

We are here to: Love God, Love Our Neighbor and Serve the World.

December 15, 2024 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Advent III: "Presence"

Prelude *A Day To Dance*
Christmas Cradle Song Terry D. Taylor Youth Choir

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Ian

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Song *Christ Be Our Light* Farrell

Congregation joins on the refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

***Call to Worship** by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all Creation.

What, then, should we do?

Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

What, then, should we do?

God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* UMH #718

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Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

*You are invited to stand, in body or in spirit.

Anthem 9:00 am *Awaken and Prepare Us* Frombach/Hayes
10:30 am *The Snow Lay on the Ground*
Vicky Tucker Courtney Voices of Hope and Friends

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me*, verse 1 UMH # 191

A Time for Young Disciples

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me*, verse 1 UMH #191

Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18

Message Presence Pastor Ian Carlos Urriola

Response *Open Our Eyes (sung twice)* TFWS #2086

Invitation to Generosity: Offering our Gifts, our Thanks and our Pledges

Please use the special offering envelope to give to the "Christmas Offering" You may also give online and choose that option in the menu.

Offertory *The Friendly Beasts* French carol

***Singing Our Praises** UMH #211

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
And praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sharing our Joys and Concerns Pastor Amy

Prayer Song *Wait For The Lord* Berthier

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in your heart language) UMH #895

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Jesu, Thy Boundless Love to Me* UMH #183
Tune: UMH # 710

***Benediction**

Postlude *Los Magos Que Llegaron a Belén* Traditional Puerto Rican carol
(The Magi Who to Bethlehem Did Go)

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service
hosted by Holly Rogers and
Greg and Nancy Adams.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15 Advent III

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Youth Choir/Voices of Hope Choir
10:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 16

9:30 AM Earlybirds
No Church Council meeting this month

Tuesday, December 17

10:00 AM Guided Meditation/S.R. High room
1:00 PM BH-BL Book Club

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 AM Fix-its
Explorers on hiatus until January
6:00 PM Caroling at Glendale Nursing Home
7:00 PM AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM Table Talk/Pizza Works
7:30 PM Guided Meditation/S.R. room

Thursday, December 19

9:15AM Seekers/KH
6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 20

7:00 PM Longest night Service

Saturday, December 21

10:00 AM Troop #5098/KH/Kitchen


Sunday, December 22 Advent IV

9:00 AM Worship
9:45 AM Youth Choir/
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Voices of Hope Choir
12:00 PM Pageant Rehearsal

Welcome

Welcome to worship! If you are new, please fill out a welcome card found in the pews, if you'd like to receive more information. **Thank you for coming** to spend part of your Sunday with us. We hope you experience a sense of God's love and grace here today.

Announcements

- Join us for an evening of **joy and song** as we bring holiday cheer to the residents of Glendale Nursing Home! On **Wednesday, December 18, we'll meet at 6:00 p.m. at Glendale Nursing Home (59 Hetcheltown Rd, Schenectady)** for caroling and fellowship.
- Volunteers needed for Longest Night service**
We will be holding space for those who are grieving during the holiday season with a **Longest Night** worship service on **Friday, December 20, at 7:00pm**. This will be a contemplative service with many opportunities for individuals to participate in worship leadership (reading pre-written prayers and scripture, lighting candles, etc). If you would like to help with leadership in this worship service, contact Pastor Ian at iurriola@burnthillsumc.org.
- Readers needed for Christmas Eve at 9:00 pm.** Please contact Amy if you can help.
- Our Christmas Offering helps neighbors near and far. Our church keeps none of your gifts received for this offering. We will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries, RISSE, Chacocente Scholars, Guardian House, Captain/CHS, local food pantries of Sycamore** in Schenectady, **Life Works** in Ballston Spa and **Rensselaer UMC**. **Place your offering in the collection plate using the special offering envelope marked "Christmas Offering"** or drop it off at the church office. To give electronically, please visit the church website at: nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a dropdown box for the Christmas Offering.
- For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty, and care for the earth** Information about donating to Heifer will be in Knight Hall after church services in December. Please stop by the table to see the animal gift cards and brochures. You may make a donation at the table, send the donation to the church office or make your donation electronically by using: nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a drop down box for Heifer on our online giving link through vanco. Thank you so much!
- We are recruiting ushers for 2025!** If you are interested in being an usher, please scan the QR code and sign up with sign up genius or contact Sue Hennessey or Brenda Little. 
- Please Complete Rest and Work Survey**
Earlier this fall, Pastor Ian was selected to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the United Methodists of Upper New York Compelling Preaching Initiative. This initiative is dedicated to embracing a powerful vision to revitalize preaching and nourish the spirits of pastors with a focus on helping preachers in our Annual Conference balance rest, work, and play. To aid Ian in his participation in this cohort, please fill out the 4-question anonymous survey insert in this bulletin and put it in the offering plate during the offertory.

Pastor Ian will be hosting weekly in-person meet-ups to discuss **Advent and Christmas in Crisis Theology** at restaurants around Burnt Hills, Schenectady, Clifton Park, and Saratoga Springs. These meet-ups will take place from 6-8pm (come and go as your schedule permits) on:

- Friday, December 6 (Katie O'Byrnes in Schenectady)
- Friday, December 13 (Uncommon Grounds in Clifton Park)
- Thursday, December 19 (Pizza Works in Burnt Hills)
- Monday, December 23 (Druther's Brewing Company in Saratoga Springs)

Contact Pastor Ian to sign up for these meet-ups.

- On **Sunday, December 29**, we will have **one service at 9:30 a.m.** This service will be very casual (as in, wear your pajamas) **Lessons and Carols** service, weaving poetry about the Christmas season with carols and scripture. **Volunteers are needed** to help us lead this service through reading different elements. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Ian.



Burnt Hills United Methodist Church
816 Route 50
Burnt Hills, NY 12027
www.nybhumc.com

Christmas Eve at Burnt Hills United Methodist Church
COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24

3:30pm Short & Sweet Christmas
Come as you are Christmas!
30 minute/ low sensory service with the Christmas story, carols and candlelight (glow stick & battery candle options)
Snacks served. Home before dark.

7pm Christmas Pageant
Our youth and friends share the the birth of Jesus in story and music. All are invited to sing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

9pm Candlelight Service scripture, music, carols & peaceful candlelight. Welcome Christmas by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Lead Pastor, Amy Gregory: revgregorybhumc@gmail.com
Church phone: 518-399-5144 press "1"

Associate, Ian Urriola: iurriola@burnthillsumc.org
Church phone: 518-399-5144 press "2"



Burnt Hills

United Methodist Church

December 15, 2024



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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