Welcome to Bethesda UMC

Sunday, December 17, 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

Third Sunday in Advent
A Season of "Almost"

Sunday, December 17, 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

Opening Music & Bringing the Light of Christ — Grace Smith, acolyte

"A Festival of Carols"

Tolling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

* Greeting

Leader: I need to find peace. Can I find it with Santa Claus?

People: No!

Leader: Can I find it through gifts, decorations, parties or Christmas lights?

People: No!

Leader: I know can I find it through Jesus.

People: Yes, that is where you will find it!

All: Let's go look in the manger.

* Opening Carol — UMH 220

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Sharing of the Peace

LISTENING

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — Jane Betz & Ethel DeHaven

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Response — Reuben Alexander & Libby Harrison

"Peace, Peace"

Prayers of the People

Anthem — Sanctuary Choir

"Christmas Day" - Gustav Holst

Soloists: Gail Williams, Harold Seifried, Bill Allman, Riley Williams, Rebecca Viser, Diana Mears

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:16-20

Homily — Dr. Shaw Brewer

Even Santa Kneels at the Manger!

RESPONDING

Invitation to the Offering and Offertory Music

"Rise Up Shepherd and Follow/Children, Go Where I Send Thee" - Huntsinger

Offertory Prayer

Seeing & Hearing the Christmas Story

Christmas Pageant

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" - W&S 3052 vv. 1 & 5

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - UMH 211, verse 1

"What Child Is This" - UMH 219, verse 1

"Away In A Manger" - UMH 217, verse 1 (Children)

"The First Noel" - UMH 245, verse 1

"We Three Kings" - UMH 254

SENDING

* Closing Carol UMH 246

"Joy to the World"

Congregation stands and joins on vv. 2-4

* Dismissal with Blessing

Closing Music

Improvisation on a tune from "Piae Cantiones" - arr. Fox

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
Director, Bethesda Bells: Gail Williams
Acolyte: Grace Smith
Tech: Sam Bohn (livestream), Steven Martin (Slides), David Flumbaum (sound)
Coffee Hour Hosts: Tori Hall, Susan Bender

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 17 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am PTR Class
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 4:00 pm Racial Justice Witness
- 5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship
- 7:00pm Evensong Worship: Blue Christmas

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.

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 today.

BLUE CHRISTMAS AT EVENSONG: Tonight at 7:00 p.m., our Evensong service will take on a heartfelt hue with the Blue Christmas Service. If you've been grappling with feelings of sadness or alienation, remember that you are not alone. We invite you to join us as we come together to share love, comfort, and understanding in this season of togetherness. Sometimes, a caring community can make all the difference.

WHITE ELEPHANTS AT YOUTH THIS SUNDAY: Come to our Youth White Elephant Party, taking place this Sunday, December 17, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Come bearing a white elephant gift worth under $15 and get ready for an evening packed with amusement, fellowship, and a touch of anticipation. Invite a friend to double the fun! Not only will we exchange gifts and share some quality time, but we'll also discuss our upcoming summer work camp. Feel free to contact Shaw at shaw@washmorefeet.org for more details.

RACIAL JUSTICE WITNESS SUNDAY AT 4:00-5:00 PM: Join us as we stand along Old Georgetown Road to lift up all people of color and marginalized communities in our nation. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Christmas Schedule:

Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

11:00 am: Morning Worship
4:00 pm: Family Service
7:00 pm: Festival Service
11:00 pm: Lessons & Carols Worship Service

To ensure that our staff can spend time with their families after a busy holiday season, our church building will be closed from Monday, December 25, through Monday, January 1.