



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Pulpit Exchange
August 23, 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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: Hear O people of God.

All: Our God is one.

One: We are all creations of God.

All: Made in God's image.

One: So let us gather in this holy place.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God. We come before you as humble sheep of your flock. We adore you. Yet we confess that we fall short of being the people you call us to be. Forgive us. Allow us to follow your spirit into a grace-filled future as we confess...

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

DCYFM 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

One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rabbi Eric Abbott

***HYMN 553**

For the Fruit of All Creation

EAST ACKLAM

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

***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 SING

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Preview of August 30

Summer Schedule | One service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Baptism

10:00 a.m. One service in the Sanctuary and online



Flower Dedication | From Venus Masselam, in honor of her brother George, who turns 85 this year.

Holy Humor Sunday



SEPTEMBER

6



Blessing of the Backpacks

2026-2027 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Register your children age 3 - 5th grade.
Church School begins on Welcome Back Sunday
| September 13th

Our Children's Ministry is built by families, for families. The strength of the program and the experience we create for our children depends on active participation from parents and the broader church community. *We ask each family to thoughtfully consider how they will contribute during this program year.*

Scan the QR code
to register:



Church School Teachers Request | We are desperately seeking church school teachers and second adults for the next school year. Please see Rosanna Howard, Cathie Lutter, or Rosanna Morrison if you are available to assist!



Did you know that YOU TOO can help with serving Communion?

Communion Team Coordinator (CTC)

CTC is a meaningful (and easy) way to make a huge contribution to the church. Each month the CTC contacts the Captain of the Communion Team scheduled to serve to ensure enough servers will be available and that the elements are prepared for the service. The CTC prepares the annual schedule and orders supplies when needed. The average monthly time requirement is 1 hr./mo.

Communion Server

If you would enjoy serving communion once a quarter, do we have an opportunity for you. Communion servers meet the Communion Team Captain 45 minutes before the service to help prepare the juice and bread for communion. Team members serve the bread or juice during the service. The congregation appreciates receiving bread and juice rather than using the pre-packaged elements. The average monthly time commitment is about 1 hour/quarter (does not include the time to attend worship service).

To volunteer contact Pastor Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org.

SMART SACKS IS RETURNING AND GROWING!

We need your help to keep Smart Sacks going strong!! For over 15 years Bradley Hills has partnered with Manna Food, the main Montgomery County food bank, to provide supplemental weekend food for families facing food insecurity. Manna provides the food and Bradley Hills' members provide the labor. We are committed to increasing the number of sacks we assemble and deliver this upcoming school year.



In order to succeed we need more volunteers to step up for the three main jobs:

- **ASSEMBLY** | All ages | No sign-up required, just show up in Memorial Hall after the service and help fill the food sacks
- **SET UP** | Adults/ family teams/ high school teams | Arrange the food on tables for assembly before the worship service once every 4 to 5 weeks. Supervise the assembly immediately after the worship service.
- **DELIVERY** | Adults | Drive the food to a Montgomery County School once every 4 weeks. Very flexible delivery times. This is a great fit for retirees and people with hybrid or flexible work hours.

Tutoring Opportunity

If helping a second grader become a fluent reader by the end of the school year is appealing to you, then join the enhanced reading tutoring program that Bradley Hills is helping to sponsor with Germantown Global Connections, a non-profit specializing in reading literacy.



WHEN | Tuesday OR Thursday afternoon from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Tutoring begins 10/6

TRAININGS | 2 sessions with options the weeks of 9/15 & 9/22

WHERE | Sargent Shriver Elementary School - 12518 Greenly St, Silver Spring

WHY | Second Graders need help meeting reading goals

HOW TO SIGN UP | Scan the QR code to register for the fall semester

Questions about Smart Sacks or tutoring? Contact Elaine Henderson (BHPC) at eeInc@aol.com, 240-305-6164.

A Stewardship Note | Thank you for the mission gifts that make it possible for Bradley Hills to serve as the hands of God ministering to neighbors in need, both those living nearby and those on the other side of the world.

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

JOIN US FOR OUR BHPC Fall Small 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.

Time options for Fall Small Groups

- Sunday, in-person, 4:00 -5:30 p.m. (BHPC Library) | 3 weeks only 10/4, 10/11, 10/18
- Sunday, Zoom, 7:00-8:30 p.m. | 10/4-11/1
- Sunday, in-person, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (BHPC member's home) | 10/4-10/25
- Thursday, Zoom, 6:30-8:00 p.m. | 10/8-11/5
- Thurs, in-person, TBD, 2:00-4:00 p.m. | 10/9-10/30

Interested in joining? Reach out to Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org.



Joyce Rupp
OPEN
THE
DOOR
A JOURNEY TO THE TRUE SELF

"This is the most life-giving book you will ever open."
Thomas Merton, Professor of Theology, Princeton College

Interested? **Register by September 4.** Email Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org

Family Small Group

**MONDAY, IN-PERSON,
6:00-8:00 P.M. (BHPC LOUNGE)
9/28-10/26**

Childcare and dinner provided.

Parents with small children, this is going to be a wonderful study designed especially for you. Our discussion resource is *In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*.

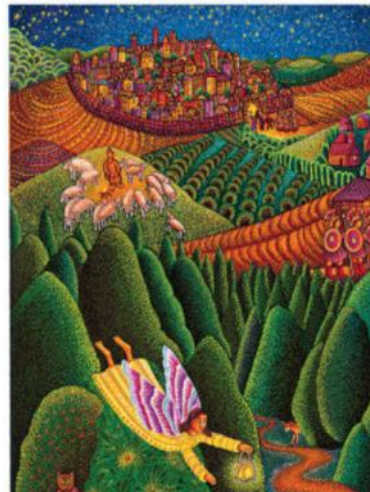
This book explores parenting as spiritual practice. Reviewers say it is "both honest about the difficulties and attentive to the blessings present in everyday life, it explores how parents might use seven daily practices, such as play, reading, chores, and saying goodbye or goodnight, as rich opportunities to shape both parent and child, morally and spiritually. Readers will find in this book an invitation to love those around them in the midst of life's craziness and to live more deeply in grace."

Email Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org to sign up.

Caring for Children as a Spiritual Practice

Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore

The Practices of Faith Series



Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

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

- The family of Joanna Schmeissner whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be in Covenant Hall, August 23, at 12:00 p.m., followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.
- 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 Jean Seybert who died in February in California. A graveside memorial service will be held October 8, at Parklawn Cemetery in Silver Spring.
- The family of Joyce Shoemaker Hunt (Carl Hunt's wife) 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:

- A wonderful VBS, with deep gratitude to all those who helped.

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.
- Gloria Androa, Debbie Bowis, Frank Fowler, Laura Edson, Donna Foley-Rennhack, Sharon Griffith, Linda Harman, Jeff Williams, Eric, Christopher, Margaret and Kristine Yeager, Phyllis Sutherland, Donald Sutherland, Ed Everitt, Peg Flowe, Ben Flowe, Vi Ozone, and Helen Hobson.

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

- Ed (Pastor David's father) for healing and well-being.
- Elizabeth Ritter (Steve Fox's former sister-in-law) who is facing cardiac surgery.
- Cynthia Hines (Betsy Scrogg's cousin-in-law) who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer, and her daughter Laura who helps provide care for Cynthia.
- Chris (Joan & Steve Burns' son) and his family as they settle into new home in California.
- Cynthia (Joan & Steve's son's mother-in-law) who is being treated for a brain tumor.
- Shalom for Rev. Jong Lee's parents who are in South Korea.
- Rose Muchina (Bonnie Holcomb's friend) for healing and well-being.
- Malla Wedberg (Patty Howie's neighbor) for health and well-being.
- Lee Hostetler, Kevin, Karl, Piper Sutton, Kitty Morris, Marcie, Jack, Susan, Amin Behr, Shannon, Barbara, Rob, Doug, Graydon, Jeanne, 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 form.

Our Staff

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministries
Director of Music Ministries
Director of Financial
Ministries
Facilities Manager
Office Manager
Nursery School Director

David Gray
Denise Diaab
Rosanna Howard

Gunner Chancey
Jan Spencer

Farid Beltran
Kristen Abbott
Liz Sobrino

Friends Club Director

Ken Silverstein

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lsobrino@bhpcns.org

301-365-2909

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)

BRADLEY HILLS CHURCH HIKE

When | Saturday, September 5

Time | 9a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where | Agricultural History Farm Park
18400 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855

What to Bring | hat, water, sunscreen,
energy snacks, lunch*

The hike begins at 9:00 a.m. at the park.

**Optional lunch fellowship at the park at the
end of the hike*

To RSVP and for hiking/carpool information | Contact Pastor Denise
at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org.

Scan here to
learn more
about the
AHFP!



Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule - 1 service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

August 30 | *Return to the Sanctuary* | Baptism |
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

October 11 | Baptism | Preaching: Dr. Jacqueline E. Lapsley, President
of Union Presbyterian Seminary

October 18 | 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