

2026 Kenya Mission and Service Trip

Burke and Clifton Presbyterian churches are planning a trip to Kibwezi, Kenya in July 2026. We have had a long-term partnership with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), which has led to a town church, education centre, and 17 “nendeni” village churches with preschools in 6 of them. We also sponsor an orphan care program for 35 at-risk young people. There is a microfinance program closely related to our churches in the US, but separate from PCEA in Kenya.

The goals of this mission and service trip are to grow spiritually as a small, intentional group, and to strengthen relationships with Kenyan partners. The things the group will do include: work in the primary school and Polytech with students and their teachers; visit preschools; visit orphans and their extended families; and work on construction, painting, and building maintenance tasks.

As part of the trip, we will spend two nights in Nairobi upon arrival. There will be a safari to a game park with one night in a Western style hotel toward or at the end of the trip.

A typical day in Kibwezi will be:

6:00 AM time to get up

Breakfast at the Kambua Guest House

Walk to PCEA Education Centre

7:30 – devotion with Polytech students

8:00 – morning “shape up” with Imani primary school

Divide up into groups for the day

- 3-4 people go with Judy on orphan care visits
- 2-3 people go with Walking with Africans to microfinance group meetings
- 3-4 people work in Imani primary or junior secondary classrooms
- 3-4 people work on construction or painting projects

Lunch provided by Kenyan hosts, or bag lunch put together first thing in the morning

After school games and reading with primary and Polytech students, possibly with some more formalized activities.

Walk back to Kambua

6:30 PM dinner

8:00 daily group devotion and discussion

Orphan care and microfinance visits will not happen every day. Work on construction or painting will depend on availability of supplies and skilled Kenyan labor.

Team building before the trip will include approximately monthly meetings with Zoom for students away at college. 16 years old is the recommended minimum age, but the group will be built by the Pastors and group leaders from all applicants. Preference will be given to college students and older teens and to those who have not been to Kenya before. We will share the list of participants by the end of January 2026.

**APPLICATION for Kibwezi, Kenya Mission and Service Trip
Burke and Clifton Presbyterian Churches
Possible Dates: 2 or 3 weeks in the window of June 30, 2026 – July 22, 2026**

Please complete an application and place it in the Kibwezi folder in the Burke Presbyterian church office by December 11th, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Kibwezi Committee Chair, David Smith (dbsmith61@gmail.com; 703-994-0787) or either of the pastors.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name (exactly as it appears on your passport): _____

Occupation or School and grade level: _____

Telephone #'s: _____

Email address(es): _____

Mailing address: _____

HEALTH STATUS: This is a rigorous trip, requiring 2-3 miles of walking daily in a dry dusty climate. Please provide a list of the medications you are taking.

Do you have any allergies to food, medication or the environment? _____

Please provide a list of any physical and/or mental health challenges that Leadership should be aware of in order to keep everyone safe. This information will be kept confidential.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT: Are you a member at Burke, Clifton or other church? _____

Describe your participation at church: _____

We will all lead activities while there. Please indicate your top 4 activities to lead.

ACTIVITIES: The activities are primarily with the middle grade Imani students and Polytech students (older teens). Mark your top four choices of activities to lead, which we will all participate in:

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|---|--|
| ☐ Singing and music | ☐ Craft activity with students |
| ☐ Preach morning devotion for students | ☐ Dance activity with students |
| ☐ Bible study and prayer with Kenyans | ☐ Drama activity with students |
| ☐ Athletic games (soccer, volleyball) | ☐ Word games with students |
| ☐ Technical/Computer skills | ☐ Engineering/construction skills |
| ☐ Masonry skills | ☐ Gardening/farming experience |

SKILLS: The Imani primary school teachers like classroom assistants. What skills can you share, such as, teaching, sewing, reading aloud, playing chess, playing an instrument, tutoring a subject, etc.?

EXPERIENCE: Work camps, Mission, International travel, Leading worship:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Depending on the level of need, the church *may* be able to offer some assistance for youth in support of travel expenses, estimated to be \$2,300 - \$2,700.

☐ No, I am not in need of financial assistance. ☐ Yes, I need financial assistance.
If you marked Yes, of the total trip cost per person, you are able to pay (write amount) \$_____

What are your concerns, fears, or anxieties about the trip?

The Big Question? Why do you want to go? What do you expect to get out of the trip? How is this trip calling you at this time in your life? Please answer as best you.

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