

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

**December 31, 2023      9:30 AM**

**Irish Blessing for the New Year**

May the new year bring  
the warmth of home and hearth to you,  
the cheer and goodwill of friends to you,  
the hope of a childlike heart to you,  
the joy of a thousand angels to you,  
the love of the Son and God's peace to you.

**Prelude**      *Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come*      Griffiths

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** (Psalm 148:1-5)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
**Praise God in the heights!**  
Praise God, all the angels;  
**Praise God, all the heavenly host!**  
Praise God, sun and moon;  
**Praise God, all you shining stars!**  
Praise God, you highest heavens,  
**And you waters above the heavens!**  
Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
**For God commanded and they were created.**

**\*Opening Hymn:**      *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*      UMH #229

**Unison Prayer** “Step Softly” by Carol Dixon

**Step softly into your weeping world, incarnate God; embrace it in your love. Bring light into broken lives, warmth into frozen hearts, hope to those at war. May your peace pervade every place.**

**Help us to approach this new year filled with the joy of your companionship, as we step out in faith with you, ready to face the future, whatever it may hold. Amen.**

**Anthem**      *What Child Is This*      16th century English melody

**Gospel**      Luke 2: 22-40

**Time of Reflection**

**Prayer of Response**

**Helper in our Past and Hope for our Future:  
hold our good intentions,  
free us from that which keeps us from the good,  
and enable us to move into the coming year  
with your love behind, beside, and before us. Amen.**

**Giving of Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**      *Go Tell It On The Mountain*      African American spiritual

**\*Doxology** to the tune of *Away in a Manger*      UMH #217

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**Prayer Song**      *De Tierra Lejana Venimos (From a Distant Home)*  
Trad. Puerto Rican carol

**Morning Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**      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.**

**Covenant Prayer** After the Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition # 607  
[Originally posted on HackingChristianity.net by Rev. Jeremy Smith (@umjeremy)]

**I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being.  
In truth, O God, I am Yours.  
Make me into what You will.  
Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.  
Guide me on the easy path for You.  
Guide me on the rocky road for You.  
Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You;  
Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You;  
Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;  
I give all that I have and all that I am for You.  
So be it.  
And may I always remember that you, O God, and I belong to each other. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**      *There's a Song in the Air*      UMH #249

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

**\*Responsive Benediction** “A Blessing as you Journey into the New Year” by Lynda Wright

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you and your sense of mystery be deepened.

**May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness can never put it out.**

May you be blessed with companions on the journey, friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

**May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart, daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.**

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

**May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.**

May you continue to dream dreams and reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen.

**\*Postlude**      Peter Van Keuren & The Trinity Brass

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

*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.
- **January 14—Baptism of the Lord Sunday—with baptisms!** If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Amy.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
<b>Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve</b>	
9:30 AM	Worship
<b>Monday, January 1 New Year's Day</b>	
Office Closed	
<b>Tuesday, January 2</b>	
6:30 PM	SPRC
7:00 PM	Scouts/KH
<b>Wednesday, January 3</b>	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
7:00 PM	AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM	Pub Theology/Pizza Works
<b>Thursday, January 4</b>	
9:15 AM	Seekers
10:30 AM	BH-BL Women's Club
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, January 6</b>	
8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
10:30 AM	Caregiver's Support Group
11:00 AM	DMV /KH
<b>Sunday, January 7—Epiphany Sunday</b>	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir
10:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	VOH
11:30 AM	New member info session

# January 2024

## New Member Interest Meetings

Sun. Jan. 7 after 10:30am service &  
Sun. Jan. 14 after 9:00am service

Join the pastors for a casual conversation about what it means to join the church. This will be a very relaxed time where any and all questions you may have are welcomed and encouraged!

## Men's Breakfast

Sat. Jan. 6 at 8:00am — Knight Hall

## Caregiver Support Group

Sat. Jan. 6 at 10:30am — Fireside Room

Are you the caregiver for a family member or friend? Do you know of someone who is having difficulties with caregiving? It helps to talk to other who are going through the same experiences. All who are interested are welcome.

## Soup Kitchen Prep

Sun. Jan. 21 after 10:30am service and/or  
Mon. Jan. 22 at 10:00am — Church Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen Team is looking for new volunteers to provide ingredients, help prepare a meal, and help serve lunch to those in need at the Salvation Army of Schenectady. Sign up by Friday, Jan. 19 on the bulletin board by Knight Hall.

## Family Dinner & Game Night

Sun. Jan. 21 at 4:00pm — Knight Hall

Calling all families with school-age children! Bring a dish to share and stop by for trivia, games, and an all-around good time.

## BHUMC Preschool Open House

Sat. Jan. 27 at 10:00am-12:00pm

## Community Education: Shelters of Saratoga

Sun. Jan. 28 at 12:00pm — Knight Hall

Burnt Hills UMC's Social Justice Action Group (SJAG) will welcome Jessie Thompson, House Manager for Shelters of Saratoga. Come learn how we all can be part of the solution—helping to provide safety, shelter, and dignity.

### Our Ministry Today

Lead Pastor: Amy Gregory  
 Associate Pastor: Brendan Fox  
 Communication Coordinator: Robyn Axon  
 Custodian: Nick Adami  
 Music Ministers: Pete Van Keuren & Jill Zygo  
 Treasurer: Dee Lowman  
 (treasurer@burnthillsumc.org)  
 Financial Secretary: Sue Zoller  
 (financialsecretary@burnthillsumc.org)  
 Prayer Blankets: Deb Whitehead  
 Sunday School Superintendent: Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais  
 Preschool Teachers: Stephanie Tope & Angela Barclay  
 Sound & Video: Charles Hartmann



**December 31, 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.*

816 Route 50, Burnt Hills, New York 12027  
 518-399-5144 burnthillsumc@gmail.com

[www.nybhmc.com](http://www.nybhmc.com)

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