



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Holy Humor Sunday
September 6, 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 pew, and take home a welcome folder found in the Narthex.**

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

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor, What's His Name Again?

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Gladys.

All: Gladys who?

One: Glad it's Sunday, aren't you?

All: Knock, knock!

One: Who's there?

All: Babylon.

One: Babylon who?

All: Babylon, we aren't here to listen to your gibberish anyway.

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Owen.

All: Owen who?

One: Owen the saints, come marchin' in!

One: Knock, knock!

All: Who's there?

One: Lettuce.

All: Lettuce who?

One: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Adult Education

Carol Starr

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Loving God, as we rejoice in the gift of joy, we also confess the ways we have abused the gifts you give us. We fall short of your glory when we laugh at the expense of another; when we use humor to tear others down. So we ask for the wisdom to promote and enjoy good humor. God, teach us to take ourselves lightly, for you have promised to love and save us; to laugh when the moment is right, to defuse tension with an injection of humor, and to distinguish between that which builds up and that which tears down. Open our hearts to your forgiveness 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

Blessing of the Backpacks

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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:28-30

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Lightening the Backpack

David Gray

*HYMN 368

I've Got Peace Like a River

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 FAITH - SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

One: The gifts of God given for all.

All: **For all.**

*SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - 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 415

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Preview of September 13

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. at the cross garden and 10:30 a.m. in-person & online

Welcome Back Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

8:30 a.m. A more casual service at the cross garden (Covenant Hall with inclement weather)

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

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

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 A V 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, A V team member and Chair of PMLM, at kettlerjmk@gmail.com

Welcome *Back Sunday*

September 13

Two Services

8:30 a.m. — Cross Garden

Weather permitting; Covenant Hall in case of rain

10:30 a.m. — Sanctuary & Online

Fall Programing Begins

Adult Education | Church School

Youth Group | Coffee Hour

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:



We Welcome Your Recommendations for Elder and Deacon

The BHPC 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.



Action Forum | 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. As more states have enacted voter ID requirements, we will help voters understand what ID they need to bring to the polls. **Chat with us in Covenant Hall TODAY, Sept. 6** to learn more about opportunities to support civic participation this fall. **Join us Sept. 13** after worship in the Library for a letter-writing party.



Adult Education Returns September 13th

Join Each Sunday from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the Lounge or on Zoom

Childcare available

September 13 | Courtney Shea, NBC News Election Night Analyst, Senior Vice President at Ipsos, and a dedicated Bradley Hills member, will address how news organizations cover U.S. elections. She will provide a behind-the-scenes look at how major news organizations use exit polling to explain vote results on election night. She will also discuss how news organizations determine the winner of races while votes are still being counted.

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



SMART SACKS IS RETURNING AND GROWING!

For over 15 years BHPC has partnered with Manna Food to provide supplemental weekend food for families facing food insecurity. 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.

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



Fall Small Groups | Interested in signing up for a fall small group? **TODAY, September 6** is the last day to register! Reach out to Pastor Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org to register or to find out 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 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 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 in the sanctuary, October 11, followed by a reception.

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

- Return to the sanctuary for worship with completion of beautiful new floor.
- Worship with the organ on Sunday, Gunner's first service in the sanctuary.
- Charles Brodine's readmittance to UNC to complete his dissertation.

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

- **Stephanie (daughter of Cheryl Naulty & Walt Hill) for healing and full recovery from surgery on September 1.**
- 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.
- **Greg Urban who is at Montcare Bethesda recovering from a broken hip.**
- Christopher, Eric, Gloria Androa, Debbie Bowis, Ed Everitt, Ben Flowe, Peg Flow, Frank Fowler, Donna Foley-Rennhack, Sharon Griffith, Linda Harman, Helen Hobson, Lou Kallas, Jean Sutton, Phyllis Sutherland, Donald Sutherland, Jeff Williams, and Margaret and Kristine Yeager.

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

- Amin Behr, Barbara, **Nora Casey**, Ed Gray, Cynthia Hines, Scott Hagwood, Lee Family, **Billy Mango**, Kitty Morris, Piper Sutton, Elizabeth Ritter, and Shannon. Vi Ozone
- Cynthia, Doug, Graydon & Jeanne, **Jai**, Jan, Kevin, Karl, Lauren, Marcie, Rob, 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.

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)

A Stewardship Note | Think about the part you can play in the future of Bradley Hills. You can support the church's ministry in many ways. Naming the church as a beneficiary of your will, or for a portion of your life insurance policy or retirement plan, can assure your continued support of this ministry far into the future.

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

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.

Worship Schedule

Services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

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

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



bradleyhillschurch.org
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Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. to 1