



THE NEW LEAF

Newsletter of Burke Presbyterian Church Members and Friends

Hospitality is something this church works on

steadily and with intention. We think about how to be welcoming in our worship services, so that people know what to expect and also how to participate authentically, without coercion or exclusion. Hospitality comes in the form of gluten free communion wafers, handicapped parking, greeters who run out into the rain with umbrellas to help people into the church, and of course choice coffee... Hospitality is important.

Hospitality isn't just about something nice we do for people. It feels like our way of understanding and reflecting the welcome of Jesus. And that means hospitality is never cookie-cutter. Never one size fits all. People are different and need different things.

Hospitality is a posture of seeing people in all their beautiful differences and practicing belonging, not just in music preferences, coffee flavors or bulletin fonts, but in the various quirks and struggles, needs and gifts each of us bears in our personhood.

I wondered recently how it is that hospitality, which we often think of as 'helping other people with their needs,' comes from the same root word as hospice and hospital, words about supreme vulnerability. Those are words that do not give off "guest towels and hostess gift" vibes. I just learned that the root word "hospes" in Latin means *both* host and guest. And that has cracked open the whole endeavor for me.

When we strive to welcome people to a church or to our home, we are at our best when we see ourselves in both of those roles. Of course we offer what we have: a table, food, friendliness, accommodations. But we also receive



what the person, whomever they are, brings with them, from a bottle of wine in a gift bag to a home-brewed set of life stories. We receive love and we give love, as that motto of ours goes.

Maybe this sounds kind of like pastor jargon. Here's where it becomes very real. When we had the opportunity to host the Fairfax Hypothermia Shelter this winter, our strength was in our effort to be both host and guest. We set out real plates and table cloths. We put real flowers in vases. But we also sat down and listened to stories. We received the gifts people brought with them.

Holy Week Services. Please join us for Holy Week services. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family members. All are welcome!

Labyrinth (meditation), March 25 - 1-7:30pm in the Meeting House

Maundy Thursday, March 28 - located at First Baptist Church of Vienna, fellowship at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm

Good Friday, Friday, March 29 - 7:30pm, Tenebrae service of light in the darkness, in person & online

Easter Sunday, March 31 - 8:30am in person; 10:00am in person & online; 11:30am in person & online

continued



A Note from our Pastor

(continued from page 1)

They shared stories of exquisite courage and struggle. They offered to serve alongside us. They gave clear-eyed pleas for long-term systemic community engagement. And we received countless reminders of the power of church and the efficacy of our building. We received full-scale excuse removal in terms of what we can do to lighten the load of beloved children of God. We were blessed with joy and hope that linger long after our guests, aka visiting angels, departed.

Guest and host... For it to feel like true belonging, hospitality involves being both at the same time. And don't we learn that at the communion table all the time? Jesus Christ, the host, is at the same time the one broken for us. Jesus was always both host and guest. Guest and host... For there to be real welcome, real hospitality, we must be both.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becca".

BPC Staff

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Becca Messman
(becca@burkepreschurch.org)

Parish Associate

Rev. Catherine Taylor
(catherine@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Spiritual Growth

Arlene Decina
(arlene@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Music Ministries

Julianne Erbrecht
(julianne@burkepreschurch.org)

Interim Youth Director

Kyle Putnam
(kyle@burkepreschurch.org)

Preschool Director

Anndra Rowland
anndra@burkepreschuchr.org

Office and Communications Manager

Nicole Sheely
(nicole@burkepreschurch.org)

Business Administrator

Holly Walsh
(holly@burkepreschurch.org)

Pianist

Wei-Han Wu
(foreignkoffee@gmail.com)

BPC Leadership

BPC is governed by a 15-member elected Session ("elders") charged with the spiritual leadership of the congregation, policy-setting and long-term planning.

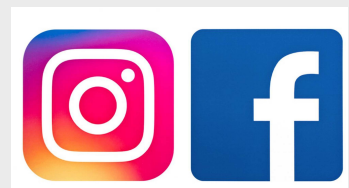
The board of deacons provides pastoral care to congregants in need.

Contact Us

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www.BurkePresChurch.org

Sign Up for Information

The New Leaf, a newsletter of BPC members and friends, is published periodically. For regular updates on the life and ministry of Burke Presbyterian Church, refer to our weekly emails and the "In Community" announcements in Sunday worship bulletins. To sign up for our emails, visit our website, contact the church office, or fill out the form in the friendship pads.





From BPC's Session

The BPC Session identified these priorities for 2024 to guide all our ministry areas:

- To increase efforts to speak out and proclaim the good news in public witness, advocacy, justice work and community leadership.
- To increase connections between an affinity for church, community, and the depth of the Christian faith, particularly for our youth who love this church but then struggle to find another church later in life since it may not be exactly like BPC.
- To create a culture of belonging and fostering a more intentional welcome to LGBTQ+ individuals. To welcome those with disabilities and learning differences.
- To continue to streamline and restructure the number of programs and activities so that we live in a spirit of Sabbath, a "less is more," "work smarter" posture; to invite new leaders to step forward; to give permission to try things and let things go.
- To increase attendance, membership, and engagement with church ministries so that more people receive love. To let our on-line presence be an intuitive front door. To look forward rather than backwards and not to worry about the difference between COVID recovery and growth when it comes to numbers.
- To be a church in mission in ways that are hands-on, intergenerational, and that allow for face-to-face interaction with those who are suffering. To connect the dots explicitly between mission and faith. To be a place where people can discuss the hard topics facing our world.
- To foster authentic connections between people and God, particularly through small groups, retreats, classes, and generally having fun. To focus on "the other 6 days of the week."
- To maintain a high quality of worship that is relevant to people's lives, creative, and varied in style.
- To keep the momentum of sound and transparent financial practices, to care for the staff and facility and to honor commitment to mission partners.
- To maintain and promote youth & children's programs: IMPACT, Godly Play, Rainbow, Youth Connections, Snacks and Backpacks.

If you have any questions about these priorities, please contact a BPC Elder or Rev. Becca!

A note of apology:

At the recent Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024, we inadvertently omitted a couple of procedural items. One was to ask for nominations from the floor in voting for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee; we overlooked this because we had been soliciting volunteers in the weekly bulletins and email communications for several weeks prior to the meeting. The second was to have voted on the Nominating Committee membership. We apologize for overlooking these items and promise to do better next time!

A friendly reminder:

With the start of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee search process and so many activities taking place, we'd like to reiterate our commitment to honoring the Covenants of Dissolution between BPC and all our beloved former clergy. While we hold them dear on our hearts and despite the value and insight they would undoubtedly provide, our Presbyterian polity precludes asking them to continue with ministry leadership, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact Reverend Becca or Gene Peters with any questions.

Hypothermia Recap

February 18 through 25, 2024

Since 2005, Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program has prevented death and serious injuries among our area's most vulnerable residents by ensuring that no one must sleep outside during the winter months. This program, which is available to any adult in need of immediate shelter, provides a warm place to stay, food, and other supportive services to help guests.

What an amazing week we had hosting the Hypothermia program at BPC, February 18 through 25. We were able to serve 40-52 guests each day! It was all made possible by over 130 volunteers from BPC, Living Savior Lutheran Church, Burke United Methodist Church and Halo Fitness Center who served 20 meals, provided hospitality and entertainment, offered mending, provided security, cleaned mats, and gave an amazing amount of donations of food, clothing, water and gift cards.

Some comments from our guests--"It's like a hotel!" and "Your people should open a restaurant!" and "Everyone is so warm and welcoming!"

Join us on April 7th after the second service, to hear FACETS coordinator, Susanne Hough, talk about how we can continue to help to feed our neighbors throughout the year. Snacks will be provided.





Summer Youth Retreats & VBS

Middle School Conference 2024

Keep calm and rejoice!
THE LORD IS NEAR.
 Philippians 4:4-7

Massanetta Springs

Massanetta Middle School Conference, July 11-14.

Rising 7th (graduated 6th) through rising 9th grade students are invited to Massanetta Springs, in the hills outside Harrisonburg, VA, for a time to reflect on our faith, worship together, and do fun things. We'll get to know youth from BPC and make friends from other churches. Youth will stay with a roommate in dorm-style lodgings on site, be in a small group with youth from other churches, and generally have a great time. The total cost is \$350 (\$200 deposit due by April 1 and \$150 due April 30; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



Montreat Youth Conference, July 20-27.

Montreat Youth Conference 2024

Rising 9th grade through graduated 12th grade students are invited to join us for an exciting week in Montreat, NC, outside Asheville. Come spend time with BPC friends and get to know other youth from churches all over the country. Listen to thought-provoking speakers, experience great worship, engage in small groups and fun socials. Our group will stay together in a lodge at the conference center. The total cost is \$600 (\$300 deposit due by April 1 and \$300 due April 30; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



Registration is open for VBS!

VBS: Love One Another
 "Who is My Neighbor?"

We are planning a three-day Vacation Bible School here at BPC ~ July 15, 16, 17 from 2:00-5:00pm. VBS is for Kindergarten through 6th grade. If you have an older youth, they are welcome to assist. Childcare is provided for program leaders. There's no charge for the program, but we do need you to register. Please scan the QR code to access an online registration form. Contact: Arlene Decina (arlene@BurkePresChurch.org).



Camp Hanover

A ministry partner of the Presbytery of the James (PCUSA), Camp Hanover offers Christian summer camps for elementary, middle and high school youth. It is located in Mechanicsville, VA. Visit www.camphanover.org or call (804) 779-2811 for more information.

Confirmation

Over Groundhog Day weekend many of our BPC confirmands plus two seasoned Presbyterian adults, Rev. Catherine Taylor and Jerry Reece, journeyed to Massanetta Springs Presbyterian Retreat Center in Harrisonburg, VA for a weekend together. We arrived Friday evening after a fun, beautiful ride down I-81 and feasted on a stunning sunset as we reached the gorgeous Shenendoah Mountains. We stopped at Cook-Out in Harrisonburg for a happy dinner together just prior to our arrival at Massanetta.



The confirmation retreat was attended by 200 young people from the region. The lessons of the weekend included an overview of the Bible, a broad discussion of what it means to be Christian, what it means to be reformed, and what it means to be PC(USA). Small group activities included bonding exercises, designing an element of a worship service which was later executed on Sunday as an entirely youth-led worship service, and each confirmand working through a worksheet that asked questions aimed at helping students write their own statement of faith. Sprinkle in wacky energizers along with prayer and singing, outdoor games, allow for time with “home groups”, add in tasty meals, and provide a decent quantity of personal self-directed time and it all made for a spiritually meaningful and fun weekend.

Save the Dates

Glasgow Food Packing event

Join us on April 7 during the Sunday School hour (10:15-11:00am) for a food packing project for the students of Glasgow Middle School. All ages are welcome! We look forward to connecting as we feed ourselves and our neighbors.

Community Table 2.0 and FACETS

Since pausing Community Table, we have been looking for ways to feed our neighbors. FACETS can help! Come April 7 after the second service, to hear FACETS coordinator, Susanne Hough, talk about how we can help to feed our neighbors throughout the year. Snacks will be provided.

GenOUT Youth Chorus



IMPACT is pleased to host the GenOUT Youth Chorus to provide music for worship on Sunday, April 14. GenOUT is for LGBTQ+ and allied teenagers in the Washington DC area and is affiliated with the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington (GMCW). In September, the BPC Session voted to be a Partner in Harmony (local congregations who are welcoming of LGBTQ community) with GMCW.

Following the 9 am service, GenOUT and IMPACT will sing a piece together in the Gathering Space. The two choirs will enjoy breakfast together after they sing.

To learn more about GenOUT visit <https://www.gmcw.org/outreach/genout/>

IMPACT Home Concert

Our IMPACT youth choir heads to Toronto, Canada, in June for their annual music and mission trip. When they return, they will present a concert at BPC on Thursday, June 20, at 7:00pm. The choir hopes you can join them!

Sunday School

The Sandwich Club- All students in grades 9 through 12 are welcome to a new Sunday School gathering, led by Jen Connors, Chuck Miller, and Randy Lee, 10:15-11:00am in the Youth Director's Office. Youth are encouraged to bring friends and can expect, among other things, excellent snacks and drinks.



Feed families. spread kindness. strengthen communities.

Lasagna Love Service Project Sunday School - March 24

Join us for a special service project Sunday School on March 24. During the Sunday school hour we will assemble lasagnas to freeze for Lasagna Love in their partnership with "Foster the Family", a group in Manassas, that supports foster families. Their goal is to have lasagna on hand to offer when a child goes home with a new foster family. Providing a lasagna to the family will allow more time to bond on their first night together. Palm Sunday is a time where one of the reflections is on welcoming Jesus, this is a way for us to welcome these children in Christ's name.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee has much to celebrate!

We recently celebrated one of our beloved employees' anniversaries: Holly Walsh, Business Administrator, celebrated 7 years of service. We are so thankful for Holly (and all BPC staff)!

We also celebrate the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC), which has begun its vital work to lead our search for a new Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries.

The committee is formed and has hit the ground running.



Lastly, we celebrate the hiring of Interim Youth Director, Kyle Putnam! Kyle comes to us from National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, where he served as the Associate for Youth Ministries. Prior to that, he completed his Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. Kyle and his wife live in Burke. We are so thrilled to welcome to Kyle, whose passion for youth ministries is inspiring. His first day with us was March 10.

BPC invites you to a series of workshops to help understand, plan for, and support each other when death, dying, and grief come to call.



"IF THE CONDITION OF GRIEF IS NEARLY UNIVERSAL, ITS TRANSACTIONS ARE EXQUISITELY PERSONAL." - MEGHAN O'ROURKE, THE LONG GOODBYE
BPC BRINGS A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND, PLAN FOR, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER WHEN DEATH, DYING AND GRIEF COME TO CALL.

April 14th 10:15-11:00 (Sunday School Hour)

What is it like to watch someone whose life is ending? How can you be a support to that person, their family and yourself? What is helpful and what are the most common blunders to avoid.

<Part 1>: Christine Reimers, Hospice Chaplain, provides the basics of hospice, its philosophy, when it might be appropriate to consider, and how it might fit with one's sense of 'stewardship' of ALL of life.

April 21st 10:15-11:00 (Sunday School Hour)

<Part 2> The biology and realities of dying: Patricia Brockmeier, hospice nurse, will provide an overview of 'how we die' and when to initiate hospice care and how to talk openly with affected family members and friends about decisions, expectations and timing.

May 5th (Sunday School Hour)

Deryl Fleming and Becca Messman lead a workshop on the many facets of grief. Come to discuss and reflect on how to support others even in our own darkness. What is helpful and what isn't? What is good to say and pray and what isn't?

September 15th 10:15-11:00 Sunday School Hour

This workshop helps you prepare to talk about next steps and to be prepared. Come discuss how to talk to family about their wishes while you still can. Plan with broad strokes or nitty gritty. Talk about what questions to ask and whom to speak with as you help plan so that the wishes of yours or your loved ones are clear for those left behind.

October 20th: 12:30 Pot Luck Lunch

Bring your comfort food to share! This session focuses on how to fill in the empty spaces once a death has occurred. How do we plan and honor a lost loved one? How do we support each other in our immediate and ongoing grief? How do we fill in the gaps, or honor our sisters and brothers in special ways when it isn't crystal clear what they'd want.

November 3rd– All Souls Day Lunch –Soup for the Soul Lunch

When our mortality sets in: a session on wills and estate planning– how to access for the easiest to the most advanced care– planning for what's to be for what's left behind.



Budget & Finance

		2024 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
Income:		\$1,280,000.00	\$240,572.33	19%
	Pledges	\$1,100,000.00	\$208,387.83	20%
	Loose Offerings	\$20,000.00	\$2,018.08	10%
	Building Use	\$5,000.00	\$1,750.00	35%
	Interest/Dividends	\$8,000.00	\$2,729.01	34%
	Per Capita	\$6,000.00	\$1,750.09	29%
	Online Processing Fees	\$4,000.00	\$1,103.98	28%
	2023 Surplus	\$137,000.00	\$22,833.34	17%
Expenditures:		\$1,280,596.04	\$177,227.75	14%
<i>Personnel Ministry</i>	Personnel	\$503,047.47	\$72,999.01	15%
	Benefits/Admin	\$151,897.53	\$19,491.34	13%
<i>Worship Ministry</i>		\$16,075.00	\$515.94	3%
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	Children's Education	\$5,000.00	\$1,547.73	31%
	General Administration	\$3,908.00	\$0.00	0%
<i>Spiritual Growth Ministry</i>	Adult Education	\$3,201.00	\$343.17	11%
	Library	\$26.00	\$0.00	0%
	Youth Education	\$27,032.00	\$5,105.81	19%
<i>Congregational Care Ministry</i>	Community Life	\$2,676.00	\$638.20	24%
	Small Groups	\$350.00	\$0.00	0%
<i>Vocations Ministry</i>		\$48.00	\$0.00	0%
<i>Outreach Ministry (Mission)</i>		\$107,594.60	\$5,791.92	6%
<i>Communications Ministry</i>		\$1,839.00	\$270.91	15%
<i>Facilities Ministry</i>	Utilities	\$48,800.00	\$9,213.43	19%
	Maintenance	\$130,600.00	\$16,579.37	13%
	Office	\$73,693.00	\$12,387.41	17%
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$75,000.00	\$12,500.00	17%
<i>Stewardship</i>	Presbytery Per Capita	\$29,087.44	\$4,847.20	17%
	Insurance	\$29,459.00	\$0.00	0%
	Stewardship	\$13,545.00	\$2,540.11	19%
	Mortgage Payments	\$57,054.00	\$11,852.26	21%
<i>Session</i>		\$451.00	\$295.17	65%
<i>Board of Deacons</i>		\$212.00	\$308.77	146%
Difference:		(\$596.04)	\$63,344.58	

Budget & Finance

The first quarter is in full swing at BPC. We have included a summary of our financial position thus far this year, please let Elder Jessie Doll (jessie.doll@gmail.com) know if you have any questions or feedback about the numbers. In the meantime, here are some of the financial highlights:

- We have extended an offer to Kyle Putnam as our interim youth director. This offer is in line with what we expected for the budget, we are thrilled to welcome Kyle to the BPC team.
- The facilities team presented their annual review of the maintenance needs of the church to the budget and finance team on March 14. We are grateful for Jocelyn Callister's leadership and savvy around supporting the needs of the church building and being a careful steward of our funds.
- We plan to send another principle only payment to Presbyterian Loan Foundation in March to pay down our mortgage.
- We have received 19% percent of the income we expected to receive year to date through the end of February.

As always, we are grateful for your continued generosity.

Special Offering

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing special offering enables support for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. You can find more information in the Gathering Space and at <https://engage.suran.com/burkepreschurch/s/give/new-gift?slug=onegreathourofsharing>

Our neighbors need us. You can give online by scanning the QR code or by check made payable to BPC (noting "OGHS" in the memo line). Thank you!



Additional Information

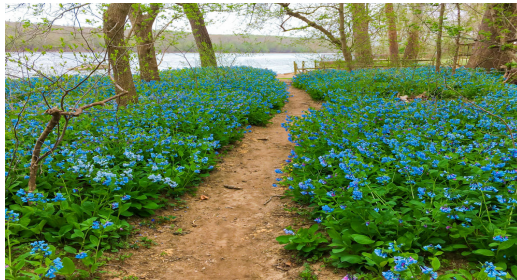


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Worship Team** is in search of a person to serve as Communion Coordinator. A detailed and organized person is needed to ensure the necessary items are on hand for the communion preparers, and to create a schedule of communion servers.

Hospitality help needed on Sunday mornings. If you are someone who enjoys the coffee or just enjoys hospitality, and wants to help with coffee clean up on Sundays after the second service please contact the BPC office.

Bluebell hike and/or picnic on April 6.



Many of us find the outdoors to be a place of spiritual connection and renewal. You are invited to a hike on Saturday, April 6 to share that love of nature and see the ephemeral blooming of the Virginia bluebells. This hike, a loop about 3 miles long, includes bridges, rocks, and some elevation changes, so wear appropriate shoes and bring water. All ages are welcome (but strollers are not advised on this route), as well as leashed pets who get along well with others. After the hike, we'll celebrate by picnicking at Paradise Springs Winery (where dogs are welcome outside). Hikers will be able to grab food/supplies from your cars, and there is also a delicious food truck on site. If you're planning to join us for the hike, meet up at 9:30am at the Occoquan-Bull Run Trailhead (13220 Yates Ford Rd in Clifton). If you prefer to join us later for the picnic, come to Paradise Springs Winery (13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton) around 12:00pm. The hiking group will meet up with you there and we can all enjoy lunch together! Please sign up and let us know whether you plan to join us for the hike, the picnic, or for both (use the QR code)



Before the start of a busy week....

We invite you to...
Quiet Prayer and Meditation at BPC

Join us on **Monday, March 25** from **1-7:30pm**






ANNUAL BIKE COLLECTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

9 A.M. - 12 NOON

Sponsored by

ST. MARY OF SORROWS and BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
On behalf of BIKES FOR THE WORLD (BFW)

Give spring cleaning extra meaning. Donate your unused bicycles. We are collecting bicycles for BFW. BFW is a local, non-profit organization that collects usable/repairable bikes* and ships them to poverty-stricken areas all over the world. After being refurbished, these bikes become main sources of transportation to work, school, and health care.

*We accept all serviceable and nearly complete children and adult bicycles (including tandems, recumbents and adult (only) tricycles); bicycle spare parts, components, accessories and tools; and even serviceable, quality portable sewing machines.

See www.bikesfortheworld.org for more information and what wonderful ways your donations and time can help.

How to participate:

Drop off bikes – ONE DAY ONLY

Saturday, APRIL 13 9:00 a.m. - noon, St. Mary's Church, Farrell Hall Parking Lot, 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax 22032

Donate – A tax-deductible contribution of \$10 or more per bike to help with local Bikes for the World processing costs, is greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to St Mary's Church, with BIKES FOR THE WORLD in the memo line.

Volunteer – Adults and teenagers with adult partners. Help to set up, collect donations and process the bikes for shipment, and assist loading the truck for transport. No experience needed; on-the-job training provided! Earn service hours!

BPC Contact for questions: – Earl Smith (C) 703-819-5758, https://smithjanetearl@cox.net

WEEKLY CAMPS

AGES
Pre-K to
8 YRS

PRESCHOOLAGE CAMP
JUNE 3-7
JUNE 10-14

**PRESCHOOL &
SCHOOLAGE CAMP
CHILDREN & SIBLINGS
(UNDER 8)**
JUNE 17- 21
JUNE 24-28
JULY 1-3 (3 DAY WEEK)
JULY 8-12

BPCP SUMMER CAMP

CAMP HOURS
9:30-2:30

\$325
5 DAYS/WEEK

\$195 ^{3 DAY WEEK}
JULY 1-3
SIBLINGS DISCOUNT

FUN AND CREATIVE OUTDOOR CAMPS

We will have weekly "in-trips," bounce houses, and unique themes. Rotations will include cooking, music & movement, science, arts & crafts, and storytelling. Camp will be kicked off each day with an all-camp gathering. (Weekly specifics will be available April 19th. We are still booking vendors and staff)

Camp Book It

Mad Scientist

Creative Adventures

Camp Olympics

Camp Make a Mess

Party in the USA

Water Wonder Camp

burkeprespreschool.org



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