

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

September 2023



“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

“The words of the wise: Incline your ear and hear my words and apply your mind to my teaching, for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.”

Proverb 22:17-18

- Walk into many stores during the month of August and you will find displays full of new backpacks, new shoes, and new schoolwork organizers.
- Just yesterday I heard the news that two of our church kids will be in the same class together with a beloved teacher.
- Another student told me that they love the feeling of having a “fresh clean slate” at the beginning of the school year.

On **Sunday, September 17**, Brick Presbyterian Church is also going to do some new things. **Christian Education will be held at 9:00 AM** every Sunday **for all ages!** I am very excited about what we are going to be able to do and learn together! Worship will continue to be held at 10:00 AM.

Here's our teacher line-up:

Pre-Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Joan Horan in Room 2;

3rd – 5th Grade: Jill Moberg in Room 3;

6th – 8th Grade: Lorrie Haluza in Room 4;

9th – 12th Grade: Pastor Kristie in the upstairs Youth Room;

Adult Class: Rev. Brian Miles in the Parlor.

All classes will be using the Feasting on the Word curriculum. This curriculum will follow the lectionary (the prescribed Scripture readings for each Sunday) so every age level will be studying the same Bible passages. Of course, the specific lessons are developmentally appropriate.

The nursery has been moved from classroom 4 to classroom 1, utilizing a bigger room to accommodate the youngest children in our midst and bring them closer to the sanctuary.

Why the change?

There are some practical and some theological reasons for making this change. By conducting Christian Education at a time other than the worship hour, we will:

- Enable teachers to attend worship to nurture their own spiritual growth.

- Maximize the pool of willing Church School teachers by eliminating the need to choose between attending worship or Church School.
- Christian Education is for everyone! There is no graduation from learning more about Scripture, God, and spiritual development & nurture.
- Enable the entire Body of Christ to worship together. Kids can and should be in worship. They will continue to learn about their faith as they watch and participate with the adults. Every baptized person will be able to partake in Communion. When the children and youth are in worship, this can provide an opportunity for further family discussion and spiritual development at home.
- Enable the Session and the Pastor to fulfill our obligation to participate, support, and oversee the Christian Education program: *“The session is responsible for the development and supervision of the church’s educational programs, the instruction of ruling elders and deacons, and the discipleship of all members. The minister of the Word and Sacrament contributes to the nurture of the community through the ministries of Word and Sacrament, church school classes, the gift of prayer, and by example.”* (From our Book of Order W-5.0203, p. 118, 2023-2025 edition):
- **Most importantly**, our Constitution states in the Book of Order W-5.0203 (p. 119, 2023-2025 edition): “The central occasion for Christian nurture is the Service for the Lord’s Day, where the Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are celebrated. Beyond the process of Christian formation that takes place in public worship, the words and actions of the service can be a particularly fruitful source of study and reflection. **Therefore, all members should be encouraged to be present and participate in this assembly. Educational activities should not be scheduled so as to prevent or discourage participation in this service**” [the bold is my emphasis.] “...Worship in the church school is not a substitute for participation with the whole congregation in the Service for the Lord’s Day.”

I know that this will take some getting used to. This change has come after much, much prayer by me your Pastor, by the Session, and by the Christian Education Committee.

I recognize that there was an era when Sunday morning was culturally sacred, and competing events were not scheduled at that time. Slowly, competition for our time and attention on Sunday morning has grown. But I am convinced (and I hope you will be too) that by capitulating to the demands of culture on our time and attention, and thereby minimizing church worship and Christian Education opportunities, we are silently giving up the place, importance, and relevance that Church still has in people’s lives today (can I get an Amen?). The more we give in to other demands on time and attention, the less influence the Gospel will have. We will “accommodate” ourselves into the relics of history.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me or schedule a visit. I want to hear you and I promise that I respect your individual concerns. I will work to make Christian Education and Worship available to everyone in a way that is fulfilling. I am here to nurture and support your faith; most importantly, we are all here to be servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we all, in all we do, glorify beloved God.

Pastor Kristie

RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE



Awesome news! **The Rise Against Hunger Meals** we packaged on May 7 are now headed to Madagascar!

Madagascar, an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa, is home to over 28 million people. The nation faces high rates of poverty, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. Especially in the southern part of the country, low access to education, water scarcity and frequent natural disasters cause severe food insecurity. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes Madagascar as having an “alarming” level of hunger.

Your impact: To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in Madagascar face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early childhood development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger’s Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals we packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you again for volunteering your time and for your generosity. Stay tuned for the next Rise Against Hunger event in the Spring 2024!



FUNDRAISING NEWS



Rita's Italian Ice Discount Cards are available!

We still have a few cards available for purchase! Cards sell for \$5.00 each and save you 10% on your entire order each time you visit Rita's through the end of October! [Click here for more info.](#)

Please see a Fundraising Committee member to purchase!



COUNTRY DANCE

We will be holding a Country Dance on September 23 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. in the FLC!

There will be a caller to prompt us in several line dances and we will offer snacks and beverages which will be included in the fee of \$20.00 per person. We are planning other surprises so join us for a fun evening!

The profit from this event will go to **Destiny's Bridge** to be used to purchase propane for the winter months.

Annual Chrysanthemum Sale

Our sale will be held on Saturday, September 23, and Sunday, September 24 from 10:00 – 2:00 on the front lawn of the church. Prices will be the same as last year: \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00, and we will again be offering advance sales and free local delivery of your purchase. The sale will be open to the community so come early to get the best selection!



The profit from this sale will go to the Stewardship Committee and be designated for the **Larry's House** campaign.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Event



This annual event will be held on Wednesday, October 18, at the Boscov's Department Store in Ocean County Mall 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 gift card. Discount cards will be available for sale soon.

Our committee will be in the store on several occasions during September and October pre-selling the cards. If you would like to join us selling cards in the store, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



CHURCH SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD

September 17 will be the first day of Church School for the 2023-2024 Church School Year.



NEW CHURCH SCHOOL TIME! Students for Church School should be signed in by their parent at the classroom by 8:55, then at 9:45 students should be signed out by their parent. The Church Service will continue at 10:00 and all are encouraged to attend following Church School.

REGISTRATION FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

Registration for the 2023-2024 Church School Year is available online at brickpresby.com or by written form available at the Christian Ed office. New students are welcome throughout the school year.

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

SAVE the DATE!

September 17- A Pancake Breakfast will be held in the FLC following the church service.



There will be a 3rd annual Church School Pumpkin Patch in October!
Keep watching for further information!

Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School was a huge success for all ages including adults!

Each opening and closing assembly featured the Hero Hotline/puppet stage (created and built by Tom Fortier).

The narrators and Professors (actors Brian Miles and Hanson Voergbolo) and Super Meer (puppeteer- Todd Ferry).

Thank you for the help and support by too many people to mention individually. From planning, decorating, dinner prep through clean up, photographers, technicians, security, teachers and assistants, all are very much appreciated for helping to make a fun, Spirit-filled VBS.

Memento VBS Group Pic for each individual/family who attended. Please stop by the ChrEd office to pick up your memento.

So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. ROMANS 14:19



The BPC Handbell Choir

invites you to join our fun, friendly group!

No musical experience is required – we train!

Practices are Monday evenings in the Sanctuary, and we play during Worship on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Ages 14 and up are welcome!

Contact Bonnie Luton or call the church office for info –
732-477-0676.

DEACONS



"Lord God, Creator of light, at the rising of your sun each morning, let the greatest of all lights, your love, rise, like the sun, within our hearts."

The BPC Deacons hope everyone enjoyed the warm sunshine and shared their special light with family and friends this summer. We continue to share the light of Brick Presbyterian Church with those in our congregation and the local community.

In June the deacons, members, and friends of BPC got together and packed boxes of food to be donated to families with children at home for the summer recess and others who are finding it hard to make ends meet. A heartfelt thank you to all who gave their time and service.

Please remember the food pantry is still operating and donations are always welcomed and appreciated.

Save the date:



The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in the FLC on *Friday, October 6*, from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer.

We would like to wish you all a wonderful month as we welcome the beautiful season of fall!

get**C**ONNECTED

Follow BPC on facebook, Instagram & YouTube

LARRY'S HOME



Just Believe Inc.
Restoring Hope In Humanity

Throughout this calendar year, a number of activities at our church have generated donations which will be dedicated for the construction of Larry's Home. We were provided with the following information regarding this special project.

Just Believe Inc. Introduces Larry's Home, A Transitional Housing Facility



Paul Hulse, CEO of Just Believe Inc., stands on the future site of Larry's Home in Little Egg Harbor.

What to expect at Larry's Home:

Our transitional living program will be designed to support individuals struggling with homelessness and assist them in overcoming any barriers in reentering community living. Larry's Home will welcome 6 to 8 men (veterans receive first priority) in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, state, county, and local government requirements. Each of our guests will have a roommate. In this regard, the men will not be required to pay rent to stay at Larry's Home. Opportunities to sponsor guests by the public will be available. Furthermore, the guests will be allowed to stay for up to 12 months and everyone will be taught life skills. Our guests will also be required to attend group meetings and have jobs or income to help secure permanent housing. We will assist our guests in finding gainful employment and Just Believe Inc. will create volunteer and employment opportunities for our guests. Larry's Home program will offer residents safe and stable living accommodations with the goal of fully rehabilitating our guests so they can reenter society.

To learn more, visit our website: www.justbelieveinc.org (a registered 501C-3 non-profit organization).

HANDS ON MISSION GROUP

Attention Knitters and Crocheters ~~

We are running low on prayer squares! Ladies, you can work at home and then bring the squares over to church.



Also, there is a need to sew **TEDDY BEARS FOR BAPTISMS**. Bears are ready to be sewn leaving the bottom open for stuffing. Any questions, see or call Lori Evans.

WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO FIND A TREASURE?

The Stewardship and Benevolence Committee thanks all who donated gently used items for the Treasure Table and those who made purchases in July. All proceeds from the Treasure Table benefit Larry's Home, a special transitional home to be built in Little Egg Harbor which will serve up to eight men at a time who are overcoming addiction.



You will have another opportunity to make a purchase at the Treasure Table which will be available outside the Family Life Center on September 17th. Any items which are not purchased may be taken back by the donor. Items not claimed will be donated to the **Just Believe Boutique** in Toms River, a thrift shop designed to help low-income families.

- Rita's Italian Ice fundraiser - Ongoing through October
- Prayer in the Garden - Sundays until 9/3
- YG pool party - 9/10
- Church School **begins at 9 a.m.** - 9/17
- Pastor Doug will become Pastor Emeritus at 10 a.m. worship service - 9/17
- Pancake Breakfast - 9/17
- Treasure Table - 9/17
- YG Kick-Off 6-7 p.m. - 9/17
- Country Dance - 9/23
- Chrysanthemum Sale - 9/23 & 9/24
- Blood Drive - 10/6
- Boscov's Coupon Sale - 10/18
- Pumpkin Patch Event - Oct. date TBA
- Thanksgiving Pies - Nov. dates TBA



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



LABOR
Day

9/4

9/11
Patriot Day
Never Forget

9/11

FIRST
DAY OF
Autumn

9/23



HELP NEEDED

Updated for September

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





A Word About Avoiding Scams

The Bible has quite a bit to say about Fraud and Scams. For instance, Proverb 20:17 says, “Bread gained by deceit tastes sweet, but the aftertaste is like a mouth full of gravel.”

Today’s world seems to be full of scammers, ready to take advantage of our generosity, trust, and ever-changing digital communication. This means that we must remain vigilant and informed.

I came across two articles about how to protect yourself from scams. The first is from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, specifically addressing how to protect ourselves from scams related to the Maui fire. They suggest researching a donation-seeking charity by checking their website (see below). I also recommend looking at [CharityNavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org) any time you are thinking about making a donation to anyone.

The second article published by Reader’s Digest (I have included it here in full) stood out to me since scammers have, in the past, used my name in an illegitimate email using the phrase, “Do me a favor....” If you ever receive an email that looks like it is from me that asks for gift cards or a monetary “favor,” please call me to either confirm its legitimacy or warn me of a scam.

BE SAFE, BE INFORMED, KEEP BEING WISELY GENEROUS!

Pastor Kristie



Click this link to research a charity:

https://njconsumeraffairs.state.nj.us/public-charity-search-results/?utm_campaign=20230818_nwsltr_b&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Reader’s Digest

If Someone Asks You to “Do Me a Favor” Over Email, Don’t Respond

Madison Zoey Vettorino for *Reader’s Digest*

Updated: Feb. 14, 2023

Here's everything you need to know to avoid falling for the "Can you do me a favor?" scam.

We'll be the first to admit that online scams can easily be mistaken for something real. That's why it's essential to know all the main ones circulating so you can identify them if they cross your path. For example, one of the top recurring online scams is the “Can you do me a favor?” scam. **Here's everything you need to know to protect yourself from this hoax.**

What is the “Can you do me a favor?” scam?

The scam works like this: You might receive an email from someone you think you know mentioning how busy they are and that they need to buy a gift card. Here’s where it gets tricky: They’ll typically say the gift card is for a feel-good cause, such as a charity. From there, the hacker will request that you purchase the gift card, send a picture of both sides and they’ll reimburse you later. But, as you might have guessed, no “feel good” organization benefits from your purchase.

This scam works because hackers attempt to make it seem like they’re someone you know. They might do that by signing the email with your name or using a similar address to that of your friends, coworkers or loved ones.

Unlike other online hoaxes, the “do me a favor” scam involves gift cards. Scammers often use gift cards as they are tricky to trace and hackers attempting to take your money can instantly download the funds. While people might be wary of sharing their bank account information, many wouldn’t think twice about sending a gift card, which is why this scam is worrisome.

How can I keep this from happening to me?

Online scams are scary, but there are several steps you can take to ensure you do not get caught in the “do me a favor” scam trap. Here are four ways to ensure this does not happen to you.

Reach out directly to the person who supposedly sent it.

The most foolproof way to avoid falling into the “do me a favor” scam is by simply reaching out directly to the person who supposedly sent it. Usually, the scammers want you to believe it’s someone you know who needs the money, so they might pose as your friend, relative or coworker. Therefore, the best way to avoid online scams is by contacting the supposed sender via phone or text message and checking in.

Take note of the email tone.

Another way to ensure you do not fall victim to the “Can you do me a favor?” scam is by considering the email’s tone for context. Is the sender rushing you or making it sound urgent? If so, you’ll want to double-check to ensure it’s the real deal. You might also see phrases such as “I need it now.”

Check the email address validity.

Another way to catch a scammer is by checking the email address’s validity. Sometimes it will be just one or two numbers or letters off from the email address of someone you know, so give the address a thorough inspection.

Be mindful of who you give your email address to.

You know what they say: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So with that in mind, be careful to whom you give your email address. Your email address is valuable information, and you want it to stay in the right hands.

Now that you’re armed with this knowledge about the “do me a favor” scam, you’re better prepared if you come up against it. Keep in mind, of course, that email is just one place you can encounter scams. You should also watch out for phone scams, Instagram scams, and even Facebook scams.

Source: <https://www.rd.com/article/can-you-do-me-a-favor-scam/>

Please Note!

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.

