With a deep faith in God’s grace, in the unconditional love of Christ

and in the Holy Spirit’s call for us to trust God and live out our faith in the world,

David has joyfully pastored our church since 2009.

He grew up active in the Presbyterian Church in Dayton, OH and feels the spirit alive at Bradley Hills.

David comes to ministry out of a love for teaching and preaching.  He enjoys walking life’s journey with people, particularly during times of challenge.  He continues to be involved in areas of counseling and support at colleges and hospitals and finds it a privilege to care for individuals and their families spiritually, sharing joys and sorrows, and to help people grow in faith and in relationship with God.

David’s calling and overarching joy lies in preaching and teaching scripture, whether from the pulpit, in small groups, through writings and media ministries or in adult education classes. He loves worship, and is committed to fostering discipleship in the body of Christ.

With a long time interest in spiritual practice, organizational structure and personnel development, David previously served several churches and on campuses in the Washington, D.C., area, enjoying youth ministry in particular.  Before that he worked in business and law and continues to serve on for-profit and non-profit boards.  David has served on the Presbytery’s young adult, youth worker, campus ministry, stewardship, personnel and permanent judicial committees.  He is a member of the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington’s Company of Teachers.  He has loved seeing Bradley Hills grow in membership, financial strength, diversity, staff, impact and spirit, and is looking forward to where God is calling us next.

David is a former scholar, program director and senior fellow at the New America Foundation think tank. His articles have appeared in a variety of religious and secular publications and as assignments in courses.  David’s books include Practicing Balance: How Congregations Can Promote Harmony in Work and Life; The Five Letters Every Christian Should Write; Christian Fellowship: Discipleship and the Gospel of John for the Post-Pandemic World; Blessed Benedictions: Sending Them Home with a Good Word; Faith in Service; 1015; and Spiritual Calcium. He has enjoyed the privilege of speaking and preaching in a variety of contexts nationally.

David is a former Acting Assistant Secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), where he managed a 54-person team and the DOL offices of regulatory policy, programmatic policy, compliance assistance/technology, and economic analysis/research.  He staffed, and was principal in, several White House working groups, and represented the U.S. abroad in negotiations in Mexico and in Chile. He has served as a counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Government Management and Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and as a legislative aid to several members of Congress. He has been a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, was a founding board member of the Journal of Inter-Religious Studies, and is a college fellow at Yale. David received a bachelor’s degree in history from Yale University, a master’s in public administration from Harvard, with a focus on non-profit management, a juris doctor from Northwestern University School of Law, and both a master of divinity with honors and a doctor of ministry in church leadership from Wesley Theological Seminary.

When not engaged in church or child/family-related activities, David enjoys music, movies, dogs, dark chocolate, coffee, dancing and sports (playing until recently on the Seven Locks tennis team). David’s wife, Bridget, founded Wiggle Room, a consignment shop in Bethesda, and with their four school aged children and dog, the Grays are proud to be part of the BHPC family.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.   And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”  from Colossians 3

David writes: I affirm with Paul that nothing separates us from the love of God, that we are to bear one another and that we can do all things through Christ.  I love to read, to hear and share stories, to explore nature, and to find quiet moments to pray.  I am Christ-centered, but respect and welcome all people.  I believe life is a gift from God to be cherished, that we are part of God’s sacred story which we read of in the Bible, that we are called to remember our baptism, to receive God’s grace and to share the love of Christ   I would love to have the chance to connect with you.  Send me an email.  I’d look forward to sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and of what God is doing at Bradley Hills.