Bradley Hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.

November 2026

Expressions

A Newsletter for the Congregation of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Cultivating Wisdom

I've been thinking this fall about young people in our congregation applying to college - their hopes, their decisions, and the world they are preparing to enter. They think about where they will attend and what they will study. But as they move into the future another question might come to mind - who will they become?

In his New York Times essay, "In the Age of A.I., Major in Being Human," David Brooks encourages students to cultivate empathy, creativity, a distinctive voice, and judgment grounded in experience. He recalls teachers whose character shaped him: people who modeled honesty, and helped him discover things. Education involves becoming wiser through encounters with people and perspectives that stretch us.

That is one of the premises of our interfaith witness at 6601. That being in relationship with our partner mosque and synagogue stretches us and helps us gain wisdom as we learn from the perspective of others. In Ephesians 5, Paul calls us to live wisely and make the most of our time to develop wisdom.

Wisdom grows through experience, relationship and choices. Do we choose the easiest answer, or examine the evidence? Do we surround ourselves with people who agree with us, or listen to someone whose experience challenges our assumptions? Do we conceal mistakes, or see them as opportunities to learn?

Artificial intelligence can process information and generate impressive answers. But access to an answer does not decide for us whether it is truthful or loving. Intelligence gives us knowledge, but wisdom helps us figure out if something or some activity is worth doing.

The church helps nurture this growth. Worship turns our attention toward God. Scripture challenges our assumptions. Prayer creates space for reflection. Service brings us into contact with needs we might otherwise overlook. Intergenerational relationships allow our unique experiences to enrich one another.

Listening to Jewish and Muslim neighbors at our interfaith service this month can deepen our understanding and strengthen our commitment to compassion and justice. We can remain rooted in our Christian faith while learning from others.

These opportunities depend on institutions that bring people together and teach wisdom. Supporting them is an investment in the people we hope to become and the world we hope to leave to our children.

As we engage in our 2027 stewardship campaign, we recognize how special it is to belong to a community like BHPC. I encourage you to make a pledge to Bradley Hills. Your generosity sustains worship, supports staff who teach and care, nurtures children and youth, and extends our mission. A pledge helps us plan faithfully for the year ahead, strengthening the community where we connect, grow, and serve.

As our youth prepare for college, I hope they choose opportunities that develop both their abilities and their character. May each of us keep making those choices ourselves - through how we spend our time, share our resources, support the church, learn from those different from ourselves, and seek the wisdom of our tradition.

Thanks for being an important part of the BHPC community. See you at church.

In Christ's love,

David

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

NOV 1

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall
10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
Honoring those who have died in the past year
Communion
Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

NOV 8

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall
10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online
DEDICATION SUNDAY
Offering our pledges
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

NOV 15

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall
Traditional Christian Worship
Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab
10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online
INTERFAITH SUNDAY
Worship with Clergy from BHPC, BJC and MIIC

NOV 22

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall
10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online
MUSIC SUNDAY

NOV 29

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall
10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary and online
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab



Learning at Bradley Hills

Adult Education - November

November 1 | **Resilience**: We will discuss how we can find resilience to cope with the challenges facing us in 2026. Venus Masselam, as moderator, will lead this panel composed of Susan Gibeson, Rob Bamberger, and Michael Gibson. Our panelists will share their perspectives and experiences and explore the practical and personal ways we can strengthen our resilience when life doesn't go according to plan.

November 8 | **"America's God and America's Game: Home, Hope and the Gospel According to Baseball"** Since its emergence in the nineteenth century, baseball has grown alongside the American nation itself. More than simply "America's pastime," it has shaped - and been shaped by - the nation's history, values, and identity. Through clips from Ken Burns' acclaimed documentary *Baseball*, memorable scenes from *Field of Dreams*, and selections from literature and history, we'll explore how baseball became America's civil religion, expressing our deepest longings for home, community, sacrifice, reconciliation, and redemption. Quinn Fox will lead us to consider how these themes point beyond the ballpark to the larger story told by the Christian gospel. Quinn recently retired from over 40 years of ordained ministry in the PCUSA. He has served in two large PCUSA congregations as Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Education: First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs and, for the past 14 ½ years, The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.

November 15 | **Interfaith Sunday - Adult Ed will not meet**

November 22 | Representatives from the **New Neighbor Alliance (NNIA)** will introduce us to the organization's mission, history, and ongoing efforts to support immigrant families in Montgomery County. They will share both the rewards and challenges of this important work, carried out by volunteers from nearly 40 member organizations, including Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. The presentation will also highlight opportunities for additional volunteers to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our immigrant neighbors. *Time will be reserved for questions and discussion.*

November 29 | **Thanksgiving Weekend - Adult Ed will not meet**

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

Bible Study on Zoom

November 11, 18 and 25

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.



Interfaith WORSHIP & BRUNCH

Sunday, November 15, 2026

6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD

Interfaith Service | 10:30 a.m.
Brunch | 11:30 a.m.

Join members of three faith communities for worship, fellowship, and brunch as we celebrate our common spirit.

Brunch Registration
Adults | $10
Ages 18 and under | Free

If cost is a concern, we're happy to help.
Email: icpc6601@gmail.com

Please register by November 12.

**Electronic payment is available on site by credit card, Venmo or Zelle.



Worship Partners

Bethesda Jewish Congregation
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center



We need help with set-up and clean-up for the brunch!

Scan the QR code to sign up.

Thanksgiving

FOOD DRIVE

We would love your help in providing Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity

ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED

OCT 11 – NOV 15

- Canned Gravy
- Any Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Corn
- Box of Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Corn Bread Mix
- Cake Mix w/ Frosting
- Cans of Soup
- White Rice
- Canned Yams
- Mashed Potatoes
- Mac and Cheese
- Halloween Candy

Pick up a shopping list and grocery bag outside Rosanna's office or in the Gathering Space

DROP OFF LOCATION

Memorial Hall and other locations around
6601 Bradley Blvd. Bethesda, MD

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Rosanna Howard

rosanna@bradleyhiillschurch.org

Upcoming Events

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.



Art Exhibit



Now - November 19 | Lounge

A Radiant Path, an extensive exhibit of oil, watercolor, and mixed media, is in the Lounge through November 19. **You are invited to the Artist's Reception on November 8 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** The Lounge is accessible on Sundays from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Contact Carol Starr at carstarr.com or 240-988-8885 for more information.

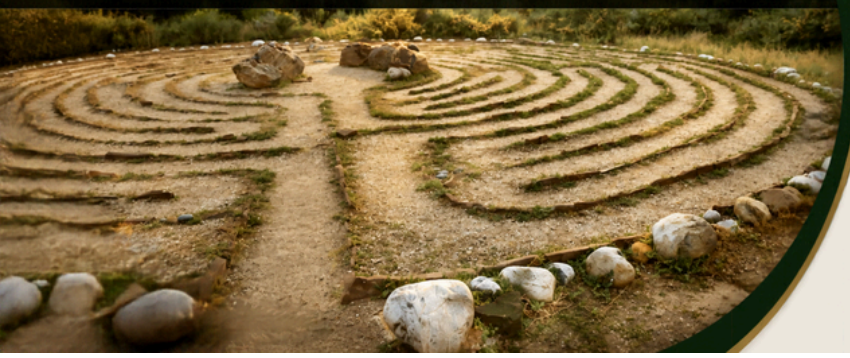
CHRISTMAS TREE
Lighting

November 29
5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Carols in the sanctuary, followed by an outside tree lighting and hot cocoa.

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

Take Your Soul for a Stroll
BHPC Annual Labyrinth Walk



November 29 - First Sunday of Advent
Meet at the Labyrinth on the Grass
11:45 A.M. - Following Worship

Walking a labyrinth is an ancient practice that offers a unique form of "prayer in motion." Come experience this ancient tool for awareness and spiritual connection as a doorway to the Advent Season. We walk the labyrinth as a faith community on First Advent, the beginning of the new liturgical year, to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to invite God's guidance for the year ahead.

Everyone Welcome -
No Labyrinth Experience Needed

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

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



Missions at BHPC

Angel Gift Tree

Begins November 8 | ALL 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

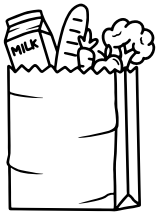
- **You must select your name/s in person in Covenant Hall on the following Sundays: November 8, November 22 and November 29**
- **You are invited to join us for a wrapping party on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4.**
- Beginning on **Sunday, November 22**, color coded tables will be set up in south transept in the 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!

Alternative Giving | Investing in Justice for 2027 and Beyond

We continue to have faith that our God will always help us lean in toward justice. 2026 has been a year of instability for many, especially for the most marginalized across our world. As Alternative Giving opportunities are offered for Advent 2026 **(Nov 22 through December 31)**, decide to invest in choices that allow for relationships near and far to be knitted together in support of God's justice for all.



Smart Sacks

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

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.

Upcoming Friends of Music Concerts

2026 -2027

The Cello Gang: Around the World in Six Cellos

Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Works by Florence Price, J.S. Bach, Katherine Hu, Paul Desenne, Sharon Farber, Queen, and Scott Joplin. The Cello Gang is made up of students from Artistic Director Amit Peled's studio at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Ranging in age from undergraduate freshmen to doctoral candidates, the ensemble brings together passionate young cellists who regularly perform repertoire written or arranged specifically for cello choir. Each work in the program represents the heritage of one of the students, weaving diverse musical traditions into a shared voice - an expression of collaboration, love, and unity, and a resonant message of peace in challenging times.





Nathaniel Gumbs, organ

Sunday, February 28 at 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Nathaniel Gumbs is a native of the Bronx, NY and has performed throughout the United States and abroad, including Antigua, St. Thomas, Ghana, Paris, and Munich, and is consistently gathering new fans and followers. In a review of a recorded performance with bass-baritone Dashon Burton, The New York Times described Nathaniel's playing as "mature, lyrical, accurate and energetic," and that his performance was presented "deftly and with feeling.

Brian Ganz, piano

Music in Motion: Dances of Granados and Chopin

Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Pianist Brian Ganz returns to Friends of Music to conclude our season with a dynamic program of dances by Enrique Granados and Chopin. Widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation, Mr. Ganz has made it his mission to join vivid music making with warmth and intimacy onstage to produce a new kind of listening experience, in which great works come to life with authentic emotional power.



Season Subscriptions Available

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

https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/5633 or scan the QR code

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 after the children's moment.

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!

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

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.



Upcoming
Youth Events







Financial Lay Ministry - Third Quarter Update

Operating Budget

Thanks to the generosity of many members fulfilling their annual pledges early in the year and some unbudgeted parking lot rental income, our revenue is tracking ahead. This has positioned BHPC to expend nearly all of its Mission Budget and denominational support for the year, getting valuable funds in the hands of those that need it most. Overall expenses are within budget. We remain on strong footing as we approach the end of the year.

REVENUE

Overall | Ahead of budget: 83.6% of annual budgeted revenue received.

- **Congregational Giving** | Ahead of budget (approximately 1 month).
- **Building Use** | Congregational partners are on track and we have received unbudgeted parking lot rental income.
- **Investments/Other Income** | Over 100% of annual budget.

EXPENSES

Overall | Slightly under budget (71.5% of YTD budget).

Program Areas | Slightly under budget (70.4%).

Mission (MCLM) | Nearly all expended (98%), supporting 16 mission partners as well as BHPC's summer youth trips.

Apportionment and Denominational Support | Paid in full (100%).

Operating Budget Bottom Line | **YTD Net Income:** $225,540 (vs. budgeted year-end surplus of $18,824).

Outlook | Well-positioned, but mindful of potential economic uncertainty within our community.

CAPITAL BUDGET

We have spent 102% of our annual capital budget with all major projects complete. Key projects so far this year:

External Concrete Work | $11,400 spent to date of $12,000 project budget (complete)

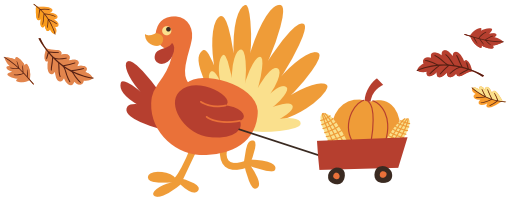
Sanctuary Flooring Replacement | $279,927 spent of $310,000 project budget (complete)

Lantern/Steeple Repairs | $24,800 (unbudgeted - complete)

Shed Replacement | $9,850 (unbudgeted - complete)

Questions? Feel free to reach out to one of our Financial Lay Ministry members: Dave Burgett, Chair, John Buchman, Session Liaison, Ed Hummers, Jalena Specht, Jim Everett, Jon Winslow, Bethany Frick, Jan Spencer, Director of Financial Ministries, and David Gray, Pastor.

BHPC Ministry Partners



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School

As we move into November, BHPCNS is so very thankful for our families sharing their children with us, for our wonderful staff of dedicated teachers who teach and love the children each day, for our parents who support the school, and for BHPC sharing their amazing campus and building with us. We wish everyone who is a member of the community at 6601 a safe and delicious Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends.

Registration is under way for the 2027-28 school year. BHPCNS is a community, play-based preschool where each child is embraced for their unique and special personalities. If you would like to learn more about how your child can play, grow, and learn with us, call for a tour at 301-365-2909 or visit our website, www.bhpcns.org for more information. BHPC members receive priority admission status in the program.



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

Dedication Sunday is November 8



At Bradley Hills we have a tradition of bringing our pledge cards forward during worship as a sacred act of love and commitment. We do this on Dedication Sunday, which this year will be November 8.

So, if you are worshipping in person on November 8, please remember to bring your pledge card and take part in this tradition.

If you have pledged before November 8 on Realm, by email, snail mail, or otherwise, or if you have not received a pledge card, we will supply cards on November 8 that you can use to participate in that act of worship. If you are worshipping remotely November 8, you may use any of these methods to send in your pledge. And, of course, you are always welcome to drop your pledge card into Jan Spencer's mailbox in the Church Office or email your pledge to her at jan@bradleyhillschurch.org.

We are grateful for every pledge and we thank you in advance for supporting the church where we all belong.

Scan the QR code to make your 2027 pledge.

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 at jennkline0329@gmail.com | (614-802-9537) for more information.

Cookie Exchange
December 13 | 9:45-12:15 p.m. | Covenant Hall

Lessons and Carols
December 13 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Friday Night Lights Youth Christmas Party
December 18 | time and location TBD

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

Christmas Brunch
December 20 | 11:30 a.m. | Memorial Hall



Christmas Eve Services
December 24 | 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Happy November Birthdays

3 Nov Bill Albershardt
Nora Grace Veghte
Katie Young
Saul Weiner
Christina Lane

4 Nov Fran Weaver
Matthew Derry
Christina Liu

5 Nov Isabel Merideth
Amanda Owens

6 Nov Ethan Coffin
James Hurtt
Andrew Lokker

7 Nov Imogen Schneck
Davis Nordeen
Lucy Cohen

9 Nov Nancy Cooper

10 Nov Andrew Christianson
Kate Winslow
Leon Zhou

11 Nov Gail Schlueter
Kaitlin Corno

12 Nov Jackson Biggs
Paul Howie
Benjamin Scribner
Bruce Downey
Jan Spencer
Noah Tadesse

13 Nov Charles Martel
Phil Mace
Rosanna Howard

14 Nov Marina Wong

15 Nov Joe Busch
John Bowis
Lalia Specht
Catherine Payne

16 Nov Margaret Rick
Greta Mann
Adam Specht
Helen Drake

17 Nov Melissa Gregory
Leanne Frenkel
Ted Rabin-Rosfjord
Daniela Smith

18 Nov Sharon Griffith

19 Nov Scott Northup

20 Nov Kai Vanderslice
Robyn Sng
Roger Sng

21 Nov Missy Kelly
Anne Liffiton

22 Nov Valerie Hinrichs
Richard Hummers

23 Nov Ryan Shim
Lillian Grace

24 Nov Paul Harris
Jeff McCreight
Sarah Brady

25 Nov Emily Williams
Brian Adams

26 Nov Brooke Rickett

27 Nov Christoph Herfarth
Reme Guerrero
Jong Lee
Carolyn Fink
Charlotte Baker

28 Nov Julie Anderson
Zelamie Bremer

29 Nov Owen Cylke
Margaret Rhoades

30 Nov Melissa Kallas
Sam Blesi

Upcoming Memorial Services
December 13 at 1:00 p.m. | Ben Flowe

Did We Miss Your Birthday?
Email Kristen Abbott, at kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org so we can celebrate with you.

Bradley Hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6601 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

All are welcome here.

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