



The Bear Facts

APRIL 2025

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



March 31st

- BHP CNS Closed
- Professional Development Day

April 1st

- Tuition Due

April 2nd & 3rd

- [Coffee & Connection for 2s](#)

April 4th & 5th

- [Coffee & Connection for 3s](#)

April 7th

- [Coffee & Connection for Pre-K](#)
- [Parents' Group Pajama Breakfast](#)
8:30am-8:55am
MWF, Young 2s, and MTWThF* Classes

April 8th

- [Parents' Group Pajama Breakfast](#)
8:30am-8:55am
TTh Classes and MTWThF* Classes

*MTWThF students may choose either day

April 9th

- Transportation Days
9:30am-11:30am
- [FREE Car Seat Inspection](#)
Parking Lot Church Entrance
9:00am-11:00am

April 10th

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

April 11th

- [Barre and Bubbles](#)
10:45am-11:45am

April 14th-21st

- Spring Break

April 24th

- [Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Kindergarten](#)
7:00pm at BHP CNS

April 22nd

- Classes Resume
- Earth Day

April 29th & 30th

- Occupational Therapy Screenings

April 29th & 30th

- Field Days - Volunteer [HERE](#)
(3 year-old & Pre-K classes)

Dear Parents,

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!

Spring brings change and growth. BHP CNS changes are guided by feedback we receive from our parents, kids, staff, and community. Please complete our survey before April 30th. Your opinion is important to the future of Bradley Hills. And if that isn't reason enough, if 75% of the school completes our survey we will have an all school ice-cream party! Woo hoo!

Get excited for Transportation Days on April 9th & 10th! This year we will have a representative from local Fire Department check car seats to make sure they are installed properly. All are welcome to come explore the many vehicles we will have on campus between 9:30am-11:30am each day. If you have a car, camper, boat, etc. you would like to share please let the office know. Details on page 4.

Spring is a great time to revisit how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Please look at the checklist on page 7 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. BHP CNS will offer free OT Screenings in late April. More details on page 8.

As we look to the year ahead, it is time to reach out to your local Elementary School if your son/daughter will be attending Kindergarten next year. Please plan to join us on Thursday, April 24th at 7:00 pm for "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Kindergarten". More information on page 9.

April also includes Spring Break. BHP CNS will be closed Monday, April 14th through Monday, April 21st. School will resume on Tuesday, April 22nd at 8:00 am for Breakfast with Bradley and 9:00 am for all other students.

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

Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director

[SURVEY](#)



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

STAY
CONNECTED



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH MADNESS BRACKETS with BRADLEY BEAR

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

To date we've raised over \$2,000 to help support Parents' Group Events and Educational Outreach.

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 6th and Monday, April 7th. Who will take first place in each bracket and claim bragging rights?!

To close out the tournament, please join us for:

LEDO'S DINE OUT

Monday, April 7th 5-9pm



Call 301-469-6700 OR order online OR dine in.
10301 Westlake Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Whether you dine in or carry out for the big game,
20% of your order will go to BHPCNS Parents' Group..

Make sure to tell the cashier that you're with the BHPCNS FUNDRAISER
when picking up or dining in so our school receives credit.



PAJAMA BREAKFAST

April 7th & 8th from 8:30am-8:55am

Children are invited to come to school in their pajamas
and bring a parent or other special person for breakfast
with donuts, drinks, fruit and more before school.

Monday, April 7th

RSVP [HERE](#)



Tuesday, April 8th

RSVP [HERE](#)



*MWF students are encouraged to attend Monday;
TTh students are encouraged to attend Tuesday;
and MTWThF students can sign up for either day.*

FREE BARRE & BUBBLES

Friday, April 11th from 10:45am-11:45am

4829 Cordell Avenue



This is a FREE fitness class for parents hosted by Kit Lieninger.
Followed by a brief time to socialize that will include bubbles (sparkling water or mimosa).

Space is limited to 28 participants. Register [HERE](#)

barre3



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 5th thru 9th

This is the week we show our teachers how grateful we are for all they do! Volunteer opportunities coming soon.



Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Parents' Group Co-Chairs,

Cass Price

cass.price@gmail.com



Amanda Franklin-Munson

amandanfranklin@gmail.com



BHPCNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Parents,

The Board wishes to thank the many parents, staff, and BHPCNS friends who contributed to the first annual Building a Brighter Tomorrow Together campaign. The campaign raised \$13,680! Your generosity will allow the school to purchase new rugs for the classrooms, offer a spring training for the staff on supporting neuro-diversity in a preschool setting, and add close to \$4,500 to the school's scholarship fund.

Each year, the BHPCNS 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 2024-25 school year and sharing your thoughts with us.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) welcomes families to the church's Easter services (9:15 and 11:15 am) and Easter egg hunt (10:30 am) on Sunday, April 20. More information can be found at bradleyhillchurch.org and at the end of this newsletter.

The BHPCNS Board and BHPC wish everyone a fun-filled Spring Break!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair

Scott Allshouse, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair

BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

BHPCNS HAS OPENINGS FOR 2025-2026 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.

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



TRANSPORTATION DAYS return to BHPCNS

Wednesday, April 9th & Thursday, April 10th

HELP US MAKE TRANSPORTATION DAYS

fantastic!

If you, or someone you know, has a kayak, canoe, boat, camper, truck, unicycle, antique car, pirate ship (how cool would that be?), motorcycle, etc... that you would allow our cubs to climb on, please contact BHPCNS and let us know. 301-365-2909 **Thank you!**

TRANSPORTATION DAYS AT BHPCNS

April 9th & 10th from 9:30am-11:30am

*If you are bringing a vehicle to share please have it here by 9:00am



car



metro bus



taxi



boat



truck



tractor



kayak



helicopter



bicycle



police car



garbage truck



fire truck




FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTION

Wednesday, April 9th






FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTION

59% of all car seats are installed incorrectly.

Wednesday, April 9th
BHPCNS parking lot near Church entrance
9:00 am - 11:00 am

 <p>REAR-FACING CAR SEAT</p> <p>Rear facing provides the best protection for a young child's spine. Rear face for a minimum of 2 years, ideally until the seat is outgrown.</p>	 <p>FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT</p> <p>When a child has outgrown their rear facing convertible seat and is at least 2 years old, move to a forward facing 5 point harness.</p>	 <p>BOOSTER SEAT</p> <p>When a child has outgrown their harnessed seat, is at least 5 years old, and mature enough to sit properly, move to a booster seat. Booster seat use reduces the risk of serious injury by 45%.</p>	 <p>SEAT BELT</p> <p>When a child is at least 10 years old and can pass the 5 step test (below) move to the seat belt alone.</p>
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A child can ride **safely** without a **booster** seat when you can say **YES** to **ALL 5**

- 1  Back against the vehicle seat
- 2  Knees bend at edge of seat
- 3  Lap belt on tops of thighs, not on belly
- 4  Shoulder belt between neck and shoulder
- 5  Sits properly. No slouching, no playing with seat belt, etc.

sign up here



SUMMER CAMP IS FILLING UP FAST

Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho It's off to camp we go! This year Bradley Bear is going camping! In our first session (June 2-June 13), we will pitch tents, learn how to make fires, study wildlife, and eat lots and lots of smores. We will put our camping skills to use in the second session (June 16 - June 27) and visit several National Parks. Camp Registration has begun and is open to all children currently enrolled in our 2s' program and ages 3 through rising 1st graders. Friends, cousins, neighbors are welcome. 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 \$85 fee. The camp application is on brightwheel. Spots are filling up fast.

CUB CLUB DURING SUMMER CAMP



BHP CNS SUMMER CUB CLUB
JUNE BUGS GO CAMPING

	MONDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
SESSION #1	JUNE 2nd & 9th	June 4th & 11th
SESSION #2	JUNE 16th & 23rd	June 18th & 25th

Mondays and/or Wednesdays

9:00-10:30 am

\$50/Session

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

Unstructured Play Storytime Music Creative Movement Arts & Crafts Water Play

Recommended for Children ages 12-24 months old.
No more than two children per caregiver.
Limited spaces!
Enroll TODAY on brightwheel!!



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 28th, 29th, and 30th for 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.



PARENT COFFEE and CONNECTION

Tuesday, April 1st through Monday, April 7th from 9:15am-10:30am

COFFEE CONNECTION

9:15am-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space

2s

April 1st & 2nd



- Discuss summer survival tips and share age-appropriate activities to keep your child engaged all summer long.
- Ask questions, and share ideas and thoughts.
- Get to know other parents in your child's class and age group.
- Celebrate successes, discuss frustrations, and brainstorm ideas on how to raise your child in today's environment.

3s

April 3rd & 4th



PreK

April 7th



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

MCPS Kindergarten Registration has begun!

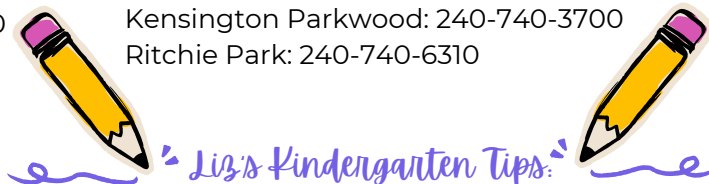
MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending in the fall as soon as possible. Based on projected enrollments 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.



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](#).



Attending Kindergarten is a big step in your child's life. However, there are still more than 5 months before the big day. Take your child's lead. If they ask about Kindergarten answer their questions in a positive way. For example, don't tell them how frightened you were, tell your child what you liked best about Kindergarten!

EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

Thursday, April 24th from 7:00pm-8:30pm at BHPCNS

If you have a child entering Kindergarten and you have questions about how it all works, please join Ms. Maura Backenstoe, Kindergarten teacher at Burning Tree Elementary School, and fellow BHPCNS parents, for a fun and fact filled evening.

Snacks and adult beverages will be served starting at 7:00pm. At 7:30pm, Ms. Backenstoe will give a brief overview of the Kindergarten curriculum, a typical classroom day, how lunch and the bus work, (start practicing how to open lunch containers and yes, your child should ride the bus the first day – you can always follow behind in your car), school communication, and more. At 8:00pm, parents will break into small groups based on the Kindergarten Program their child will attend. Small group discussions will be led by parents at each Elementary School. If you are able to lead a small group discussion please let Liz know.

Parents of rising Pre-K students are welcome to attend. Friends and family are welcome to attend too.



Please RSVP [HERE](#).

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ethan Zleit
Reed Korol
Ilario Guthrie
Rosie Trevisan
Aaron Cohen

Johnny Gilligan
Banks Donohoe
Liam Alderton
Finley Shore
Andrew Natelli

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.

CUB CLUB WILL RETURN FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Starting in September 2025 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 8th - November 20th
Mondays & Thursdays

WINTER SESSION

December 1st - February 24th
Mondays & Tuesdays

SPRING SESSION

March 2nd - May 19th
Mondays & Tuesdays

YOUNG TWOS WILL RETURN IN JANUARY OF 2026!

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

Get Excited!

We are bringing the Young Twos Program back to Bradley Hills starting January 2026. This class is drop-off and is a great introduction to Bradley Hills for any child who will turn two between September 2, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

Enrollment will be limited to 12 students.

Application available [HERE](#).



SPRING BREAK & THE MAGIC BUNNY

April 14th through 21st



BHPCNS will close Friday, April 11th at 2:30 pm.

BHPCNS will reopen on Tuesday, April 22nd.

Breakfast with Bradley, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play will resume on April 22nd.

In the days leading up to spring break, the Magic Bunny will deliver baskets of fun to our cubs. While the children are playing out of their classrooms, the Magic Bunny will sneak in and leave treats for them to take home!

WELCOME BABY CHICKS

April 9th our chicks go home to the farm.



CATERPILLARS & HATCHLINGS

Will arrive after Spring Break



After Spring Break, each classroom will 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. This is such an exciting activity for our children!



FIELD DAYS

April 29th & 30th

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. Volunteers report to the school office at 9:15 a.m. for a brief orientation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th

- Mrs. Biggs (105)
- Ms. Wilson (108)
- Mrs. Juhasz (111)
- Mrs. Richards (117)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th

- Mrs. Barnett (104)
- Mrs. Cardoni (108)
- Ms. Vargas (102)
- Mrs. Kebler (113)

Volunteer [HERE](#)

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Thursday, May 22nd and Friday, May 23rd

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

SPRING PICKS from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck

Transportation Days will soon be here. The BHPCNS Library has many books about cars and trucks. Check out these books that also touch on feelings, generosity, and different modes of transportation.

Room for Everyone by Naaz Khan - There is room for everyone and all their possessions (including 6 stinky chickens) on the little daladala (bus) in Zanzibar. A counting book with beautiful illustrations and rhyming text.

The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk by Kabil Sehgal - This time the wheels go round and round on a tuk tuk (shared taxi) as it travels through and Indian village.

Cranky and Cranky Makes a Friend by Phuc Tran - Cranky, the forklift, has very big feelings. Often, he is cranky and jealous. This is the perfect book to explore big emotions with children who love trucks.

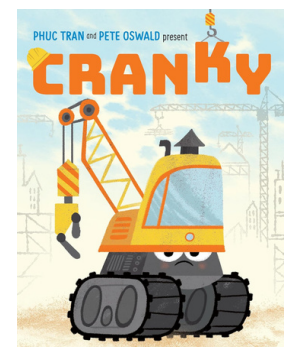
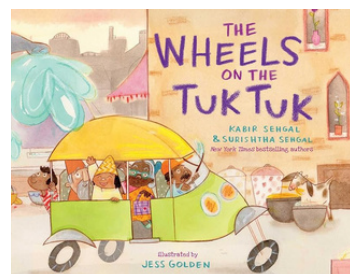
Moody Moody Cars by Eileen Kennedy-Moore - The classic cars are feeling moody. Help them label their emotions. This is another great social-emotional book for children who love cars.

Parents, grandparents, and caretakers...you are welcome to visit the BHPCNS Library. Please see the office staff for assistance if you wish to borrow a book

If you have any library questions, please contact Jan Hauck at jbhauck@bhpcns.org.



-Jan Hauck



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

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

There's something magical about turning a simple square of paper into a 3D object. Origami, the Japanese art of folding paper, is practiced by people of all ages around the globe. While many Origami projects can be intricate and challenging, there are also plenty of easy origami projects for kids to try. Our 2 & 3 year-olds will fold and decorate hats; Pre-K students will fold boats. Origami teaches kids:

- o Focus
- o Patience
- o Attention skills
- o Recall skills (when re-creating pieces from memory)
- o Hand-eye coordination
- o Fine motor skills

SCIENCE with Mrs. Mac 'N' Cheese

In March, each class planted tomatoes and flower seeds. They have been watering and watching these seedlings sprout and grow. In April, each class will transplant these seedlings into our Children's Garden. We will talk about everything plants and flowers need to grow and how spring weather creates the perfect conditions for this.

It is sure to be muddy and messy and fun!

*MUSIC (3-year-old & Pre-K) with Little Hands*

In April, Little Hands Music will still make some "rainy music" and then move on to a theme called "Play Time" - all about spinning tops, Teddy Bears, and some "Cat and Mouse" songs and games!

We'll explore play activities this month, focusing on the concepts of high and low with The Duke of York and Jack-in-the-boxes, as well as fast and slow with cats and mice. Children will play with a wide variety of small percussion instruments, and explore movement concepts with hoops and streamers. We'll also make up some fun animal rhymes with the song "Once I Saw Three Cats" (and they were wearing hats!)

[Here is the Play Time playlist on YouTube.](#)

Hope you are enjoying some singing in the car and at home!

*SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)*

At Bradley Hills April showers bring more music! Songs about the changing natural world will fill our hearts and classrooms this month. The children will be both energized and exhausted by the increased time spent outside as warmer weather arrives. In doors this month we'll be practicing hard for the year-end concerts. Learning new songs is a challenge that helps increase cognitive thinking and brings the satisfaction of singing and performing with others - a new experience for many of our three's this year. Remember that music can follow our kids everywhere so don't forget to sing, sing a song...sing out happy to last the whole day long!

Mark your calendars now for the year-end concerts!

Thursday, May 22nd at 11:30am

- TTh 3 year-old class

Friday, May 23rd at 9:30am

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



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are excited to reopen the labyrinth and invite BHCNS families and children to respectfully use this sacred space. We are grateful for the generous donation that enabled us to resurface it with a permeable rock that will last for years. When using this space please do NOT allow children to pry up the rocks.

Join BHPC Children's Ministry for **Spring Fling**
 Family Connection Lunch and Gardening Service Project

Sunday, April 6
 11:30 am-1:30 pm
 Scan the QR code to register for lunch!



Blessing of the Animals




SUNDAY APRIL 27
8:30 am | Labyrinth




Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 AM
Sunday, April 20

JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNDAY
TWO IDENTICAL SERVICES
WITH BRASS QUINTET & CHANCEL CHOIR
9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

WITH EGG HUNT BETWEEN SERVICES

