Welcome to Bethesda UMC

Sunday, December 10, 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
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Dr. Shaw Brewer
Minister of Discipleship & Justice
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Second Sunday in Advent
A Season of "Almost"

Sunday, December 10, 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 — Praise Band

"Joy to the World"

Choral Introit

Opening Music & Bringing the Light of Christ — Reese Harper

"Prelude on Antioch" - Burkhardt

Tolling of the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

* Greeting

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord

People: We Lift your hearts with gratitude and Joy,

Leader: Unabashed Joy!

People: Your steadfast love and faithfulness is ever present in our life and that is why we come with Joy.

* Opening Hymn — UMH 209

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Sharing of the Peace

LISTENING

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — The Jerrell Family

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Sung Response — UMH 224 v2

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Baptism

Riley Daniel, Son of Carynne and Michael
Godparents: Emily Surdyk and Blake Montgomery

Children's Message

* Hymn — UMH 216

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayers of the People

Anthem — Sanctuary Choir

"This Little Babe" - Britton, from "Ceremony of Carols"

Scripture — David Balasundaram

Luke 1:46-55

Message — Rev. Dr. HiRho Park

Uninvited Joy

RESPONDING

Invitation to Offering — Dr. Douglass Lewis
Huree University, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Offertory Music — Bethesda Bells
"Cold December Flies Away" (Catalonian Carol) arr. Douglas R. Boyer
Jodie Paustian, Carl Eichenwald, Chris Warrington, percussion

* Doxology — UMH 219 v3
"What Child Is This"

Offertory Prayer

SENDING

* Closing Hymn — UMH 196
"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

* Dismissal with Blessing

* Choral Benediction & Carrying the Light of Christ Into the World

Closing Music
"In Dulci Jubilo" - Manz

About the Carols in Today's Service

JOY TO THE WORLD – EWF: While not the traditional Joy to the World you may be used to, this version by Earth, Wind, and Fire certainly evokes joy! Parts of the familiar text are layered over a "funky" band accompaniment that so many bands utilized in the 1970s. (We're saving the traditional version of Joy to the World for Christmas Eve!)

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL - UMH 209: The joyful text of this hymn is a paraphrase of the "Canticle of Zechariah" and emphasizes the themes of liberation, salvation, and restoration.

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE - UMH 224 V2: This joyful, child-like tune (In Dulci Jubilo/In sweet jubilation) has been popular for more than 4 centuries. The happy message of the text and it's appealing rhythm invite us to rejoice!

LO HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING – UMH 216: This German carol is set to a 16th century melody is based on Isaiah 35:1-2. It relates all the events in the first and second chapters of Luke and the second chapter of Matthew about Jesus' birth. Theodore Baker adapted the much-loved scripture into these five stanzas that tell of Isaiah's prophecy, the shepherds, the angels, the manger, and, of course, the (human and divine) Christ child.

THIS LITTLE BABE- from Ceremony of Carols – Benjamin Britten: The text is from a poem by a relatively unknown 16th-century English Jesuit priest Robert Southwell. Benjamin Britten wrote "A Ceremony of Carols" in 1942 using Southwell's poem. Southwell portrays the story of Jesus's birth as a "sneak attack" on the forces of evil – i.e. who would expect God to send a baby to be the Savior of the world? Set in a minor key, the piece begins a rhythmic fanfare of sorts, but rather than a trumpet, Britten uses a harp (the instrument of lullabies) to simulate the infant's "sneak attack." In the second and third stanzas, Britten uses his melody as a canon in stretto, a musical technique in which the succeeding entrances of the melody are right on the heels of those that come before. Is it the clash of battle or the echoes of a celestial choir? In the fourth and final stanza, as Southwell invites Christians to join the heavenly fight on Earth. Britten conveys this for the first time by placing the voices in harmony, and concludes in the major key – i.e. on a note of joyful victory.

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS – UMH 196: The text by Charles Wesley is set to Rowland H. Prichard's tune "Hyfrodol" which means "good cheer." Wesley's text touches the full range of biblical memory and human hope, evoking the promise of Christ's coming to transform human life in the present. Our praise band provides the accompaniment in a style borrowed from American jazz pianist, Vince Guaraldi ("A Charlie Brown Christmas").

TODAY'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor: Rev. Dr. HiRho Park
Minister of Discipleship & Justice: Dr. Shaw Brewer
Director of Music: Chris Warrington
Sanctuary Choir Conductor: Max Nolin
Worship Leader: David Balasundaram
Acolyte: Reese Harper
Director, Bethesda Bells: Gail Williams
Tech: Sam Bohn (livestream), Steven Martin (Slides), Carl David Flumbaum (sound)
Coffee Hour Hosts: Janine Gregory, Linda Clime

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, December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am PTR Class
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am Blended Worship
- 3:00 pm Christmas Concert
- 5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship
- 7:00 pm Evensong Worship

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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Join us for the annual BUMC Christmas Concert today at 3:00 p.m., featuring our Sanctuary Choir, Bethesda Bells, and part of our extended family, Capital Carillon. This festive afternoon promises a splendid array of Christmas music, offering a chance to enjoy and participate in beloved carols. It's a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the joy and peace of the season. We look forward to celebrating this special time with the BUMC community and friends!

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.Gifts should be wrapped, labeled with the ornament, and returned to the church by Sunday, December 17. Gift cards should be placed in an unsealed envelope marked "Angel Tree" and 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 Sunday. 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. Join us this Sunday, December 10: Michael O'Hanlon from the Brookings Institute will be our speaker.

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.

JOIN US FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our children at our annual Christmas Pageant. It will be presented during the worship service on Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m. Our angels, shepherds, wise men, and animals are busy rehearsing their roles and are excited to share this story of hope with all of you. Don't forget to share the livestream link (washmorefeet.org/livestream) with your friends and family so they can enjoy this wonderful tradition too.

CALLING ALL YOUTH: Join us today from 5:00-6:30 as we dive into the true meaning of Christmas while playing exciting games that will make you think and laugh. On December 17, we have a special movie night planned where we'll be watching the classic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Plus, we'll have a hilarious white elephant gift exchange that will surely bring out the holiday spirit in all of us!