

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

January 7, 2024 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

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

Welcome

***Call to Worship** by Mindi Welton-Mitchell, adapted

Wondrous Star that shines so bright!
Shine in the bleakness and misery. Shine in the shadows and gloom.
Shine in our hearts when our hopes are failing. Shine in our lives when we feel out of place and lost.
Shine in our world when the systems and structures of the world oppress and condemn. Shine in us, so that we may shine Your light and life to the world.
Bright Morning Star, shine our way. Amen.

***Hymn** *We Three Kings (vs. 1 & 5)* UMH #254

Litany of Affirmation (by Helen Lambie, adapted)

We believe in a bright and amazing God who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear light, twinkling stars and sharp colors, over and over and over again. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world; that God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over and over again. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as siblings, and to the Maker's business in the world. God said: Let there be light. Amen

Sharing of Star Words

Hymn *Star- Child* TFWS #2095

Celebration of Holy Communion

liturgy by Maren Tirabassi, from Gifts in Open Hands

Invitation to Communion (responsive)

Come from your still nights and morning oases.
We come with the hopes and fears of long years and brief days.
We come with road dust and star dust with gifts always inadequate but always needing to be given away.
Come with the need for peace of mind and peace on earth.
We come to the Bread and Cup, speaking Star words with our lips wanting to run away from so many dangers.
Come to Bethlehem remembered, but hold in prayer the sorrows of Bethlehem today.
We come for Emmanuel – God with us in journey and shelter.

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

Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel, all children are holy, and we have failed to give them dreams of hope, paths to safety, places of shelter from fear and violence. Forgive us when we ignore children in our neighborhoods and on our newsfeeds who face modern herod-dangers.

Lead us this new year to find magi-resources, map the journeys to possibility, and welcome all who need a safe place, for we pray in the name of any frightened child of Bethlehem. Amen

Assurance of Grace (responsive)

The dream came, there was enough gold for a fresh donkey, the moon shone on the desert.
God forgives us when we put hands over our ears because we are so tired of weeping for our own past year.
God gives us courage to help the most vulnerable in our world in the year to come.
Thanks be to God.

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration

Emmanuel, God you are with us, in our lonely nights, and following so-distant stars. We carry all our old years and open our new one, always hoping, for an oasis for each of us and a blessing on earth, in the form of bread in our hands, and the cup we lift.

May this Bread and Cup be so sacred we never lose the Star's shine, ignore the new year and new chance embedded in every day, or forget Christ who calls us to sharing and joy.

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.

Sharing of the Elements

Let us share the bread.
It is the gift that reminds us of our gifts.
Let us drink deeply.
So that we may always travel on.

All are invited to come forward for Communion to receive bread dipped in grape juice. A gluten-free option is available on the communion table. Please let an usher know if you'd like to receive communion seated in your pew.

Music during Communion *Welcome to Our World* Rice

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Receiving

God, we give thanks that you come to us as Epiphany, in Bread and Cup, in old story and your answer to each of our hopes, need for peace, longing for joy, commitment to love. You have filled us so we may share the good tidings all the year-long. Amen

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading Matthew 2: 1-12

Message Rev. Amy B. Gregory

Offering our Gifts, Tithes and Our Thanks

Offertory *See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw* Perry

***Singing Our Praises** *Doxology* UMH #95

To God all glorious heavenly light; To Christ revealed in earthly night; To God the spirit now we raise. Our grateful hymn of thankful praise. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Blessing of Prayer Blanket

Prayer Song *Loving Spirit* Murray/Copes

Pastoral Prayer *Epiphany* by Walter Brueggemann from [Prayers for a Privileged People](#)

***Hymn** *Angels from the Realm of Glory (vs. 1,3,4)* UMH #220

***Blessing** "Star Giving" by Ann Weems from [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#)

***Postlude** *All Hail King Jesus* Moody

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
Sunday, January 7—Epiphany Sunday	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir
10:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	VOH
12:00-1:30 PM	Confirmation class
Monday, January 8	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds
12:00 PM	BH-BL Women's Club
5:30 PM	Scouts/KH
Tuesday, January 9	
9:30 AM	Tuesday Connection
6:30 PM	Finance mtg./ Zoom only
7:00 PM	Scouts/KH
Wednesday, January 10	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
5:30 PM	Saratoga Voices/Assembly room/Sanctuary
7:00 PM	AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM	Pub Theology/Pizza Works
Thursday, January 11	
9:15 AM	Seekers
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, January 13	
11:00 AM	Birthday party/KH
Sunday, January 14	
9:00 AM	Worship
10:30 AM	Worship
3:00 PM	Birthday party/KH

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*

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

- **Change of Season—** As Advent Season is now past it is time to take down our Chrismon Tree. If you have a few minutes to spare after the 10:30 service, please stay and help us remove and store the Chrismons and take down our tree. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.
- **New Member Intro Sessions** are being rescheduled for a later date. Watch here for details to come!
- **January 14—Baptism of the Lord Sunday—with baptisms!** If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Amy.
- **Human Relations Day** special UMC-wide offering is next Sunday.
- Ad Council meeting—**January 15 at 7:00 pm.**
- The BH-BL Women's Club game day scheduled for **January 20** has been cancelled. It is rescheduled for **March 2 at 1:00 pm.**



January 7, 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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