

BHPCNS PARENTS' GROUP UPDATE

Teacher Appreciation Week: BHPCNS Parents' Group is excited to celebrate our wonderful Bradley Bear teachers the week of **May 2-6th for Teacher Appreciation Week!** We're so grateful for their dedication and commitment to our children. A huge thank you to all Bradley Bear staff from our parents' group community.



Thank you to the Sunshine Committee: A special shout out to our Parents' Group Sunshine Committee of Maggie Maloney, Elena Fauquier, Katie Garrriott Yang and Kimberly Young for organizing the special line-up of treats/activities for our teachers during teacher appreciation week. Thanks to the generous families who volunteered with donations to support the week as well.

World of Beer Happy Hour: Looking for a fun night out to mingle with other Bradley Bear Parents? **Please join us for a Parents Only Happy Hour on Wednesday, May 4th (6:00 – 9:00PM) at the World of Beer** located at 7200 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda. There will be a cash bar, happy hour specials and more!
Please [RSVP](#) so we have an accurate head count.



END OF YEAR EXTRAVAGANZA: To celebrate the close of a fantastic school year the Parents' Group is hosting a **Bradley Bear Summer Send Off on Thursday, 5/26 from 5:30 – 7:00pm outside at BHPCNS!** Please join us for the musical delights of John Henry, enjoy cool treats from the Kona Ice truck. Dinner will be available for pre-order/purchase from Potomac Pizza to be delivered to the event– order forms coming soon!
Please [click here](#) to submit your RSVP. Volunteer opportunities are also listed in the RSVP – these events aren't possible without extra hands and we greatly appreciate your help!



Please reach out to us with any questions! Thanks for your support!

Kaeli Duggan & Nicole Urbanczyk
Parents' Group Co-Chairs

BHPCNS BOARD UPDATE

Dear Parents,

The BHPCNS Board wants to thank everyone for your respectful and cooperative support throughout the school year as our community dealt with Covid-related adjustments and safety protocols. It hasn't been an easy year for anyone. Your flexibility and willing compliance with the protocols have modeled for your children how a community works together to support the common good.



The Board and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church also thank the incredible BHPCNS staff for their creativity and diligence this year handling the many challenges that accompanied the Covid pandemic. We know that the staff is what makes the school a place that you trust with your children's welfare and growth.

We hope you can join us and other Board members for "office hours" on Tuesday, May 3 or Wednesday, May 4 from 9 to 10 am. Please stop by for coffee, donut holes, and conversation. We will be set up at the green picnic table outside of the church office on the opposite side of the building from the school. If the weather doesn't cooperate, i.e. rain, we will cancel the office hours for that day.



The last regularly-scheduled Board meeting for the 2021-22 school year will be on May 24 at 7:30 pm. If you have any topics you would like included on the meeting agenda, please contact the Board at board@bhpcns.org



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church joins the Board in wishing BHPCNS families a summer of rest and time together and new adventures!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair
Vicki Petrides, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



CAMP OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE FOR SESSION 2 – JUNE 20-JUNE 30



Here We Go A 'Wandering

We are continuing to accept camp registrations for Session 2 of Camp – June 20 – June 30. Session 1 is FULL.

Camp is open to all children ages 2 through 6 including rising first graders. Friends, cousins, and neighbors are all welcome. Campers do not need to be currently enrolled BHPCNS students. [Click here](#) for an application and/or contact the office for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

BHPCNS loves our volunteers!

Thank you to all the Room Parents and Parents Volunteers for filling our school year with wonderful community events and making our special classroom parties so much fun! A special thank you for the wonderful treats during teacher appreciation week. We all appreciate your generosity!



A special Thank You to our Parent's Group Committee Chairs and volunteers.

The continued support of the staff, students, and programming, by so many parents is amazing. And an extra, extra special thank you to our Parents' Group Presidents, **Kaeli Duggan and Nicole Urbanczyk**. Nicole will be moving onto Bradley Hills ES when her son matriculates onto Bradley Hills in the fall. It's been a wonderful partnership and while we will miss Nicole, it will be wonderful to work with Kaeli & all the amazing BHPCNS parents again in September.



Thank You

Thank you to Rosanna Morrison and Vicki Petrides, our Board chairs for their leadership. Thank you to the volunteer members of the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School Board. It's been a challenging year and your leadership has been exceedingly helpful to everyone.

JORO SPIDERS ARE COMING!!!!

JORO SPIDERS



An invasive species of spiders the size of a child's hand is expected to "colonize" the entire East Coast this spring by parachuting down from the sky, researchers at the University of Georgia announced last week.

Why it matters: Large Joro spiders — millions of them — are expected to begin "ballooning" up and down the East Coast as early as May. Researchers have determined that the spiders can tolerate cold weather, but are harmless to humans as their fangs are too small to break human skin.

Things to know about the Joro spider:

- They are bright yellow, black, blue, and red and can grow up to 3 inches.
- They likely traveled across the globe on shipping containers, similar to the way Bubonic plague was spread.
- Their life cycle begins in early spring, but they get big in June and are often seen in July and August.
- They're named for Jorōgumo, a creature of Japanese folklore that can shapeshift into a woman or spider before killing its prey.

At BHPCNS we will embrace the Joro spider and take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about these fascinating creatures. Try and embrace them at home too. The spiders won't hurt the children and will be a part of our summer. We don't want anyone to be scared. We want to encourage the children to use their inquiring minds to learn about the spiders. Remember how much fun the cicadas were? Here's another magical feat of nature to embrace!

END OF YEAR FUN FOR 3S, PRE-K & TK CLASSES



End of School SING-ALONGS & CLASSROOM PARTIES

END-OF-YEAR SING-ALONGS & PARTIES:

3S', Pre-K, and TK CLASSES: June 2 & June 3

On **Thursday, June 2nd**, our Tuesday/Thursday 3s' classes will perform a selection of their favorite school songs on the stairs outside the church doors. The program will begin at 9:30 am.

On **Friday, June 3**, our Monday/Wednesday/Friday and our Monday through Friday 3s' Pre-K and TK classes will perform their favorite songs outside the main church doors at 9:30 am.

Both days, following the performances there will be class parties at their outdoor tents. Children will be dismissed after their party between 10:30 and 11:00. Family members are invited to attend the sing-alongs and the parties. Please call the office with any questions.

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 2S' CLASSES

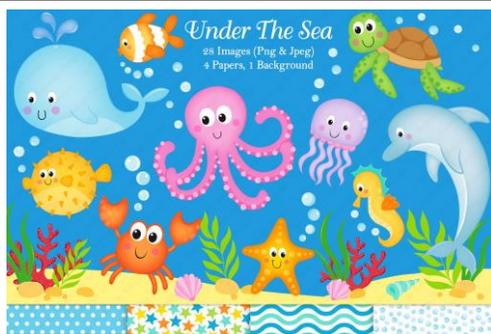
END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS FOR 2s' CLASSES:

Tuesday/Thursday: Mrs. Kebler, Mrs. Choi, and Mrs. Quijada's classes, End-of-Year Celebrations will be on June 2 at 11:00 at your child's outdoor classroom where there will be some singing, a special end of the year party, and lots of hugs. Children will be dismissed at 11:30. Lunch Bunch will be available until 12:30.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: Mrs. Kebler and Mrs. Quijada's classes, End-of-Year Celebrations will begin at 9:30 on June 3 at your child's classroom with a sing along, special end of the year party, and lots of hugs! Dismissal will be between 10:30 and 11:00. Lunch Bunch will not be available on June 3rd.



BRADLEY BEAR DANCE TROUPE – END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE!



Under the Sea! Dance Performance: May 25th

The Bradley Hills Dance Troupe will present *Bradley Bear's Under the Sea dance performance* at 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall on May 25th. Doors will open at approximately 1:30. All are welcome to attend this delightful performance complete with all sorts of magical sea creatures!

Weather permitting we will have refreshments outdoors on the patio by Doors 14. Everyone is invited to stay after the performance for refreshments.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE PROFESSIONALLY RECORDED & LINKS SHARED

Professional Recordings of the Dance Performance & Sing Alongs

The May 25th Dance Performance and both the June 2nd and June 3rd Sing Alongs will be professionally recorded. Downloadable links of the Dance Performance and Sing Alongs will be sent out mid-June for your viewing pleasure and to share with those unable to attend.

3S' JAMBOREE!

3s' JAMBOREE: On Thursday, May 19th the T/TH 3s and the M-F 3s will be having their 3s' Jamboree. On Monday, May 23rd the MWF 3s' classes will be having their Jamboree. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the fun times. If you have a couple of hours to volunteer, please [sign up via the Sign-Up Genius link](#) We will train all volunteers.

Jamboree

SPRINGTIME PLAYGROUND ATTIRE AND TIPS

Playground Attire:

Shoes and Socks: To be able to run and play on the playgrounds children need to have on closed toed shoes with socks to keep the mulch out and the feet from getting hurt.

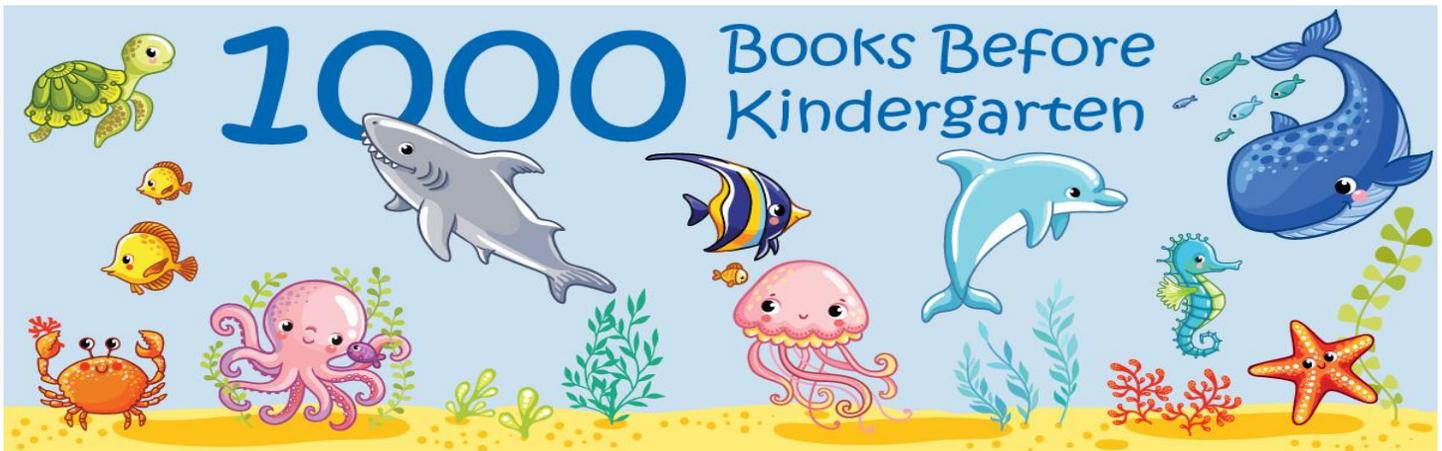
Shorts under Dresses and Skirts: When wearing dresses and skirts, children should wear shorts underneath for modesty sake when climbing and swinging. Shorts make it way more comfortable when playing in the sandbox or mulch.



Sunscreen and Bug Spray:

With the warm weather come sunburns and bug bites. Protect your child by applying sunscreen or bug spray before coming to school. Don't forget to apply to arms and legs as well as those cute faces.

1000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE KINDERGARTEN



Montgomery County Public Libraries: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

[Click here](#) for information about the *Montgomery County's Libraries Best Books Before Kindergarten*

Many of these titles are favorites of our Bradley Bear cubs. Books are a wonderful way to teach children about the world around them and to start meaningful discussions at home. These titles are new and old favorites for kids and adults. Happy Reading! For additional resources visit: <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>

AMAZON SMILE



BHPCNS has an AmazonSmile account. To take advantage of this fundraising opportunity, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church** - you only need to select once! Be sure to visit smile.amazon.com for BHPCNS to receive a portion of the proceeds on every purchase made!



Lunch Time at BHPCNS

- Lunch is a communal time at BHPCNS. The children and their teachers sit together and discuss the day and other exciting topics. Because of the stimulating conversation and lots of distractions, it's not unusual for a child to not finish their lunch.
- During lunch and snack time, manners are reinforced and polite rules of meal time are shared.
- Please pack child and weather friendly lunches. We've had some windy days where things have blown away. Child friendly lunches include containers your children can open with minimal assistance – unless they are really young – and lunches that are easy to eat. For example, sandwiches cut into 4 triangles are easier to eat than cut into 2 halves.
- Please pack healthy lunches and keep treats to a minimum.

Thank you for your help!

Labelling all Items: Please label all your child's belongings. It doesn't need to be anything fancy. Simply writing their name with a sharpie or marker will make it so much easier for everyone to go home each day with the right, clothes, lunch box, water bottle, boots, etc. You'd be amazed at how many children don't recognize their belongings and how many children have the same boots, jacket, lunch box, and more!

Our Lost & Found is Overflowing!

LOST & FOUND

Check out our Lost and Found bin outside Room 108. All leftover items will be donated at the end of the school year.

Turn Off Cars when in the Parking Lots: Once you have parked your car, please turn off the engine. When you idle the air we all breathe becomes filled with fumes.



CSEFEL Pyramid Model for Social-Emotional Development



BHPCNS uses social stories to help children understand how to be a friend, how to handle frustration and more. You've probably heard your child talk about being a Super Friend or thinking like Tucker the Turtle when they are upset. For more information on using social stories at home or if you are looking for summer reading books that encourage friendship skills, patience, understanding, and more, check out Vanderbilt University's Center for the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learners by [clicking here](#). Check out their [Families Tab](#) and their [Teachers and Caregivers Tab](#) to access beneficial resources.

Their [Book Nook](#) is filled with wonderful stories you can get at the library or on Amazon and fun activities to do at home to extend the stories lessons. Another resource is their [Book List](#), categorized by topics that will support a child's social – emotional development. Questions, please contact Liz.

BHPCNS UPDATES CONTINUED:

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TICK ON YOUR CHILD



Outdoor Programming and Ticks: Being outside means the possibility of ticks. It's important to check your child daily for ticks. [Click here](#) for more information on ticks and children.

Statements for Balance Due will be mailed home in the coming weeks. If you have a balance due, please remit payment. Thank you.



MAY SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 2nd through May 6th.

Thank you to the entire BHPCNS team of teachers. You are amazing! Thank you to the Parents' Group for making Teacher Appreciation Week extra special for our staff.



Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms and Grandmothers!
Wishing everyone and their families a very
Happy Mother's Day on May 8th!

BHPCNS will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day. For information on ways your family can recognize American military soldiers and their families during the Memorial Day weekend and throughout the year, [click here](#). Remind Stay and Play classes will be cancelled on Friday, May 27th.



UPCOMING BEAR CUB BIRTHDAYS



Oliver Weidinger
Carlos Ortiz
Lewis Horowitz
Bo Davis

Aakash Patel
Lola Hard
Braden Bolla
Sloan Paulson

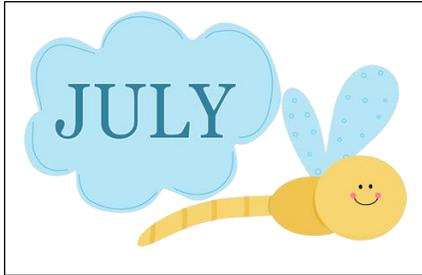
Ryan Penfold
Sean Keehn
Leandro Rivera
Julian Canning
Willem Straatman

UPCOMING BEAR CUB BIRTHDAYS CONTINUED

Warren Munson
Max Schindler
Brett Barr
Sassy MacDonald

Daphne Hertig
Jacob Berlin
Lizzie Penfold
Nathan Nebiyu

Hudson Neighbors
Ellie Orlikowski
John Trunk
Jack Schuler
Samuel Lunn



Finn Haney
Alix Tremaine
Teagan Rickett
Aarish Deva

Timothy Makumbe
Lynne Mohaber
Linus Weisflog
Rosemary Jennings
Isla Desai

Madi Walk
Marielle Trevisan
Madeline Burton
Madison Salcetti
Henry Duggan

Genesis Andrade
Avril de Raet
Annabeth Chan
Catherine Cohen

Perry Fager
Haluki Usui
Giselle Recinos

Parker Price-McDonald
Lucas Fauquier
Esme Rice
Leyla Toufanian

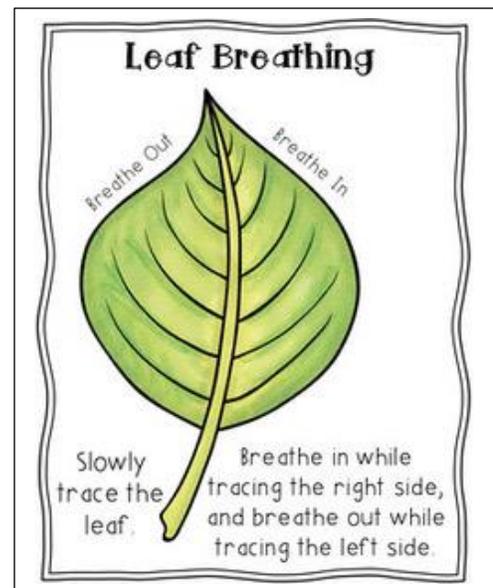


FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO AND CREATE AT HOME!

Relaxation Activity!



This is a fun and relaxing breathing technique that can be practiced indoors with a house plant or outside with a leaf from a tree.



TROUBLE OR WORRY ROCKS/STONES

Social Emotional Value: The "trouble rock" gives children an outlet for talking about their problems and frustrations. In addition, it encourages them to think about what they can do to solve their own problems.

You will need:

- Go on a nature walk and find a rock about the size of your fist with a nice flat bottom.
- Paint or markers
- Wiggly eyes
- Yarn or feathers for hair
- Elmer's Glue-All



Directions:

1. Begin by telling about a problem that you might be dealing with in your life, or about a frustration you had when you were a child. Ask your child to share troubles that they might have too.
2. Let your child suggest what they might do when they have a problem. Brainstorm ways to solve problems.
3. Explain that sometime we might not be ready to talk to someone else about a problem. A "trouble rock" is the perfect solution, because it won't tell anyone else!
4. Decorate your rock with paint or markers, "hair" and wiggly eyes. Ask your child to think of a name for his/her rock.
5. If you have a little piece of felt, glue it to the bottom of the rock to prevent the rock from scratching your furniture.



MAY BHP CNS PROGRAMMING



Mrs. Goodstein Reports: I can't believe this is our last month of ASL!!! The kids have learned SO many signs over the course of the year. In our last lesson we will review many of these signs and play a fun matching game. Our 3s, Pre-K, and TK students will also spend time practicing the songs we sign in our year end concert and will use our fingerspelling (can you believe we know the entire alphabet!!) to practice signing our names. I have loved spending time signing with and getting to know your children.

Ms. Casey Shares: April showers have finally made way for May flowers! Warmer weather once again has us celebrating the changing of the seasons through music. The children seem to have grown so much this past year. They are more aware of their surroundings than ever before. Planting seeds to grow flowers, caterpillars morphing into butterflies, and bees purposefully searching for pollen and nectar are some of the changes that songs teach us to be more mindful of. With most of the school year behind us, the 2's have fully embraced the dance party vibe of music class and eagerly share their observations and stories about family. In May, the 3's, 4's - and now 5's! - are hard at work learning new songs and sign language in preparation for our big year-end concert. We can't wait to share our "small voices" with you.



Coach Cardoni Shares: "Love" is in the air...for Tennis that is! The Bear Cubs will be learning all about tennis in May. As always, we will be sure to warm up our bodies to prepare for learning a new sport. We will be working with an agility ladder to build speed in our lower bodies. We will also be learning how to hold the racket and practice drills with balloons, scarves and finally a tennis ball. Each week the children are also learning how to take turns, cheer on their teammates and work together. The last class of the year we will revisit sports we covered earlier in the season; basketball, line dancing, gymnastics, lacrosse and/or baseball. It's been a great season!

Scientist Vargas Explains: In May our wiggling wizards will dig up earthworms and learn about their importance to our soil and plants. We will learn about a worm's body parts and habitat. We will continue the nature theme with a nature walk; we'll see, hear, smell, touch and maybe even taste dirt (don't worry it's just chocolate pudding and Oreo crumbs!). We will pick up items we find in nature and create a beautiful collage. The year will end with a BANG when we celebrate with huge bubbles, Mentos and soda, and Alka Seltzer rockets, a perennial favorite! We've thoroughly enjoyed learning with your children this year and hope your children's fascination about all things science will continue to grow as they do!



The Bradley Bear Dance Troupe is busy wrapping up their 2021-2022 dance season. Our dancers have been busy working on their dance moves and have been very busy crafting and creating beautiful accoutrements to decorate Memorial Hall for their end-of-year-dance performance on Wednesday, May 25th at 1:45 pm. We are very grateful to Colleen Snyder and the Bethesda Dance Conservatory for all their dance expertise. Thank you to the BHCNS dance teachers for providing such a great time for our dancing cubs!

Spring is in the Air and our BHCNS Arts and Crafting bears will be busy creating lots of beautiful spring time masterpieces. There will be flowers, caterpillars, rainbows and more being imagined and created by this crafty bunch!



MAY BHP CNS PROGRAMMING CONTINUED



Travel Agent Frid is excited to share: G'day Mates! For our very last stamp in our passport this year, we head to the only country that is also an entire continent! We are going down under to explore the rich and vibrant country of Australia. There is so much to learn! The Great Barrier Reef, the plethora of adorable and strange animals, the fun music, and the rich culture of the Aboriginal Australians. I hope our wee explorers are as excited for this last segment of our trip as I am!

Yogi Cardoni Wraps up our Yoga Practice: The Yogi Bears continue adding to their repertoire of yoga poses in May. The themes during May include Ocean, Camping and Gratitude. The Yogi Bears begin each session with a deep breathing exercise they move on to sun salutation, yoga poses and finally reflect during Savasana. Weekly the yogis practice mindful eating and end each session appreciating and acknowledging the light in each of their friends. Namaste!

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. — Arthur Ashe

Gratitude
is an
Attitude

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church News

Flowers at BHP: As the weather gets warmer, we especially appreciate the beautiful grounds. The church school children planted some vinca in the window box near Door 14 to celebrate Earth Day. We hope to be able to keep it watered, so all can enjoy it!



Weekly Church Services - We continue to have Sunday worship services at 8:30 or 10:30. Both services are in person in the sanctuary or on-line. If you or your family are interested in a church home or resource for raising children spiritually, Pastor David Gray, whose four children went through BHP CNS, would be happy to connect and to support you. Contact him at david@bradleyhillchurch.org. We also offer "Children's Church" in person for ages 3- fifth grade during the service.

[Watch Services Live Click Here](#)

Sunday Nursery Services during church – Starting May 1st we will begin offering care for young children during worship. Caregivers will be fully vaccinated and boosted when eligible as well as wear N-95 masks. Children age two and up will be encouraged to wear a mask. For children two years old and younger, there will be a limit of six children total. When there are three-year-olds, there will be a limit of nine children total. Only adult caregivers will be allowed in the nursery space. Windows will be open for ventilation. We look forward to seeing the youngest members of our community again!





Save the Date: Planning is underway for Vacation Bible School this summer from Monday, August 22 to Thursday, August 25. Put it on your calendar. The theme will be “Be Kind - Be Loved - Be You.” Registration information will be available in May.



Service Opportunity for Families: We encourage all families who are attending church to consider volunteering to help the **Smart Sacks Team** which gathers in the hallway between Memorial Hall and the Lounge after church each Sunday. Volunteers put grocery items in bags for delivery to Weller and JoAnn Leleck Elementary Schools. Smart Sacks helps bridge the gap between Friday and Monday by providing nutritious foods for children and their families who might not have another meal until after the weekend. The food is provided by Manna Food Center, a nonprofit striving to end hunger in Montgomery County.



Adult Education at BHPC in May!

Adult Education Offerings in May:

Sessions begin on Sundays at 9:00 am, but we open the Zoom meeting at 8:45 for fellowship. Bring your own coffee - no need to dress up! [Click here to Join the Zoom Meeting each Sunday](#)

May 1: Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Director Emeritus of the Reformed Institute of Washington and Associate Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University, *BLACK AND REFORMED IN AMERICA: The Witness of Black Presbyterians – Part III*. Dr. Douglass will present the last of his series of discussions of major Black theologians in the Presbyterian church.

May 8 and 15: Associate Pastor Denise Diaab, *The Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a leader of the theological and moral resistance to the Nazi regime in Germany.

May 22: Dr. Karl Klontz, Epidemiologist, Food and Drug Administration, *COVID – Where to From Here?* In his fifth and (fingers crossed) last presentation to us about the course of the pandemic, Dr. Klontz will assess where we are, what may lie ahead for the pandemic, and whether a “post-COVID” world is a realistic hope.

May 29: Memorial Day weekend – no Adult Education.



On behalf of the entire BHPCNS community, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer! We look forward to seeing our returning cubs in September and wish all those moving onto new adventures much success in their new programs! Fondly, Liz