

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2023



A man went in for his annual checkup and received a phone call from his physician a couple of days later.

The doctor said, "I'm afraid I have some bad news for you."

"What's the news?" the man asked. "Well, you have only 48 hours to live."

"That is bad news!" said the shocked patient.

"I'm afraid I have even worse news," the doctor continued.

"What could be worse than what you've already told me?" the patient stammered.

"I've been trying to call you since yesterday."

Communication today, even with amazing technology at our fingertips, can still be challenging. I and your church leadership continue to seek ways to communicate effectively with you. This currently includes Announcements in Worship, the newsletter, text messages, phone calls, face-to-face (is this getting rarer?), and email. We have been using Constant Contact as a way of creating beautiful emails that incorporate color and pictures. Despite all these methods, people don't seem to be much better at communicating!

In an effort to continue improving communication, the church now has a program called **Breeze**. Breeze is an intuitive web-based church management software that helps churches like ours with data management, calendar organization, stewardship assessment, and communication.

Beginning this month, you may see **emails** from me (Kristie) with the following address: pastorkristiemiles_rt+gmail@breezechms.com . I will also still use my standard PastorKristieMiles@gmail.com address.

We are also able to send **texts** to you using Breeze if you have a smartphone. Any message from our Breeze account will come from this number: **874-47**.

If you get an email that says it's from me but it is from an address other than either pastorkristiemiles_rt+gmail@breezechms.com or PastorKristieMiles@gmail.com , it is probably a phishing scam. Do not open it. Report it and delete it. If it asks for money, gift cards, or a "favor," rest assured it is not from me.

Likewise, if you get a text message from a number other than my personal cell phone 434-610-4032 or our Breeze text number 874-47, then do not open it. Report it and delete it.

It makes me sad that Jesus' words are just as true today as they were in his time: "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, **so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.**" (Matthew 10:16). Together we can be effective and safe communicators.

In the midst of all of our communication, may we never forget the most important conversation we should be having every day: prayer – which is absolutely a two-way communication with God! I hope that you are taking advantage of our ever-present Creator who loves you, wants to hear from you, and is speaking to you.

John Ortberg wrote about the power of prayer in his book [The Life You've Always Wanted](#):

"One of my favorite stories about intercessory prayer comes from Tony Campolo. A prayer meeting was held for him just before he spoke at a Pentecostal college chapel service. Eight men took Tony to a back room of the chapel, had him kneel, laid their hands on his head, and began to pray. That's a good thing, Tony wrote, except that they prayed a long time, and the longer they prayed, the more tired they got, and the more tired they got, the more they leaned on his head. "I want to tell you that when eight guys are leaning on your head, it doesn't feel so good."

"To make matters worse, one of the men was not even praying for Tony. He went on and on praying for somebody named Charlie Stoltzfus: "Dear Lord, you know Charlie Stoltzfus. He lives in that silver trailer down the road a mile. You know the trailer Lord, just down the road on the right-hand side." (Tony said he wanted to inform the pray-er that it was not necessary to furnish God with directional material.) "Lord, Charlie told me this morning he's going to leave his wife and three kids. Step in and do something, God. Bring that family back together."

"Tony writes that he finally got the Pentecostal preachers off his head, delivered his message, and got in his car to drive home. As he drove onto the Pennsylvania Turnpike, he noticed a hitchhiker. I'll let him tell it from here:

"We drove a few minutes and I said, "Hi, my name's Tony Campolo. What's yours?" He said, "My name is Charlie Stoltzfus." I couldn't believe it!

"I got off the turnpike at the next exit and headed back. He got a bit uneasy with that and after a few minutes he said, "Hey mister, where are you taking me?" I said, "I'm taking you home." He narrowed his eyes and asked, "Why?"

"I said, "Because you just left your wife and three kids, right?" That blew him away. "Yeah! Yeah, that's right." With shock written all over his face, he plastered himself against the car door and never took his eyes off me.

"Then I really did him in as I drove right to his silver trailer. When I pulled up, his eyes seemed to bulge as he asked, "How did you know that I lived here?" I said, "God told me." (I believe God did tell me) ...

"When he opened the trailer door his wife exclaimed, "You're back! You're back!" He whispered in her ear and the more he talked, the bigger her eyes got.

“Then I said with real authority, “The two of you sit down. I’m going to talk and you two are going to listen!” Man, did they listen! ... That afternoon I led those two young people to Jesus Christ.”

Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Kristie



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends

This annual event will be held **Wednesday, October 18** at the Boscov’s Department Store in Ocean County Mall, or any other Boscov’s store, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. **Purchase a discount card for \$5.00 and receive 25% off the lowest sale prices plus register to win a \$100.00 gift card!** Discount cards are good in-store only. See a Committee member to purchase your card.



We will be in the Toms River Boscov’s pre-selling discount cards on several occasions prior to the event. If you would like to join us in selling the cards please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Tuscany Restaurant & Bar -- Restaurant Fundraiser

Please join us for a delicious lunch or dinner on **Monday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 17, 2023**. Fliers will be available shortly – present the flier to your server and 10% of your bill will be donated to Brick Presbyterian Church.



Thanksgiving Pie Sale -- Please look for information in the coming weeks.

Please remember our ongoing fundraisers!

Hymnal Dedications are available throughout the year to remember or honor a loved one.

Memorial Bricks for placement on the walkway in our Memorial Garden may be ordered.

Please see a Fundraising Committee member for order forms if you are interested. You may also find the forms on the BPC website under the Fundraising tab.

DEACONS CORNER



The food pantry has been very busy over the last few months. With the help of our congregation, we have been able to help countless families in our community. As we look forward to the upcoming holidays we are preparing to share our blessings and stock our pantry shelves. **The items we are most in need of include the following:**

Cream Of Chicken Soup
Chicken Broth
Hearty Soup
Chicken Noodle Soup
Juice
Baked Beans

Mashed Potatoes
Canned Yams, Corn,
Peas, Carrots
Canned Fruit
Pancake Mix
Syrup

Oatmeal
Coffee
Tea
Saltines
Ramen Noodles
Crackers

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

The Brick Presbyterian Deacons will be sponsoring a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Friday, **October 6, 2023, from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM** in the FLC. Please consider donating, and help save a life!



YOU ARE INVITED



***The Lord God has multiplied you,
so that today you are as numerous as the stars of heaven. Deuteronomy 1:10***

We delight in our stars at Brick Presbyterian Church – each of you who worship with us, pray with us, learn with us, fellowship with us, and choose to be among us. We are blessed with a beautiful church campus that provides space for us to do these things and so much more.

We invite you to join us in the Family Life Center after the service on Sunday, October 15th to learn more about our activities, ministries, and missions. Come and see all that BPC has to offer and pick up your swag (stuff we all get) and have some fun as you seize this opportunity to see how God inspires this church and our commitment in faith to our Lord and our neighbors. ***Perhaps you will find a new way to let your star power shine in our midst!***

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

CHURCH SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD



The 4th annual Pumpkin Patch Event will be held, rain or shine, on October 15th following the church service, on the front lawn (in case of rain it will be held in the FLC). All ages are welcome to join us!

NEW TIME for a terrific Church School year!



8:50 - Sign in at your classroom for fun with Bible lessons, activities, and crafts!

10:00 - Go with your parent to the Sanctuary for Worship!

New students are always welcome throughout the school year!

For further information regarding Church School please see Lorrie Haluza or call the church office 732-477-0676 or email bpcsundayschool111@gmail.com

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for the delicious Pancake Breakfast following the 1st day of Church School! It was appreciated!



Sign up for the Junior Praise Team!

All Church School Students are welcome to be part of the Junior Praise Team. For further information regarding the Junior Praise Team please see Sofia Thalheimer or call the church office 732-477-0676.

But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Luke 18:16

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS



Important Dates in October for Youth Group

Oct. 1 - Bowling

Oct. 8 - Youth Group Meeting

Oct. 15 - Bake Sale

Oct. 21 - Confirmation Camp at Johnsonburg

Oct. 22 - Corn Maze

Oct. 29 - Flocking

HANDS ON MISSION GROUP

Prayer Squares Needed



Hi Knitters and Crocheters!

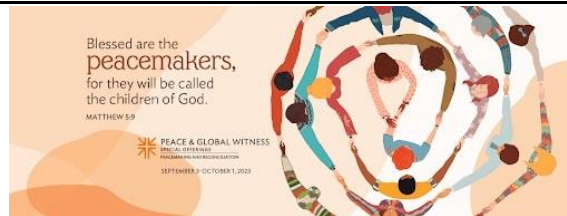
In just a few short weeks, it will be Thanksgiving! During the week before Thanksgiving, the Deacons will be putting the Thanksgiving Food Baskets together, and we will need **Prayer Squares** to add to each basket.



If you need yarn or instructions, or just have a question, please just let me know. Thank you for all your work.

Lori Evans

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



Becoming a Peacemaker involves hands and feet in action, advocacy, and service. The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps move peace from a quiet thought into justice rolling down like rivers. Peace is getting to know new people and places. Peace is relationship building.

This year celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Commitment to Peacemaking. As a community of faith, we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and as we do, we extend Christ's peace throughout our community and world even in these uncertain times. The intersection of several of the most pressing challenges for peacemakers, namely poverty, racism, climate change, immigration and migration, are also among the primary concerns of being a Matthew 25 Church.

Twenty-five percent of the gifts we receive will stay right here in our church to work for peace and reconciliation. In recent years, we have forwarded that portion to the work of our mission coworkers, Mark Hare and Jenny Bent who are currently in Costa Rica. Another 25% will support the peacemaking efforts in our mid council, and 50% will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of peacemaking and global witness all around the world.

***PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THIS SPECIAL OFFERING
WHICH WILL BE TAKEN ON OCTOBER 8TH.***

Help us, O God, to put our faith into action — to not only talk about peace, but to put peace into our daily practice. In Christ, with Christ, we pray. Amen



HELP NEEDED

Updated for October

Are you looking for another way to share your time and talents in praise of the Glory of God? The church needs volunteers because as the Bible states, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12:26

This column will list the current needs of various BPC groups and committees, as submitted by the group leaders. **Here are a few of the wonderful opportunities available at BPC –**

Church School - The Nursery needs an adult for childcare help the 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:45-11 a.m. Also, adults and high school students are needed to assist Church School on one or more Sundays a month. For further information, see Lorrie Haluza or call the church office at 732-477-0676 or email bpcsundayschool111@gmail.com .

The Hands On Mission Group/Outreach – Volunteers are wanted to work on some easy, fun, craft and sewing projects, such as teddy bears for Baptisms. Prayer squares (crochet or knit), which will be placed in the Brick Hospital Chapel & Shorrock Nursing Home, are always needed. All projects may be done at home. Contact Coordinator Lori Evans at lmegolfer@gmail.com.

Bell Choir – Bell ringers are needed. Practices are held weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and the Bells play during Worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. If interested in joining this music ministry, please contact Bonnie Luton or the church office at 732-477-0676.

Fundraising Committee – Seeking new members to join our fun, energetic group. Are you interested? If so, contact Linda Kathenes (848-333-5119, JLin52@comcast.net) or Lynn Mizer (732-966-6240, lmizer@comcast.net).

Communications Committee - Deacon Michael Candeloro is looking for assistance with the communications of our live feed from Sunday's Service. Please contact him if you're available at email michael.candeloro55@gmail.com.

Worship Committee - Members are welcome to join in the work of providing meaningful Worship of God at BPC. A wide variety of responsibilities dedicated to Worship are shared among all committee members. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Contact Tom Fortier at tfortier111@gmail.com or 848-333-2599.



If you are a group leader and need volunteers, simply email your info to bpcnewsletter111@gmail.com before the 15th of the month, to be included here next month.

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- YG Bowling - 10/1
- Blood Drive - 10/6
- Peace & Global Witness Offering - 10/8
- Youth Group Meeting - 10/8
- YG Bake Sale - 10/15
- Pumpkin Patch Event - 10/15
- BPC Activities/Star Power Event - 10/15
- Tuscany Restaurant Fundraiser - 10/16, 10/17
- Boscov's Coupon Sale - 10/18
- Confirmation Camp at Johnsonburg - 10/21
- YG Corn Maze - 10/22
- YG Flocking - 10/29
- Thanksgiving Pies - Nov. dates TBA



See the [Events tab](#) on the BPC web site for further details.



10/9



10/31



The Good Tidings newsletter is sent monthly to the BPC family via Constant Contact email. ***If you know of any members not currently receiving Constant Contact mailers, please have them notify the church office with their email address so they can receive future mailings.***

The Good Tidings is also available in condensed PDF format (with no personal info) on the church website.

We will continue with worship services online as well as live-streaming in the Sanctuary – please join us! These services are also on our website in case you miss one and would like to go back and watch.

Follow BPC on facebook, Instagram & YouTube

getCONNECTED



