

A Christmas Day Celebration at 9:30 am

December 25, 2022

Gather Pastor Brendan J. Fox

Call to Worship (by The Iona Community)

Light looked down and saw darkness.

“I will go there,” said Light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there,” said Peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there,” said Love.

So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

Song *A Manger Song* by Gordan Young Trio

Prayer: “Christmas Coming” by Pat Bennett

This Christmas, Lord, take a corner of my life and steal in. . . invade the busyness of my doing with the quiet of your coming.

This Christmas, Lord, take a corner of my mind and steal in. . . illuminate the darkness of my thinking with the brightness of your seeing.

This Christmas, Lord, take a corner of my heart and steal in. . . infuse the coldness of my loving with the warmth of your Being.

This Christmas, Lord, as at Bethlehem’s stable, come and steal in. . . take the unprepared places of my life and make them fit for your dwelling.

Amen.

***Carol** *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH #242

Carol *The First Noel vs.1&2* UMH #245

The Birth of Jesus

Carol *The First Noel vs. 3-5* UMH #245

A Christmas Story Pastor Amy B. Gregory

** You are invited to stand as you are able or comfortable.*

Song *Open Up* by The Brilliance

Joys and Concerns

Christmas Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer UMH #895

Prayer Song *What Child is This?* Trio

Carol Sing

Once in Royal David’s City vs. 1&2 UMH #250

In the Bleak Midwinter vs. 1&4 UMH #221

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly vs. 1&2 UMH #229

O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1&2 UMH #230

Angels We have Heard on High vs.1&2 UMH #238

***Closing Carol** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain vs.1&3* UMH #251

***Benediction** *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering helps neighbors near and far. Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering.

We will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries**, serving social service and social justice needs.

A portion of UMC Conference Ministries Share will be paid to **fund outreach programs**.

We also support **RISSE**, a family-based center in Albany that helps refugees and recent immigrants with finding housing and jobs and offers English classes.

A donation is made to local **food pantries** in Schenectady, Ballston Spa and Rensselaer.

You may **drop your donation in one of the baskets in the narthex** (entry) or visit our **church website** at: nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a dropdown box for the Christmas Offering. **Thank you for your generous offering for people in need. Merry Christmas!**

BHUMC Welcome Statement

At Burnt Hills UMC, we aspire to be a community of grace and unconditional love, where all people will find hospitality, compassion and mercy. We seek to welcome all on the journey, to grow together in faith and to go out to serve the world. We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus' movement of love and justice for all of God's children. All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.

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