

Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs;
Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;
Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears.
What is it else? A madness most discreet,
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.

— William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
July 26, 2026
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 row, and take home a welcome folder found just outside Covenant Hall.**

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 bag 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.

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. Email David to set up a time to connect. Membership classes will be held October 4, 11 and 18th. New Members join October 25.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Improvisation

CALL TO WORSHIP

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

One: I was glad when they said unto me,

All: Let us go into the house of the Lord.

One: The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

All: The people of the Word say, "Come."

One: O praise the Lord with me,

All: The Lord's name be praised. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 139

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Elder Bob Reutershan

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sins. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ....

Silence for personal confession.

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

Rosanna Howard

Children (pre-k through fifth grade) are invited to exit Covenant Hall for Church School. If this is your child's first time at Bradley Hills, please accompany them out to meet their teacher in the Gathering Space.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And God's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 29:15-28 and Romans 8:22-39

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Loving and Sighing

Seminarian Han Setiawan

***HYMN 326**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS

CALL FOR TITHES AND 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 your row;** 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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Marie Marquis, soprano, Gunner Chancey, piano
arr. Dan Forrest

***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.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER**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.

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 399**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*SENDING MUSIC**

Improvisation

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Flower Dedication | To the Glory of God and in honor of: Han Setiawan; the July 25 marriage of Elizabeth Meyer to Steffens Coulson; and today's wedding anniversary of Pastor David and Bridget.

Preview of August 2

Summer Schedule | One service at 10:00 a.m. in Covenant Hall and online

Communion | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

10:00 a.m. One service in Covenant Hall and online



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

When: August 17 - 20th, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Cost: Register by August 5, 2026 - \$65/per child

Scan the QR code to register:



VBS Volunteers Needed!

We need **ADULT** volunteers to help run VBS! From drama, to shepherds, to recreation, to crafts.... there is something for everyone!

When | VBS will be Monday-Thursday this year, and volunteers will need to be here from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Training will be held on Sunday, August 16 from 4:00 to approx. 8:00 p.m. at Bradley Hills. We will be decorating and prepping for Monday and will finish up with a bonfire and s'mores. Dinner will be provided.

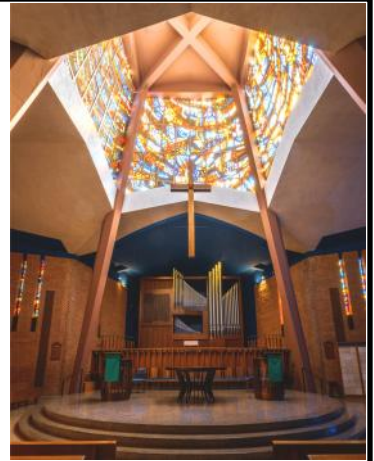
Please indicate in your registration if there is a day or portion thereof you cannot be here.



Summer Sanctuary Plans | This summer we replace our original floor and surrounding areas with a beautiful, long-lasting, musically supportive, new floor. We look forward to celebrating our return to the Sanctuary by September. Thanks for your patience.

For everyone's safety, and because we are now installing the flooring, which requires time to cure, please do not enter the Sanctuary for the next few weeks.

Check out the Friday email each week for a progress report and pictures of the work!



If the worship service begins and the livestream doesn't appear to be working, we are aware of the issue as we watch the services while we broadcast them. We will be working to get the livestream up and running as fast as possible.

Volunteers Needed to Facilitate Fall Small Groups

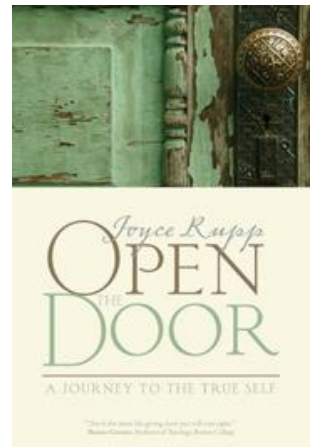
There are two options for in-person and Zoom groups:

- 9/27-10/29 for a 5-week group
- 9/27-11/8 for a 6-week group

We will be using Joyce Rupp's *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self*

Joyce Rupp brings new life to the ageless spiritual image of the door, weaving insights from East and West with the wisdom of contemporary spiritual writers, poets, and novelists in a practical format that is just right for contemporary readers. Structured as a daily prayer guide for everyday use over six weeks, each day offers a thematic reflection, a guided meditation, an original prayer, a thoughtful question, and a related scripture quote. A built-in guide for small groups makes this the perfect resource for groups of all kinds as well as individuals.

If you are interested in leading or co-leading one of the small groups of 8-10, please contact Denise by August 3 at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org.



A Stewardship Note | We are grateful for our partner congregations, Jewish, Muslim, and all who are willing to share with us as we share with them. Your gifts support alliances that can unify our world. Thank you.

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

Click the **GIVE NOW** button

Welcome Gunner Chancey | BHPC Director of Music

Gunner Chancey serves as the new Director of Music at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, where he is passionate about creating worship that is beautiful, thoughtful, and deeply meaningful. He believes music has the unique ability to bring people together, tell the story of faith, and create space for both joy and reflection.



Originally from Georgia, Gunner earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Valdosta State University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. His experience as an organist, pianist, conductor, and choral director has shaped a ministry centered on musical excellence, meaningful worship, and authentic community.

Gunner is especially passionate about congregational singing and enjoys leading choirs that welcome singers of all experience levels. He believes the church's music ministry should inspire, challenge, and encourage people of every generation, creating opportunities for all to participate in the life of worship.

Outside the church, Gunner enjoys exploring new places, spending time with friends, discovering local coffee shops, and finding inspiration in nature, books, and art.

Friends Club Has Openings | Friends Club (a ministry of BHPC) brings together active gentlemen in the early-to-mid stages of memory loss in a caring, safe, fun, and secure environment. They meet Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at BHPC. The program enriches participants' lives by engaging in active discussions and other activities which bring joy and laughter to the members and much needed respite for their caregivers.

To learn more, call Ken Silverstein, Executive Director at 301-469-0070 or email ken@friendsclubbethesda.org

Mission Opportunity | 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.



Lon's House Available Dates | August 10th, September 14th and December 14th

Becky's House Available Dates | August 10th

Scan the QR code to
sign up for Lon's House



Scan the QR code
to sign up for
Becky's House



ICPC Youth Service Project - TODAY | Assemble School Supplies

Join other youth from BJC, MHC and BHPC to fill pencil cases for children from refugee and newcomer families. Supplies will be provided.



When | Sunday, July 26 from 12 – 2 p.m.

Where | The Lounge at BHPC

SSL hours will be provided

Email us at icpc6601@gmail.com for more information.

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We hold in God's healing presence those who are experiencing grief and loss, including:

- The family of Joyce Stribling (Michelle Scott's mother) who died July 20, 2026 in Arizona.
- The family of Joanna Schmeissner whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be in Covenant Hall, August 23, followed by a reception.
- The family of Nancy Taylor (Laura Creech's mother) whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be in the sanctuary, September 27, followed by a reception.
- The family of Joyce Hunt whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary, October 11, followed by a reception.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations, including:

- Happy Birthday to Sibyl Ruffing (Jennifer Kline's mother) who turned 94th last week.
- Yousef (Dave Burgett's friend) who has been safely reunited with his family in Tehran.
- Welcome and all blessings to Angelo, the newest member of the Zhou family, born on July 5 (parents, Clara and You).
- Welcome and all blessings to Iris and Violet, newest members of the Liffiton family (parents Mark and Caroline, grandparents Bruce and Carolyn).

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

- Those injured, having procedures of any kind, hospitalized, 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.
- Phyllis Sutherland for God's shalom—total well-being.
- Lou Kallas for healing and complete recovery of his knee.
- Jean Sutton for health and well-being.
- Sharon Griffith for health and well-being.
- Prayers for health and well-being for: Donna Foley-Rennhack, Jeff Williams, Eric, Christopher, Debbie Bowis, Margaret and Kristine Yeager, Donald Sutherland, Gloria Androa, Ed Everitt, Peg Flowe, Ben Flowe, James Scrogg, Venus Masselam, Vi Ozone, and Helen Hobson.

We hold in God's healing presence family and friends of BHPC community.

- Shalom for Rev. Jong Lee's parents who are in South Korea.
- Rose Muchina (Bonnie Holcomb's friend) for healing and well-being.
- David (friend of Elaine Hunt) who has bladder cancer.
- Lydia (Joan & Steve Burns' daughter-in-law) for healing and total well-being.
- Lee Hostetler, Kevin, Karl, Piper Sutton, Kitty Morris, Marcie, Jack, Susan, Amin Behr, Shannon, Barbara, Rob, Doug, Graydon, Jeanne, Ed, Jan, Violet, Lauren, and Suzanne.

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, including:

- An end to the war with Iran and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms

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 Music Ministries	Gunner Chancey	gunner@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
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 - DelCarla Shorter and Izzy Ayala
Parish Associates - Wally Harman and Jong Mi Lee
Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland
Section Leaders - Marie Marquis (soprano), Natalia Kojanova (alto)

Office Hours Update | This summer will include a major renovation project at BHPC! The replacement of the floors will affect how and when our staff is working on site. To help us continue serving the congregation effectively while also navigating construction and building access, our staff will be working more flexible hours when appropriate during the summer.

Staff members will continue to be actively working throughout the week as usual, but some responsibilities may need to be handled remotely at times. **To reach a staff member, email is best!** Staff emails are listed in the second to last page of the weekly worship bulletins or we can be emailed through the church website. You can still reach the church office by phone as usual, but a returned call may take longer than usual. Staff will remain available for pastoral care, meetings, ministry support, worship planning and setting up activities, we just may have to be flexible in our planning.

Our planned summer office hours for July:

- The church hours on T, W and TH will shift to being open from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. As usual, the church office will be closed on Monday and close at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Staff members may be working in their offices at times beyond this as well, but email staff if possible before coming by.

Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule - 1 service at 10 a.m. in Covenant Hall

August 2 | Communion | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

August 9 | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

August 16 | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

August 23 | Pulpit Exchange: Rabbi Eric Abbott

August 30 | *Return to the Sanctuary* | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

September 6 | Holy Humor Sunday | Communion | Blessing of the Backpacks | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

September 13 | *Return to two services* | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

September 20 | Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Welcome Back Brunch

September 27 | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

October 4 | World Communion Sunday | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

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.



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