

These days, news headlines shout messages of division and despair. Scrolling through the bad news, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, and it's often hard to figure out how we fit into and connect with the world around us.

America at 250: New poll finds nation divided over its identity and future

PBS News / NPR / Marist Poll - July 1, 2026

What is Causing Our Epidemic of Loneliness and How Can We Fix It?

Harvard Graduate School of Education - Oct 25, 2024

Staggering New Data Reveals Decline in Importance of Faith in Americans' Lives

Christian Broadcasting Network - March 14, 2026

In these moments, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church stands as a beacon of hope and belonging. No matter the worldly struggles that surround us, we can look to BHPC for support and community. With this in mind, we have chosen 'We Belong Here' as the theme of this year's stewardship campaign.

Through this campaign, we can express our gratitude to BHPC for our strong community. First and foremost, the church assures us that we belong to God. Through worship services, Sunday school and Adult Ed classes, and small group studies, BHPC helps us draw closer to God. The church opens its doors to members and non-members alike, including all the new members, confirmands, and baptized children we welcomed into the church this year.

Over 100 volunteers – including deacons, elders, lay ministry members, ushers, communion servers, flower guild members – spent thousands of hours strengthening and uplifting this community.

We also belong to our broader community. Just a few highlights: we helped distribute groceries through Faith Presbyterian Church's monthly Feeding Families program in Anacostia; dozens of volunteers packed and transported Smart Sacks to Montgomery County elementary schools to supplement weekend meals for food-insecure families; our youth mission trip this summer helped feed and clothe families around Raleigh NC; our annual coat drive provided coats for students at Arcola Elementary School; and the Angel Gift Tree supported causes around the world and organized Christmas gifts for children and senior citizens closer to home.

How joyful to belong to the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church community! We hope you will join other members and friends of the church this Fall as we, once again, express our gratitude by pledging what we expect to give in the coming year. From these pledges (and the earnings from our recent Here For Good building endowment), our Financial Lay Ministry will develop next year's budget.

**Thank you for considering being part of the 'We Belong Here'
Stewardship 2027 Campaign!**



OCTOBER WORSHIP

**OCT
4**

8:30 a.m. | **Covenant Hall**
10:30 a.m. | **Sanctuary and online**
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

**OCT
11**

8:30 a.m. | **Covenant Hall**
10:30 a.m. | **Sanctuary and online**
Baptism
Preaching: Dr. Jacqueline E. Lapsley |
President of Union Presbyterian Seminary

**OCT
18**

8:30 a.m. | **Covenant Hall**
10:30 a.m. | **Sanctuary and online**
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

**OCT
25**

8:30 a.m. | **Covenant Hall**
10:30 a.m. | **Sanctuary and online**
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
New Members Join
Preaching: Pastor David Gray



Learning at Bradley Hills

Adult Education - October

October 4 | Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Director Emeritus, Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington and former Chair of the Department of Government at Georgetown University will be culminating his three-part series emphasizing secularization and secularism during the Postist era following World War II approaching the present time.

October 11 | "Exodus for Right Now: Journeying with God in Hard Times" - Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, distinguished Old Testament scholar. In addition to her academic titles, Jacq Lapsley is known for her wit, community, discernment and engagement. **Read more about her below!**

October 18 | The Reverend Jermaine Ross-Allam, inaugural Director for the Center for Repair of Historic Harms, Presbyterian Mission PCUSA, will update us about the work of the center and churches through the PC USA to repair of historic harms as the national government has suppressed programs that address structural racism and poverty.

Jacqueline Lapsley

Jacqueline Lapsley serves as the eighth President of Union Presbyterian Seminary which has campuses in Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. Before coming to Union in 2023 she served on the faculty at Princeton Theological Seminary for 25 years, ending her time there with a five-year stint as Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Jacq (pronounced like "Jack") earned her B.A. from Smith College M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from Emory University. She is the author or editor of numerous books, including *Whispering the Word: Hearing Women's Voices in the Old Testament* (2005); *A Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics* (2011); *A Women's Bible Commentary* (2012); and *Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life: A New Conversation* (2018). Jacq is married to the Rev. Greg Bezilla, an Episcopal priest; they have two adult children, a wildly energetic, badly behaved dog, and two imperious cats. She is a ruling elder in the PC(USA) and our 2026 Susan Andrews lecturer.



October 25 | The Supreme Court and the Lower Courts: How to Understand What Is Happening Now in Lawsuits Challenging Actions of the Current Administration. Bradley Hills member Penny Clark returns with an update from her presentation in March, focusing particularly on lawsuits about elections and voting. Penny is a retired attorney whose 44-year career included arguing employee benefits cases before the United States Supreme Court. She served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. of the United States Supreme Court from 1974 to 1975 - one of the first dozen women to clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court.

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



Meeting ID: 895 5975 0457
Passcode: 297575

Upcoming Events

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
presents

THE YALE WHIFFENPOOFS

America's Oldest Collegiate A Capella Group

Saturday, October 17

7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary



Individual Tickets: \$40 adult | \$30 student | \$15 child (under 15 years)
Get \$5 off when you advance purchase individual tickets.



Bible Study on Zoom

October 14, 21 and 28

Bible study continues this fall. Join us on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. to discuss scripture with Pastor David and/or Pastor Denise. You do not need to be a member of Bradley Hills to attend our Bible Study classes. Everyone in the community is invited!

Contact Kristen Abbott at the church office for the Zoom link.

The Dismantling Racism Team of NPC Invites YOU to Allyship Training

Saturday, November 7, 2026

9:00 – 5:00 p.m.

National Presbyterian Church

4101 Nebraska Ave NW

Scan the QR
code to register:



Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of Service Never Sleeps, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the CLAIM acronym: Care, Learn, Act, Influence, and Maintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our VIRTUAL time together will include small-group practice with breaks intermittently throughout our learning. Come ready to “try on” the Ally Training strategies from Service Never Sleeps.



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE
Dismantling Racism



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 service 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**



Missions at BHPC

BHPC DAY OF SERVICE

After the worship service on **Sunday, October 25th**, please plan on coming down to Memorial Hall to participate in our annual *BHPC Day of Service*! Everyone – young, old and in-between – are invited to assemble 36 clean-up buckets, 240 hygiene kits, 96 kids kits, and 90 period packs for distribution by Church World Service (CWS) to those in need.

BHPC has participated in this effort for many years and in 2025 our effort helped CWS aid 62,000 people in

preparing for and recovering from disasters nationwide. CWS's Kits and Blankets program also delivered 78,772 emergency supplies to families.

At our BHPC Day of Service you can also purchase a coat for the annual BHPC coat drive for children at our partner elementary school, and sort and bag food for our Smart Snacks ministry that provides much-needed food for children in Montgomery County schools.

Coffee hour will also be held in Memorial Hall that morning too! **Come join your BHPC family on October 25th and live out the calling in Hebrews 13:16: "Do not forget to do good and help those in need."**

FEEDING FAMILIES

Oct 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, rain or shine. Volunteers pack 60 grocery bags at the church in Anacostia and distribute them on their church property. Adults, families and teens are welcome.

Saturday from 9:00 - 10:40 a.m. | Anacostia

Sign up on Sign Up Genius by scanning the QR code or send an email to Joan Burns, BHPC liaison to Faith Presbyterian Church.





A Special Note from Missions

Dear Bradley Hills Friends,

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church will collect our denomination's annual Peace and Global Witness special offering, **renamed World Communion Offering**, on October 4, 2026 (though the giving period is open now - October 20). With this offering we come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Each year 25% of the funds collected is given to an organization chosen by Bradley Hills as a global witness of Christ's peace, and the other 75% is used by our denomination for ministries of peace, reconciliation, and justice in cultures of violence, including our own.

This year, BHPC is choosing Al Ahli Arab Hospital (Ahli) in Gaza City to be the recipient of our designated funds. Ahli is operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and receives financial support from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). While Ahli primarily serves Palestinian Muslims and Christians, AFEDJ supports the humanitarian mission of Ahli hospital: "to offer healing and hope to every person in need, regardless of faith, politics, or ability to pay."

Through AFEDJ, BHPC's Mission Coordination Lay Ministry (MCLM) has supported Ahli for over 20 years in keeping its doors open to the most vulnerable in the region. Because of its longstanding relationship with Ahli, Bradley Hills has been very concerned about the hospital's survival since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

In a recent conversation with one of AFEDJ's staff, we 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 throughout the entire hospital. Staff are doing their best to start back up regular services such as elective surgeries, screenings and rehab. Funds raised for Ahli will help them keep their doors open and allow staff to continue providing these critical services to people in Gaza.

Our financial support will allow Ahli Hospital to continue serving the population of Gaza under the most brutal circumstances.

To give online, go to BHPC's website, press the "Give Now" button, and select the World Communion Offering "Formerly 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.

Together, let's reach out to support our friends in Christ.

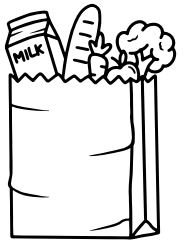


Smart Sacks

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!



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 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):**



BHPC Music

Come, make music with us! There are many wonderful opportunities to participate in our music ministry throughout the year, with something for all ages, interests, and levels of experience. Whether you've sung or played for years, or you're simply curious and would like to try something new, all are welcome! Take a look at the opportunities below, come try something out, and see where you might fit. I would love to talk with anyone who is interested or has questions about getting involved.

There's a place for you in our music ministry! Reach out to Gunner Chancey at gunner@bradleyhillschurch.org for more info!

Alleluia Singers

Ages 4-3rd grade

11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Lantern Choral

4th-8th grade

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



Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary each Thursday

The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. worship service during the program year (September to May), as well as for special services throughout the church year. *All are welcome!*

Connecting to BHPC



We'll enjoy lunch and an hour of relaxed conversation with Pastor David and other staff sharing how you can become more involved with church activities and/or become a member.



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@bradleyhillschurch.org

Children, Youth and Families

Church School

We are excited to be a part of your family's spiritual formation, and we hope you will join us at Church School each Sunday and for our special events! During the 10:30 worship, children ages 3–5th grade are invited to head upstairs for Church School.

Ages 3–2nd grade | **Godly Play**

3rd–5th grade | **Club 3–4–5**



Baby and Me Playgroup

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

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



Trunk or Treat

Children

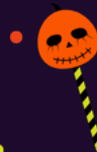
Dress up in Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat for candy around the Bradley Hills' parking lot.

Adults and Youth

Decorate the trunks of your cars with Halloween themes and hand out candy to kids.

October 24 | 5-7 pm

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Parking Lot
6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD



Intercongregational Partnership Committee

ICPC Fall Events

The ICPC works to nurture connections among members of Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC), Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC), and the Magame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC), the three congregations that share sacred space at 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda, Maryland. We believe that engaging one another face-to-face, having conversations over food, learning about each other's experiences, and sharing our faith traditions helps us to see one another more fully and build enduring relationships.



The ICPC's planned activities for the Fall 2026 are as follows:

- **Abrahamic Faiths, the Conversations Continue** | *Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall and on Zoom* | Featuring Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, Rabbi Eric Abbott and Pastor David Gray. 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 register to attend in person or on Zoom. Registrants are welcome to submit any specific questions they have to the clergy via the ICPC email address icpc6601@gmail.com by no later than October 7.
- **Youth Board Games Afternoon** | *Sunday, October 18 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. in the Lounge* | Come join us for a fun afternoon of board games and pizza. This interfaith event is open to all youth ages 10+ from BHPC, BJC, and MIIC. We will have games, but you can also bring your own. You are welcome to bring a friend. **Scan the QR code on the next page to register.**
- **The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran Book Discussion** | *Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in person only in Covenant Hall* | ICPC Book discussion on *The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran* by Shida Bazayr. The book follows an Iranian family from Tehran to Germany to Tehran and back to Germany, from revolution to exile and back to revolution from 1979 - 2009, original written in German. **Scan the QR code on the next page to register.**
- **Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Brunch** | *Sunday, November 15 10:30 a.m.* | The service is led jointly by clergy of the three faiths and the offering is donated to a designated charitable organization. Children will start with their parents in the sanctuary and then have their own Interfaith gathering with education leaders of the 3 congregations. A catered brunch with kosher and halal food follows the service. Registration is encouraged and a \$10 donation per adult is suggested. In addition, we plan to continue the interfaith food collection and distribution project. More information coming soon!
- **New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) Presentation** | *Sunday, November 22, 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in person in the Lounge and on Zoom* | Held during the BHPC education hour. The 3 congregations are continuing some their refugee-related work through the NNIA. This presentation is being arranged by the BHPC education ministry.





BHPC Ministry Partners

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School

October is such a wonderful time at Bradley Hills Nursery School. Our beautiful campus begins to explode with color as the trees change from summer to fall. It is cooler outside. It gets dark earlier in the day. We use this change in weather as an illustration to talk about other changes our children might be experiencing - and how these changes make them feel. Giving our children these tools, the ability to put words to how they are feeling, is essential to the connections they make with their teachers, friends, and families. Being able to talk about feelings helps a child feel understood and can reduce frustration, tantrums, and anxiety. Focusing on how we feel is an integral part of BHPCNS' social-emotional programming for our bear cubs!



NURSERY SCHOOL CONTINUED....

Our programming is in full swing, and we are now offering before & after school programming. Breakfast with Bradley Bear, Lunch Bunch, and Stay + Play programs extend the fun and the day for our Bear Cubs. There is nothing cuter than watching a table full of two-year-olds open their lunch boxes and talk about the foods they have packed and the things they like to eat. Our enrichment programming also begins, and children participate in our monthly specials, Art and Science with Mrs. Lacy, Music with Little Hands, and Singing with Ms. Casey.



HALLOWEEN FUN

On October 29th & 30th we will have the most adorable Halloween Parades. Each classroom picks a theme, and each child makes a mask to wear. Pumpkins, spiders, black cats, green goblins, ghosts, and more parade through our hallway and out to the field to sing Halloween songs together. It's a spooky good time!



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2027-2028 BHPCNS SCHOOL YEAR

Tours for the upcoming school year will begin in October. Current families of the preschool and BHPC community members receive priority placement when registering their child(ren). If you have a preschool-aged child, and would like more information about BHPCNS, our programming, fees, or schedules, visit our website, www.bhpcns.org, or call the school office at 301-365-2909.



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@bradleyhillchurch.org

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 M/W/Th, 9:30 - 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. For more information - **call** Ken Silverstein, Executive Director at 301-469-0070 | email ken@friendsclubbethesda.org





News and Notes 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

Join the Visiting Team!

The Visiting Team is looking to grow and we need you. We are a ministry of connection and presence. We meet monthly for training and to provide each other mutual support. Our mission is to share Christ's love by visiting one person once a month. We stay with our assigned person(s) indefinitely, giving us the opportunity to build a relationship with everyone we care for. We currently have people we would like to serve and cannot without growing the team. Please reach out to Jennifer Kline jennkline0329@gmail.com (614-802-9537) for more information.

Chili Cook-Off

November 22 | Evening

Annual Labyrinth Walk

November 29 | After the 10:30 a.m. worship

Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling

November 29 | 5:00 p.m. outside

Advent Mid-Day Prayer Pause

November 30-December 23 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:00 - 12:20 p.m.





Happy October Birthdays



1 Oct Nils Wayman Kenji Hinds Don Ridings	11 Oct Jennifer Stinson Andrew Milne Ryan Kiell	
2 Oct Mike Frenkel Teddy Breder Thomas Graves	13 Oct Al Kingman J Meek Sue Ghosh-Stricklett Nancy Kauffunger Naomi Kettler Samantha Henderson	21 Oct Nia Waldo Moon Choi
3 Oct Mark Liffiton Dar Wolvin Evie Sheperd Luka Vanderslice Brooklyn Nolen	14 Oct Liz Scroggs Chris Breder Corinne Quane Elizabeth Scroggs	22 Oct Pat Grafton Sho Yano
4 Oct Chris Gschwend Elizabeth Crofoot	15 Oct Mara Easterbrook Kevin Gschwend Shelly Murray Lori Cox	23 Oct Bill Miller Leslie Morrison Robert Bowis Stephen Jordan Gladys Bermudez
5 Oct Karen Pettigrew Cindy Karst	16 Oct Cindy Learn	24 Oct Samuel Picard Jean Dudek Sara Sadler
6 Oct Lizzy Menard Gregory Dixon Andrew Lokker	17 Oct Kaitlin Schneck	25 Oct Don Wilson Margit Herfarth Charlotte Williams Kaira Wang
7 Oct Wally Harman Davis Nordeen Lucy Cohen	19 Oct Kendall Wong Jessica Holcombe William Bruton	26 Oct Cindy Matsiko
8 Oct George Petrides Eloise Scribner Eva Caldera	20 Oct Lisa Hicks Carol Conrad Emily Thomas Brendan Gray Van D Parsons	27 Oct Kaelyn Petrides
10 Oct Jacob Gaba Jim Kettler Eric Hammers		28 Oct Robby Deans Anna Ridings Alex Ridings Alex Enge
		30 Oct Donny Banashak Michelle Scott
		31 Oct Carsey Eliason Sean Brady Vanessa Vargas

Upcoming Memorial Services

October 11 at 1:00 p.m. | Joyce Hunt

Did We Miss Your Birthday?

Email Kristen Abbott, at kristen@bradleyhillsschurch.org
so we can celebrate with you.



6601 Bradley Blvd.

Bethesda, MD 20817

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.BradleyHillsChurch.org

6601 Bradley Blvd. ▪ Bethesda, MD 20817 ▪ 301-365-2850

Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 am to 4 pm; Fri. 9 am to 1 pm

If you would like to stop receiving a paper copy of the BHX, please email or call Kristen Abbott at kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org | (301) 365-2850. Copies of the BHX are also available in the Narthex.