



Bradley
Hills

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 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, gender identity, country of origin, 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

Psalm 100

Chancel Players

*HYMN 461

God is Here!

vs. 1,3&4

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Smart Sacks

Elaine Henderson

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Gracious God, you are amazing and loving, and we adore you. Yet, we confess this day our shortcomings before you. We have neglected the needs of the world. We have pushed aside our relationship with you. Open our hearts to your grace now, Lord, as we confess....

Silence for personal confession.

One: We pray.

All: Amen.

*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!

Lord 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

Commissioning of Church School Teachers

Today we ask that all parents and caregivers, regardless of their child(ren)'s age, walk them out to the Gathering Space to meet their church school teacher and complete registration for Church School for the new school year.

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Look to the Motivating Miracle

David Gray

*HYMN 288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*RESPONSE IN FAITH FROM CONFESSION OF 1983

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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

With Wings as Eagles

Benjamin Harlan

***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 210**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

SENDING MUSIC

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Preview of September 20

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

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Welcome Back Brunch

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Action Forum

September 13 | 11:45 a.m. in the Library

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. Join us today for a letter-writing party, and to learn more about opportunities to support civic participation this fall. *A light lunch will be served.*



Youth Dessert and Devotions

Thursdays | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Kitchen

Join us as we bake or share a dessert and dive into topics of faith relevant to today's teens.



Baby and Me Playgroup - Starting September 15

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!

Our goal is to encourage interaction and development for little ones 0 to 3 years old (siblings are welcome) while creating space for building friendships with other parents.



Adult Education

September 20 | 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge and on Zoom | Childcare provided

September 20, 27, and 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 be presenting a three-part series: REFORMED POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE "POSTIST" ERA. September 20th will focus on - Decolonization and the rise of the "Third World"





ICPC Voices Among Us Speaker Series

September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Women, Identity and the Search for Freedom

The ICPC invites you for a conversation with artist Jahan Ara Rafi about women, identity, and the struggle for freedom within societies that often define women's roles for them. Through her paintings, Rafi explores the silence, confinement, and resilience of women - and the hidden stories held behind closed eyes and within quiet lives. Her talk will reflect on art as a way to challenge inherited limitations, give voice to what remains unspoken, and search for a deeper understanding of freedom and human dignity.



MISSIONS AT BHPC

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 Returns TODAY - Sunday, September 13

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.

A Stewardship Note

As we return to our regular worship schedule and to a new year of Christian education, we are grateful to everyone who dedicates their time and effort to help Bradley Hills members connect in a more meaningful way:

greeters and ushers who welcome us warmly to worship | members of the Chancel Guild who adorn the Sanctuary to inspire us | skilled members who operate the audiovisual equipment | pastors who lead our worship | professionals and volunteers who enrich our services with lovely music | leaders who inspire both children and adults with Christian education | nursery staff who lovingly care for the smallest children | deacons who help to connect and nurture us all members of Session and the Lay Ministries, all of whom seek God's guidance to govern the church | dedicated staff members who coordinate all this effort and who maintain our building and grounds | the many others who contribute in small, quiet ways to help make Bradley Hills a church that represents Christ in 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

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 Don Davis (Ben Scribner's friend) who died recently.**
- 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:

- The blessing of backpacks and briefcases.
- The baptism of Thomas Fisher Graves (son of Tanya and George Graves) on August 30.

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

- **Leslie Patterson Werner (Ben Scribner's mother) for health and well-being.**
- 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.
- 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, Greg Urban, Jeff Williams, and Margaret and Kristine Yeager.

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

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

Friends Club Director

David Gray
Denise Diaab
Rosanna Howard

Gunner Chancey
Jan Spencer
Farid Beltran
Kristen Abbott
Liz Sobrino

Ken Silverstein

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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)



Flower Dedication

In memory of Hugh Pettigrew, from Karen Pettigrew.

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

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

November 22 | Music Sunday



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