

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

December 17, 2023 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Advent III: "Being Present with Joy"

Music for Gathering *What Child Is This* arr. Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Welcome and Announcements

Becoming Present –an Advent Ritual

We unwrap a present on this third Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

We open our hearts as we open the gift!

The promise of Joy is the Divine Gift we receive.

And what will we do with it?

The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep conviction that we are called to be present in the work of bringing about "great things" - a better world for those who need it most.

We light this Candle of Joy as a sign that we will be Present with Joy in the world.

***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.

Prayer of Presence

**Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Joyful Presence.**

**Let this Joy grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Joy to others.**

Unwrap and open our hearts.

May it be so.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH #240

Anthem *Winter, Fire and Snow* Anuna Chancel Choir

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1)* UMH #191

A Time for Young Disciples

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1)* UMH #191

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

Prayer of Illumination by Andy James

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,

the hoping, the longing,

the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,

and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Special Music *Andante, from Oboe Sonata in A minor* G.P. Telemann

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 26-38

Special Music *A La Nanita Nana* by Jose Ramon Gomis
arr. Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 39-55

Message "Being Present with Joy" Rev. Amy B. Gregory

Response Song *Let It Be* McCartney Pastor Brendan J. Fox

Invitation to Generosity: Offering Our Gifts and Our Thanks

Offertory *Ukrainian Bell Carol/Christ Child Lullaby*
arr. Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

***Singing Our Praises** to the tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 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

Prayer Song *O Lord Your Tenderness* by Kendrick

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Brendan J. Fox

The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Our Joy 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.

***Sending Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH #240

***Benediction**

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High/Deck The Halls*
arr. Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

*Thank you to our guest musicians: Karlinda Caldicott, harp
and Sue Kokernak, oboe.*

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service hosted by the Church Council.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
Sunday, December 17	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir and VOH Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
11:30 AM	Prepare meal for Soup Kitchen
12:00 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Monday, December 18	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds
10:00 AM	Serve lunch at Salvation Army
Tuesday, December 19	
1:00 PM	BH-BL Book Club/Fireside room
7:00 PM	Scouts/KH
Wednesday, December 20	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
6:00 PM	Christmas Caroling at Glendale
7:00 PM	AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM	Pub Theology/Pizza Works
Thursday, December 21	
9:15 AM	Seekers
7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Saturday, December 23	
10:00-12:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
12:00-12:30 PM	Youth Choir Alums
Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	
9:30 AM	Worship
3:30 PM	Short and Sweet Christmas Eve
6:45 PM	Carol Sing Along with Youth Choir Alums
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Pageant
9:00 PM	Traditional Candlelight Service

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.
- We will be **collecting prayer cards** during the offering. If you would like your **prayer request** forwarded to the Prayer Chain, please check the appropriate box on the card.

Announcements

- **Help Wanted: Cookie Delivery Elves** Do you have time to make a special delivery to one of our members who finds it difficult to get to church? Cookies are packaged and ready to go. The sweet treats and cards with addresses are waiting for you to pick up on the kitchen counter this week. Please **help us get the goodies and warm Christmas wishes out.** Thank you!
- **Heifer International** -For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. **Animals, trees and seeds are provided to families to improve food security.** Your gifts save lives. We will have an information table in Knight Hall after Sunday services in December. Please stop by to see the animal gift cards and brochures. Your donation will be gratefully received. The Outreach Commission
- **Christmas Offering** -Our Christmas Offering **helps neighbors near and far.** Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering. This year we will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries, RISSE (support for refugees and recent immigrants), The Guardian House Future Playground Fund, Chocacente Scholars (Managua, Nicaragua), Captain/ CHS and the food pantries of SICM, Lifeworks in Ballston Spa and Rensselaer UMC.** Thank you for giving to people in need. The Outreach Commission
- **Caroling at Glendale, Wednesday at 6pm** Families and all friends with a holiday song in their heart join us for Christmas caroling at Schenectady County **Glendale Home, 59 Hetcheltown Road. Meet in the lobby at 6p sharp!** You are invited to dress in holiday cheer and bring bells or other musical items. We will have caroling books. We will be led by a staff member to visit residents we know from church. Do you have someone in mind to visit? Let Robyn in the church office know. Masks are currently optional, but this could change, so it would be good to plan for it, in case.
- **Committee Chairs** : Please **submit all 2023** receipts, invoices and reimbursement requests to our treasurer Dee Lowman **by December 26** so they can be included in the work of closing out the year. Any questions, please contact Dee treasurer@burnthillsumc.org.

Save the Date

- **Sunday, December 31** there will be one worship service at 9:30am. It will be livestreamed.
- Family Night: **Dinner and Game Night: Sunday, January 21st at 4pm.** Bring a dish to share and stay for trivia, games and fun.

The Gift of Being Present

Sunday, December 24, 2023



Advent IV

9:30am Advent Worship: Love

Christmas Eve

3:30pm Short & Sweet

Come as you are for cozy Christmas: pjs, Christmas dresses, etc--you are welcome! 30 minute/ low sensory service with the Christmas story, carols on guitar and candlelight (glow stick, battery candle options too) Snacks served Home before dark :)

7pm Christmas Pageant

6:45pm Carol Sing led by Youth Choir Alums

Hear our youth tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child through the Christmas Pageant

9pm Candlelight Service

The Christmas Story in scripture, music, carols... & peaceful candlelight

 **Burnt Hills UMC**




Burnt Hills
United Methodist Church

December 17, 2023

**Being Present
with Joy**



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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