

# Burnt Hills United Methodist Church

# Christmas Eve at 3:30 pm

## GATHERING & WELCOME

Pastor Brendan

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Animals came to prepare your bed.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

Angels sang to calm your cries.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

And all the world gave one great sigh:

**Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come!**

\*CAROL                    *O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1 & 6*

*UMH #234*

## PRAYER

**God of grace and wonder, on this night, we like shepherds are amazed. We hear again the message of angels proclaiming peace on earth, and we recall the ageless story of a baby born in a manger, and we know beyond any doubt that you love us more than we can ever know. Thank you. Amen.**

CAROL                    *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs. 1-3*

*UMH #240*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

with Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

**Come to us, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

CAROL                    *Away in a Manger vs. 1 & 2*

*UMH #217*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CAROL                    *Silent Night vs. 1&2*

*UMH #239*

### \*BLESSING

Pastor Amy

Light has been born. Truth has a face. The angels are singing. Heaven is celebrating. Tell out the good news. Christ is born!

\*CAROL                    *Go Tell It on the Mountain vs. 1&3*

*UMH#251*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Christmas Offering donation baskets are available as you leave. Thank you for your generosity helping neighbors.

\* Please stand as you are able.

## **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](http://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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