's going to be a blast!. What a year 2025-2026 has been! Our amazing teachers have worked very hard on behalf of our little ones. The year has been filled with wonderful adventures, lessons, songs, performances, special events, and fun! We will miss our bear cubs over the summer and look forward to seeing their smiling faces again in September. We would like to thank the **BHPC** community for all their support throughout the year, with special shout-out to David, Denise, Jan, Farid, Alex, Juan, Rosanna, and Kristen for their support of the Nursery School and its programming.

If you are interested in learning more about our play-based school year program or our summer camp, please call 301-365-2909 or email us at bhinfo@bhpcncs.org for more information.



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 May Birthdays

1 May	Caitlin Fong Sophia Imus	10 May	Susan Andrews Tristan Gleason	19 May	Tessa Morrison Peg Flowe		Han Setiawan Clara Holland
3 May	Kevin Nealer		June Peterson		Eric Waymen	28 May	Anthony Breder Serafina Munson
4 May	Bonnie Holcomb Margaret Cooke Aurora Einstein	11 May	Rosie Kaufunger Meg Stocker Cooper Kroner		Mackenzie Owens Denise Diaab Isla Garff		Cyrus Odulio
5 May	Phil Hamilton Steven Imus Natalie Tudor Joel Wilson Dean Cope		Farrar Lannon	21 May	Judy Arndt Gretchen Gaines	29 May	Thomas Lannon Naomi Mackey
6 May	Erika Singer Will Kauffunger Jonathan Aiken	12 May	Layla Picard Edan Chambers John Stricklett Jennifer Anderson Sundja Jabbie		Allison Kozicharow Fam Chock Allyson Timm	30 May	Charlie Peyer Greg Urban Mike Kline
7 May	Noah Pike Matthew Pike Quinn Smith Richard Bush Ava Mills	13 May	Charles Brodine Wyatt Whisenhunt Walker Whisenhunt	22 May	Sarah Klontz Elizabeth Meyer Atley Chock	31 May	Ed Hummers Jr. Janet Williams Katie Lokker
8 May	Judy Ozone Richard Clay Jean Eagleton Alexis Payne Bok-Eum Choi	14 May	Melanie Mace	23 May	Brandon Barker Gabriela Rojas Mila Pinto		
9 May	Carol McLeod Raquel Cochrane	15 May	Amy de Court Charlie Frick	24 May	John Stauffer Jim Harrison		
		16 May	Milan Dhar Brady Wheeden	25 May	Cindy Stark		
		17 May	Ed Hauck Fiona Brady	26 May	Thomas Pritchard Lauren Hubbard Tracy Rankin		
		18 May	David Hammers Kate Morrison Michael Weaver James Eliason	27 May	Donald Sutherland Tara Eliason Bruce Bello		

Photos & Announcements

Items for the June/July 2026 BHX should be sent to **Kristen Abbott** at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org by 5/15.

Did We Miss Your Birthday?

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



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www.BradleyHillsChurch.org

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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.