

THE NEW LEAF

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2026

JUNE 23 AT 7PM: CREATE & CONNECT

This crafting project group meets once per month on Tuesdays in the Gathering Space at BPC.

JULY 1 AT 6PM: FAITH250 PICNIC

We will meet in a pavilion at Burke Lake Park (address and specific location will be shared soon).

6:00 pm — We will gather for a potluck dinner, and then at 6:30 pm, we will share a ritual, a brief time of readings, music and prayer.

We will speak a truth. We will hold onto a hope. We will lean toward the hope we have for this country.

Find more information on page 17.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

These Truths sermon series starts on Sunday, June 21. We'll explore some core truths of the faith and how they influence how we live. How do these truths make us better citizens of this world? How do they make us better neighbors?



June 21 Endowed by Their Creator – Gen. 1:24–27

June 28 A More Perfect Union – Matt. 25:31–43

July 5 New Birth of Freedom – Rom. 7:15–25a

BISHOP TOM BERLIN PREACHES JUNE 14

Tom Berlin serves as Bishop of the Florida

Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to being elected Bishop, he served as lead pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon. Tom is a graduate of Virginia Tech and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is the author of numerous books, including *Reckless Love*, *Courage*, *Restored*, *Defying Gravity*, *The Generous Church*, and the coauthor (with Lovett Weems) of *Bearing Fruit*, *Overflow*, and *High Yield*.



PASTOR'S NOTE

Matins

Louise Glück

You want to know how I spend my time?
I walk the front lawn, pretending
to be weeding. You ought to know
I'm never weeding, on my knees, pulling
clumps of clover from the flower beds: in fact
I'm looking for courage, for some evidence
my life will change, though
it takes forever, checking
each clump for the symbolic
leaf, and soon the summer is ending, already
the leaves turning, always the sick trees
going first, the dying turning
brilliant yellow, while a few dark birds perform
their curfew of music. You want to see my hands?
As empty now as at the first note.
Or was the point always
to continue without a sign?



Summertime at church is quieter. We do what looks like weeding, putting away those piles that accumulated in the floral burst of Spring. Easter, Confirmation, Graduations, Pentecost, Mother's and Father's Days generate a huge whoosh of gratitude and then the pollen relents and the petals fall, and what remains in church as in life is the work of tending. We prepare for July youth trips and VBS. We consider the Fall and beyond, when the great engine will crank again. We look for courage, some sign in the humidity that our lives will change, we hope for the better and not just for the sweatier.

This summer, we are tending some of the big questions of our faith that deserve a bit more space to breathe. In May and early June, we explore the famous benediction 'Go forth in peace, have courage, render to no one evil for evil', and so on. What is the call of our lives? The sign posts we are to follow? Then, around the 4th of July, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we will consider These Truths, how Presbyterians practice spiritually and theologically healthy citizenship. Then, Summer Playlist! Cranking up the Psalms that always speak to the moods of life. Finally, Scenic Route. In August, we hit the road with the Old Testament stories of Joseph, Moses, and Exodus to learn the longer journey of the people of God.

Whether your summer is looking like weeding and rest, or if you are on your knees in prayer or on the road, we hope you give time to tend your faith, to stare closely into the growth God is giving.

Becca

PASTOR'S NOTE

Friends,

I am delighted to be your Associate Pastor. This process has been in the works for years! At the end of my sophomore year of high school, I began to discern a call into ministry. When I was at church, leading Vacation Bible School music, or serving Christ's mission in the world, I felt like the fullest version of myself. I knew I would need to be serving the Church to be true to God's calling on my life. In the following years, I continued to discern what this calling truly meant for my life.

I moved to Tennessee to enroll in a graduate residency so I could serve in a church while also in seminary. Following my graduation from Memphis Theological Seminary, I moved to Northern Virginia and started my ministry at Falls Church Presbyterian Church. Through a series of transitions there, I discerned a call into ordained ministry.

In February of 2024, the session of Falls Church Presbyterian Church endorsed me to enroll as an inquirer in the ordination process. In the PC(USA) (and most Reformed traditions), we believe that a calling to ministry is not limited to the individual. In fact, a call to ministry must be realized by the individual and others. Following that, I began the required parts of the ordination process. I underwent psychological testing to better understand myself and my fitness for ministry. I regularly met with a group from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) who helped oversee my ordination process. In 2025, CPM determined the remaining coursework required for me. I took five classes: Presbyterian Polity, Biblical Greek, Greek Exegesis, Biblical Hebrew, and Hebrew Exegesis. In addition to that, I took five ordination exams required of all Presbyterian ministers: Bible Content, Polity, Worship and Sacraments, Theology, and Biblical Exegesis. The road has been long yet surrounded by so much love and support.

Thank you for entrusting me to serve as one of your pastors. Thank you for entrusting me to oversee the spiritual development of our young people. It is not a calling I take lightly. Over the last year, I have fallen in love with BPC: its people, its love, its quirks, its leaky ceilings (ok, maybe I could do without that). I am so very grateful. I welcome your prayers as we embark on this new journey together.

In Christ's love,

Diane



MUSIC

MINISTRY

You're invited!

Summer Choir 2026

The choir will lead in worship at 10:00am for six Sunday services this summer. We will gather in the music room or Meeting House at 9:15am to prepare for the service.

There is no mid-week rehearsal.

Dates for Summer Choir

July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2, August 9, August 16

This year we are especially inviting children grades 3 and up (and their families) to join on August 2 and August 16.

We've chosen the music with you in mind!

No experience or preparation needed.

Come as your Sunday schedule allows.

Questions? Contact Julianne Erbrecht, Julianne@BurkePresChurch.com

SUMMER MUSIC

Musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to provide an Anthem or Offertory (or both) for a service this summer.

For more information and to sign up, scan the QR code.

Questions? Contact Julianne Erbrecht,

Julianne@BurkePresChurch.org





IMPACT IN CONCERT *Summer 2026*

FRIDAY | JUNE 19

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROOKFIELD, CT

SATURDAY | JUNE 20

VERNON REHABILITATION AND HEALTHCARE CENTER, VERNON, CT

SUNDAY | JUNE 21

**FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOSTON, MA
NEWTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEWTON, MA**

MONDAY | JUNE 22

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MA

TUESDAY | JUNE 23

DUNN'S CORNERS COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WESTERLY, RI

THURSDAY | JUNE 25

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURKE, VA



**IMPACT Youth Choir | Burke Presbyterian Church
5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke, VA 22015 | BurkePresChurch.org**

YOUTH

MINISTRIES

AMAZING INTERNS

Hi! This is Lake Braddock Seniors Olivia Osterhout and Ben Bailey. This spring we participated in our school's externship program, Bridging Bruins, at BPC. Bridging Bruins is a program open only to Seniors at Lake Braddock Secondary School, which allows students to spend the final few weeks of their senior year working at internships in order to prepare them for life after graduation. We chose BPC for our externship because BPC has been a large part of our lives for a long time, and we wanted to help out and give back to our church community. During our internship, we wrote Sunday morning worship liturgy, organized music, wrote postcards, helped with the fix-it team and community meals, cleaned, organized, went on a very important Top Golf reconnaissance mission (to test out the clubs and make sure the food is safe, of course), and wrote this article, among other things. We are very grateful to have this opportunity. Big thank you to Diane and Julianne for agreeing to this internship!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

bpc youth summer events
SAVE THE DATES



TOP GOLF TUESDAYS*

June 16 & 30

July 7, 14 & 21

August 4 & 11

limited space - sign up required

IMPACT CHOIR TOUR

June 19 - 24

IMPACT HOME CONCERT

June 25

7:00PM

BURKE LAKE PARK HANGOUTS

June 26, July 17, & August 28

6-8PM

MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

July 9 - 12

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14 - 16

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 25 - August 1

IMPACT & YOUTH CONNECTIONS FALL KICKOFF

September 13

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFO? EMAIL DIANE@BURKEPRESCHURCH.ORG

TOP GOLF TUESDAYS

June 16 & 30; July 7, 14 & 21; August 4 & 11

Select Tuesdays throughout the summer, we will offer Top Golf Tuesdays. Meet at BPC at 10:00am and return by 1:00pm. Golf and transportation will be covered by BPC; any food and drinks are on your own. We only have 4 spots per session, so we ask that you don't sign up for consecutive week. Sign up (scan QR code).



BURKE LAKE PARK HANGOUTS

Burke Lake Park Hangouts

June 26, July 17, August 28

6:00-8:00pm

Join us for a casual time of connection and games at Burke Lake Park. No sign ups needed, just show up and join us. There may be changes to the schedule based on weather.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

VBS 2026: COME TO THE TABLE

Registration 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.



Sunday morning Godly Play will continue through June 14. After that, we will take a break for the summer. Godly Play will return in September!



FACILITIES

MINISTRY



The Facilities Team got a lot done this Spring!

In addition to our regular slate of Fix-It and Woodchuck tasks, we had some carpet cleaning and kitchen maintenance. We completed both our Major Maintenance Projects for this year: replacing the heat/cool unit in the Conversation Corner and re-covering the East Wing roof (thank you, Springfield Roofing!).

We also had a tree fall on the Cottage, which has resulted in an evaluation of how we're using our spaces and a full review of the health of the trees around our property. More information to come on those projects.

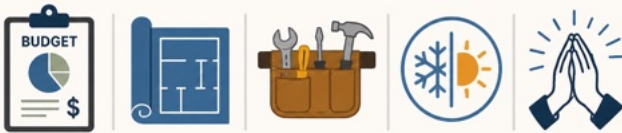
But there's always more going on! Mark your calendars to join us on June 6 for a Facility Fun Day where we'll have a variety of projects that need a few helpers to accomplish. And if that's not enough for you, feel free to join in on any of our ongoing teams to keep the grounds looking great and the building working well.

Contact Jocelyn Callister
(jocelyncallister@gmail.com) for more
information.

FACILITIES

MINISTRY

Are you
called
to be our next
FACILITIES ELDER?



**Do you feel a call to become
the next Facilities Elder?**

**Please fill out this form (scan
QR code) if you would like
more information.**



**We need a big picture,
ministry-minded,
project manager and budget
person.**

What the elder does:

- Spiritual leader and member of BPC session (Meetings are 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:30 – 9 pm)
- Convenes Facilities Team meeting (Meetings are 1st Monday of the month – or every other - 7-8:30 pm)
- About weekly, not specified times, over email - receive invoices / payments / reimbursements for approval
- Not regularly scheduled but roughly 1-2 times per month - meet a vendor as needed (fire inspection, estimator, tradesperson)
- Not regularly scheduled but roughly 2-5 times per week - contacted by text or email about tasks, needs, concerns from the staff or Facilities Team. Some are FYI, some require action or decision which may require other calls/emails/vendor meetings. [We have a new “on-call” team called the gophers who respond to needs so the elder doesn’t have to be available for urgent building matters.]

Other things that happen that *don't* require the Elder's presence:

- Weekly on Tuesday, 10 am - 12 pm - Fix-It Team meets to address Facilities tasks.
- Weekly on Saturday mornings - Woodchucks in the Spring/Summer/Fall, and Polar Bears in the Winter

What the elder does not do: (unless you want to!)

Arrives in person for facilities needs on a moment's notice, crawls around in the dark with a flashlight, removes pests, handles snakes, chops down trees, rewires electrical panels, unclogs toilets, etc.

PERSONNEL

MINISTRY

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Personnel Committee (Lois Page, Nancy Wulf, Dan Herrema, Anne Tidaback, Tom Wickham, and Seth Parsons) continues to work to support, encourage, and celebrate the outstanding staff who serve Burke Presbyterian Church so faithfully.

In recent months, much of our work has focused on developing the Terms of Call for our new Associate Pastor for Youth, Diane Maloney, following her completion of the extensive process toward ordination. We are grateful for Diane's leadership, care for our youth, and commitment to ministry.

At the Congregational Meeting on May 31, the Personnel Committee presented Diane's Terms of Call to the congregation for an official vote. We will celebrate this important milestone together at Diane's Ordination and Installation on August 30. Please plan to attend.



PERSONNEL

MINISTRY

NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY &
BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITE YOU TO THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF



Diane M. Maloney

AS MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

AUGUST 30, 2026 | 3:00PM
BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5690 OAK LEATHER DRIVE, BURKE, VA

MISSION

MINISTRY



Since 2017 BPC has participated in the Sacred Homes program through Homestretch, an organization that seeks to empower homeless families to achieve self-sufficiency. The first family supported by BPC was a mother with a daughter and son, and we are happy to share that they are now independent and stable. Now the Mission team is excited to begin our partnership with a new Homestretch family.

They are a family of five who became homeless through a series of difficult events. There are a mother and father with two girls and a baby boy. We do keep the identities of the family confidential. There will be a number of opportunities for the congregation to support this family, including a request in late summer for back-to-school clothes and supplies, and later for gifts at Christmas time. Nancy Morrison is the BPC liaison with this family and Homestretch, and she would love to talk with you about this wonderful mission of BPC.



Throughout the month of June, we are collecting funds for medical supplies for Ukrainians defending their country from invasion. For four years, Russian bombs have targeted Ukrainian hospitals, power stations, and supermarkets; forcing regular Ukrainians to join the armed forces to protect their families. Despite much-appreciated help from the US and European allies, supplying the recruits with essential personal equipment is a daily challenge that often falls on their friends and loved ones.

We seek to lessen that burden and honor fathers throughout the world by providing funds for life-saving medical equipment that will help Ukrainians come home safely. We invite you to donate funds for a chest seal (\$15), a tourniquet (\$30), or pelvic stabilizer (\$350); or another amount towards similar purchases. We hope to reach a \$10,000 total, matching previous years' collections for portable ultrasound equipment and tourniquets. To give online (scan QR code) or by check made payable to BPC (with memo "Ukraine").



MISSION

MINISTRY



On June 30, 2026, a group of 15 from Burke Presbyterian Church are travelling to Kibwezi Kenya for a mission based trip with cultural exchange and work camp activities. While there, they will be working alongside our Kenyan friends to strengthen and support our 38 year partnership with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa Educational Center. We have set up an Amazon wish list to help us bring over supplies we will need or that they have requested, which we like to take with us

as the mail/shipping is not reliable. Please use the link below to consider purchasing some items that the group can take with them. Purchased items will be delivered to Susan Kipp and will be gratefully included in our baggage. Thank you in advance for helping to enrich the lives of so many in Kibwezi.

We are also collecting money for solar lanterns for our students and these will be purchased in Nairobi. Please consider a gift toward that by donating \$30 to the link below.



[AMAZON WISH LIST LINK](#)



[SOLAR LANTERNS](#)



TUMAINI ORPHAN CARE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our annual Mother's Day fundraiser for the 35 orphaned children we support in Kibwezi, Kenya raised \$22,925! With your donations, we are able to fund the TOCP for another year. Thank you for your generosity!

EVANGELISM

MINISTRY

CREATE & CONNECT

For almost a year people have been gathering each month to Create and Connect here at BPC. This monthly gathering has been a place to work on projects alongside others, make new friends, learn a new skill and of course share a laugh or two. We have had watercolor instruction, people helping others learn crochet, photo enthusiasts, knitters, painters, cross-stitchers, needle pointers, and people with coloring books, just to name a few. People of all ages are welcome to join us. Meetings occur in the Gathering Space on the fourth Tuesday of each Month. Come join us any time!



GREETERS NEEDED

Burke Presbyterian Church can be described in many ways. We are a church that says “yes” to new ideas, a church that is welcoming to all people, a church that is intentional about our care and education of children and young people, a church that likes to have fun together. One of the ways we can grow that welcoming aspect of our church is by greeting people as they enter the building on Sundays. By being in the Gathering Space saying, “Good Morning” and answering questions, greeters help maintain the warm welcoming atmosphere we have cultivated here at Burke Presbyterian Church. Anyone can be a greeter; in fact, it is an ideal way for families to serve together. If you are someone who would be interested in greeting on Sundays, please email Elder Susan Ariale at (susan@theariales.com).

DEACONS

Rides Needed

Are you able to provide a ride to worship on Sundays for a fellow church member?

If yes, email Karyn Niles
(keniles@icloud.com)



Senior Supper Soiree with Optional Songs!

June 25th

6:00 pm

Gathering Space at Burke Presbyterian Church

With the option to stay for the IMPACT Summer Tour Concert at 7:00pm.

If you are able or want to bring something to share, please bring a side or dessert to share.

Please email or call a Deacon or Karyn Niles if you need transportation/rides, or if you have questions. keniles@icloud.com or 703-609-3347

FAITH250

A PUBLIC RITUAL FOR THE 250TH YEAR

What is a ritual?

The word *ritual* is rooted in the Sanskrit word for “order” — the right ordering of things. Unlike a drama, where an audience watches actors perform and then everyone departs and snaps back to their old ways of being, ritual has the power to bridge experience and ideal. To do a ritual together is to align ourselves — however briefly, however imperfectly — with the world we are trying to become.

People of faith are practiced at ritual. And democracy needs it too.

How we got here

In July of last year, the clergy of Burke and Springfield wondered aloud what we might do in July 2026.

We were ready to trade the normal clergy banter of congregational programming to take on something formative and bold: the promise of America. We decided to strengthen the spiritual muscles required for democracy to flourish. Clergy discussed founding documents of our country, *The Declaration of Independence*, *The New Colossus* (the poem by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty), the hymn *America the Beautiful*, and *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* By Frederick Douglass.

Then, we widened the table. We brought all of our congregations together four times, nearly 20 congregations in total, with about 180 people attending each time, and those conversations took on new life and new depth, as people sat with their actual neighbors in real time and heard their hopes for this country.

All of this has been building toward one desire: to mark this milestone in our democracy with honesty, with hope, and with each other.

We will do that together on July 1st 2026, just a few days before the 4th of July.

Join us

Wednesday July 1st at Burke Lake Park [we will meet in a pavilion. Address and specific location will be shared soon.]

6:00 pm — We will gather for a potluck dinner, and then at **6:30 pm**, we will share a ritual, a brief time of readings, music and prayer.

We will speak a truth. We will hold onto a hope. We will lean toward the hope we have for this country.

And then — onward

Ritual is not the stopping place. It is the launching one.

Many people have asked “What next?” Our local faith250 cluster has been hearing from many of you that this experience of “in real life” conversations about America, across historic divides, has fueled your hope and sparked your creativity. What do *you* think we should do next? Bring your ideas on July 1st as well.

Organized by Burke/Springfield Clergy Cluster in partnership with Faith250 — a national multifaith initiative marking America's 250th anniversary and creating civic healing.

CROP WALK

FUNDRAISER

West Springfield

Eat to support Honeygrow



Saturday, June 27th
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM
we'll donate 20%
of all orders placed
by supporters
to your organization.



Use promo code **GIVE164**
on the honeygrow app,
at honeygrow.com,
or in-store at the kiosk
before checking out.



honeygrow

8426 Old Keene Mill Rd

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Powered by
GroupRaise

BUDGET

& FINANCE (AS OF APRIL 30)

		2026 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
INCOME		\$1,267,441.02	\$479,520.48	38%
PLEDGES		\$1,209,941.02	\$463,655.53	38%
LOOSE OFFERINGS		\$24,000.00	\$5,934.32	25%
BUILDING USE		\$9,000.00	\$4,273.50	47%
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS		\$15,000.00	\$1,886.58	13%
PER CAPITA		\$5,000.00	\$2,793.25	56%
ONLINE PROCESSING FEES		\$4,500.00	\$977.30	22%
EXPENDITURES		\$1,290,637.74	\$436,500.86	34%
PERSONNEL MINISTRY	PERSONNEL	\$564,643.21	\$183,881.75	33%
	BENEFITS/ADMIN	\$156,787.38	\$57,153.45	36%
WORSHIP MINISTRY		\$15,875.00	\$3,337.54	21%
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	\$4,600.00	\$1,115.96	24%
	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$3,700.00	\$625.77	17%
SPIRITUAL GROWTH	ADULT EDUCATION	\$3,250.00	\$524.53	16%
	YOUTH EDUCATION	\$32,000.00	\$5,731.00	18%
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	COMMUNITY LIFE	\$4250.00	\$1,791.83	42%
VOCATIONS MINISTRY		\$500.00	\$0.00	0%
OUTREACH MINISTRY (MISSION)		\$112,562.15	\$46,686.38	41%
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY		\$2,500.00	\$519.68	21%
FACILITIES MINISTRY	UTILITIES	\$43,800.00	\$21,549.56	49%
	MAINTENANCE	\$144,900.00	\$52,564.92	36%
	OFFICE	\$70,700.00	\$24,521.21	35%
	TRANSFER TO	\$62,120.00	\$20,706.68	33%
	MAJOR MAINTENANCE			
STEWARDSHIP	PRESBYTERY PER CAPITA	\$32,050.00	\$10,683.32	33%
	INSURANCE	\$21,500.00	\$1,153.00	5%
	STEWARDSHIP	\$13,550.00	\$3,654.28	27%
SESSION		\$950.00	\$300.00	32%
BOARD OF DEACONS		\$400.00	\$0.00	0%
DIFFERENCE		(\$23,196.72)	\$43,019.62	

THROUGH THE LENS



A HUGE thank you to all of our Rainbow volunteers! Table parents, recreation/creative arts leaders, music leaders and the kitchen team - it takes roughly 30 volunteers per night. Thank you so much for 39 years of support. Next year Rainbow will celebrate 40 years at BPC!

THE NEW LEAF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Becca Messman
(becca@burkepreschurch.org)

Associate Pastor for Youth

Diane Maloney
(diane@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Spiritual Growth

Arlene Decina
(arlene@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Music Ministries

Julianne Erbrecht
(julianne@burkepreschurch.org)

Director of Finance & 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)

WORSHIP WITH US

SUMMER WORSHIP

10:00am in person & online

To join us for online worship at 10:00am 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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www.BurkePresChurch.org



Receive Love. Give Love. Repeat.