



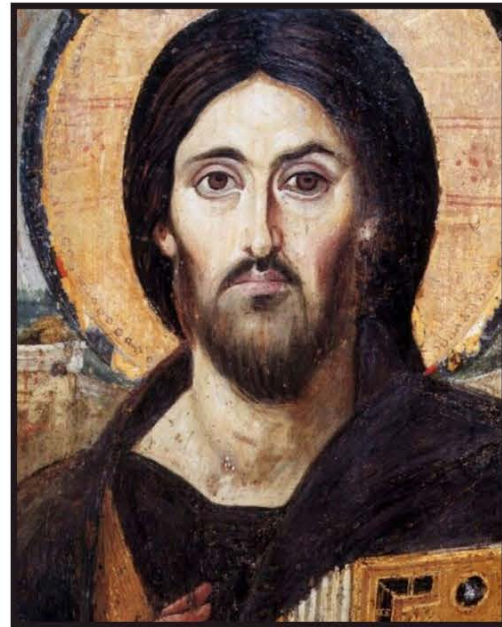
THE NEW LEAF

Burke Presbyterian Church

Lent 2025

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this six-week study, our congregation is exploring the six most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. We are using a powerful but accessible book by best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton to guide the series. Most importantly, we invite you to join a Lenten Small Group. The friendships and discussions that come from a small group experience are soul-filling!

March 23 : He Spoke to Them in Parables
March 30 : Who do YOU Say that I Am?
April 6 : Famous Last Words
April 13 : The Resurrection and the Life



THE MESSAGE OF JESUS
BY: ADAM HAMILTON

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

April 13 at 9:00am in person
11:15am in person & online

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17 at 7:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18 at 7:30pm; in person & online

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20 - 8:30am in person;
10:00am in person & online;
11:30am in person & online

Note from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I wish this Lent were a season where everyone was discussing the poetry of daffodils pressing out of the winter crust and opening into the beauty of Spring. I wish the newspapers were images of people around the world celebrating in peace and whole sections of lemon cake recipes to herald the joy people feel. I wish it need not have happened that thousands in our region are fearing or experiencing job loss, and even if they are not federal workers, people are facing sleep loss, wondering what this year will bring for their families and this world. But here we are, in a chapter in history that needs a story mighty enough to meet it. And so, bring it on, Jesus. We are hungry for your words of hope, generosity, welcome, courage, and eternal life far more than we are hungry for Cadbury eggs.

This year, as we move through these forty days together, our congregation is studying *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. We linger with the radical teachings of Jesus, in particular his sermons, parables and practices, and allow them to guide our lives today. When we are bombarded on a daily basis by millions of conflicting messages, we need this clear message of Jesus more than ever.

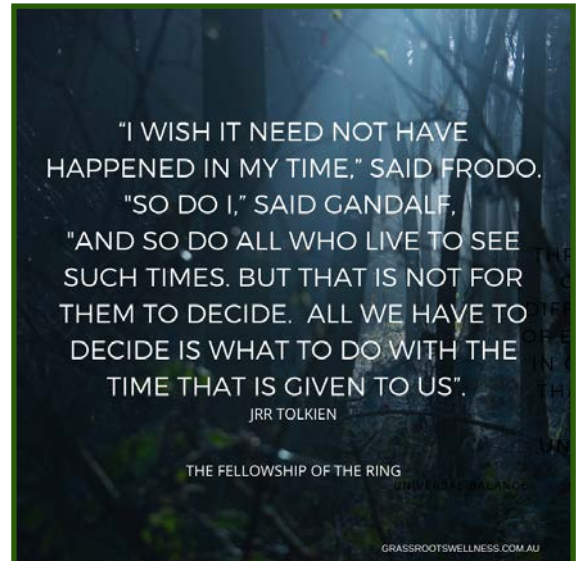
Hamilton reminds us that Jesus preached not only about love and grace but also about a kingdom that upends the world's expectations. His call to love our enemies, serve the least, and take up our own crosses is as radical today as it was two thousand years ago. Lent gives us a sacred space to examine our hearts, realign our priorities, and recommit ourselves to the way of Christ.

I invite you to journey with us. Join a small group (there are MANY available!) and enjoy the deep beauty of community. Read scripture and pray daily, irrigating your soul with grace like rain. Come to worship and belt out the hymns, even if you've never fancied yourself a singer, and notice how that frees your spirit for joy. Practice the message of Christ in your own life, and you'll discover that, like light, yeast, and salt, Jesus' favorite ingredients, a little goes a long way.

Not lemon cake, but the bread of life that can nourish the masses who never thought that was possible.

Then, brace yourself for Holy Week and Easter when the headlines thunder of a world turned upside down by the grace of Jesus. Good news, just in time.

Amen.



Director of Youth Ministries

Welcome to....Diane Maloney!

Diane comes to BPC from Falls Church Presbyterian Church, where she has served as Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement since 2018. Previously, she was the Director of Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Tennessee. Diane earned a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern University and a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry from Memphis Theological Seminary, and is working toward ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She is married to Paige Bach, who works as Director of Next Generation Ministry at Providence Presbyterian Church.



Message from Diane

Hi BPC,

*I'm so thrilled to finally be here and joining with you in the wonderful work you are doing! I've received a very warm welcome from the BPC staff and members who have been around my first few days in the office. I can't wait to get to know each of you as we grow together! **One of my primary goals is to meet 90 different people over my first 90 days on staff!** These "meetings" are designed to be intentional conversations to meet each other, learn about why you find yourself at BPC, what brings you joy, and more. As a people who are connected through the power of stories in scripture, I want to hear your stories. We could meet for coffee, a meal, a walk, a game of pickle ball, or a casual conversation in my office. Introduce me to your favorite coffee or lunch spot. Let's swing at pitches at a batting cage. Email me (diane@burkepreschurch.org) to set up a visit or sign your name to the list on my office door, and I'll reach out to you!*




Vocations

Welcome to Engage!

Do you know that BPC has an easy, online way to find contact information for others in the congregation? Make secure online payments? Get your giving statements? Upload your photo so others at BPC can get to know you and your family?

We do, and it is called Engage. If you do not already have an account, here's how you can get one:



- Enter in your browser burkepreschurch.org/engage
- Click on "Create an Account" under the Sign In box
- Follow the prompts. The system will ask you for your e-mail address. Please try to use the address that BPC already has on file for you, as this will expedite your process and not require you to retype all of your personal data. If you provide an email that our database doesn't recognize, you may need to go ahead and type in your address, phone number, etc.
- You will be sent a confirmation e-mail (from "noreply@suran.com"--our online database company) to that e-mail address. Click on the link in that e-mail when you get it.
- Enter a user name of your choice and create a password.

That's all there is to it! We hope you find this system useful.

Need a Volunteer? Want to be a Volunteer?

At any given moment, there are ministries looking for volunteers and volunteers looking for ways to be involved in ministries. So, how does BPC connect you with what you need? We have a volunteer coordinator!

Elder for Vocations Anita Pesses serves as our volunteer coordinator, and keeps track of the church's need for ushers, greeters, mission workers, office help, cooks, gardeners, etc. She also keeps her ear to the ground to learn about people who are looking for ways to serve, whether new to the church or around for decades.

If you are leading--or want to lead--a ministry and would like people to be involved, please let Anita know. And if you are feeling the need to find a niche at BPC, meet more people, and make a difference in any of a number of ways, contacting Anita is an easy way to make that happen. Connect with her at anita.pesses@gmail.com or 301-547-1229.

We are currently in need of volunteers for our AV/Tech Team and an Acolyte Coordinator.

Leaves of Grace

Book Group

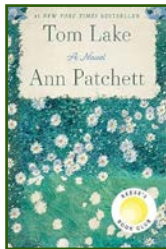
Inviting all Readers to Leaves of Grace Book Group

Are you a book lover wanting to connect with others and expand your reading list? Look no further! The Leaves of Grace book discussion group is a place to share your thoughts, exchange ideas, and explore new perspectives on a variety of books.

Being part of a reading group is about more than books; it's about creating connections with others who share your love for literature. You'll deepen friendships, share recommendations, and grow your reading habit. Whether you finish the book or only read part of it, your perspective is always welcome.

We meet once monthly, via zoom, at 3 pm every third Sunday. All are invited. Contact Lynn Miller (millerserrano@gmail.com) or Cathey Parker, (cweir@coloradocollege.edu) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming Books:



Apr 27 - *The Reading List*, Sara Nisha Adams, 2021. How a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.

May 18 - *Tom Lake*, Ann Patchett, 2023. A meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born.

Music Ministry

Rainbow Choirs will lead worship with the musical, *Storms* (Mark Burrows) at both services on Sunday, April 27

Storms acknowledges that we all go through storms in our lives. Some are physical, like a hurricane, and other are inside of us, like fears about climate change, insecurity over whether we are good enough, or worry about the health of a loved one. The musical features children who wonder about their own storms, discover that God is with them during the rough times, and that they are empowered to follow Jesus' example to be there for others in their stormy seasons.

As a part of *Storms* we will be collecting items for Emergency Clean-up Buckets through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Church World Service. PDA is currently supporting those affected by Southern CA wildfires and Hurricanes Milton, Helene, Beryl, and Debby. Sign up to donate items by scanning the QR code.



Save the Date: IMPACT Home Concert - Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00pm

Hypothermia

From February 16 – 23, BPC partnered with FACETS (facetscares.org) and Fairfax County to host guests each night who needed shelter from the very cold temperatures, providing food and a warm place to sleep. This monumental effort, led by the Mission Ministry and coordinated by Mara Ashby, Marcy Stennes and Jocelyn Callister could not have happened without the individuals who donated:

- food, beverages & clothing,
- early mornings & late overnights,
- dishwashing, mat cleaning & loads of laundry,
- bingo calling, medical services & mending expertise,
- time, prayer & love for our neighbors.



Meal Serving

BPC members of all ages participated:

- The Preschool made special placemats for the guests to brighten up the tables
- Our youth prepared and served lunch to those who stayed with us through the President's Day holiday
- Friends from Living Savior Lutheran, Floris United Methodist, and the Fairfax Quilters Unlimited served alongside us
- Adults of all ages invited their friends and neighbors to join us in being the hands, feet, and smiles of Jesus



Meal Prep



Mary's Pies!



Foot Care



Preschool Placemats

Hypothermia

Hypothermia by the numbers

Over 200 individual volunteer helpers provided more than:

- 100 hours of warm shelter
- 60 urns of coffee
- 30 gallons of lemonade
- 500 bags of tea
- 75 packets of hot chocolate
- 20 hours of dish washing
- 200 bananas
- 125 sack lunches
- 90 hourly security walk throughs in the middle of the night
- 25 hours spent mending jackets, pants, backpacks and shoes
- 150 donated socks, underwear, gloves, hats and jackets

For up to 59 guests over 7 nights – and so many other un-measurable gifts!

THANK YOU for helping offer the resources of our lives and our facility to be a safe and welcoming space for those who need it.



Men of Burke serving



Welcome Team



Breakfast



Kitchen Team



Dessert Prep



Children's Ministries



At BPC, we believe it is an important spiritual practice for our children to be attuned to the rhythms of the church year. The gentle scaffolding of the liturgical calendar provides a steady background cadence for our lives, which is especially important in uncertain times! For this reason, the liturgical calendar has a central place in our Godly Play room. The circular orientation of the calendar reminds us to revisit the tenets of our faith year after year.

Recently in Rainbow, our kids had the opportunity to make Lenten salt dough spirals -- another kind of liturgical calendar on a smaller scale. These spirals are a simple and tangible way for families to track their

journey through Lent, one marble hop at a time. The journey begins on Ash Wednesday, at the outer edge of the spiral, and works its way inward toward Easter, represented by the flowers in the center. Because Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent, they are marked by lines on the calendar -- a reminder to pause and rest, even as we prepare for the Mystery of Easter.



Grades 4-6 Rainbow Bowling Night



Children and Youth



BPCP is offering Summer camps for Preschool ages to 10 years old. We will have weekly “in-trips,” bounce houses, and unique themes. Rotations will include cooking, music & movement, science, arts & crafts, and storytelling. Please email preschooloffice@burkepreschchurch.org or see page 13 for more information.



VBS has a place for kids of all ages! The program registration is for rising kindergartners through rising 7th graders. Childcare will also be offered for younger children of program leaders, and older youth are welcome to assist!

Mark your calendar: July 15, 16, & 17, 2:00-5:00 pm. Please register using the QR code. Be in touch if you are interested in assisting!



Rising 7th (graduated 6th) 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. Youth will stay with a roommate in dorm-style lodgings on site, be in a small group with youth from other churches, and generally have a great time. The total cost is \$365 (\$200 deposit due by March 21 and \$165 due June 24; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



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. Listen to thought-provoking speakers, experience great worship, engage in small groups and fun socials. Our group will stay together in a lodge at the conference center. The total cost is \$625 (\$325 deposit due by March 21 and \$300 due July 8; scholarships are available). Please register using the QR code.



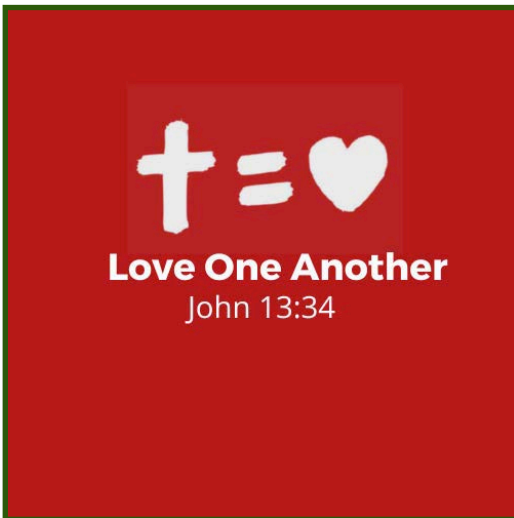
Giving



One Great Hour of Sharing

March 5 through April 20

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Love One Another Update

During the Love One Another building campaign, we promised to share the impact of your contributions. As of today, we have sent a total of \$912,246.39 in principle-only payments which has reduced our mortgage from \$8,500 per month to the current \$3,000 per month. In addition, 10% has also been assigned to our mission work: Community Meals, which funds our partnership with Facets to feed the hungry in our community on the first Wednesday of each month, Preschool scholarships to help those families who need assistance in childcare, and Affordable Housing to create new housing here in Fairfax County. 2025 is the last year of the campaign and it is not too late for you to get involved. When you donate, please mark the gift as LOA.



PIN Fund (Person In Need Fund)

The government changes have created emergency financial troubles for many, and BPC knows that some of our members and friends are affected. If you need extra help this month, or if you might be willing to offer some financial assistance to struggling families, please reach out to pastor Becca Messman (becca@burkepreschurh.org). All communications will be kept confidential. We have a fund set aside to help people in need: In one season of life, a person might need to receive from that fund, and in another season, that same person might be able to contribute to that fund.

Budget & Finance

Financial data as of February 28

		2025 Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual % of Budget
Income:		\$1,349,386.00	\$230,029.69	17%
	Pledges	\$1,130,786.00	\$190,872.03	17%
	Loose Offerings	\$20,600.00	\$4,168.50	20%
	Building Use	\$7,000.00	\$1,800.00	26%
	Interest/Dividends	\$10,000.00	\$2,512.52	25%
	Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
	Per Capita	\$6,000.00	\$1,775.40	30%
	Online Processing Fees	\$5,000.00	\$567.90	11%
	2024 Surplus	\$170,000.00	\$28,333.34	17%
Expenditures:		\$1,331,011.00	\$209,435.11	16%
Personnel Ministry	Personnel/ Salaries	\$543,496.00	\$87,651.10	16%
	Benefits	\$162,180.00	\$22,158.16	14%
Worship Ministry		\$17,450.00	\$333.72	2%
Children's Ministry	Children's Education	\$5,000.00	\$226.07	5%
	General Administration	\$3,908.00	\$94.85	2%
Spiritual Growth Ministry	Adult Education	\$3,620.00	\$389.16	11%
	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
	Youth Education	\$31,500.00	\$3,090.12	10%
Congregational Care Ministry	Community Life	\$3,450.00	\$385.95	11%
	Small Groups	\$350.00	\$0.00	0%
Vocations Ministry		\$300.00	\$0.00	0%
Outreach Ministry (Mission)		\$112,200.00	\$13,666.68	12%
Communications Ministry		\$3,858.00	\$386.81	10%
Facilities Ministry	Utilities	\$40,800.00	\$10,134.78	25%
	Maintenance	\$133,600.00	\$32,298.57	24%
	Office	\$81,090.00	\$12,604.30	16%
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$80,000.00	\$13,333.34	17%
Stewardship	Presbytery Per Capita	\$30,039.00	\$5,006.64	17%
	Insurance	\$28,059.00	\$0.00	0%
	Stewardship	\$12,527.00	\$2,295.72	18%
	Mortgage Payments	\$36,384.00	\$5,379.14	15%
Session		\$600.00	\$0.00	0%
Board of Deacons		\$600.00	\$0.00	0%
Difference:		\$18,375.00	\$20,594.58	

Worship Ministry

Music Awakenings

During summer 2025 BPC will receive friendly suggestions and gentle encouragement to strengthen our congregational voice. Is the singing of hymns unusual and uncomfortable for you? Do you wonder what the big deal is with the use of the purple hymnal? Look for answers to those questions and more during the summer months when people of all ages, and people of all voices, will join together in all sorts of joyful praise.



Muffins, Muffins, and More Muffins

February “hygge” was a welcome and comforting change of pace for all who attended worship in person during the frigid winter weather. Many thanks to all who prepared our unending supply of tasty muffin goodness!



Installation Sunday



Anthem in Worship

BPC Preschool Summer Camps

WEEKLY CAMPS

AGES
Pre-K to 10 YRS

BPCP SUMMER CAMP

PRESCHOOL AGE CAMP
JUNE 2-6
JUNE 9-13

PRESCHOOL & SCHOOL AGE CAMP (10 AND UNDER)
JUNE 16- 20
JUNE 23-27
*JUNE 30-JULY 3
JULY 7-11
JULY 14-18
JULY 21-25

*Camp Closed July 4

CAMP HOURS
MON-FRI
9:30-2:30

\$350 PER WEEK

BUNDLE RATES
Preschool
8 WEEKS \$2400
School Age
6 WEEKS \$1800

FUN AND CREATIVE OUTDOOR CAMPS

We will have weekly "in-trips," bounce houses, and unique themes. Rotations will include cooking, music & movement, science, arts & crafts, and storytelling. Camp will be kicked off each day with an all-camp gathering.

Artistic Adventure Camp	A Week at the Beach Camp
Monsters & Magic Camp	Food Frenzy Camp
Pee Wee Power Camp	Camp Make a Mess
Party in the USA Camp	Water Water Everywhere Camp

Please email preschooloffice@burkepreschchurch.org for more information.
All new families must meet Director prior to final camp acceptance.

BPC Snapshots



Chili Cook Off Winners



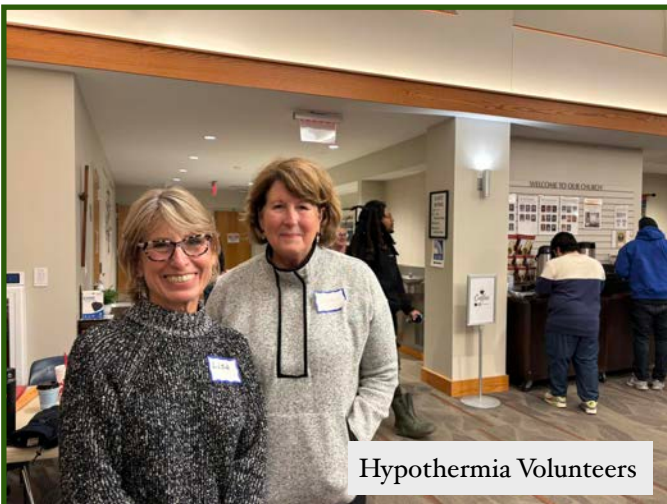
Chili Cook Off



Rainbow Creative Arts



Youth Connections Mega Table



Hypothermia Volunteers



Homeward Trails Lemonade Stand

BPC Snapshots



March Mission Madness



Polar Bear in Training



March Mission Madness



Lasagnas for Lasagna Love



Girl Scout Sunday



Girl Scout Sunday



Girl Scout Sunday



Girl Scout Sunday

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

The New Leaf



March Mission Madness



Girl Scout Sunday

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)

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

5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
704-764-0456
office@BurkePresChurch.org
www.BurkePresChurch.org

Sign Up for Information

The New Leaf, a newsletter of BPC members and friends, is published periodically. For regular updates on the life and ministry of Burke Presbyterian Church, refer to our weekly emails and the "In Community" announcements in Sunday worship bulletins. To sign up for our emails, visit our website, contact the church office, or fill out the form in the friendship pads.

