Welcome to Bethesda UMC

Sunday, December 24, 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

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24, 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 — Chris Warrington, organ/piano

"Festive Noel" with"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - Young
Selections from "Christmas Eve" - Lanz

Tolling of the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

* Opening Carol — UMH 250

"Once in Royal David's City"

Bidding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer — Max Nolin, soloist

Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Lesson — Bill Allman

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Anthem — Choir

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - harm. by Praetorius

Second Lesson — Inas Anderson

Luke 1:26 –35, 38

Musical Selection — Chris Warrington, organist

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" - arr. Chapman

Prayers of The People

Musical Selection — Choir

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

Third Lesson — Bill Allman

Luke 2:1-7

Musical Selection — Diana Mears, soloist

"Nino Lindo" - UMH 222

Fourth Lesson — Inas Anderson

Matthew 2:1-11

* Carol — UMH 245

"The First Noel"

Invitation to Offering

Music During the Offering — Choir

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Offertory Prayer

Carol — UMH 242

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Fifth Lesson — Bill Allman

John 1:1-14

* Closing Carol — UMH 224

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

Dismissal With Blessing

Closing Music — Chris Warrington, organist

"He Whom Shepherds Came Praising" - Manz

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: Steven Martin (livestream), Steven Martin (Slides), Carl Eichenwald (sound)
Coffee Hour Hosts: Shaw Brewer

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 24: 4th Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve

- 11:00 am Morning Worship
- 4:00 pm Family Service
- 7:00 pm Festival Service
- 11:00 pm Communion Service

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.

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.

LIFT AND SHIFT: You may have already heard the phrase…but what does it mean? In short, it refers to a change in our Sunday morning schedule that will take effect on January 7, 2024 in which everything in the current schedule will simply be moved up (lifted) one hour earlier (shifted)…hence, "Lift & Shift." Instead of an 11:00 am worship service, the service will begin at 10:00 am. Instead of 10:00 am Sunday School, Sunday School will begin at 9:00 am. Everything we offer now will still be offered – just an hour earlier.

The decision to have only one service was the first attempt at recapturing what we had prior to the pandemic. It was a compromise on all fronts – traditional music, liturgy, organ, bells, choirs, and praise band with newer and varied music would somehow have to find a way to coexist like never before. Opinions as to whether we've been successful are varied, but in general, the expectations of this single "blended" service have been at least, met, if not exceeded.

In the midst of the struggle to be the church in the post-pandemic world, a question about our Sunday morning schedule was raised. No one knows exactly when or by whom. Most likely, it was several folks in different places and times. The question itself was whether or not we could serve our congregation and community better by changing the Sunday morning schedule. To find an answer, we did what churches (especially United Methodist churches) are prone to do; we formed a committee. The committee consisted of leaders from every aspect of BUMC – worship, Sunday School, music, children & youth, and pastors. We talked – we agreed that there was no perfect solution. Any change would have definite pros and cons. Most importantly, EVERYONE – that is, every aspect of the church program would be affected somehow.

We considered just about every conceivable option including a return to a two-service schedule, but ultimately we decided a Lift & Shift approach was the simplest, least disruptive, and most beneficial option for the current situation and time.

We are not by any means the only church struggling to regroup in the post-pandemic world. But BUMC is one of fewer and fewer churches with a strong identity, a rich story, a powerful message, and most importantly, a strong sense as to the importance a community of faith plays in the lives of children, youth, and adults. In short, BUMC has a lot to offer. It is our hope that this schedule change represents the greatest potential for growth for the time and circumstances in which we find ourselves. Furthermore, we hope you will continue to support the ministries of this church by your prayers, your presence (especially!), your gifts, your service, and your witness.