

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

**December 22, 2024     9:00 AM and 10:30 AM     Advent IV: Promise**

**Prelude**     *Make Way, Make Way*     Kendrick

**Welcome and Announcements**     Pastor Amy

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Love**

**Congregation:** God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

**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, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**We wait as people of God's promise.**

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

**We listen as people of God's promise.**

Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

**We follow as people of God's promise.**

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Opening Hymn**     *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*     UMH #240

**Prayer**     adapted from Bob Eldan, posted on the Pilgrim Uniting Church website

**God of the impossible and unlikely,**  
**God of pregnant old women and virgins,**  
**you turn our conventional world upside down,**  
**where the hungry are fed,**  
**and arrogant rich are turned away.**  
**Instill in us unthinkable marvels.**  
**Make us pregnant with wonder**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**  
**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**  
**one God for ever and ever. Amen**

**Anthem**     9:00 am *To A Maid Engaged To Joseph*     Grandal/Edwards  
10:30 am *Promise of Peace*     Bowring/Hayes

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

**A Time for Young Disciples**

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

**Gospel Reading**     Luke 1:46b-55

**Message**     Rev. Amy B. Gregory

**Response**     *Christmas Lullaby* by Jason Robert Brown     Jill Zygo, soloist

**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**     9:00 am *Promise of Peace*     Bowring/Hayes  
10:30 am *To A Maid Engaged To Joseph*     Grandal/Edwards

**\*Singing Our Praises**     Tune: 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 Ian Carlos Urriola

**Prayer Song**     *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*     Palmer/Chavez-Melo

**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**     *Star Child*     TFWS #2095

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**     *The King of Glory Comes*     Trad. Israeli folk song

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

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service hosted by Jan and Harm Tunison and friends.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
<b>Sunday, December 22 Advent IV</b>	
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
<b>Monday, December 23</b>	
	No Earlybirds
10:00 AM	Pageant Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	
3:30 PM	Short & Sweet early service
7:00 PM	Christmas Pageant
9:00 PM	Candlelight Lessons and Carols
<b>Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day</b>	
Office Closed	
<b>Thursday, December 26</b>	
Office Closed	
<b>Friday, December 27</b>	
Office Open 8:30-12:30	
<b>Sunday, December 29</b>	
9:30 AM	Worship - One service
<b>Monday, December 30</b>	
Office Open 8:30-11:00	
<b>Tuesday, December 31</b>	
Office Closed	
<b>Wednesday, January 1</b>	
Office Closed	

**Prayers Needed?**

We will be collecting prayer cards during the offering.

If you would like your prayer request forwarded to the Prayer Chain, please remember to check the appropriate box on the card.

## 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

- 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: [nybhunc.com/online-giving.html](http://nybhunc.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: [nybhunc.com/online-giving.html](http://nybhunc.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.



### Looking Ahead to the New Year!

- All are welcome to find joy and connection in the new year through shared expression! Share your stories, explore your gifts, and celebrate community at a day-long gathering facilitated by Beth McLaughlin, Renee Mesh, and Marilyn Stoner on **Saturday, January 25, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Knight Hall**. Participants will share food, fun, and fellowship as they engage in story-telling exercises, drum circles, collaging, and more! Lunch will be provided and childcare is available to those who will need it. Sign up forms are located on the bulletin board outside of Knight Hall. Contact Beth, Renee, or Marilyn for more information!
- Join us on **Sunday, January 19, from 4–7 p.m.** for a cozy Winter Potluck & Family Night! Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of delicious food, fun games, and fellowship for all ages. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and family during the winter season. See you there! For more information, contact Katherine Weis or Orion Marchese.

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:

- 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.nybhunc.com](http://www.nybhunc.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: [revgregorybhunc@gmail.com](mailto:revgregorybhunc@gmail.com)**  
**Church phone: 518-399-5144 press "1"**

**Associate, Ian Urriola: [iurriola@burnthillsumc.org](mailto:iurriola@burnthillsumc.org)**  
**Church phone: 518-399-5144 press "2"**

# Burnt Hills

## United Methodist Church

### December 22, 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.*

816 Route 50, Burnt Hills, New York 12027  
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[www.nybhunc.com](http://www.nybhunc.com)

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RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK