Welcome to Bethesda UMC

Sunday, December 3, 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

First Sunday in Advent
A Season of "Almost"

Sunday, December 3, 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 — UMH 207

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Opening Music & Bringing the Light of Christ

Tolling of the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

* Greeting

One: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ's world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God's strength and hope.

One: We come into a world silenced by the pain

All: Into a place where we can fully sing our praises to the coming king.

* Opening Hymn — UMH 211 vv. 1, 4, 6

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Sharing of the Peace

LISTENING

Lighting the Candle of Hope — The Noble-Manson Family

Response of the People: Fill us with songs of the season and hear our hope as we sing out to you.

Sung Response — UMH 230

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Welcoming Emmanuel Korean Way — SelahArt Dance Team

Sings and Haegum: Arirang Along
Drumming: Modeumbuk

Children's Message

Prayers of the People

Anthem — Sanctuary Choir

"O Radiant Dawn" - James MacMillan (b.1959)

Scripture Reading — Bill Allman

John 1:1-5

Message — Rev. Dr. HiRho Park

A Season of Almost - An Architecture of Love

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Music During Communion — TFWS 2232

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace (O-So-So)" - SelahArt Dance Team

RESPONDING

Invitation to Offering — Cindy Skarbek & Holylight Issangya

St. Jude School In Tanzania

Offertory Prayer

SENDING

* Closing Hymn — UMH 202

"People, Look East"

* Dismissal with Blessing

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

Closing Music

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (Sleepers Awake, BWV 645) - J.S. Bach

Today we welcome the SelahArt Dance Team, led by Jane Kim. Dancers: Chaemin kang, Haoxiang, Enoch Kim, Sitian Wang, Ali Shuey, Grace Webner, Ben Romero, Aidan Chang.

SelahArt Group was founded in 2010 by four Korean adoptee families in Lancaster, PA. Today, they perform in various venues to celebrate Korean culture and raise funds to support struggling individuals and inspire hope.

About the Carols in Today's Service

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - UMH 230: On Christmas Eve ca. 1865, Phillips Brooks was visiting Bethlehem and ventured (on horseback) to the shepherds' field. Upon seeing Bethelehem off in the distance, he was inspired to write the text of this now beloved Christmas Carol. According to historians, it was first sung at a Sunday School Christmas service in 1868. The verses project an element of hope, the last of which being a prayer that Christ will be born in our hearts - Emmanuel, "God with us."

COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE (O-SO-SO) TFWS 2232: Written by Geonyong Lee in the late 1980's, this song is a plea for unity among Christians in hopes that his war-torn and politically divided Korean homeland may one day be unified.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL - UMH 211: This well-known and frequently used Advent hymn originated during the Middle Ages. Various phrases are used to refer to the Messiah and express the fulfillment Christ brings. The plainsong melody (ca. 9th century) and later harmonization in a minor key (ca. 15th century) effectively illicits a feeling of hope - especially the chord structure of the refrain coupled with the emphatic text "Rejoice!"

PEOPLE LOOK EAST - UMH 202: The texts of many carols are coupled with French melodies because of the rousing rhythmic energy they often possess. English poet Eleanor Farjean wrote this text in 1928, referring to Christ as Love, Guest, Rose, Star, and Lord. Coupled with the merry traditional French melody, it joyfully expresses the hope and excited expectation of Christ's coming.

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
Tech: Sam Bohn (livestream), Steven Martin (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, December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am PTR Class
- 10:00 am Advent Wreaths Making
- 11:00 am Blended Worship
- 5:00 pm Live Nativity Christmas Event
- 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.

LIVE NATIVITY: Join us today 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.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. Come tonight and mark your calendars for December 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.

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: On December 10, join us 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!