

Welcome to
Brick Presbyterian Church



111 Drum Point Road
Brick NJ, 08723
732 477-0676

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD
Baptism of the Lord / First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 12, 2025

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tom Fortier

PRELUDE

"Beside Still Waters"

by Marta Keen

Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Darkness is gone. New Hope has arisen for each of us.

P: We are forgiven and blessed.

L: We are marked by God as disciples.

P: God has entrusted us with God's own message of hope.

L: Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us.

P: Enable us to be people of hope and peace.

* HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"

96 vs. 1, 2, 4

CALL TO CONFESSION

In faith and in hope, we trust that God is merciful and just and receives our prayers with grace. In humility and with meekness, let us confess our sin together.

We begin with a moment of silence for personal confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison)

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry. We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service; and therefore, it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more. Yet, you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We are astonished by this. We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviors which do not promote your love and peace. Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. Help us to be people who not only recognize the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name. For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Elder Bisi Shofu

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope, knowing that our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* RESPONSE TO GRACE *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*

395

**Blessed Jesus, at your word,
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tom Fortier

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world.
Amen.

1st SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7
Pew Bible p. 623

ANTHEM

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" arr. Dan Galbraith
Vocalist: Sharon Thomas | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

2nd SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Elder Bisi Shofu
Pew Bible p. 891

The Words of Holy Scripture for the people of God;
Thanks be to God, Amen.

MESSAGE

"Revelation of Jesus in Baptism" Elder Bisi Shofu

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

(*unison*)

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask

idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

321 vs. 1, 2, 5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MOMENT FOR GRATITUDE

You are invited to silently thank God for one of your recent blessings.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Come to the Water"

arr. Lynda Hasseler

Vocalist: Edmond Murphy | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

* DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elder Bisi Shofu

RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

279 vs. 1-3

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR CHURCH

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Be Thou My Vision"
Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

arr. Stan Pethel



The Nursery, in classroom #1, is available for young children.

Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

Cover Art: WORDPRESS



Welcome Adebisi A. Shofu, also known as Bisi Shofu

Adebisi (*who is commonly referred to as Bisi*) is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trenton and the 2024 Moderator of Coastlands Presbytery. She is a pulpit supply preacher who preaches in churches of the Presbytery.

She runs a Non-profit working with Children, Youth and Women and helping Non-profits raise funding. She serves on the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) of the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA) and serves as liaison to the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) a General Assembly Committee; as well as National Council of Churches (NCC) representing PCUSA. She has served on other commissions for the General Assembly.

She graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey with an MDiv. Adebisi serves as an advocate for her community as well as a counselor. She serves as Chaplain at Skilled Nursing Facilities across New Jersey and has preached in many churches in the Presbytery as well as other denominations.

Adebisi is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Disaster Preparedness Trainer whose responsibility is to educate churches and congregations on planning ahead to mitigate disasters. She specializes in educating people about health insurance programs, diversity training and self-help training. She has served her Presbytery in multiple capacities

She was the Visiting Chaplain for New Brunswick Presbyterian Church (NBPC). Adebisi is the immediate past Moderator of Presbyterian Women in New Brunswick Presbytery (PWNBP) and the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast.

SPREAD THE NEWS!



As a nonprofit partner in the **Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program**, the *Brick Presbyterian Church Food Pantry* will receive a \$1 donation for every specially **marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good** bouquet sold **during January 2025** at the Stop & Shop located at **55 Brick Boulevard, Brick NJ**.

Prayer List

Bob Towlen – Jersey Shore Hospital

Gary Baker, Donovan & Family, Carol Chandler, Figueroa family,
Lori & Harold Fisher, Kiernan Holster, John Hunt, Rich Irwin,
Luke Meli, Greg Morrison,
Steve Prioli, Michael Toth, Judy Willbergh



And Our Homebound:

Don Bertrand
Christine Meiselman - Hampton Ridge, Toms River
Ada Trinidad - Monmouth Crossing, Freehold



Committee Reports are Due by Wednesday, January 15

If you are the Chairman of a Committee/Group that usually has a report in the Annual Meeting Packet, please send your reports via e-mail to: brick.presbyterian@verizon.net



Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

The **Annual Meeting** of the Congregation and Corporation of Brick Presbyterian Church will be held at **11:15am** on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, in the church Family Life Center following the 10:00am worship service. The meeting will begin with prayer and a light lunch offered by our amazing Fellowship Committee.

The business to be conducted will include: receiving committee and organizational reports, the nomination and election of officers to serve on the Board of Deacons and the Session, and a review of the church's financial reports and audit. Please mark your calendar now and make Sunday, January 26, 2025, a must - attend date.

Please prayerfully consider if you are called to serve as a Member-at-Large on the Standing Nominating Committee. We will be seeking to fill these positions at the Annual meeting.



Strength Club is for everyday adults looking to build strength for life. Whether you're new to fitness or have some experience, this class meets you where you are, with exercises that are fully adaptable to your level. My goal is to help you feel stronger, more mobile, and less stiff, so you can live an empowered life. Join us and work toward longevity and strength in a supportive community environment.

*\$10 suggested donation, \$1-20 sliding scale. **Classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm and Saturdays at 9am** in the Family Life Center.



Seated Strength & Stretch is an adaptable 30-minute class perfect for those who need a little extra support. If standing for long periods or balance is a challenge, this class offers a safe way to build strength and flexibility from the comfort of a chair. While it's great for seniors, anyone who can benefit from a seated workout is welcome. Together, we'll move toward better mobility and well-being, one step at a time.

*\$10 suggested donation, \$1-20 sliding scale. **Classes are on Monday and Wednesday at 5:30pm** in the Family Life Center.

For more info, speak with Geoffrey Blake.

what's happening
this week

Monday, Jan 13	Seated Strength & Stretch	5:30PM
	Finance Meeting	6:00PM
	Strength Club	6:00PM
	Bells Rehearsal	7:00PM
Tuesday, Jan 14	Session Meeting	7:00PM
Wednesday, Jan 15	<i>ALL ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TODAY</i>	
	Food Pantry Open	10:00AM - 2:00PM
	Seated Strength & Stretch	5:30PM
	Strength Club	6:00PM
	Junior Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30PM
	Praise Team Rehearsal	7:00PM
Thursday, Jan 16	Choir Rehearsal	6:30PM
Saturday, Jan 18	Strength Club	9:00AM
Sunday, Jan 19	Sunday School	9:00AM
	Worship	10:00AM

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Brick, NJ 08723 * 732-477-0676
BrickPresby.com * brick.presbyterian@verizon.net

Tim Towlen, *Moderator of Deacons;*
Michael Candeloro, *Vice-Moderator*
Jim McGuire, *Moderator of the Session*

Session

Class of 2025

Chuck Cumella, Tom Fortier, Christy Tompkins, Craig Trautweiler

Class of 2026

Katie Candeloro, Michael Kraynick, Lynn Mizer, Jean Reilly

Class of 2027

Brian Aldrich, Michael Auriemma, Missy Brino, Mark Ellis

Board of Deacons

Class of 2025

Dorothy Aldrich, Carol Orbann, Elorm Banini, Sharon Thomas, Lauren Towlen

Class of 2026

Sue Britton, Michael Candeloro, Joan Horan, Tim Towlen, Shawn Trautweiler

Class of 2027

Kevin Nagy, Sabrina Nagy, Tracey Podolsky, Wendy Schweis

Staff

Karen Ellis, *Financial Secretary*
Mike Kraynick, *Treasurer*
Patricia Loboda, *Administrative Assistant*
Bonnie Luton, *Handbell Choir Director*
Edmond Murphy, *Director of Vocal Music*
Christy Tompkins, *Praise Team Leader*
Rev. Doug Chase, *Pastor Emeritus*