



Sunday School kicks off on Sept. 7 - Taste of BPC & Mission Fair

Join us in between services, 10:15-11:00am to enjoy a light breakfast, connect with one another, and learn about our Spiritual Growth and Mission ministries. Children and youth will be invited for a brief meet and greet with their Sunday School teachers for the last 15-20 minutes.

Godly Play returns for kids in kindergarten and older during both services! Godly Play is an imaginative approach to supporting children's spirituality and the adults who nurture them. Through

our foundational faith stories, wonder, and play, the Godly Play practice invites us into a way of being that fosters creative responses to God's call in our lives.

Stepping Stones is available for ages birth through 5 during both services and Sunday School.

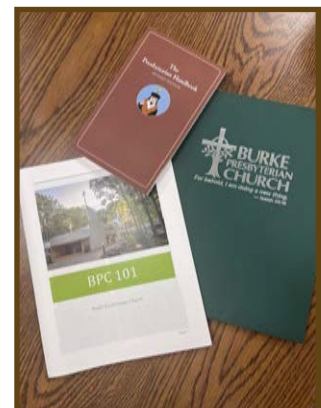


Explore Church Membership

Our Fall Exploring Membership class offers anyone who is thinking about joining BPC the chance to learn more about this church and Presbyterians in general. Classes will meet between worship services at 10:15 am on **Sundays, Sept. 21 and 28 and Oct. 5 and 12** in Room E4/5. You will get to know others in a small group setting;

learn more about Presbyterian beliefs; share information about ways to get involved with BPC programs, missions, and get answers to any questions you may have. There will be an opportunity to meet the staff and church leaders, and take a behind-the-scenes tour of our BPC campus. After attending the four-week Exploring Membership class, you may choose to join the church by meeting with Session members and being introduced during worship on Sunday, Oct. 12.

Please let Rev. Becca or Vocations Elder Anita Pesses (anita.pesses@gmail.com) know if you would like to attend the class so we may provide materials. We look forward to hearing from you!





One of my favorite ad campaigns comes from REI. This company made the bold move to close on *black Friday*, to forego the most lucrative day in retail, and prioritize a day being outdoors. They called it “OPT OUTSIDE.” I imagine a boardroom of people asking each other what they *really* stood for. Was it selling boots, or a world where people used them? Was it the bottom line or the skyline? Was it the business world or the earth itself? If they really

believed it was the latter, then their own calendar and resources needed to reflect that vision. Maybe it wasn't like that. A cynical case could be made that it was great marketing. But, as a pastor, I think about what it means for a *church* to live into Jesus' vision, with our calendar and our resources and everything else.

Jesus said something like “OPT OUTSIDE” to his people throughout the Gospel of Luke. He pushed disciples out of their comfort zones. He described the breathless hunt for lost things, sheep, coins, and people, and then great rejoicing at what is found. He was focused on outsiders, like the poor and the sick, immigrants without status and women with a past, children, criminals and sinners. And he colored outside all the lines, the religious lines and even the stark lines of life and death, letting resurrection hope break out everywhere like a sunrise over a canyon. As a church, we are called to follow his lead. We too need to opt outside, outside the box of a church building and outside the lines our culture might draw to say who belongs and who doesn't. Church clothes are fine but we should also wear boots to help with disaster relief, aprons to cook for the hungry, yellow disposable gowns to visit the sick in the hospital, tennis shoes to organize neighbors in justice work, and garden gloves to tend this earth.

Join us in September and October as we study Jesus and the outsiders, outcasts and outlaws of the Bible. Consider joining a small group and reading all the way through the Gospel of Luke. That's one of the best ways to grow in faith and fellowship, even if it is outside your comfort zone. Let's be a church with mud on our shoes because we followed God to the water's edge and the mountaintop and the broken places in between.

Becca





Anna & Jimmy Cook

Anna and Jimmy enjoy volunteering, both at BPC and in the community. They love connecting and serving with others (Acts of Service is one of their love languages!), and especially enjoy doing so alongside their young children. At BPC they both volunteer at Rainbow, Anna with choir and Jimmy in the kitchen, and Jimmy also works with the Fix It Team. They are grateful for all that BPC offers and are happy to contribute!



Volunteers Needed

Burke Presbyterian is always looking for more volunteers! Volunteering can be a meaningful and rewarding way to get involved and make new friends. Currently, we are in need of volunteers for:

Woodchucks: help to maintain our flowers, gardens, trees, and outdoor space

Ushers: ensure worship elements run smoothly, hand out bulletins, be a welcoming presence

Greeters: greet worshippers as they enter the building, help answer questions if needed, be a welcoming and friendly face for visitors and members alike

Fun Team: help plan large all-church events like the church picnic or potlucks

The time commitment can fit your schedule! If you are interested in getting more involved or learning more about a volunteer role, please reach out to Anita Pesses, Elder for Vocations (anita.pesses@gmail.com).



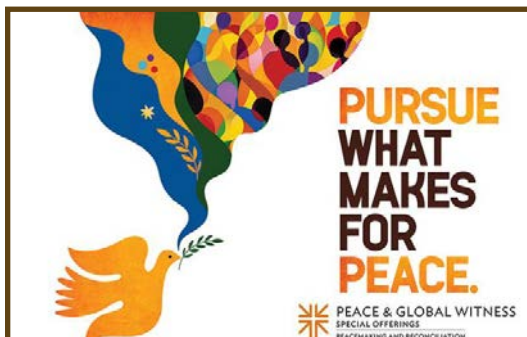


Mission Updates

- Big news: our Homestretch family has graduated! Many of you have supported C and her two children over the last several years. C is now able to pay her own rent and will no longer need help. We are awaiting news of a new family to support.
- The Mission Fair will be part of the larger church celebration/fall start on Sunday, Sept. 7. Visit our displays and take a sweet treat!
- Some of us have started providing one breakfast a month at The Lamb Center, a homeless shelter in Fairfax. Our breakfast is the 4th Wednesday, so we take frozen casseroles and fruit to the church early afternoon Tuesday. If you would like to be part of this mission, monthly or occasionally, contact Elder for Mission Mary Vander Maten (mavandermaten@gmail.com).

BPC free shredding event sponsored by Realtor Shelley Draheim

Clean out some of the stacks of documents around your home, benefit the environment, and help your neighbors. Non-perishable food donations are requested for ECHO. Drive by on Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:00 am - noon, for a free document shredding and food collection event in the BPC parking lot. ProShred will securely shred documents of all types. We hope you will join us, rain or shine! Contact: Kathy Fleming (derylandkathy@gmail.com)



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Your contributions will support the global witness of Christ's peace. This special offering starts on Sept. 7 and runs through Oct. 5. Our neighbors need us. You can give online or by check made payable to BPC.



Kibwezi Silent Auction.

Support our ministries in Kibwezi! Donate a service or item to our silent auction. Our partner ministries in Kibwezi, Kenya, will receive all of the proceeds, and we rely on YOU -- BPC members and friends -- to donate items and services for us to bid on. Please prayerfully consider donating something this year. Popular offerings have included baked goods, tickets to theater and sporting events, artwork, yard work, tutoring, and help with modern technology. Think outside the box! Information on donations is needed no later than Sept. 9. Send an email with a description/picture of your donation along

with your name, address, and points of contact to Jan Smith (justjano801@gmail.com). The online silent auction will run Sept. 28 - Oct. 5.



GIVING THANKS

OUTDOOR INTERFAITH HARVEST POTLUCK DINNER

SPONSORED BY THE NOVA INTERRELIGIOUS
COMMUNITIES PROJECT

OCTOBER 8TH AT 6:30PM

Temple Rodef Shalom
2500 Westmoreland Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia

Please contact Lucinda Sexton for more information
Phone: (703) 798-6282
Email: lucindasexton@gmail.com



Men of Burke

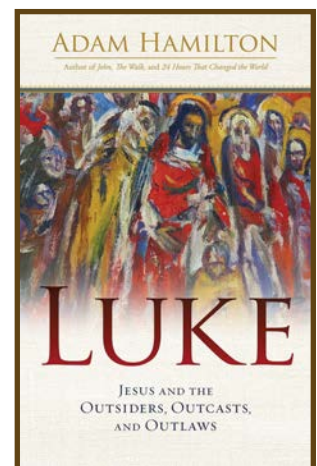
The Men of Burke are trying to address a need at the Kibwezi Polytechnic, which has long been supported by BPC. The school needs an automobile engine to help revitalize its motor vehicle mechanics class. The working estimate for this purchase is \$3,000. If you would like to donate, please make a payment to BPC by check or e-payment, and indicate “Kibwezi Engine” on the memo line so your donation will get to the correct account. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Smith (dbsmith61@gmail.com). And please join us at our next in-person breakfast at BPC on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 7:30am.

Monday Night Women’s Bible Study

Join us as we join Presbyterian women around the world in a study called “Finding Resilience, Joy and our Identity in Christ”. We meet in a hybrid fashion at church and online on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm. We are trying to get a count for the book order; to RSVP or for more information, please contact Jill Moore (JMoore19@cox.net).

Book Study Groups start on September 14.

Please join us for a book study of *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. You are invited to participate in a small group to read and discuss. We will gather in groups for 6 weeks beginning Sept. 14. Please review the available slots by scanning the QR code. If there is not a time slot that works for you, or if you would like to lead a group, please reach out to Arlene or Meg (MegSmocks@gmail.com).





Elementary Age Sunday School

Sunday mornings 10:15-11am, starting Sept. 7

Our entire amazing children's Sunday School team is returning this year, and they are eager to welcome our children. The weekly lessons generally align with our story sequence in Godly Play, and for children who attend both, we believe the two experiences will reinforce and enhance one another.

During Worship

Godly Play for kids in kindergarten and older resumes on Sept. 7.

Nursery/Stepping Stones for younger children is available throughout the morning, during worship and Sunday School.



Rainbow

Children in grades K through 6 are invited to Rainbow, a "retreat in the middle of the week." Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00pm, beginning Sept 24, we gather for recreation/creative arts, music, and a family-style meal.

At Rainbow, we put into practice what it is to be the church and to treat one another as children of God. Parents are encouraged to participate in one way or another. We also offer Raindrops for younger children of program leaders and assistants.

If your child(ren) would like to participate in any of the programs listed above, please fill out our Children's Ministry Registration Form by scanning the QR code.



Bible Sunday

Sept. 21

This is the Sunday when we present our kindergarteners with gift storybook Bibles and our fourth graders with their own NRSV Bibles, the same one we read in worship. Parents/guardians of kindergarten and 4th graders please scan the QR code so that we can prepare a gift Bible for your children.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SEPTEMBER 14

BRING YOUR BACKPACK TO
CHURCH
DURING WORSHIP AT 11:15
SERVICE

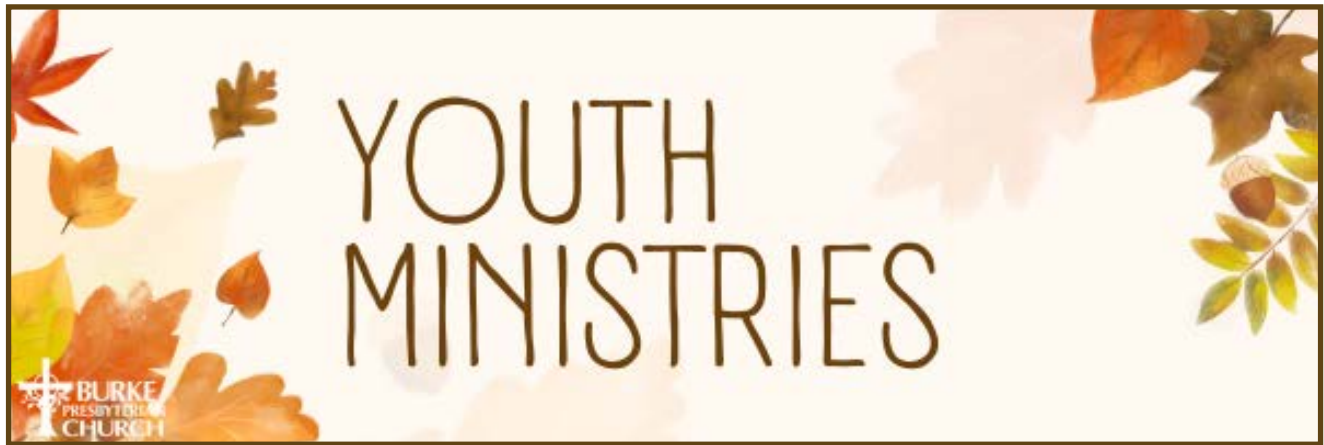


Save the date!

Wednesday, September 24
6:00-7:15pm

Rainbow
Welcome Dinner

The whole family is invited!



Youth Sunday School

Sunday mornings 10:15-11am

Starting Sept. 7

6th-12th graders are welcome to join at any time for good fellowship, friends, and insightful discussions! Each week in Sunday school, we spend time exploring scripture in a deeper way with questions like, “Why does scripture matter for our lives today?” or “Why was this important to the ancient people and our world today?”

Youth Connections

Sundays at 5:30pm

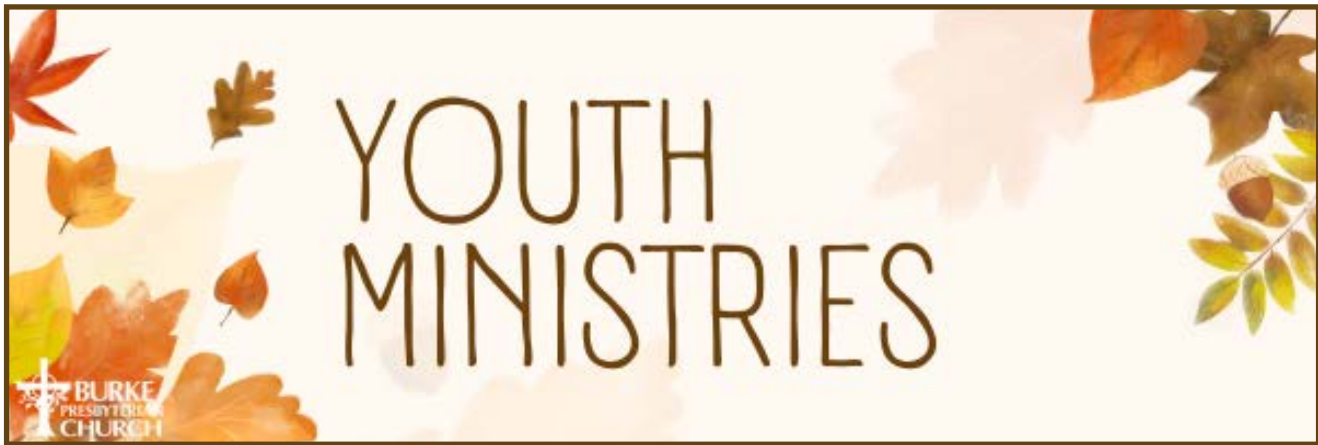
Starting Sept. 7

Youth Connections is our weekly gathering for youth in grades 7-12. Each week, we enjoy a meal together, play fun games, discuss scripture and come alongside one another as we each walk our faith journeys. Our focus is on reencountering God through relationship, providing a safe space to explore the tough questions of faith, and navigating life in our contemporary world as a young person. We work to Give Love, Receive Love, and Repeat!

Youth Council

Youth are invited to take ownership of their ministry, in collaboration with adult volunteers. Our Youth Council leadership team meets typically on the first Sunday of each month after the second worship service to imagine, plan, and lead programs for other students. If you are interested in more information please contact Diane Maloney or Geoff Marin.





BLAST Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training

If you have a youth that has an interest in babysitting we can help! On Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8.30 am - 12.30 pm BPC will host Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training (BLAST). In this course your youth will learn how to:

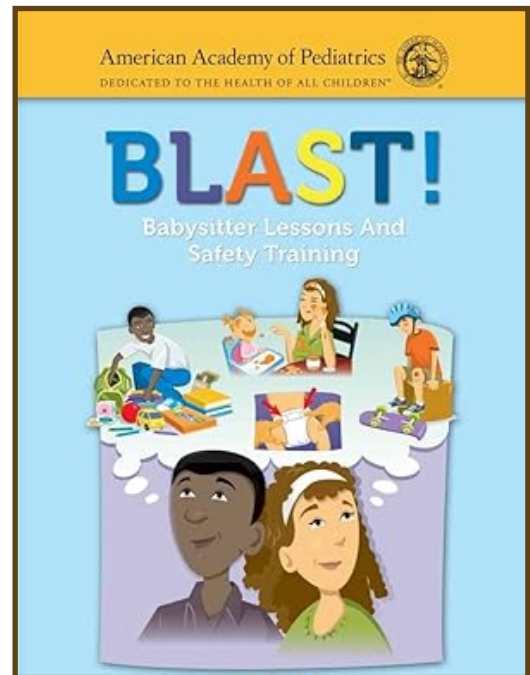
- Properly diaper a baby
- Practice safe hygiene
- Perform basic first aid
- Prevent injuries
- And much, much more!

At the conclusion of the course all attendees will receive a certificate from the American Academy of Pediatrics— a great credential for any aspiring babysitter to possess! The target audience is youth age 11-15 but youth older than 15 are certainly welcome.

The total cost of the class is \$84 per student; however, BPC will reimburse \$40 to any family that has church membership upon class completion. (The only caveat is that the youth must agree to babysit once pro bono for a parents night out that will occur in the fall of 2025.)

Sign up using the QR code; we hope to see MANY BPC youth there! Please note that we received the special Girl Scout deal. That's the reason the link says "restricted – Girl Scouts only". But BPC is hosting the class: it is not necessary to be a member of Girl Scouts. BPC members and their friends are welcome.

Please contact Fabiola Green (fabiola.s.green@gmail.com) with questions!



If your youth (grade 7-12) would like to participate in any of the programs listed, please fill out our Youth Ministry Registration Form by scanning the QR code.





Children

Rainbow Promise (K-2)

Rainbow Connection (3-6)

Children's choirs are a part of Rainbow, BPC's midweek offering for elementary aged students. Through games and activities children explore their voices, experience steady beat and rhythm, and learn the basics of singing. The choirs prepare songs that will be shared in worship. In April, the children will present a musical for worship. Instruments including chimes, xylophones, and percussion will be used periodically.

Rainbow begins on Sept. 24.



Youth

IMPACT (7th -12th)

Sundays 4:00-5:15pm

IMPACT sings a wide variety of styles in multiple voice parts. The choir is open to all students; no prior experience needed. They typically lead in worship on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. In June 2026 IMPACT will travel by bus to Boston for their annual choir tour. **IMPACT rehearsals begin Sept. 7.** New member orientation will be at 3:30pm before the first rehearsal, with Youth Ministry kick-off immediately following.



Chancel Choir

Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Adults of all ages and abilities are invited to sing in the Chancel Choir. There are no prerequisites to singing in the Chancel Choir. New singers of all voice parts are welcome.

Chancel Choir begins on Sept. 3.





Daybreak

Second and fourth Tuesdays 9:45-11:00am

Daybreak women's choir sings a variety of styles and is open to all ability and experience levels. The choir leads worship once a month at the 9:00am service.

Daybreak begins on Sept. 9.

Instrumentalists

Handbell Choir

Thursdays 6:45-8:15pm

The Handbell Choir offers a great opportunity for members of the congregation to give themselves in service. The group plays music with flexible instrumentation including handbells, tone chimes, and other percussion instruments. Youth and adult ringers are welcome, no prior music experience required. Contact Elliott Godinez, (elliott@BurkePresChurch.org).

Handbell Choir begins on Oct. 2.

Flute Choir

Plays occasionally in worship. High school age and adult flute players are welcome.

BPC Brass

Tuesday or Wednesday evenings

Do you currently play a brass instrument? The BPC Brass routinely gets together to rehearse and provide music throughout the year. We are looking for players (including students and "comeback" players) for trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, euphonium, or tuba. We practice most weeks (Tuesday or Wednesday evening depending on the availability of the players) and play duets, trios, quartets, and quintets for worship. If you are interested, contact Basil Decina.



For more information about music for worship contact Elder for Worship Sherrie Brady, (sherrie.brady@gmail.com).



It is always true but especially recognizable the past few months that the upkeep on our facility is carried on by amazing individuals working hard to keep us in great shape.

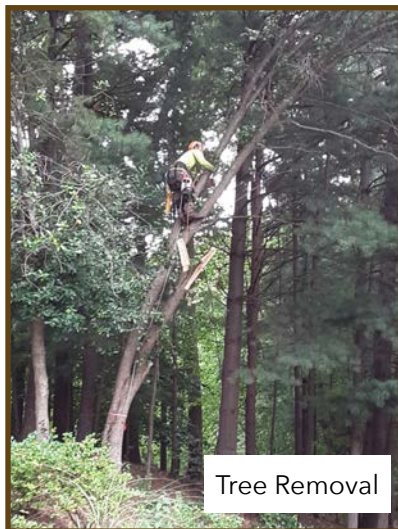
We celebrate the amazing work of our Sexton Leonard Sskibenga who spent the entire month of August on all our hard surface floors - look down when you're visiting the kitchen, bathrooms, classrooms, hallway or Meeting House and you'll see the results of this effort. And thanks to Holly Walsh for scheduling all that work.

In the short turnaround between Preschool Summer Camp, VBS and the start of the Fall school semester, BJ Postlewaite, Jocelyn Callister, Meg Ross, and Anndra Roland spiffed up the Lower Level rooms, including painting, reorganizing, purging and re-gluing loose flooring tiles.

Many thanks to Mauro's Tree Service, which spent nearly 2 days on our grounds removing 15 dead or leaning trees. If you see Earl Smith, please thank him for coordinating the work and regularly picking up fallen branches around the property.

Elizabeth Sugden and BJ Postlewaite worked with Diane Maloney to pick out new office furniture, replacing pieces that were older than she is!

Coming up: leaf clean up days, repairing the gate to the dumpsters, and installation of emergency egress path. Email Jocelyn Callister (jocelyncallister@gmail.com) to learn more.





		2025 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
Income:		1349386	\$774,014.69	57%
	Pledges	\$1,130,786.00	\$639,964.58	57%
	Loose Offerings	\$20,600.00	\$12,854.50	62%
	Building Use	\$7,000.00	\$6,562.50	94%
	Interest/Dividends	\$10,000.00	\$8,599.60	86%
	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
	Per Capita	\$6,000.00	\$4,324.66	72%
	Online Processing Fees	\$5,000.00	\$2,542.16	51%
	2024 Surplus	\$170,000.00	\$99,166.69	58%
Expenditures:		\$1,331,011.00	\$745,070.38	56%
Personnel Ministry	Personnel/ Salaries	\$543,496.00	\$310,793.37	57%
	Benefits	\$162,180.00	\$88,258.14	54%
Worship Ministry		\$17,450.00	\$5,532.08	32%
Children's Ministry	Children's Education	\$5,000.00	\$1,148.39	23%
	General Administration	\$3,908.00	\$1,847.54	47%
Spiritual Growth Ministry	Adult Education	\$3,620.00	\$1,037.59	29%
	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
	Youth Education	\$31,500.00	\$14,826.74	47%
Congregational Care Ministry	Community Life	\$3,450.00	\$2,466.47	71%
	Small Groups	\$350.00	\$0.00	0%
Vocations Ministry		\$300.00	\$0.00	0%
Outreach Ministry (Mission)		\$112,200.00	\$63,105.60	56%
Communications Ministry		\$3,858.00	\$1,182.26	31%
Facilities Ministry	Utilities	\$40,800.00	\$27,758.57	68%
	Maintenance	\$133,600.00	\$91,033.61	68%
	Office	\$81,090.00	\$46,098.84	57%
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$80,000.00	\$46,666.69	58%
Stewardship	Presbytery Per Capita	\$30,039.00	\$17,793.24	59%
	Insurance	\$28,059.00	\$358.00	1%
	Stewardship	\$12,527.00	\$7,987.27	64%
	Mortgage Payments	\$36,384.00	\$16,731.89	46%
Session		\$600.00	\$444.09	74%
Board of Deacons		\$600.00	\$0.00	0%
Difference:		\$18,375.00	\$28,944.31	

BPC SNAPSHOTS

BURKE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Massanetta Bound



IMPACT Tour 2025



Community Meals Prep



Paint event



Bible & Bagels



Bible & Bagels

BPC SNAPSHOTS

BURKE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



VBS Recreation



VBS Music



VBS Photo Booth



VBS



Planting flowers



Massanetta



Foam Party



Candle Service

Fall 2025

Return to regular worship schedule

Starting September 7

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9am in person

11:15am in person & online

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 - 11am

To join us for online worship

at 11:15am on Sundays:

www.BurkePresChurch.org,
choose "Plan a Visit", then
select either the Zoom
button or the YouTube
button.

THE NEW LEAF



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)

Director of Youth Ministries

Diane Maloney

(diane@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Finance and Business Administration

Holly Walsh

(holly@burkepreschurch.org)

Preschool Director

Anndra Rowland

(anndra@burkepreschurch.org)

Office and Communications Manager

Nicole Sheely

(nicole@burkepreschurch.org)

Pianist

Wei-Han Wu

(foreignkoffee@gmail.com)

Handbell Choir Director

Elliott Godinez

(elliott@burkepreschurch.org)

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.

Contact Us

5690 Oak Leather Drive

Burke, VA 22015

704-764-0456

office@BurkePresChurch.org

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.

