Welcome to Bethesda UMC

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Reconciling Ministries Network

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are a congregation that welcomes all with open hearts, open minds and open doors.
Our faith is deeply rooted in the Methodist tradition of social justice
and we support the inclusion of all in every aspect of the life of the church.
We are more than the sum of our parts.
We are a community of believers, doubters and seekers of all ages, from all corners of the earth.
Our church family is made up of people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities
and we affirm and celebrate all of them.
We are socially, politically and theologically diverse, yet we are one in the body of Christ.
We welcome everyone who wishes to join us as we strive to order our lives
in the way of the footwasher, Jesus Christ, to love our God, to love our neighbors
and to bring peace, kindness and justice to a world in need.

We're Glad You Are Here Today!

Please fill out an **Attendance Card** (located in the pew rack) to let us know you've been here in worship (just leave the card on the pew at the end of the service). You can use this card to share prayer requests, send a message to the pastors, or update your contact information. Thanks!

New Here?

We warmly welcome all who are visiting our church this morning. We hope to have the chance to personally greet you and answer any questions about our congregation that you may have. Want to learn more about BUMC? We invite you to text your name and email address to us at **301-246-0866** and we'll be in touch soon!

BUMC's COVID Safety Policy

Wearing masks is not required during our services and activities. Hand hygiene is important – feel free to use the sanitizing stations in the narthex and Lonnie's Lobby. And most of all, if you at all feel not well, even if it is just a little bit, the most loving thing you can do is to join us virtually instead of in person until you are sure you are well. The last two pews in the back are reserved for those who want to sit close wearing masks.

Bethesda United Methodist Church

8300 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814 • 301-652-2990 • washmorefeet.org

Rev. Dr. HiRho Park
Lead Pastor
hrpark@washmorefeet.org

Dr. Shaw Brewer
Minister of Discipleship & Justice
shaw@washmorefeet.org

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, November 26, 2023 11:00 a.m.

BUMC's services are livestreamed. Please be aware mics are live and conversations may be heard over the air. If you prefer not to be visible on the video, which is broadcast on YouTube, we invite you to be seated towards the rear of the Sanctuary. Thank you.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Choral Introit — Sanctuary Choir

Opening Music & Bringing the Light of Christ

"Now Thank We All Our God" - arr. Fox

Tolling of the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

* Greeting

Leader: God has blessed every one of us.

People: We give our thanks to God.

Leader: We come to thank God for this place and all of the ministries we support.

People: Lord, help us to continue being part of ministries that promote hope and peace.

Leader: Come, let us praise God.

People: Enable us, O God, to discern what you would have us do.

* Opening Hymn — UMH 327

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Sharing of the Peace & Song — TFWS 2171

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

LISTENING

Children's Message

Memory Verse

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

* Hymn — TFWS 2076

"O Blessed Spring"

Prayers of the People

Anthem — Sanctuary Choir

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" - Miller

** Congregation joins in singing of final verse (on cue)*

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Message — Rev. Elijah Ferebee

"How Will You Show Up?"

Responding

Introduction to the Offering

Offering & Offertory Music

"Andante Con Moto" - W.A. Mozart

Offertory Prayer

SENDING

* Closing Hymn — UMH 438

"Forth In Thy Name, O Lord"

Dismissal with Blessing

Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Choral Benediction

* Closing Music

"In Dir Ist Freude" (In Thee Is Gladness)
- from Das Orgelbuchlein - J.S. Bach

Our preacher today is Rev. Elijah Ferebee, Program Director of Project Transformation DC. Elijah launched the program in 2018 to address three unique challenges. The program aims to meet the academic, physical, social-emotional, and spiritual needs of children from under-resourced communities. Second, it provides meaningful opportunities for college-age young adults to explore ministry and develop as principled leaders for the church and the world. Lastly, it aims to revitalize churches in underserved communities.

Elijah Ferebee is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree. He previously worked as a recruiter for the Office of Admissions at Wesley Theological Seminary. His love for ministry is evident in all areas of his life.

In addition to his ministry work, Elijah is passionate about mental health and pastoral care and counseling. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Virginia State University, where he also felt called to pastoral ministry. During his time at Virginia State University, he was heavily involved with the United Campus Ministries team and helped lead the "Men of Troy" mentoring program at Ettrick Elementary School in Petersburg, Virginia.

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Elijah is dedicated to empowering and uplifting others through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He considers the ability to glorify God with all that he is and has been given as the greatest reward in his life.

TODAY'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor: Rev. Dr. HiRho Park
Minister of Discipleship & Justice: Dr. Shaw Brewer
Preacher: Rev. Elijah Ferebee
Director of Music: Chris Warrington
Sanctuary Choir Conductor: Max Nolin
Director, Bethesda Bells: Gail Williams
Tech: David Flumbaum (livestream), Holly Pannullo (Slides), Carl Eichenwald (sound)

Worship Chairs: Bill Allman & Cindy Osnos

If you have any questions or wish to provide input about our worship services, please contact Bill (bilgerall@yahoo.com) or Cindy (osnosmcrc@comcast.net). We'd love to hear from you.

Today at BUMC

Sunday, November 26

- 9:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am PTR Class
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Blended Worship - Guest Preacher
- 12:00 pm Greening of the Church
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch
- 4:00 pm Racial Justice Witness

Please Donate

Thank you for choosing to worship with us on your busy Sunday. We understand that our services may sometimes go beyond one hour. If you need to leave at the end of the one-hour service, we kindly ask that you do so quietly. Our worship leaders will not be offended.

ORDER A POINSETTIA in honor or memory of a loved one and help us decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. Plants cost $20 and orders are due by December 11. Order envelopes are available in the Narthex. You can also place an order online (Washmorefeet.org/PoinsettiaOrder). Feel free to take your plant home any time after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

LIVE NATIVITY: Join us on Sunday, December 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for a walk-through portrayal of the Nativity Story. Scenes will feature our youth in costume portraying the characters in the Nativity. We will also have live animals, including sheep, donkeys, and miniature horses. Enjoy seasonal music, bingo, and trivia! After experiencing the Nativity scenes, feel free to sit in the Sanctuary and enjoy the music. Don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor to join us.

ANGEL TREE: Spread Christmas cheer this year by participating in the Angel Tree program. BUMC is partnering with The National Center for Children and Family to provide Christmas gifts to families who need a helping hand. Each ornament on our Angel Tree in the Narthex is labeled with a recipient's name, age, and gift request. We suggest that you aim to spend about $50/ornament. The tree will be up on November 27. Gifts should be wrapped, labeled with the ornament, and returned to the church by Sunday, December 17. There are also ornaments requesting grocery store gift cards and Target gift cards to be distributed to families. Gift cards should be placed in an unsealed envelope marked "Angel Tree" and can be dropped off anytime on or before December 17 in the lock box outside the church offices.

EVENSONG, a tradition at BUMC during Advent and Lent, returns this season! This quiet and reflective service includes scripture readings, prayers, and songs, providing an emotional refuge during the busy Christmas season. Talented acoustic and vocal musicians from the church perform a variety of old and new music. The service also includes Communion. Mark your calendars for the following dates: December 3, 10, and 17. On December 17, Evensong will be the Blue Christmas service, offering comfort and understanding for those dealing with feelings of sadness and alienation during the holidays.

FASTING PRAYER ON DECEMBER 2: On the first Saturday of each month, we encourage you to fast as we pray for BUMC and its ministry. You can choose to skip a meal or two or fast for an entire day according to your health condition.

Please pray for these items in December:

- Let us thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ and the BUMC faith community.
- Remember those who experience depression during the holiday season in your prayers.
- It has been observed that mortality peaks during the cold winter months. Let us pray for comfort and peace for those who lose their loved ones.
- Please pray that God will lead us to a good tenant in our education building.