First Sunday of Advent



Bradley Hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.

NOVEMBER 29, 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.bradleyhillschurch.org.

In Christ's hope,
David Gray, Senior Pastor |
david@bradleyhillschurch.org

All are welcome here.

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. The next new member class will be held December 13th. New members will join December 20th.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC Annabel Hunter

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Annie Awanohara and Meena Tharmaratnamt

One: Today we begin the season of Advent - a season of sacred anticipation. While the world rushes toward the holidays, the Church pauses to watch and wait.

All: We open our eyes to the darkness around us, and we look for the dawn of God's promised light.

One: Jesus tells us, "Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." We do not watch in fear, but in confident expectation. We light this first candle as a sign of our watchfulness.

All: Lord, keep us awake to your presence. Teach us to watch for your grace in our lives, in our community, and in our world. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN 127 (from Glory to God)**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

Refrain.
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world!

Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.
Refrain.

Christ by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the, the light of the world.
Refrain.

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED Pastor Denise Diaab

MINUTE FOR MISSION Brigitte Burgett

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered into your embrace, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven.

Silence for personal confession

One: We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come:
All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, hear and receive 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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1 VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O. shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world!

If you are new or have not yet registered your child(ren) for church school, please scan the QR code and register so that we have all the safety information necessary for participation in the program.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

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

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord alway — Anonymous, 16th c.

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

(Phillipians 4:4-7)

SERMON — Denise Diaab

***HYMN 20**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night — ABERYSTWYTH

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL FOR OFFERINGS, TITHES AND PLEDGES

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.

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY

How Lovely are the Messengers — Felix Mendelsohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words.

(Romans 10:15,18)

***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:	**Response for Celebrations:**
One: Lord, in your mercy,	One: With thanksgiving,
All: Hear our prayers.	**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 2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — HYFRYDOL

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING MUSIC — Sonya Sutton

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing — Emma Lou Diemer

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

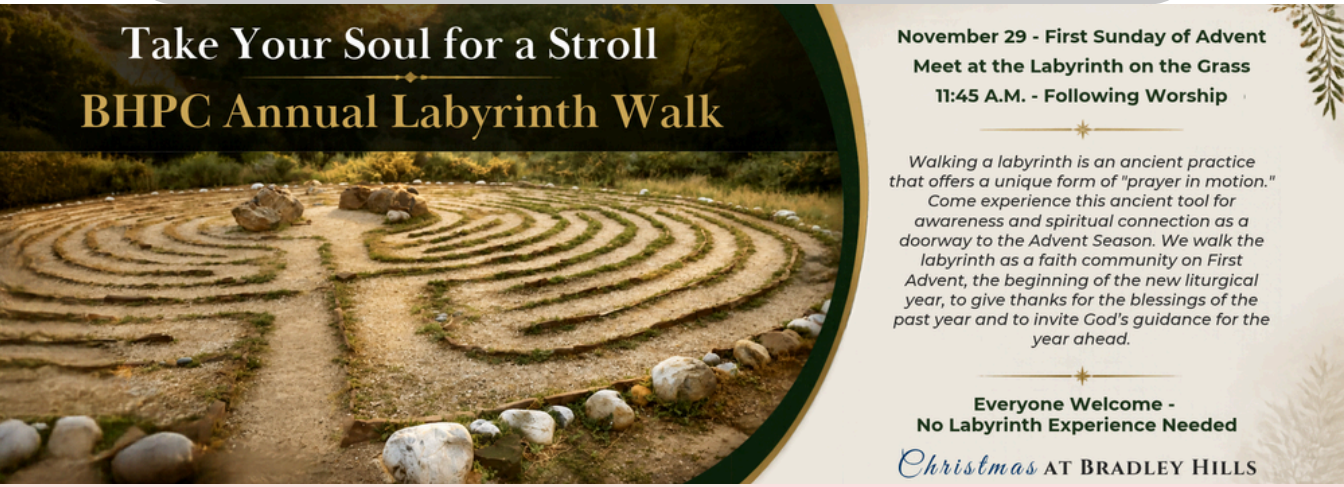
Connecting Our Community at BHPC

Preview of December 6

Join Us for Worship
8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall | 10:30 a.m. in-person in the Sanctuary & online

Second Sunday of Advent | Communion | 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 in the Gathering Space







Advent Midday Prayer Pause

When the morning's rush gives way to the afternoon slump, take a refreshing pause. Reset your heart, realign your mind, and draw on God's strength for the rest of the day.

Join Us

Time | 12:00 - 12:15 p.m.
Days | Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Dates | November 30–December 23

Join on Zoom
Meeting ID: 894 3723 5293
Passcode: 485196

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

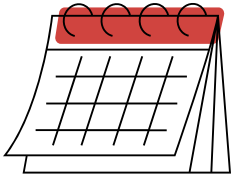


Adult Education

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

December 6 and 13 | Seeing the Gospel Through Narnia and Middle-earth: How Christian Imagination Deepens Faith - Quinn Fox invites us to step into the imaginative worlds of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, where timeless stories illuminate the Christian themes of redemption, courage, hope, and faithfulness. Through The Chronicles of Narnia and The Lord of the Rings, we will discover how imagination opens our hearts and minds to the truth, beauty, and mystery of the gospel—and what these beloved works can teach us about living faithfully in today's world. Prior familiarity with either author is helpful but not at all required.

Quinn Fox, an engaging and highly acclaimed presenter, recently retired after more than 40 years of ordained ministry in the PCUSA, most recently serving as Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Education at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 6 following the 10:30 a.m. service
Sanctuary and live-stream

There will be a special meeting of the congregation meeting after worship on Sunday, December 6 to elect new elders and deacons and to elect our new Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Nominees are:

Elder: Bill Edelblut, Ben Franklin, Joan Burns, Abby Imus, Tracy Rankin (to fulfill a 2 year term) and Ellie Gray (youth)
Deacon: John Buchman, Tom Vanderslice, Annie Awanohara, Bie Fox (to fulfill a 2 year term) Cameron Gray and Lendy Mejia (youth)
AP Nominating Committee: Tracy Rankin, Susan Vanderver, Ed Hummers, Stacey Milne Jan Kang, Joel Fickett, John Shea, Jennifer Kline, Cathie Lutter



FAMILY CONNECTIONS LUNCH & Advent Workshop

December 6
12:00-1:30 p.m.

Families are invited to join us in Memorial Hall following worship for lunch, crafts and fellowship.





Getting Connected and Exploring Membership Class

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

Bradley Hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.

Join us
December 13

11:45 am–12:45 pm | Library

LUNCH & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

For those interested in membership, we'll welcome you during worship on **December 20**.

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

Contact Pastor David at
david@bradleyhillschurch.org

Christmas Cookie Exchange



On Sunday, December 13, the beloved tradition is back! Bring homemade Christmas cookies to share, and take home as many as you bring.

Please drop off your cookies in Covenant Hall from 9:45-10:15 a.m. Sunday morning. *Include a label with your name, the name of the cookie, and if there are nuts in the recipe.*

After worship, choose your selection of cookies to take home.

Missions at BHPC

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Participate in Alternative Giving

Visit www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/alternative-giving



Our team has identified innovative projects around the world that advance justice, address food insecurity, and expand access to education and health care.

Each gift we make is an act of love of neighbors across generations, communities, and continents.

#GivingTuesday2026

Feeding Families 2027 Sign-Up's

BHPC is proud to support Faith Presbyterian Church's monthly "Feeding Families" project. 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.



Scan the QR code to sign up!

Angel Gift Tree

GIFTS DUE BY DECEMBER 6

This year, we will be providing gifts to recipients served by 3 of our mission partners. **The Women's Collective** offers essential services to women in the DC area who are living with HIV/AIDS. We receive roughly 70 names of children in these families. When you select and shop for one or more children, you are helping these mothers and grandmothers bring joy on Christmas Day.

We are providing gifts to some of the patients served by **Dennis Avenue Health Department's HIV/AIDS clinic** in Silver Spring. The clinic provides names of senior citizen patients who are mostly in need of gift cards. We also offer names of children whose parents are patients in the clinic. These folks are our Montgomery County neighbors. Many are immigrants who have been living with heightened fear in 2025 and 2026.

Our third group of recipients are familiar to many of you. We partner with Faith Presbyterian to give gifts to 25 children from **Patterson Elementary School**. The school is in the neighborhood served by the Feeding Families program, where several of our members go to distribute groceries alongside our friends from Faith.

Important Save the Dates

- **You must select your name/s in person in the Gathering Space by TODAY, November 29**
- **You are invited to join us for a wrapping party on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4.**
- Color coded tables are set up in south transept in the sanctuary to receive WRAPPED and LABELED gifts.
- ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BY **Sunday morning, December 6**.

This is a wonderful family activity. We hope you join!



Olive Oil Ministry



The Olive Oil Ministry is an all-volunteer ecumenical project of more than 25 congregations in the greater Washington, DC region, which supports the Palestinian farmers. The sale of olive oil and related products generates ncome for Palestinian families in the West Bank, promotes peace and justice, and raises awareness of the struggles in Gaza and the West Bank, especially during these challenging times

The products are delicious and make wonderful gifts.

Sale of Palestinian olive oil and related products will be held in the Gathering Space on Sundays after the 10:30 worship service on11/29, 12/6, 12/13.

Two varieties of olive oil, one mild and one zesty, are offered as well as olive oil soap, olive or tomato tapenade. Most of the olive oil and other products are produced by al-'Ard Agriproducts Company in Nablus and are organic and/or fair-trade certified.

Scan the QR code to order!

Christmas Flower Orders

Purchase your Christmas flowers this year to support the Flower Guild.

Purchase a white poinsettia, red poinsettia, or Christmas cacti to help decorate the Sanctuary during our Christmas Eve services!

Each plant costs $25.

Place your order on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or through Sign-Up Genius by scanning the QR code. Pay by cash, check (made payable to BHPC with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo), or through Realm.

The deadline to sign up is Monday, December, 14.
Pick-up after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service or on Sunday, December 27 after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Questions? Contact Tamae Wong or Susan Vanderver.

A Stewardship Note

Waiting for good things can be hard. We all remember how hard it is for children to wait for their hoped-for Christmas gifts. During this season of Advent, we are grateful for the gifts you have given the church throughout the year and for the gifts that you give now through the Angel Gift Tree. Imagine the joy of the children and senior citizens who receive those gifts!

Financial Accounting Gifts or Experience Needed

If you or someone in the congregation has financial accounting skills or experience, we are looking for those gifts for some of our financial and pastoral ministries. If you would be willing to connect, email david@bradleyhillschurch.org or jbuchman@law.gwu.edu.

You are invited to attend our Potty Training Seminar, via zoom, on **Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:30pm**. BHPCNS' Parents' Group has found Sally's teaching methods to be practical and useful.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School



Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

A special prayer request.

- **Prayers for the family of Dave, member of Darnestown Presbyterian Church who died from being hit by a car. Prayers for healing and complete recovery for Mary (Dave's wife) and friend, Kay who were severely injured but are in stable condition. Lastly, prayers for the Quince Orchard High School Community and Darnestown PC Community who have been deeply impacted by this tragic accident.**

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

- The family of Joan Paschal whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary at 2:00 pm, November 29.
- The family of **Todd Young** (Carol Starr's son-in-law) whose father, Dr. Michael Young, died on November 11; Dr. Young's service was November 12.
- The family of Ben Flowe whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary at 1:00 p.m., December 13, followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations.

- **Fun fellowship, delicious food, and line dancing at the Annual Chili Cook-off.**
- The youth raised over $600 for their summer mission trip to New Mexico.

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

- **Samantha Sloan** who is recovering from brain surgery.
- Eric, Jeff, Gloria Androa, Debbie Bowis, Charles Brodine, Carol Butcher, Ed Everitt, Peg Flow, Frank Fowler, Joanie Friend, Lynda Harman, Daphne Mace, Jean Sutton, Phyllis Sutherland, Donald Sutherland, and Margaret and Kristine Yeager.

We pray for those being treated for cancer including:

- David, Jai, Shannon, Sue, Susan, and Suzi.
- Karin Amundson, Nora Casey, Sylvia Coe, Sharon Griffith, Cynthia Hines, and Lauren Ward.

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

- Amin Behr, Megan Casey, Ed Gray, Virginia Gray, Jan Hagwood, Scott Hagwood, Rob Krueger, Kitty Morris, Vi Ozone, Leslie Patterson Werner, Elizabeth Ritter, Rebecca Slack, Bill Squier, and Marianna Squier.
- Anaiya, Barbara, Doug, Edgar and his wife, Graydon & Jeanne, Kevin, Karl, Maurice, Patty, 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 harm, war, and division.

- An end to the war with Iran and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- An end to the war in Ukraine.
- The victims and survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence everywhere.
- Those in detention centers in unhealthy conditions, especially children.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms.
- All those experiencing food and housing insecurity.
- Those suffering from mental illness.



Smart Sacks

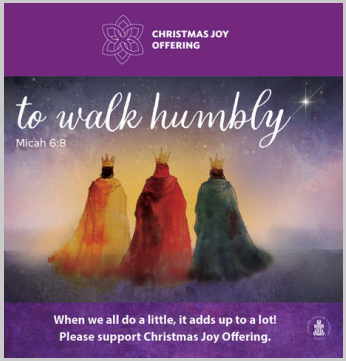
There will be **NO SMART SACKS TODAY!** We look forward to seeing everyone next Sunday.

Connect | Celebrate | Nurture | Serve | Steward

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 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)



The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families facing financial hardship, develops leaders of color, strengthens Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, and nurtures children, youth, and young adults.

Every gift helps share God's love in action. Please give what you can - when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

The offering will be accepted through December 20, 2026. Envelopes are available in the pews, or you may give online by designating your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.
Thank you for supporting those in need in the spirit of Jesus Christ!

A Special Note

David is traveling today but will be in the office tomorrow.

Flower Dedication

In gratitude, from Potomac Community Resources.

Worship Schedule

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

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

December 13 | Third Sunday of Advent | Lessons and Carols

December 16 | Blue Christmas | 1:00 and 7:30 p.m. services

December 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 24 | Christmas Eve Services | 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. services
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 27 | One service at 10:30 a.m. | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

January 3 | Epiphany | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

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