



About Our Advent Theme

“What do you fear?”

Luke’s Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: “In the time of Herod...” This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ’s birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: “Do not fear.”

We’ve crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels’ message and trusts that Christ’s birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. The series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels’ voices in our ears.

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ’s coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that’s the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It’s gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

-From *A Sanctified Art* LLC materials

Join us for these special services during Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 14
9:00am & 11:15am Morning
Worship with Cantata,
Handel’s “Messiah”

Sunday, December 21
7:30pm Service of the Longest
Night

**Christmas Eve
December 24**
4:00pm Family Service, with
children’s choirs
6:00pm Candlelight Service, with
our youth choir
8:00pm Candlelight Communion,
with our adult choir

Sunday, December 28
10:00am Morning Worship

 **BURKE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



Fear is not always the enemy. Fear can be a helpful tool that makes us more alert to threat. A thump in the night in a quiet house can turn our whole mind into a big listening ear. Our heart pounds and we are ready to run or hide or fight. Until we realize it was just the wind knocking over a flowerpot. But, when fear becomes a strategy used by the news to garner our attention, when fear is sprayed out over us all the time, such that it clouds the air like tear gas, the result is not always alertness. The result might be confusion, rage, even paralysis.

This year, as I read over the Biblical texts that greet us during the season of Advent, I came to notice fear on the wind there, too. Fears of social rejection or relationship problems, simmer beneath the sweet Mary and Joseph story. Fears of imperial crackdowns set the tone for John the Baptist, out there, crying in the wilderness. Fears of the nervous King Herod kept the three Kings on their toes as they tried to find their way to the newborn king. Fear of the unknown, surrounded the shepherds in the midnight field. And when is childbirth not a beautiful but fearful time, even more so in days when there were no ultrasounds or C-sections. Advent is no stranger to fear. But this year, I am seeing courage, creativity, and compassion crowding it out. I am seeing hope, peace, and good tidings of great joy rushing in to bear witness to the wonders of God's love. Fear is still there but the gifts of God are stronger!

I don't know if this Advent feels more fearful or festive for you, but I hope you will journey with us spiritually this year toward the manger. There will be many ways to serve, share, speak up, and keep silent together in our ministries. Maybe you serve at Community Meals, share a sweater, offer to be an Advent candle lighter, or join in singing the Messiah. Or maybe you invite someone to the Longest Night service as a light in their darkness.

May this Advent season remind you that fear does not get the final word. Love does. May courage rise, hope take root, and the light of Christ meet us all in the shadows, leading us home.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Why do I say “yes” when presented with an opportunity to get involved in a church function? Primarily it’s because BPC is very much my family, and what wouldn’t I do for family? Whereas, there are times when I respond with a gracious “no” when asked to assist, if I am able to say yes, I know that I will get as much and often more from the experience than I give. Whether it’s my time as a deacon, working on the Fix-It Team, or helping with parking during a funeral, forging relationships and getting to know congregants while doing different tasks is unbelievably rewarding. As an example, I would never have known that Norm Wolf has such a great sense of humor had I not climbed ladders with his assistance. Norm, thanks for that! - *David Roberts*

I met Arlene on one of my first visits to Burke, trying to find a church home. Without knowing me, she welcomed me with a smile that said, “I’m glad you’re here.” She invited me to join the circle of Godly Play as well as Rainbow. Having been a teacher for 25 years, I felt these areas would be a good fit. Little did I know, the roles would be reversed as I listened, learned and wondered with many young sages. Later, I was invited to teach Sunday School classes and somehow agreed though I was definitely out of my comfort zone. I’ve found that places of discomfort are places for growth. As a deacon, I find myself again in the role of student, soaking up the wisdom and grace of people suffering loss and pain or experiencing joy. Engaging with others here at BPC does not feel like serving to me, it feels like going on a walk with a good friend. - *Laurie Roberts*





By Julianne Erbrecht

I am grateful for the gift of my sabbatical: your generous support, the time away from the regular routine, and those who capably led while I was away. My sabbatical time was full: family, friends, new places, beautiful scenery, delicious food, moving music, learning, good books, awe-inspiring moments and practical moments.

In late June-early July

My daughter, Elise, and I traveled to Vienna, Austria with the Vienna (VA) Choral Society. The trip was a musician's pilgrimage; there is so much music history in one place. We sang two concerts, accompanied by local instrumentalists, in the Minoritenkirche dating from the 1200s. I had a sense of timelessness singing in such an historic place with excellent acoustics. The voice of the soprano soloist soared over the voices of the choir singing, "Peace I leave with you...come all ye who are heavy laden." It was very moving.

We visited art museums, palaces, saw the Lipizzaner horses, and toured the city. The pastries and desserts were delicious; I decided wienerschnitzel isn't my favorite.



Vienna State Opera



Interior of Minoritenkirche



Zip-lining in Costa Rica

We attended a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* (The Queen of Spades) at the Vienna State Opera and a concert featuring *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi. We took the streetcar to the Vienna Central Cemetery and visited the musician's section where Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Johann Strauss I and II, and Arnold Schoenberg are buried. There is also a monument to Mozart.

We drove to Eisenstadt, close to the Hungarian border, to tour the Esterházy Palace. Franz Joseph Haydn was employed by the Esterházy family from 1761- 1790. My favorite excursion was to Melk Abbey along the Danube, west of Vienna.

The 1,000-year-old abbey sits atop a hill and was the original location of the capital (for the local ruling family) before it was moved to Vienna. There are apricot fields and an elaborate Rococo church on the grounds.

Also, my family vacationed in Costa Rica. Adam, Clara, and I spent two days in Montreat, NC picking up Drew and Elise from Youth Conference (we crashed keynote on Friday morning!). We met extended family on the South Carolina coast for a week at the beach.

Early August

I attended the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Annual Conference in Raleigh/Durham. The main draw was three workshops with the renowned choral ensemble VOCES8. If you've never heard VOCES8 before, check them out on YouTube. They are AMAZING! I learned about their approach to music education, several tricks and tips, and attended an exquisite concert in the Duke Chapel. Another highlight of the conference was an evening hymn festival at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral (Raleigh). Tom Trenney (who composed *Speak, Lord*, the choral anthem commissioned by BPC in 2019) chose the selection of hymns/readings and led from the magnificent organ. The sanctuary was resonant and awe-inspiring. While I was just one person among hundreds singing the opening hymn, *O God Our Help in Ages Past*, I had a strong sense of, "even though I am only one, God cares about me."

August-September

After many weeks of travel, I was glad for time at home. I checked off a goal on my summer bucket list and hiked Old Rag Mountain. Once the kids returned to school, I reorganized, cleaned out, painted, and gardened at home. I attended cross country meets, soccer games, music lessons, and start-of-school meetings. The kids and I visited museums on school holidays. I chaperoned a chorus field trip for Drew and Elise. I met friends and colleagues for coffee or lunch. I attended Sunday worship at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, the National Cathedral, Clifton Presbyterian, and Foundry United Methodist.

Thank you, BPC!



Duke Chapel



National Cathedral



Costa Rica



Old Rag



"Once Upon Every Time," Revisited

Do you remember the awesome Once Upon Every Time sermon series from this past August? This will be a chance to revisit and unpack these words of wisdom about our beloved and bewildering biblical text. Pastor Becca and Jamie Deaton will facilitate this series in the BPC library, 10:45-11:00am, November 23.



Godly Play for Youth and Adults

Are you wondering what Godly Play is all about?

Perhaps you've heard about it or you've had a child in Godly Play, but you're not sure just what's happening in that space. Following the story, we invite participants to respond and we offer a variety of choices. Join us in the Godly Play room, on November 23 from 10:15-11:00am.

Poet Kathleen O'Toole, December 14.

We are excited to welcome Kathleen O'Toole again. She is leading a Sunday school session on the theme of "Faith & Fear."

"Stories matter, and the kind of truth, rooted in our shared humanity, that poetry can convey, matters to our common life." - Kathleen O'Toole



Seeking the Word, December 21

10:15-11am

Continuing along with the theme of poetry, Ed Sadtler and Jean Strohl will lead a session on Seeking the Word. Come get in touch with the Creative through scripture, poetry, and brief reflective writing prompts.



Rainbow

What: Rainbow is the mid-week children's program at Burke Presbyterian Church for elementary-aged kids. Siblings in preschool are invited to tag along for our Raindrops program; older youth are welcome to come and assist in leadership. We sing, read Bible stories, play, and eat dinner together.

Who: Children in kindergarten through 6th grade (and their preschool-aged siblings!)

When: Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm

Where: The Burke Presbyterian Church Gathering Space

Why: Rainbow offers breathing room in a busy school week. It nudges us to re-orient ourselves toward God's beloved community. It reminds us that

church happens all the time, not just on Sundays. Eating together helps us model the way Jesus used meals to welcome everyone. Rainbow fosters deep, sacred, lasting connections between families.

GODLY PLAY

Godly Play is an interpretation of Montessori Religious education, which means it is more like spiritual guidance than what is typically thought of in the church as Christian education.

At the heart of Godly Play is biblical storytelling, but Godly Play cannot simply be reduced to a clever and engaging way of telling stories. Rather, Godly Play is about creating a space for children that is for them — a place that honors their spiritual lives, a place to be a part of a circle and part of a spiritual community.

Godly Play is offered for children in grades kindergarten and older during both Sunday morning worship services following the children's message.





Put together a Bethany Stocking

Bring to church on December 7

For many years at Christmastime, BPC members have made stockings filled with essentials for the women who visit the Bethany Women's Center on N Street in downtown DC. The Bethany Women's Center helps women facing homelessness and women and children escaping domestic violence.

We've seen lots of creative ways to do this! Some ideas to get you started:

- Use thick knee socks as the "stocking" (men's socks work well!) and stuff one sock into the toe of the other - OR -
- Use a decorative knit stocking (but consider including some warm socks inside)
- Then, fill with items that would be useful to and enjoyable for a woman without a stable home. Some ideas include toothpaste, toothbrush, hat, gloves, a scarf, other small toiletries, a notebook, pens, pencils ... use your imagination to make it fun!
- Tie off the end of the stocking with a ribbon and bring it to church on December 7.



BPC Annual Sweater Drive for Christ House

It's sweater time again! Our annual BPC Sweater Drive runs until November 30, and you're invited to help make the season a little brighter for the men living at Christ House. Look for the cheerful Christmas tree decorated with sweater-shaped ornaments. Each ornament lists the sweater size and color preference for a resident. Simply choose one and bring back a new sweater that matches the request. You are invited to wrap or bag the gift and add a note or Christmas card. Short on time? Just bring an unwrapped sweater and our BPC elves will wrap it. Be sure to attach the gift tag you chose!

Each man will receive his sweater as a special gift at their annual holiday dinner event on December 13, so let's make sure every one of them feels remembered and cared for. You can find the Sweater Tree and drop-off basket in the Gathering Space on Sundays, and near the coffee bar by the kitchen on weekdays. Let's come together to spread warmth, joy, and love this holiday season - one sweater at a time!

If you have any questions about the sweater drive, please contact Kay Taylor (kadatava@gmail.com)

This Christmas Give a Gift That Will Help Others in Need

BPC's Mission Ministry offers Alternative Gifts every December. What are Alternative Gifts? They are gift certificates that benefit local and international organizations that BPC supports throughout the year. They are thoughtful gifts that assist others in need and never create clutter! If you are interested in purchasing an Alternative Gift visit the Mission Ministry's table, which will be set up in the Gathering Space on Sunday, December 7, 14 and 21. Won't be at church on these dates? See the order form below for alternate purchase methods.



5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

2025 Alternative Gifts Order Form

Burke Presbyterian Church has a long tradition of emphasizing the true meaning of Christmas giving - giving from the heart. The BPC Mission Ministry carries on this tradition with an annual offering of Alternative Gifts - gift certificates that benefit both local and international organizations that BPC supports throughout the year. These are thoughtful gifts that assist others in need and never create clutter! The suggested donation amounts are a guide - any amount you choose is just right. **Forms may be returned by email to Jill Moore at JMoore19@cox.net** and certificates will be sent to you electronically. Payment can be made via the church website at www.BurkePresChurch.org - choose the "Giving" tab, then scroll to the "Alternative Gifts" section. Alternatively, you may mail a check - payable to BPC with "Alt Gifts" in memo section - to the church at 5690 Oak Leather Dr., Burke, VA 22015. **Thank you for your generous support!**

Ministry Name	Program Description	Suggested Donation	Qty	Dollar Total
Christ House	Provide for the purchase of clothing for residents at Christ House in D.C. (\$30 for a sweater, \$100 for essential clothing for one resident).	\$30 - \$300		
Hypothermia Prevention	Provide food and shelter during Hypothermia week at BPC, Feb 2026 (\$200 would provide 8 gas cards for guests with vehicles).	\$25 - \$200		
ECHO	Food for food insecure families in Burke/Springfield (\$300 is cost to supply staples to a family of four for a month) in partnership with ECHO.	\$25 - \$300		
Community Meals	Provide 200 meals to those in need the first Wednesday of each month (\$300 is current BPC cost per month) in partnership with FACETS.	\$25 - \$300		
Affordable Housing	Provide rental assistance and building materials for affordable housing initiatives in the local area.	\$25 - \$500		
Disaster Relief	Disaster relief (through Church World Service and other organizations) including clean water, food, and hygiene.	\$25-\$150		
Malawi - School	Nursery School of the Sazu CCAP Church: \$25 provides fortified porridge for 1 month.	\$25		
Malawi - ARVT	HIV/AIDS Antiretroviral Treatment and Care Program at Embangweni Hospital.	\$25		
Kibwezi - Education	Scholarship and curriculum support for Post Secondary Students enrolled in College/University/Polytechnical Training.	\$50-\$250		
Kibwezi - Nendeni Area	Support for Kibwezi Bethel Parish preschools in rural outreach villages (daily meal, clean water, teacher salaries, construction)	\$10-\$100		
Tumaini Orphan Care	Purchase milk goats and other farm animals for orphan families so they can help sustain themselves.	\$50		
TOTAL DONATION:				
Purchaser's Name: _____ Date: _____ Purchaser's E-mail address: _____ Phone: _____ For AG Team Use: Received By: _____ Date: _____ Payment Method: Check # _____ Cash \$ _____ Online Engage: _____				



Blood Drive, December 6

The Inova Blood Mobile will be at BPC in the lower parking lot on Saturday, December 6, 7:00-11:00am. Scan QR code to sign up to donate. Or, call (1-866-256-6372) and use Sponsor Code 1049. If you have any questions, please contact Bel Edmonson (blooddrive@burkepreschurch.org).



Hypothermia Shelter

BPC will host Hypothermia Shelter again, February 15-22. We are searching for a Breakfast Team Lead, a Lunch Team Lead and a Mat Cleaning Team Lead. Volunteer position descriptions are below:

Breakfast Team Lead will be responsible to help Hypothermia leads to identify groups to prepare a hot breakfast each morning; coordinate with the teams to ensure they have everything they need for the breakfast; ensure teams are trained in the kitchen; and remind teams of their date to serve breakfast.

Lunch Team Lead will be responsible to coordinate and remind teams of their date to serve lunch.

Mat Cleaning Team Lead will be responsible to help Hypothermia leads to identify individuals to clean sleeping mats; cleaning sleeping mats each day after guests depart; and returning mats to sleeping area.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please email Marcy Stennes, (mjstennes@verizon.net). Donations and volunteers needed, sign ups will be available soon.





Christmas Joy Offering, November 30 - December 21

This denomination-wide offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Contribute online (scan QR code or use link in church emails) or write a check payable to BPC, noting “Christmas Joy Offering” in the memo line.



Donate a Christmas Meal with ECHO.

Once again ECHO is working to connect clients who would welcome the gift of a Holiday meal with people in our community who would like to donate groceries for a festive meal to a family having a hard time this season. A donor may ask for a specific size of family to assist, and ECHO will match the donor with a local household in need. ECHO will offer a list of foods for the donor to deliver or suggest an amount of grocery store gift cards that can be delivered or mailed. If you would like to help one or more families have a happy Christmas please scan the QR code to be matched with a family.





"Celebrate the Season" with Breakfast, the "Little Shoppe," and a visit from St. Nick, December 7.

All are welcome to join us during the Sunday School hour on December 7, 10:15-11:00 am, as we celebrate the season of Advent. We'll have breakfast, kids will be invited to shop for gifts for family members in the "Little Shoppe" (a longtime tradition here at BPC), and we are expecting a "special visitor." Mark your calendar, and spread the word! If you would like to volunteer please scan the QR code to sign up!



Seeking merchandise and volunteers for the Little Shoppe

Donated small items for the Little Shoppe -- such as jewelry, knick knacks, small toys, etc. are due by Dec. 2. Please leave them in the Little Shoppe bin located by the Mission Center cabinet. We'd also love to have some of your used Christmas cards (prefer just the fronts) for decorating the gifts that we wrap. Thank you! If you are interested in learning more about Little Shoppe and providing support please contact the church office (office@burkepreschurch.org).



Seniors and Retired folks Christmas Party, December 11, 2:00-4:00pm

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 11, for the BPC Christmas gathering for seniors and retired folks. Please plan to join us for cookies, coffee/tea/punch, and Christmas carols! After Thanksgiving, we will send out more information with a request to RSVP.



Parent's Night Out, December 13, 4:30-7:30pm

Need a night off to Christmas shop? We've got you covered! Some of our BPC youth completed a babysitter training course in September and are ready to put their newly learned skills to use! Drop the kids off at BPC Saturday, December 13 for an evening of fun, crafts, pizza, snacks, and a movie while you enjoy a little time to yourself. We're asking each family to contribute \$5 per child to help cover the cost of food and supplies. This event is for preschool through 3rd grade. Space is limited and children must be registered to attend. Please reserve your child's spot (scan QR code).



Advent Morning Meditations

Have you been yearning for a space to breathe, pray and meditate? Pastor Becca is offering Advent Meditations on Tuesdays (December 2, 9, 16, & 23) at 9:30am in the Meditation Room. Take a Moment. Breathe in. Breathe out. Thirty minutes of prayer and peace.

KENYA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

By Karyn Niles

Over the last few years, I have found myself growing in faith and pride in our BPC Community through travel. In 2023, I traveled with a small group to Kibwezi, Kenya- -expecting a great experience and deepening faith- -but not a transformative, life-changing experience. It was all of that. To see others with challenges so much greater than what most of us face is humbling. To see how their communities, facing great needs, have faith in God and how they support each other through a spirit of 'harambe' (all pull together), is powerful and heartwarming. To see how BPC has contributed over the last 40 years to supporting this community is amazing. This partnership with the church/school/Polytech/orphan care has transformed generations of people on both sides of the Atlantic.



When I first went 2 years ago, I had the chance to visit some micro-finance/table-banking groups. Walking with Africans is a small nonprofit started by a few members of Burke and Clifton Presbyterian churches- -associated and somewhat supported by the church members- -but not actually directly part of our partnership ministry. James Munthali, Ed Parker, Lyle Barlow, Dave Norman, and Mark Reimers have been actively supporting and advising groups in the Kibwezi area of Kenya and in Malawi for a number of years. Getting to visit a group of women, working together and supporting each other in order to better support their families and communities fascinated me. Frankly, figuring out what table-banking was, and how it worked, and doing general math did not. Luckily, over time, and thanks to the research and experimentation done by the original group, now it is clear to me how the groups work and how and why it is succeeding in helping to raise these groups a little higher out of poverty.

Last year, I returned to Kenya and met with all the groups along with Greg Diggs, and heard their stories, challenges and successes. I am now on the board for Walking with Africans.



This fall, I visited the Walking with Africans (WAF) groups in Kenya and Malawi with James Munthali and Ed Parker. I can tell you, even on my third trip to Africa in 3 years, I was surprised at how eye opening and transformative it was for me and my faith. Seeing the progress of these groups in 1 year's time was such a joy and gave me that feeling where you can feel God breathing in you. To see these groups celebrating us when really *their* accomplishments are the celebration is humbling.



In Kibwezi, James, Ed and I were focused on the micro-financing. We ended up spending a fair amount of time on the Imani campus and seeing how the work of our partnership is supporting growth. It was a joy to see the staff and student body growing! Frankly, a piece of my heart resides in Kibwezi, Kenya. I feel a great deal of gratitude to the years of work and dedication of BPC, CPC, and the Kibwezi Parish!



Ed, James and I also visited Malawi. I was excited to meet the table banking groups in Malawi and to learn about the WAF groups there. I was most surprised by how different the culture and economics are in Malawi. I enjoyed seeing some Presbyterian landmarks and evidence of missionaries' work (and martyrdom) in its history. The biggest takeaway was the vast involvement of BPC in Malawi missions. We visited with Beth Stuebing, who she preached at BPC last year and is a doctor residing in Malawi. She is currently recovering from a terrible car accident. It was meaningful to know BPC's connection and financial support help her to provide care. Then we visited a hospital that works to treat young people with HIV. We visited a school where BPC helped fund a girls' dormitory so that students can stay overnight and not be in danger going back and forth to school. *How is it that I have been a member at BPC for over 10 years, served on Session and Deacons, and don't even know how far and wide our support and influence goes!* That pride in us as a church community and honor to get to learn about our impact on site is something that will stay with me.



Next summer there will be a service trip to Kibwezi. Consider getting involved – with the planning or the committee. **Look for information about the July 2026 trip and the application to apply on the next page.** Ask one of us Burke folks about Walking with Africans and how you can help. We are all in all of this together and are so much more when we support each other!



Mission trip to Kibwezi, Kenya, July 2026

A Group from BPC and Clifton Presbyterian Church will be traveling for approximately 2 weeks to Kibwezi, Kenya in July 2026. We have a 38 year relationship with The Bethel Church and PCEA Educational Center there and look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones while working beside them to achieve goals. Consider joining us!

The purpose of this mission and service trip is to grow spiritually as a small intentional group, as well as to strengthen relationships with our Kenyan partners.

We are looking for a group of 18-20 people who are ready for a Life Changing Experience. We invite youth at least 15 years old to apply. Our group will work and worship with our partners. We will make orphan care visits, work with Primary and Polytech students in their classrooms, visit remote preschools in surrounding towns as well as participate in painting, building, and maintenance tasks on the Bethel PCEA Campus. More information about the trip is available on the application or you can ask David Smith (dbsmith61@gmail.com) or Rev. Becca Messman (becca@BurkePresChurch.org). Scan the QR code to fill out the application. Once completed, place in KIBWEZI 2026 Mission Trip folder or David Smith's folder, both of which are in office. **The applications are due by December 11.**

We hope you will consider joining us as this experience is truly Life Changing!





		2025 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
<u>Income:</u>		\$1,349,386.00	\$1,074,183.53	79%
	Pledges	\$1,130,786.00	\$888,081.02	79%
	Loose Offerings	\$20,600.00	\$16,656.11	81%
	Building Use	\$7,000.00	\$7,312.50	104%
	Interest/Dividends	\$10,000.00	\$11,437.07	114%
	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
	Per Capita	\$6,000.00	\$5,490.61	92%
	Online Processing Fees	\$5,000.00	\$3,539.52	71%
	2024 Surplus	\$170,000.00	\$141,666.70	83%
<u>Expenditures:</u>		\$1,331,011.00	\$1,073,543.06	81%
<i>Personnel Ministry</i>	Personnel/ Salaries	\$543,496.00	\$445,396.03	82%
	Benefits	\$162,180.00	\$130,186.35	80%
<i>Worship Ministry</i>		\$17,450.00	\$9,430.35	54%
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	Children's Education	\$5,000.00	\$4,532.20	91%
	General Administration	\$3,908.00	\$2,733.74	70%
<i>Spiritual Growth Ministry</i>	Adult Education	\$3,620.00	\$1,977.81	55%
	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Youth Education	\$31,500.00	\$24,149.98	77%
<i>Congregational Care Ministry</i>	Community Life	\$3,450.00	\$4,042.14	117%
	Small Groups	\$350.00	\$0.00	0%
<i>Vocations Ministry</i>		\$300.00	\$260.64	87%
<i>Outreach Ministry (Mission)</i>		\$112,200.00	\$94,155.62	84%
<i>Communications Ministry</i>		\$3,858.00	\$1,547.14	40%
<i>Facilities Ministry</i>	Utilities	\$40,800.00	\$35,384.57	87%
	Maintenance	\$133,600.00	\$126,625.26	95%
	Office	\$81,090.00	\$65,439.90	81%
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$80,000.00	\$66,666.70	83%
<i>Stewardship</i>	Presbytery Per Capita	\$30,039.00	\$25,303.20	84%
	Insurance	\$28,059.00	\$358.00	1%
	Stewardship	\$12,527.00	\$10,973.75	88%
	Mortgage Payments	\$36,384.00	\$23,470.40	65%
<i>Session</i>		\$600.00	\$611.43	102%
<i>Board of Deacons</i>		\$600.00	\$297.85	50%
Difference:		\$18,375.00	\$640.47	



Scaring Away the Hunger Monster: Teaching Our Preschoolers to Care for Others

At Burke Presbyterian Church, mission and ministry take many forms, from providing meals to neighbors through ECHO, to nurturing the spiritual and emotional growth of our youngest learners at Burke Presbyterian Church Preschool (BPCP). This fall, our preschoolers lived out that mission in a joyful, meaningful way as they joined forces with the congregation to help fight food insecurity in our community.

A Community Effort to “Stuff the Trunk”

Between October 15 and 24, preschool classrooms collected donations, and families were invited to join in a larger church-wide effort during Trunk or Treat. Together, our preschool, congregation, and neighbors worked to “Stuff the Trunk” with non-perishable food for ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), a long-time BPC mission partner dedicated to supporting families in crisis in the Burke and Springfield areas.

We are thrilled to share that the preschool and congregation together donated a whopping 804 pounds of food to ECHO! To help our preschoolers understand the magnitude of that gift, we told them that’s about the weight of a fully grown grizzly bear!

This joyful project was more than just a food drive. It was an opportunity to model what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Through story, play, and hands-on action, our preschoolers learned that no one is too young to make a difference in God’s world.

As one parent reflected, “The children showed us what empathy looks like in action. They understood that when we help others, we help make our community stronger — and that makes everyone feel full, not just in their tummies, but in their hearts.”

We give thanks for our preschool staff, families, and the wider BPC community for showing our preschoolers that service and compassion are part of who we are as the body of Christ. Together, we’re helping to scare away the hunger monster — one can, one roar, and one act of kindness at a time.



FACILITIES & NOMINATIONS

Facilities

Connor Lygon's Eagle Scout project at BPC was identified by the BPC Facilities Team as one of the options for Connor to organize, plan, and coordinate Scout Troop approval. The supplies for the project were financed by the BPC Facilities Team with a contribution from the Scout Troop. The purpose of the project was to create an alternative emergency egress path from the BPC Meeting House exit doors, which are facing Chick-Fil-A, around the outside of the building to the front courtyard assembly location in case of a building emergency. The normal evacuation route for the meeting house is out through the Gathering Space and the main front doors to the courtyard.

Connor coordinated the purchase and delivery of approx. 70 pavers for the project. The team of volunteers manually moved the pavers from the lower parking lot to the rear of the church and then laid the pavers out along the desired path near the meeting house windows and rear wall. The team also had to move "wood chips" from a large pile in the area for spreading round the pavers.

This is an "emergency only alternative egress path" but if it is ever used by church members it will be much easier to follow the path on the pavers than possibly dirt, mud or slippery icy conditions.



Nominations

Football, Pumpkin Spice Lattes, and BPC Nominations. Our favorite fall things!

What are nominations? This is the time of year when we plan for the leadership of the church for 2026. Elders, who are the governing leaders of the church. Deacons, who provide such extraordinary care for our congregation. And the nominating committee that connects the called members of the church with an opportunity to serve.

We have spots open for all three. Whether the call is resounding in your head, or a faint whisper, please listen. Even if you feel like you are not qualified for the role, I'll pull us back to Dave Roberts' amazing Get Connected minute last year; "If you think you are not the right person, you are *exactly* the right person."

Please reach out to Teresa Weaver at terweaver@aol.com for more information or if you have identified the perfect person you would love to nominate.



Stewardship

Last year, our theme was Grounded in Gratitude. We pictured ourselves as a tree with deep roots and wide branches: alive, flexible, reaching to heaven, and rooted in this community. That image still holds. But this year, we recognize something equally true: great trees do not grow alone. They are part of a forest, connected by hidden roots, nourished by the same sun and rain, strengthened by standing side by side.

We recognize all the ways the church has shown up for us in our times of need and where we, as the church, hope to show up in and for the world that God loves.

That is our theme for 2026: **In Good Company.**

It's not too late to pledge to our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. We are grateful for the 131 pledges for about \$889,999.64 that we have received thus far.

However, our goal is \$1.21 million, so if you haven't yet done so, please take a moment to fill out a pledge card (see friendship pads) or our online form (scan QR code). If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Stewardship Elder Andy Charles or the church office, or visit our website (scan QR code).



BPC SNAPSHOTS



Rainbow Create & Connect



Community Meals Prep



Sylvia turns 95!



Rainbow Choir



CROP Walk

BPC SNAPSHOTS



BPC SNAPSHOTS



Bread-making



Raindrops



Youth Ice Cream Social



CROP Walk

Regular worship schedule

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

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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.

