

THE NEW LEAF

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPRING 2026

MARCH 15: AN EVENING WITH JEFF CHU AT 7PM

Jeff Chu is an American journalist, editor, and author known for his thoughtful writing on faith, identity, and culture.

MARCH 22: JOHN 8:2-11

The good news is...
rooted in justice, mercy,
and faithfulness

MARCH 29: PALM SUNDAY

HOLY WEEK

Maunder Thursday April 2
at First Baptist Church of
Vienna at 7pm

Good Friday April 3 at
7:30pm

Easter April 5
8:30am in-person
10:00am in-person & online
11:30am in-person



LENT AND EASTER THEME

Following Jesus leads to a fuller, deeper life—though not always a comfortable one. His ministry is “radical,” meaning rooted; the good news returns us to what grounds us: loving our neighbors, caring for the vulnerable, seeking justice and mercy, and resting in God’s grace.

The good news is joyful and alive—growing like a mustard seed, abundant like fine wine saved for celebration.

May this season root us in God’s expansive goodness. Let the good news ground us—and move us to action in a world longing for what is good.

PASTOR'S NOTE

There is a Swahili phrase that I heard when we were visiting some of the villages outside of Kibwezi, Kenya: **“Ti ũndũ mwone.”** *It is not as you see it.* It was not meant as a correction - *you're wrong!* but as an invitation to humility - *there is more to this.*

For the travelers to Kenya, the phrase was about learning to see differently. What we noticed at first was not always the whole story. A landscape that seemed dry held remarkable ingenuity and resilience. A community that appeared to have very little revealed deep generosity.

A church building that looked unfinished was, in fact, a place full of life and faith.

Ti ũndũ mwone.

It is not as you see it.

Spring is a season when Christians remember that truth again and again. We follow Jesus toward Easter, and the story keeps turning in ways no one expects. The cross looks like defeat. The tomb looks like the end. Grief looks final. But the gospel whispers what our Kenyan friends might say out loud: **“Ti ũndũ mwone.”**

It is not as you see it. Resurrection begins to break in even before Easter morning. It appears in small ways... when courage rises in a fearful heart, when forgiveness becomes possible, when hope refuses to die.

On Easter Day the mystery bursts into the open: the stone rolled away, life stronger than death, Christ risen again. And then comes the part we sometimes forget. Resurrection is not only something that happened; it is something that continues. The disciples keep discovering it after Easter - on roads, around tables, in ordinary moments where suddenly Christ is present again. What they thought was the end becomes the beginning.

Ti ũndũ mwone.



PASTOR'S NOTE

At the beginning of Lent, the ground is brown and hard as a rock. But it is not as you see it. Daffodils are poking their heads out mid-Lent and by Easter, the world looks like a quilt someone's mother made by hand. In church, a hive of small groups are gathering around the book *Good Soil* written by Jeff Chu, and conversations emerge from the crust of doubt but then they blossom into friendships and a colorful expression of faith.

We are preparing to send another group to Kenya this summer, accompanied by Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe from National Capital Presbytery. This is not crusty denominational bureaucracy. We are cultivating new connections and cross-pollinating.

And, this spring we continue to participate in faith250 and at BPC, we will begin a Sunday School class in May about the Ken Burns documentary *The American Revolution* as we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation. Studying history together can be another way of practicing this same humility. The stories we learned when we were young are often only part of the story. When we look more closely, listening to more voices, seeing more perspectives, we begin to understand our past with greater honesty and depth.

In other words: **it is not always as we first saw it.**

Faith invites us into that same posture every day: curiosity instead of certainty, humility instead of quick judgment, hope instead of despair. The resurrection teaches us that God is always doing more than we can see at first glance.

So as the days lengthen and the world turns green again, may this phrase stay with us:

Ti ũndũ mwone.

There is more to the story.

There is more to this moment.

And, by the grace of God, there is always more life ahead than we first imagined.



A CONVERSATION

WITH JEFF CHU
MARCH 15

“This book is pure grace for anyone who has wrestled with questions of faith and belonging, offering hard-won insights on who we are and who we might yet become.”

-Kate Bowler,
New York Times bestselling
author of *Have a Beautiful,
Terrible Day!*

“Part memoir, part meditation, *Good Soil* is an extraordinary work of grace and courage that announces Jeff Chu as a major figure in an emerging field of modern and rigorous Christian thinkers. And he’s funny: Baby chickens with eyeliner! Progressive fundamentalists! Passive-aggressive bok choy! If Wendell Berry and David Sedaris had a love child, they could only hope he might be as fine a thinker and as funny a writer as Jeff Chu.”

-Eliza Griswold,
Pulitzer Prize-winning author of
Amity and Prosperity and *Circle of
Hope*



ABOUT JEFF

Jeff Chu is an American journalist, editor, and author known for his thoughtful writing on faith, identity, and culture. He previously served as a writer-at-large for Fast Company and has contributed to publications such as *Time*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Travel + Leisure*.

Jeff will preach at both worship services (9:00 & 11:15) on March 15, lead a Q&A-style Sunday School session at 10:15am and then offer an evening of conversation on March 15 at 7pm! The nighttime event is ticketed (\$15). Get yours by scanning the QR code.



GOOD SOIL

COLLECTIVE

GOOD SOIL COLLECTIVE

The *Good Soil* Collective will explore the themes of the book as an multigenerational experiential group focused on practicing what we're reading – planting, creating, reflecting and connecting. Adults, Youth, and Children are all welcome.

In person during Sunday School at 10:15 am, Mar 15, 22, and 29

Mar 15 – Gathering Around the Table – Join us as we explore how food connects us to our roots, and how we should never judge a food before we taste it!

Mar 22 – Planting Hope – Literally dig into the parable of the Sower – we'll prepare hope for growth and compost fear!

Mar 29 – Seeking Encouragement – Walk with us as we look for the signs of spring that encourage us towards growth and possibility. We will also look at how we have shaped our land, who shaped it before us, and reflect on our stewardship of this place.



In *Good Soil*, Jeff Chu leaves behind his fast-paced life to become an accidental farmhand at a working seminary farm – and discovers that tending the earth can also mean tending the soul. Through seasons of planting, waiting, and harvest, he explores identity, belonging, faith, and what it really takes to grow. Join us as we dig into a story that's earthy, honest, and deeply reflective.

THE GOOD SOIL CONVERSATION

The *Good Soil* Conversation will approach this as a thoughtful, book-club style dialogue group centered on reading, reflection and conversation.

- In-person during Sunday School at 10:15 am, Mar 22 & 29
- Zoom on Thursday nights at 7:30 pm, Mar 19, and 26

We're excited to host a live Q&A with Jeff Chu on March 15 during Sunday school, right in the middle of our church-wide study. Bring your questions about faith, farming, belonging and identity and be a part of our conversation about how to cultivate good soil. The Good Soil Collective will offer a more hands-on option concurrent with the Q&A, for those who prefer an activity-based alternative.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Massanetta Middle School Conference, July 9-12. Rising 7th through rising 9th grade students are invited to Massanetta Springs, in the hills outside Harrisonburg, Virginia, for a time to reflect on our faith, worship together, and do fun things. The total cost is \$400 (\$200 deposit due by April 12; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



Montreat Youth Conference, July 25- August 1. Rising 9th grade through graduated 12th grade students are invited to join us for an exciting week in Montreat, North Carolina, outside Asheville. Come spend time with BPC friends and get to know other youth from churches all over the country. The total cost is \$650 (\$300 deposit due by April 12; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



BPC Youth Merch Shop is OPEN (for pre-orders)! We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies available with 2 different designs. Pre-orders will be open until March 29th with this being the only way to order your gear. Use this form to pre-order your BPC Merch!

Scan the QR code.



SAVE THE DATE!
IMPACT Home Concert
Thursday, June 25
7:00pm

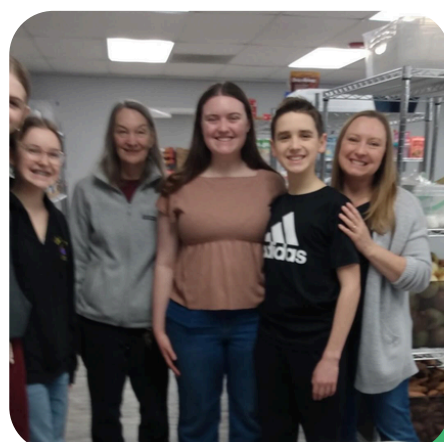
YOUTH MINISTRIES

MARCH MISSION MADNESS



Loving our neighbors well means knowing our neighbors. To that end, on March 7th, over 30 people of all ages gathered to participate in March Mission Madness. Throughout the day, our crews served at four different service sites. The morning began with a group serving food at the Burke UMC Community Co-Op. The co-op focuses on a choice-based food pantry helping clients maintain dignity while receiving support. Meanwhile, a different crew headed to the Hybla Valley Community Center to join together with

Capital Area Food Bank for a food distribution. Our team helped prepare food and other goods for clients to receive. Then at Lake Accotink Park, a group began an invasive species removal. They learned about the harm invasive species can cause to our local ecosystems damaging native species and healthy trees. The day wrapped up with a group preparing snack bags for Bridges to Independance, a non-profit organization based in Arlington working to help families and individuals out of poverty and into stable, independent futures. The 100 snack bags will be given to children who need extra food on the weekends, holidays, or long school breaks. Our 30+ volunteers spanned 76 years of age with every project having 2 to 3 different generations represented. On Sunday evening, we all gathered to share a little about our experiences and service and what we learned being out in the community. We learned a lot about food insecurity. We grew in our understanding of wealth disparity in our backyard. We discovered how what's growing around us can be harming us. Loving our neighbors well certainly can't be accomplished in one day, but we have new understandings that will continue to guide us.



CHILDRENS

MINISTRY

WHY MULTIGENERATIONAL MINISTRY?

When was the last time that you had a meaningful interaction at church with someone whose age differed from yours by, say, 30 or 40 years? How many folks at BPC do you know and love like a family member? As Christians, we are called to a life of belonging — not merely inclusion or hospitality (although these are wonderful things!), but real, radical belonging: to God, to Creation, and to one another.

Because faith communities are among the few remaining places where people of multiple generations gather, we have an extraordinary opportunity to extend these relationships of belonging across the typical boundaries of age and ability. In such an environment, children may wind up with a few extra “grandparents” who care about them; grownups might be blessed by the presence of younger ones who remind them what it might mean to “become like a child”; and we all have the opportunity to live into the promises we make at Baptism — to welcome one another into this beloved community.

This is why we have set aside monthly gatherings, typically the first Sunday of each month, to offer some form of multi-generational Sunday School. We believe these First Sundays can provide crucial ways for us to take the first steps out of our comfortable silos and into radical belonging. In April, we will gather for a Resurrection Breakfast and in May, we will bake for Lasagna Love.

But we want to extend these multi-generational opportunities beyond Sunday School! If you are interested in joining the conversation about how we can infuse more multi-generational connections throughout our ministries here at BPC, we would love to hear from you.



Upcoming Multigenerational Events

The Good Soil Collective:

March 15, 22 & 29

Resurrection Breakfast: April 19

Lasagna Love: May 3

CHILDRENS

MINISTRY

VBS 2026: COME TO THE TABLE

Registration is open for VBS!

We are planning a three-day Vacation Bible School here at BPC on July 14, 15, 16 from 2:00-5:00pm. The program registration is for rising kindergartners through rising 7th graders. Childcare will be offered for younger children of program leaders, and older youth are welcome to assist! You can register by scanning the QR code.



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. We sing, read Bible stories, play, and eat dinner together.

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

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

How do I sign up? Scan the QR code!



FACILITIES

MINISTRY

RON MARLOW, PATCHING THE LEAK OVER ROOM E3.



Do you feel a call to become the next Facilities Elder? Please reach out to Jocelyn Callister (current Elder) or Teresa Weaver (Elder for Nominations) to find out more.

We're so excited to do 2 more large projects within the scope of our Major Maintenance Plan later this year:

- Replace the heat/cool unit in the Conversation Corner
- Re-cover the East wing roof (the same process we did for the North wing in 2024)

In the meantime, we are blessed to have Ron Marlow help patch us up.

If ever you're interested in going up on the roof, joining the ranks of our regular grounds keepers (the Woodchucks will start mowing our lawns again before we know it!) or helping with other tasks, please reach out to Jocelyn Callister (jocelyncallister@gmail.com) - we have many hands in our community that will help make light work for all!

VOCATIONS

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.

- **Vocations Ministry** is looking for someone to help organize our Exploring Membership classes and assist new members as they become involved with the church
- **Worship Ministry** would love to have several additional ushers to ensure worship elements run smoothly, hand out bulletins, and be a welcoming presence
- **Greeters** are needed for both services to greet worshippers as they enter the building, identify visitors and help answer questions, and be a welcoming and friendly face
- **Fun Team** helpers are needed to assist with planning and carrying out large all-church events like the church picnic and potlucks

The time commitment can fit your schedule! If you are interested in learning more about these roles, please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator Anita Pesses at (anita.pesses@gmail.com) or 301-547-1229.

INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Our Spring Exploring Membership class offers anyone who is thinking about joining BPC the chance to learn more about this church and Presbyterians in general.

Spring classes led by Rev. Becca Messman will begin after Easter, meeting between worship services at 10:15 am on Sundays, April 19 and 26, and May 3 and 10 in Room E4/5. 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, May 10.

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 prepare materials. We look forward to hearing from you!

HAPPENINGS

AT BPC

CREATE & CONNECT, MARCH 24

You are invited to join a circle of friends who like to create (e.g., embroidery, knitting, crocheting, smocking, calligraphy, card making, drawing/sketching, painting, doodling/coloring, etc.). We meet periodically to create individually while hanging out together. It's a new spin on a sewing circle — everyone is doing their own creative thing rather than the same thing while in the company of friends. All you need is a portable project or the interest to play with art. We will meet next on March 24 in the Gathering Space, from 7:00-9:00pm. If you have any questions, please email Susan Ariale (susan@theariales.com).

RESURRECTION BREAKFAST, APRIL 19

As we continue to celebrate Eastertide, join us for breakfast. All are invited! We will meet in the Gathering Space from 10:15-11am on April 19 to share breakfast and enjoy community.



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Make a donation to help us purchase spring flowers for the Meeting House, and make a dedication to your loved ones that will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Complete the dedication form (scan QR code), which is also available in the Gathering Space by March 25. Suggested donation is \$20. Contact the church office (office@BurkePresChurch.org and 703-764-0456) if you have any questions.



HAPPENINGS

AT BPC

FAITH250 CONVERSATIONS

Burke Presbyterian Church is part of an interfaith effort, called faith250, to talk about America by discussing some of the sacred texts of our country around tables. Join Pastor Becca, Rev. Dr. Lisa Rzepka and BJ Sadtler to dive deeper into the four texts studied by the American Scripture Project: *The New Colossus*, *The Declaration of Independence*, *America the Beautiful*, and *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* This Sunday school series will begin April 26.



AMERICAN REVOLUTION SERIES

Thirteen American colonies unite in rebellion, win an eight-year war to secure their independence, and establish a new form of government that would inspire democratic movements at home and around the globe. What begins as a political clash between colonists and the British government grows into a bloody struggle that will engage more than two dozen nations and forever change the world.

The American Revolution is a six-part, 12-hour documentary series that explores the country's founding struggle and its eight-year War for Independence. The film is directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt and written by Geoffrey Ward. To learn more about the film and watch, visit pbs.org/americanrevolution.

Then, Join Larry Deaton and Norm Wulf for a 6 week series discussing why it happened? How were we taught? Why is it important that we are talking about this in church? Religious vs financial tensions? This series will start on May 24.

FOOD & FRIENDS

Thank you to everyone who made our BPC Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-off a success, and congratulations again to our winners Seth Parsons, Chris Collier and Carl Rosene! This is quickly becoming a beloved tradition. While our contestants may keep their recipes a secret for future competitions, we are willing to share the banana pudding recipe. If you loved this event and want to help recreate it next year, let us know! It's a great opportunity to have some fun and connect in a small group. Let Andrea Ham know if dessert is your service language!



BPC BANANA PUDDING

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cold milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 5oz boxes of instant vanilla pudding
- 1 14oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream (+ 1 cup more for topping)
- 1 box vanilla wafers
- 8 bananas
- 3 Tbsp powdered sugar (more or less to taste)

Instructions:

- 1 - In a large bowl, beat the cold milk with vanilla extract and vanilla pudding packets until it thickens (this is much less milk than the pudding packet instructions say to use - don't follow the instructions on the pudding box). Pour in the condensed milk and beat to combine.
- 2 - In a separate bowl, beat two cups of the heavy whipping cream until stiff peaks form. Gently fold the whipped cream into the pudding with a spatula.
- 3 - Add the powdered sugar into the remaining one cup of whipped cream and beat until stiff peaks form. Refrigerate until needed.
- 4 - Add about 1/4th of the vanilla wafers into the bottom of your dish and about 1/4th of the bananas.
- 5 - Spread 1/4 of the pudding over the bananas/wafers. Repeat with remaining layers until you have four layers.
- 6 - Add the reserved whipped cream over top of pudding and decorate as desired. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.

EVENTS

IN THE COMMUNITY

SKILLS FOR SAFER SPACES: DE-ESCALATION & SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTION WORKSHOP



Our faith calls us to care for one another, especially in moments of tension or uncertainty, and knowing how to respond can make a difference.

In this workshop, participants will practice skills that you can adapt to many situations and settings—from neighborhoods and schools to workplaces and public spaces. Experienced trainers from Nonviolent Peaceforce will lead the workshop. NP is a nonpartisan international organization that equips communities with practical tools to prevent violence, de-escalate tensions, reduce harm, and strengthen local safety.

BPC members are helping to organize the workshop. Bring a friend. Thursday, March 26, 6 to 8:30pm at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Rd, Burke, VA. For more information and to register for the free workshop, please scan the QR code.

Presented by the Department of Religious Studies
and the Society for the Study of Religion

in partnership with Arise Campus Ministry, Catholic Patriots,
and Fairfax Presbyterian Church

Jesus's Resurrection: History and Parallels

Dr. Dale C. Allison

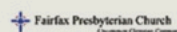
Second Annual Distinguished
Lecture In Early Christian Studies

Wednesday, March 25th @ 7:30 PM

Fenwick Library- Main Reading Room



Register on
Mason 360



BUDGET

& FINANCE

		2026 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
INCOME		\$1,267,441.02	\$244,271.71	19%
PLEDGES		\$1,209,941.02	\$236,675.19	20%
LOOSE OFFERINGS		\$24,000.00	\$2,400.31	10%
BUILDING USE		\$9,000.00	\$2,130.00	24%
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS		\$15,000.00	\$1,186.17	8%
PER CAPITA		\$5,000.00	\$1,439.17	29%
ONLINE PROCESSING FEES		\$4,500.00	\$440.87	10%
EXPENDITURES		\$1,290,637.74	\$201,085.41	16%
PERSONNEL MINISTRY	PERSONNEL	\$564,643.21	\$91,998.78	16%
	BENEFITS/ADMIN	\$156,787.38	\$28,203.87	18%
WORSHIP MINISTRY		\$15,875.00	\$35.86	0%
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	\$4,600.00	\$237.77	5%
	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$3,700.00	\$568.99	15%
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	ADULT EDUCATION	\$3,250.00	\$393.90	12%
	YOUTH EDUCATION	\$32,000.00	\$3,772.52	12%
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	COMMUNITY LIFE	\$4250.00	\$205.65	5%
VOCATIONS MINISTRY		\$500.00	\$0.00	0%
OUTREACH MINISTRY (MISSION)		\$112,562.15	\$27,378.04	24%
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY		\$2,500.00	\$64.97	3%
FACILITIES MINISTRY	UTILITIES	\$43,800.00	\$10,845.31	25%
	MAINTENANCE	\$144,900.00	\$10,860.59	7%
	OFFICE	\$70,700.00	\$9,084.22	13%
	TRANSFER TO	\$62,120.00	\$10,353.34	17%
	MAJOR MAINTENANCE			
STEWARDSHIP	PRESBYTERY PER CAPITA	\$32,050.00	\$5,341.66	17%
	INSURANCE	\$21,500.00	\$0.00	0%
	STEWARDSHIP	\$13,550.00	\$1,439.94	11%
SESSION		\$950.00	\$300.00	32%
BOARD OF DEACONS		\$400.00	\$0.00	0%
DIFFERENCE		(\$23,196.72)	\$43,186.30	

THE NEW LEAF

WORSHIP WITH US

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:

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

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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Receive Love. Give Love. Repeat.