

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

December 24, 2023

9:30 AM

Advent III: “Being Present with Love”

Music for Gathering

Prelude Rise Up, Shepherd African American Spiritual

Welcome and Announcements

Becoming Present –an Advent Ritual

We unwrap a present on this fourth 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 Love is the Divine Gift we receive. And what will we do with it?

The gift of Christ’s peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict. Peace is an ever-present gift that we can open at any time when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone. And the gift of peace we can give is to be present for those who feel alone. We light this Candle of Love as a sign that we will be Present with Peace 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 Loving Presence. Let this Love grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Love to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn Star-Child TFWS #2095

Anthem Nativity Carol Rutter

Hymn Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1) UMH #191

A Time for Young Disciples

Hymn Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1) UMH #191

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Message “Being Present with Love” Pastor Brendan J. Fox

Response Song Come, Emmanuel

Invitation to Generosity: Offering Our Gifts and Our Thanks

Offertory Gentle Mary Laid Her Baby Cook/MacDonald

\*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 Adore Him Widbin

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Amy B. Gregory

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 Love Came Down at Christmas UMH #242

Benediction

Postlude Make Way, Make Way Kendrick

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day  
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26  
Office Closed  
7:00 PM Scouts/KH

Wednesday, December 27  
7:00 PM AA/Fireside Room

Sunday, December 31 New Year’s Eve  
9:30 AM Worship

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.

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

## Announcements

- **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
- **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](mailto:treasurer@burnthillsumc.org).



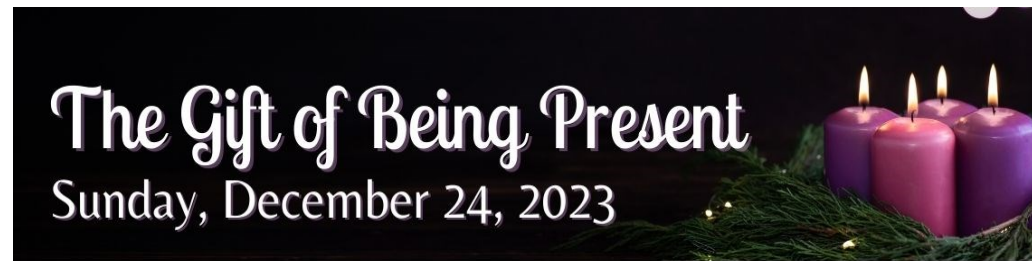
BHUMC INVITES YOU TO

# DINNER & GAME NIGHT

*Calling all young families!*

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Sun.<br/>Jan. 21</b> | <b>Knight Hall</b>  |
|                         | Bring a dish to share.<br>Stay for Trivia, Games,<br>and Fun! |

Questions, Call or Text Katharine (518)536-0216  
Email [katharinemweis@gmail.com](mailto:katharinemweis@gmail.com)



## 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



**December 24, 2023**



### 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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