



# The Bear Facts

APRIL 2026

Celebrating 68 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

Spring brings change and growth. BHPCNS changes are guided by feedback we receive from our parents, kids, staff, and community. Please complete our annual survey before April 25<sup>th</sup>. Your opinion is important to the future of Bradley Hills. As we look to hire a new Director-your opinion matters more than ever. And if that isn't reason enough, if 75% of the school completes our survey we will have an all school ice-cream party!

Our classes will take advantage of the outdoors as much as the weather allows. Please continue to send in rain boots and jackets for our cubs to play in the April showers! Don't forget to label all those new jackets/boots.

Get excited for Transportation Days on April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>! All are welcome to come explore the many vehicles we will have on campus between 9:30am-11:30am. If you have a car, camper, boat, etc. you would like to share please let the office know.

Spring is a great time to revisit how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Please look at the checklist on page 6 to see what the CDC considers age-appropriate developmental milestones (75% of kids that age can do) and talk to your child's teacher about his/her growth. BHPCNS will offer free OT Screenings in late April.

If your son/daughter will be attending Kindergarten next year, it is time to reach out to your local Elementary School. For those who missed the parent coffee about what to expect in kindergarten, here is the [handout](#).

April also includes Spring Break. BHPCNS will be closed Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for Breakfast with Bradley Bear and 9:00 am for all other students.

Wishing everyone a wonderful April, and a safe and happy spring break!

Liz Sobrino  
BHPCNS Director

[SURVEY](#)



## April 1st

- Tuition Due

## April 5th

- Easter Service and Celebration  
BHPC 9:15am & 11:15am  
Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am

## April 7th

- Classes Resume

## April 8th

- Eggs & Incubator Arrive!
- [Parents' Group Bagel Breakfast](#)  
8:30am-8:55am  
MWF and Young 2s Classes\*

\*MTWThF students may choose either day

- Field Days  
3-Year-Olds & Pre-K Classes

## April 9th

- [Parents' Group Bagel Breakfast](#)  
8:30am-8:55am  
TTh Classes\*

\*MTWThF students may choose either day

## April 14th & 15th

- Transportation Days  
9:30am-11:30am

## April 16<sup>th</sup>

- [Coffee & Conversation](#)  
Summer Survival Tips  
9:15-10:30am BHPC Library

## April 17<sup>th</sup>

- [Coffee & Conversation](#)  
Summer Survival Tips  
9:15-10:30am BHPC Library
- [Scholastic Book Orders Due](#)

## April 19th

- BHPC Blessing of the Animals  
8:30am Labyrinth

## April 20th & 21st

- Occupational Therapy Screenings

## April 27th

- Parents' Group Mad Science Presentation  
3-year-old & Pre-K Classes

## April 29th

- Chicks Hatch

[WEBSITE](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#) / [GOOGLE GROUPS](#) / [YOUTUBE](#)

STAY  
CONNECTED



## MARCH MADNESS BRACKETS with BRADLEY BEAR

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Brackets with Bradley Bear!

To date we've raised \$1,375 towards Parents' Group end-of-year bash and the Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In addition to watching some very exciting basketball on the court, the competition continues to heat up off the court in our bracket challenges as we head into the Women's and Men's NCAA Championship Games on Sunday, April 5th and Monday, April 6th.

Who will take first place in each bracket and claim bragging rights?!

**RESCHEDULED**

## POTOMAC PIZZA DINE-OUT

Wednesday, April 22nd between 4:00-8:00pm  
Potomac Location: 9812 Falls Rd

1. Order Online or via App

- Select Potomac Location for Pick-Up or Delivery.
- Navigate to the "Menu" section.
- Scroll down to find the "Fundraiser" category.
- Select your school's name to ensure the donation is "APPLIED" to your order.

## 2. Order by Phone (330-299-7700) or In-Person

- Inform the staff member taking your order that you are participating in the fundraiser for BHPCNS.



**RESCHEDULED**

## MAD SCIENCE PRESENTATION

Monday, April 27th



The Parents' Group is proud to sponsor a special interactive and science packed demonstration that has our cub clubs on the edge of their seats.

Our cubs will learn all about the science of magic! Mad Science will explore chemistry through some slimy reactions that our 3-year-old and pre-k students will get to touch, feel, and experience for themselves. Each 35-minute show concludes with our dry ice/potions experiments, where our cubs get to learn about dry ice and even touch and taste some real clouds!

## BAGEL BREAKFAST

April 8th & 9th from 8:30am-8:55am

Children are invited to come to school in their favorite sports attire and bring a parent or other special person for a bagel breakfast.

*MWF students are encouraged to attend Wednesday;  
TTh students are encouraged to attend Thursday;  
MTWThF students can attend either day.*

**RSVP  
HERE**



## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 4th thru 8th

Let's show our teachers how grateful we are for all they do!



Volunteer opportunities coming soon.



Andrea Brown

[amchrista@yahoo.com](mailto:amchrista@yahoo.com)



Amanda Franklin-Munson

[amandanfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:amandanfranklin@gmail.com)



## BHPNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Parents,

The school year is racing along, and Spring Break is upon us. The BHPNS Board wishes our fabulous families and terrific teachers and staff a fun-filled Spring Break!

As we shared last month, Mrs. Sobrino's departure at the end of the 2026-2027 school year will be bittersweet. Mrs. Sobrino has been an outstanding Director and leader of our wonderful school. We are fortunate to have 16 months to plan and prepare for a new Director, before we wish her well in retirement. Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in partnership with BHPNS will be putting together a committee to lead the search for a new Director. Together, the church and the school are committed to ensuring that BHPNS continues to thrive as an outstanding community resource that nurtures and supports children and families. The search committee will begin its work in the coming months. For questions or to share comments on this effort, please contact the BHPNS Board Chair, Rosanna Morrison, at [rmmorrison@comcast.net](mailto:rmmorrison@comcast.net)



Each year, the BHPNS Executive Board meets with Mrs. Sobrino to review her performance. Parent input is a key component of our review process. The Executive Board will send out a link to an online survey assessing Mrs. Sobrino's performance towards the end of April. The survey is completely anonymous unless you choose to provide identifying information. Survey results and comments are compiled by the Executive Board and shared with Mrs. Sobrino in an aggregate manner without parent names attached. Thank you in advance for reflecting on the 2025-26 school year and sharing your thoughts with us.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church welcomes all interested families to the church's Easter services (9:15 and 11:15 am) and Easter egg hunt (10:30 am) on Sunday, April 5. More information can be found at [bradleyhillchurch.org](http://bradleyhillchurch.org) and at the end of this newsletter.



Happy Spring to all!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPNS Board Chair  
Scott Allshouse, BHPNS Board Vice Chair

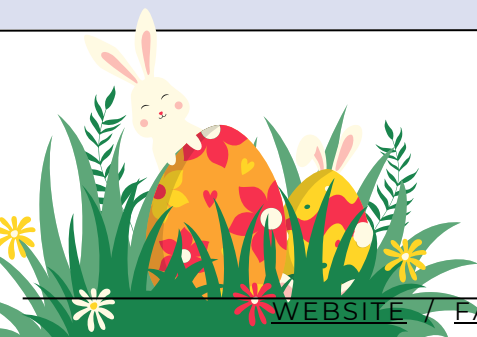
## SPRING BREAK

March 30th through April 6th

BHPNS will close Friday, March 27th at 2:30 pm.

BHPNS will reopen on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am (for Breakfast w/Bradley Bear).

Have a wonderful Spring Break!



## CATERPILLARS, EGGS, &amp; HATCHLINGS

Will arrive after Spring Break

The incubation of a chicken egg is a fascinating 21-day journey of rapid transformation. We will follow along as exciting changes happen inside each egg. The joy and amazement of watching each tiny beak break open its shell and immerge as a baby chick is not to be missed! We will care for the chicks for several weeks before they head back to the farm. And if that's not enough excitement, each classroom will also receive either caterpillars that will transform into beautiful painted butterflies or larva that will morph into ladybugs. We will watch, feed, and care for these bugs until they are able to be released. Spring is magical time at BHPCNS!



## FIELD DAYS

April 8th &amp; 9th

**Join us for a day of fun in the sun!**

Volunteers will help guide children through our various activities (trike races, relay races, obstacle course, etc.) as well as help prepare and serve snacks and lunch. Thank you to all our parent volunteers. Please check-in at office at 9:15 a.m. for a brief orientation.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th**

- Mrs. Barnett (104)
- Ms. Wilson (105)
- Mrs. Cardoni (108)
- Mrs. Biggs (113)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9th**

- Ms. Vargas (102)
- Mrs. Kebler (113)
- Mrs. Juhasz (111)
- Mrs. Richards (117)



## TRANSPORTATION DAYS return to BHPCNS

# TRANSPORTATION DAYS

Tuesday, April 14th &amp; Wednesday, April 15th

9:30am-11:30am

A free event for kids of all ages.

Our parking lot will be full of emergency vehicles, construction trucks, and other cool things that go.

Kids are encouraged to explore. Bring a family member or friend. We hope to see you there!



[WEBSITE](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#) / [GOOGLE GROUPS](#) / [YOUTUBE](#)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Thursday, April 16th & Friday, April 17th



AND CONVERSATION

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> & Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

9:15-10:30am

BHPC Library

Join us for coffee, conversation, and helpful tips to help keep your child(ren) engaged all summer long.

**RSVP HERE**



"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."

— George R.R. Martin

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS-DUE

Friday, April 17th

Unlock your child's imagination with a new book from Scholastic. Order Forms went home in your child's backpack. Additional copies are available in the office.

Order Online [HERE](#)  
Use code - L8HGN



## CDC RECOMMENDED MILESTONES FOR CHILDREN

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

**2 YEARS-OLD**

- Notices when others are hurt or upset, like pausing or looking sad when someone is crying
- Looks at your face to see how to react in a new situation

**3 YEARS-OLD**

- Calms down within 10 minutes after you leave her, like at a childcare drop off
- Notices other children and joins them to play

**4 YEARS-OLD**

- Pretends to be something else during play (teacher, superhero, dog)
- Asks to go play with children if none are around
- Comforts others who are hurt or sad, like hugging a crying friend
- Avoids danger, like not jumping from tall heights at the playground
- Likes to be a "helper"
- Changes behavior based on where she is (place of worship, library, playground)

## MOVEMENT/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

**2 YEARS-OLD**

- Kicks a ball
- Runs
- Walks (not climbs) up a few stairs with or without help
- Eats with a spoon

**3 YEARS-OLD**

- Strings items together, like large beads or macaroni
- Puts on some clothes by himself, like loose pants or a jacket
- Uses a fork

**4 YEARS-OLD**

- Catches a large ball most of the time
- Serves herself food or pours water, with adult supervision
- Unbuttons some buttons
- Holds crayon or pencil between fingers and thumb (not a fist)

## LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

**2 YEARS-OLD**

- Points to things in a book when you ask, like "Where is the bear?"
- Says at least two words together, like "More milk."
- Points to at least two body parts when you ask him to show you
- Uses more gestures than just waving and pointing, like blowing a kiss or nodding yes

**3 YEARS-OLD**

- Talks with you in conversation using at least two back-and-forth exchanges
- Asks "who," "what," "where," or "why" questions, like "Where is mommy/daddy?"
- Says what action is happening in a picture or book when asked, like "running," "eating," or "playing"
- Says first name, when asked
- Talks well enough for others to understand, most of the time

**4 YEARS-OLD**

- Says sentences with four or more words
- Says some words from a song, story, or nursery rhyme"
- Talks about at least one thing that happened during his day, like "I played soccer."
- Answers simple questions like "What is a coat for?" or "What is a crayon for?"

## COGNITIVE

**2 YEARS-OLD**

- Holds something in one hand while using the other hand; for example, holding a container and taking the lid off
- Tries to use switches, knobs, or buttons on a toy
- Plays with more than one toy at the same time, like putting toy food on a toy plate

**3 YEARS-OLD**

- Draws a circle, when you show him how
- Avoids touching hot objects, like a stove, when you warn her

**4 YEARS-OLD**

- Names a few colors of items
- Tells what comes next in a well-known story
- Draws a person with three or more body parts



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCREENINGS

April 20th & 21st all ages



Developmental milestones are things most children (75% or more) can do by a specified age. Now is a great time to revisit your child's progress over the course of this school year. After reviewing the checklist from the CDC, please consult with your child's teacher on areas in which your son/daughter excels and areas he/she may need additional support. We have scheduled FREE occupational therapy screenings for mid April. Should you wish to recommend your child for a screening, just let your teacher or Liz know. Parents will receive a letter in advance of the screening with additional details and a permission slip. We need the permission slip to be signed and returned in advance of the screenings.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

MCPS Kindergarten Registration has begun!

MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending in the fall as soon as possible. Based on projected enrollments your child's elementary school may need to add another class, add another teacher, increase class size, and/or close a class. While your child won't start school until September the elementary schools are already making their staffing projections for the fall.



**Liz's Kindergarten Tips**



- Ashburton: 240-740-1300
- Bannockburn: 240-740-1270
- Bells Mill: 240-740-0480
- Bethesda: 240-204-5300
- Beverly Farms: 240-740-0200
- Bradley Hills: 240-204-5210

- Burning Tree: 240-740-1750
- Carderock Springs: 240-740-0540
- Chevy Chase: 301-657-4994
- Garrett Park: 240-740-0700
- Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700
- Ritchie Park: 240-740-6310

- Rosemary Hills: 301-920-9990
- Seven Locks: 240-740-0940
- Somerset: 240-740-1100
- Westbrook: 240-740-1040
- Wood Acres: 240-740-1127
- Wyngate: 240-740-1080

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. Schools should be offering tours or parent coffees.

For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#).



BHPCNS HAS LIMITED OPENINGS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



Word of mouth is how we find the most amazing families to join our community. PLEASE tell a friend, neighbor, and/or co worker about this wonderful place. Especially, if they have a 2-year-old - it's never too young to start growing emotionally & socially.

They may call the office (301) 365-2909 to schedule a tour and see for themselves why learning through PLAY is the best way.



SUMMER CAMP IS FILLING UP FAST

Summer Camp is sure to be out of this world! Campers will make telescopes, learn about our solar system, study the stars and constellations, and drink lots of Tang. The first session (June 1-June 11) has limited availability. The second session (June 15 - June 26) has more space (get-it?). Camp is open to all children currently enrolled in our 2s' program and ages 3 through rising 1st graders. Campers do not need to be currently enrolled BHPCNS students (with the exception of 2-year-olds). Current students who are not potty trained may attend camp for an additional \$90 fee. Both camp applications are on brightwheel. Don't miss out on the fun-register today.

CUB CLUB DURING SUMMER CAMP

# BHPCNS SUMMER CUB CLUB

## JUNE BUGS in OUTER SPACE

9:00-10:30 am

\$50/Session

**MONDAYS**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**SESSION #1**

**June 1st & 8th**

**June 3rd & 10th**

**SESSION #2**

**June 15th & 22nd**

**June 17th & 24th**

**Recommended for Children ages 12-24 months old.**

**No more than two children per caregiver.**

**Limited spaces!**

**Enroll on brightwheel!!**

**ENROLL**  
**TODAY**



*This is a great opportunity for both caregivers and children to play together with peers:*

*Unstructured Play*

*Music*

*Creative Movement*

*Arts & Crafts*

*Water Play*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Liam Alderton  
 Aaron Cohen  
 Meir Dickert  
 Banks Donohoe  
 Johnny Gilligan

Abigail Griffin  
 Avery Grzyb  
 Peyton Harris  
 Julian Iwarere

Charlotte Reig  
 Finley Shore  
 Rosie Trevisan  
 Colbie Williams  
 Ethan Zleit

When sending in birthday treats, please send in small cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc. Keep classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time. There is a snack ingredient form outside the office and on our website. Please complete the allergen form or send in a list of ingredients so we can be aware of any possible allergens. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Thursday, May 21st and Friday, May 22nd

Mark your calendar for our year end sing-along and classroom parties.  
 More details in our May Newsletter.

CUB CLUB WILL RETURN FOR 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Starting in September 2026 from 9:00am-10:30am  
 with Ms. Colonna



Come and spend the morning with Bradley Bear! This is a great opportunity for both caregivers and children to play with peers in a comfortable setting together.

- Unstructured play
- Storytime
- Music
- Creative Movement
- Arts & Crafts

One caregiver per child.  
 Enrollment is limited to 10 students.

Application available [HERE](#).



FALL SESSION

September 10th - December 17th  
 Mondays or Thursdays

SPRING SESSION

Days & Dates TBD

YOUNG TWOS WILL RETURN IN JANUARY OF 2027!

Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:00am-11:30am

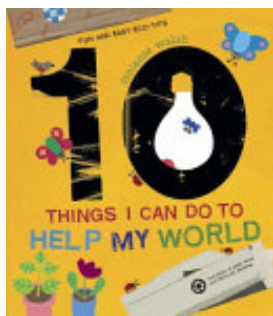
We are bringing the Young Twos Program back to Bradley Hills starting January 2027. This class is drop-off and is a great introduction to Bradley Hills for any child who will turn two between September 2, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

Enrollment will be limited to 12 students.

Application available [HERE](#).



## SPRING PICKS from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck



Earth Day is on April 22nd this year. The following picture books will help your children think about ways to honor and take care of the earth every day:

“10 Things I Can do to Help My World” by Melanie Walsh

Fun cut-out pages enumerate ten simple ways children can help keep planet earth healthy and clean.

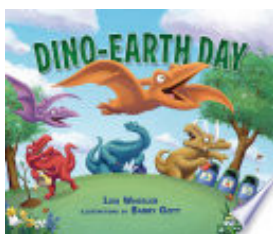


“The Big Beach Cleanup” by Charlotte Offsay

Cora is dismayed with all the trash littering her favorite beach. She comes up with a plan to get the community involved in cleaning it up.

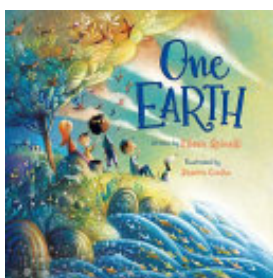
“Dino-Earth Day” by Lisa Wheeler

The dinosaurs are eager to help on Earth Day. They gather trash in the parks, help plant a garden, visit a recycling center, and decide to keep up their good work all year.



“One Earth” by Eileen Spinelli

With beautiful illustrations and minimal text, this book counts from one to ten the many ways we can celebrate the beauty of our earth. Then, counting down from ten to one, the many practical ways we can protect the planet.



We welcome all children, parents, and caregivers to visit the school library. Please see the office staff if you need assistance finding or borrowing a book. Also, please note that a \$10.00 replacement fee will be charged for all lost books.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Hauck at [jbhauck@bhpcns.org](mailto:jbhauck@bhpcns.org).



## SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

ART (*all ages*) with Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese

In Art class, we will take our inspiration from Mother Nature and paint the flowers that are blossoming on our beautiful campus. Our two-year-old classes will paint artificial flowers and press the leaves and blooms onto paper to create something beautiful. Our three-year-old classes will trace the shapes of the petals, stems, and leaves and color inside their lines. Our pre-k classes will study and give their artistic interpretation of a still life flower arrangement.

Each age group will create something beautiful to bring home that they are proud to have created themselves!



## SCIENCE with Mrs. Mac 'N' Cheese



In April, our cubs will continue to water and care for the seedlings the planted in March. That's a long time to keep something living (and hopefully thriving). Fingers crossed we don't over/under water.



## MUSIC (3-year-old &amp; Pre-K) with Little Hands

We often hear (and use) the sentence, "You get what you get and you don't get upset," in classrooms and early childhood settings to help children move through the disappointment and frustration of having to "settle" for perhaps their less-than-favorite color, toy, food, center, etc., especially in group settings and maybe even in your own family!

Little Hands educators have been exploring this, and Ms. Beth has been really examining this habit of phrase, in the context of social-emotional development and skill-building for very small people. Is it OK to ask a child to stuff their feelings if indeed they ARE upset about not getting the blue scarf they love so much? OR could it be a matter of building the skills to really feel something, and move on with support in a healthy way having processed those big feelings, and found a solution at the end of that process? Yes, it's faster to stuff the feelings! BUT is it teaching the skills needed to be a human with big emotions and acting appropriately with them? Our support is all-important in helping small children feel what they feel, AND act appropriately in the process.

How about we shift the exchange to this:

"You get what you get...and you MIGHT get upset. That's OK! I'm going to trust that you will get what you NEED. Do you need a hug? Do you need some time? Do you need a different color so we can still play together? I'll be right here if you don't know yet – let me know how I can help you get what you need!"

All feelings are allowed; some behaviors are NOT; like grabbing, hitting, or speaking unkindly out of frustration. This is the reality of living in a community built around shared values and rules – a family, a classroom, a school, a village, a country! Let's examine how we are preparing our children for processing ALL their feelings with themselves and with others. More on this at the blog at [www.littlehands.com](http://www.littlehands.com)

We are very thrilled to be able to share one more month the [Sing Me a Story playlist](#), with selections like Head and Shoulders, Baby, Bassez Down, and other fun recordings. We can't wait to hear what song becomes your family's favorite!



## SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)

And like that spring has sprung! With warmer weather upon us, songs of snow have been replaced by themes of flowers, planting gardens, and fishing. Our changing environment marks the passage of time as does the children's increasing capacity for more complex tunes and lyrics. We're hard at work learning new songs in preparation for the year end concert. Not only are we finding our own voices but looking out and listening for others as an ensemble. Our biggest kids play an important role in helping the younger ones navigate the overwhelming experience of public performance. It's a time-honored tradition they embrace year after year. Of course all of our Bradley Bear cubs are rockstars so mark your calendars now!

Friday, May 22nd at 9:30am

- MWF and MTWThF 3 year-old and Pre-K classes



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# Easter Egg Hunt

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
10:30 AM

Join us for Easter Sunday!      Services at 9:15 & 11:15 AM

Egg Hunt will be between services.  
Meet at the playground!




# Easter

*At Bradley Hills*

## Sunday, April 5

**HOLY WEEK**

**SERVICES AT**  
9:15 AM & 11:15 AM  
Message by Pastor David Gray  
WITH BRASS AND CHOIR



<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <hr/> <p>March 29 8:30 &amp; 10:30 am (In-person &amp; Online)</p>	<p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b></p> <hr/> <p>April 2 7:30 pm (In-person)</p>	<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p> <hr/> <p>April 3 12:00 pm (In-person) 7:30 pm (In-person &amp; Online)</p>
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# Blessing of the Animals



**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**  
8:30 a.m. | Labyrinth

Pet friendly worship | Bring animals of all types to be blessed.

