



Bradley
Hills

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

A Special Welcome

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

We're glad you're here. We hope the presence of the Holy Spirit and the warmth of Christ's love help you feel at home. We encourage you to explore our bulletin, fill out a Visitor Card or the red fellowship pad at the end of your pew, and take home a welcome folder found in the Narthex.

Bradley Hills is a caring community that seeks God together. We are united by our faith in Christ, our love of learning, music and worship, and our passion for service. 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 all around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers through age 3 in our nursery. All children are welcome to grab an activity bag and children's bulletins.

We hope you'll get to know us and find a place to belong. Learn more 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

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Steve Fox

One: Grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

All: We are one in Spirit.

One: The Spirit is with us and within us.

All: The Spirit comforts.

One: The Spirit challenges.

All: Our hearts are open wide; let us worship God in spirit and truth.

*HYMN 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Coat Drive

Elder Bob Reutershan

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Mighty God, you intended for us hope and new life. Yet, we have mixed our seeds in with your own - seeds of fear and bitterness, of greed and apathy. Forgive us, O God, and show us how to cultivate a place of fruitfulness, a place of grace and peace, that we might follow the Spirit's lead 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.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

Children (pre-k through fifth grade) are invited to exit the Sanctuary 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

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.



Register for
church school

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:15-27

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The God Who Stays

David Gray

***HYMN 326**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH FROM CONFESSION OF 1983 *(seated)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

arr. Mark Hill

Spirit divine, attend our prayer,
And make this house your home;
Descend with all your gracious pow'r;
O come, Holy Spirit, come!

Spirit divine, attend our prayer;
Make a lost world your home;
Descend with all your gracious pow'r;
O come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come as the fire and purge our hearts
Like sacrificial flame;
Let our whole soul an off'ring be
To our Redeemer's name.

Come as the light; to us reveal
Our emptiness and woe,
And lead us in those paths of life
Where all the righteous go.

Come as the dove, and spread your wings,
The wings of peaceful love;
And let your Church on earth become
Blest as the Church above.

***SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING**

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, 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**

Spirit, Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

(see music on next page)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

SENDING MUSIC

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

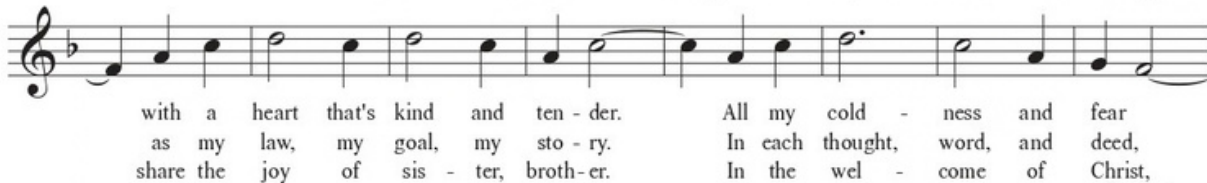
Refrain



Stanza



1. God, re - place my ston - y heart
2. Write your love up - on my heart
3. May I weep with those who weep;



to Refrain

Preview of October 4

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. in-person & online

World Communion Sunday | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

8:30 a.m. | A more casual service in Covenant Hall

9:15 a.m. | Adult Education in the Lounge and on Zoom

10:30 a.m. | Our traditional service with music from the Chancel Choir
and Church School for our little ones through 5th grade

11:30 a.m. | Coffee Hour



Connecting Our Community at BHPC

Recommendations

We Welcome Your Recommendations for Elder and Deacon

The Nominating Committee seeks your recommendations of persons to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members. Please contact Curt West or Pastor David for more info and to submit recommendations.

Providing Feedback on our Livestream Experience

As the sanctuary floor project concludes and fall begins, we are now starting to think about a second project made possible by our Here for Good campaign - updating our Livestream AV equipment, some of it a decade old. We are seeking feedback from those who regularly worship through the livestream about your experience. If you have comments on things you like, things you'd like changed or things we might add, email Pastor David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org or Jim Kettler, AV team member and Chair of PMLM, at kettlerjmk@gmail.com.

Next Steps Towards our Next Associate Pastor

We very much appreciate Pastor Denise serving as our Associate Pastor. As her ministry among us concludes next February, we now begin to look forward to calling a new Associate Pastor to continue our ministry. If you are interested in being considered to be part of that process, email david@bradleyhillschurch.org or PLM Chair Robert Rennhack at robert.rennhack@verizon.net.

UPCOMING BHPC EVENTS

Adult Education

9:15 a.m. in the Lounge and on Zoom | Childcare provided

October 4 | Dr. R. Bruce Douglass (and close friend of Bradley Hills,) Director Emeritus, Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington and former Chair of the Department of Government at Georgetown University will conclude his three-part series: REFORMED POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE "POSTIST" ERA with the topic "Secularization."





Getting Connected and Exploring Membership Classes

**Classes will be held
October 4, 11 and 18**

11:45 am–12:45 pm | Library

LUNCH & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

For those interested in membership, we'll welcome you during worship on **October 25**.

**TO RSVP, ASK QUESTIONS OR REQUEST THE ZOOM LINK
(TO JOIN REMOTELY)**

Contact Pastor David at
david@bradleyhillchurch.org



Sacrament of Communion Class

**Sunday, October 4
9:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall**

Inviting all current 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and their parents to attend a brief class on the sacrament of communion on World Communion Sunday, prior to their first Sunday in the full worship service. *Please email Pastor David with any questions.*



Action Forum

Sunday, October 4 | 11:45 a.m. in Memorial Hall

Join the BHPC Action Forum in nonpartisan, civic participation activities to enable all eligible voters, regardless of party affiliation, to cast their ballots in November. Join us after worship (11:45-1:00 p.m.) in Memorial Hall for a postcard-stamping party to reach out to voters!



Alleluia Singers

Ages 4-3rd grade

11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
starting Oct 4.



Lantern Choral

4th-8th grade

5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
each Thursday



Baby and Me Playgroup

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Crib Room

Calling parents and little ones 0-3 years in our community! Come join us for developmentally appropriate, child-led play with music, dance and stories!



FALL CALL CLEAN UP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Your help is urgently needed to prepare our beautiful church grounds for winter. On October 18, come dressed in your gardening clothes! Join us after the 10:30 a.m. worship for a snack, followed by fun and fellowship outside. See you there!



Rake Leaves



Weeding

Join us outside of the
Education Door
after 10:30 a.m. worship



Bradley Hills Presents - The Whiffenpoofs of Yale

Saturday, October 17 | 7:30 pm

Bradley Hills Presents is excited to kick off our 2026-27 season with the return of The Whiffenpoofs, one of the world's oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella groups. The "Whiffs" sing a mixture of old Yale tunes, jazz standards, and other hits from across the decades, including pieces arranged by members of the ensemble. Recent Whiffenpoof performance venues have included Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the White House, the Rose Bowl, and Lincoln Center.



**Scan the QR
code to
purchase
tickets.**

Community Piano Concert

Saturday, October 10 | 7:30 p.m.



Virtuoso pianist and composer James Behr will perform selections by Debussy, Schumann, Chopin, as well as some original works. James has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Tanglewood, and with several orchestras. He is a graduate of Juilliard and Northwestern University.

Abrahamic Faiths: The Conversation Continues

Wednesday, October 14 | 7:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall

The Inter Congregational Partnership Committee (ICPC) presents Abrahamic Faiths, the Conversation Continues, featuring Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, MIIIC, Rabbi Eric Abbott, BJC, and Pastor David Gray, BHPC.

The clergy will discuss how the core tenets of each religious tradition influence how we instruct and nurture our children in faith and other practices of each congregation. **Scan the QR code to attend in person or on Zoom.**



Seeking Involvement with the BHPC Nursery School

Since 1957, the BHPC Nursery School has served families in the broader community with high quality, play based early childhood education. Many BHPC families have found our preschool a wonderful place for their family. As the school is a mission of the church, we are seeking church members who may be interested in school governance, board membership or serving in school leadership searches. For more info or to express interest, email George Petrides Jr. at gpetridesjr@gmail.com or David Gray at david@bradleyhillsschurh.org

MISSIONS AT BHPC

Annual Coat Drive

SUNDAYS

September 27–October 25

Give the gift of warmth!

BHPC is supporting families with kids at Arcola Elementary School and Wider Circle through our annual coat drive! Here's how you can help:

- 1. Volunteer** to help run the coat drive on Sunday mornings. Set up, sales, and packing assistance is needed. Email Bob Reutershan at soshikins@aol.com if you're interested.
- 2. Provide a coat** | Purchase the coat you have chosen and bring it during Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service to the Coat Drive Table in the Gathering Space on October 11 and 18 or in Memorial Hall on October 25. If you are not comfortable using the Sign Up Genius, the volunteers at the Coat Drive Table will help you select a coat to purchase on September 27, October 11 or 18. All coats must be received by October 25.
- 3. Support the Coat Drive** by making a financial donation on Realm. If we have funds in excess of those needed for the coats going to Arcola, we will provide those funds to A Wider Circle to be used to provide coats for individuals in the Wider Circle community.

Purchase
a coat:



Make a
donation (select
coat drive
under FUND):



Smart Sacks

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service | Lounge

Welcome back to Smart Sacks! It's time to join your BHPC friends immediately after worship to assemble food sacks. We deliver the Smart Sacks to schools that then distribute them to families who need supplemental food for the weekends.



Come join us! ALL AGES are welcome!

Distribute Groceries in Anacostia

October 17

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 a.m., 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 by scanning the QR code or send an email to Joan Burns, BHPC liaison to Faith Presbyterian Church.



Offering to Support Hospital in Gaza

BHPC will collect our denomination's annual Peace and Global Witness offering, renamed World Communion Offering, between now and October 20. 25% of the funds collected is given to an organization chosen by BHPC and 75% is used by our denomination for ministries of peace, reconciliation, and justice.

This year, BHPC is choosing Al Ahli Arab Hospital (Ahli) in Gaza City to be the recipient of our designated funds.

We have confirmed that the hospital is continuing to respond to the enormous healthcare needs in Gaza under incredible strain and shortages. Ahli is a 50-bed hospital and continues to receive 150-200 patients in the emergency department alone every day. Currently they are seeing around 10,000 patients per month. Funds raised for Ahli will help them keep their doors open to all in need and allow staff to continue providing critical services to people in Gaza under the brutal circumstances.

To give online, go to BHPC's website, press the "Give Now" button, and select the World Communion Offering "Formally Peace & Global Witness Offering" fund option. If giving by check, please write "WCO" in the memo line and mail your check to the church or place it in the offering plate between now and October 20th.



A Stewardship Note

Taxpayers who are compelled by federal tax law to take required minimum distributions from IRAs may make tax-free qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) of up to \$100,000 per year to Bradley Hills Church. A QCD will be much better for many donors than a taxable IRA withdrawal followed by a charitable gift. And, if you have already fulfilled your pledge to BHPC for 2026, you can make an additional gift in calendar year 2026 that the Church can credit toward your pledge for 2027. Just contact Jan Spencer to let her know how you want the gift to be recorded.

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

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

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

- **The family of Nancy Taylor (Laura Creech's mother) whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, September 27, followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.**
- **The family of Mary Schaefer (former BHPC member) who died September 16.**
- **The family of Cynthia Bell (Joan & Steve Burns' daughter's mother-in-law) who died September 18 in California.**
- **The family of Julian Tolentino (Farid's friend) who died September 19.**
- The family of Jean Seybert whose graveside 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 at 1:00 p.m., October 11, followed by a reception.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations.

- Good food, good company—wonderful fellowship at the Welcome Back Brunch on Sunday.
- Meaningful and memorable Yom Kippur services.
- Marcie (Bethany Frick's friend) completed her treatments and is doing well.

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

- **Ben Flow for comfort and total well-being.**
- **Juan Jr. (BHPC Sexton) who is recovering from injuries from a car accident.**
- Margaret Liffiton (Bruce Liffiton's mother) for health and well-being.
- Bruce (Elaine Hunt's son-in-law) who is recovering from double knee surgery.
- Stephanie (daughter of Cheryl Naulty & Walt Hill) for healing and full recovery.
- 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.
- Christopher, Eric, Gloria Androa, Debbie Bowis, Ed Everitt, Ben Flowe, Peg Flow, Frank Fowler, Donna Foley-Rennhack, Sharon Griffith, Linda Harman, Helen Hobson, Jean Sutton, Phyllis Sutherland, Donald Sutherland, Greg Urban, Jeff Williams, and Margaret and Kristine Yeager.

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

- **Shannon (Bridget Gray's mother) who had a health event in California.**
- Amin Behr, Nora Casey, Ed Gray, Cynthia Hines, Scott Hagwood, Lee Family, Billy Magro, Kitty Morris, Piper Sutton, Elizabeth Ritter, Vi Ozone, and Leslie Patterson Werner.
- Barbara, Doug, Graydon & Jeanne, Jai, Jan, Kevin, Karl, Lauren, Patty, Rob, Shannonn (Charles Brodine's friend), Susan, Suzanne, and Violet.

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.

- An end to the war with Iran and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East..
- For all those being held in detention centers in unhealthy conditions.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- All those experiencing food and housing insecurity.

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), Lily Gallihue (tenor)



Flower Dedication

From Jennifer and Mike Kline - in loving memory of their dear friends Larry and Sue Kosko and Jens' sister, Kathy

Interested in Staying Up-to-Date on BHPC? Get Connected!

Contact our Office Manager at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org, and ask her to add you to our weekly email list.

Worship Schedule

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. worship

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

October 25 | Stewardship Sunday | New Members Joining |
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

November 1 | All Saints Sunday | Communion |
Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

November 8 | Dedication Sunday | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

November 15 | Interfaith Sunday

November 22 | Music Sunday

November 29 | First Sunday of Advent | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

December 6 | Second Sunday of Advent | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 13 | Third Sunday of Advent | Lessons and Carols



bradleyhillchurch.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