

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

January 2026



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Rev. Jack Cherry, Pastor

Dear Friends,

What will it bring to us, this new year, this 2026?

It is, of course, a bit of an illusion. The whole idea of life changing dramatically from the dozen months worth of clutter that we accumulate, by December 31 each year, to a clean sheet and clear calendar, on January 1, just doesn't hold up to our logic or experience. Our responsibilities, our commitments, our relationships, our weaknesses and our strengths are essentially unchanged after we join voices in Old Lang Syne and the Big Ball drops in Times Square.

And yet . . . I remain a fan of each Old Year/New Year celebration! Not because of resolutions, to keep or break, but because I cherish the opportunity to look back at another year in the book and to wonder about the year ahead. To measure where, and with whom, God has led me, so I can see where, and with whom, I will be heading!

For example, a year ago I was only vaguely aware that there was a Presbyterian Church in Brick, and now I leave 2025 with you all occupying a significant place in my schedule, my thoughts, my prayers and my heart! And this will only continue to grow as we peer into the shadows of 2026, looking towards a smooth and successful conclusion to the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, followed by the arrival of your next installed pastor!

And when? That's way above my pay grade! But I always turn, in late December, to the words of British poet Minnie Louise Haskins:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

May our 2026 be lived in joy-filled discovery of God's hand in our lives, even - and especially - in the darkness, as we "trod gladly."

Shalom,
Jack Cherry



ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 25, 2026, in the FLC following our worship service.

Please plan to join us for this very important gathering.

UPDATE:

A/C FUND PROGRESS

***WE'RE GETTING
CLOSER!***

UPDATE:

GETTING CLOSER!



**A/C
FUND**

**GOAL:
\$35,000**

Thank You!

for your generous donations

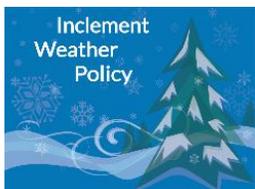
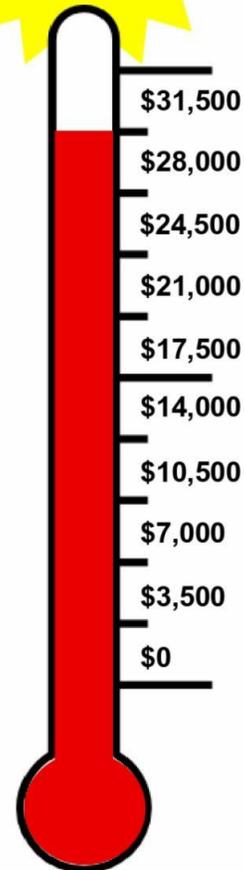
to our

**SANCTUARY AIR
CONDITIONING FUND!**

***As of 12/7/25, your
donations total***

\$30,061.47

In addition to your regular offerings that are used to pay for the church's current expenses, we are prayerfully requesting that you continue to financially support with additional donations toward the purchase of this new system, which has a projected cost between \$30,000-\$35,000.



In times of inclement weather, especially during this winter season, or for other adverse conditions, the congregation is reminded to check the Church Website for closings, delays, and cancellations by going to www.brickpresby.com.

Please note that radio stations no longer announce weather-related closings, etc.

DEACONS UPDATE



The Deacons wish each and every one of you a truly blessed and prosperous New Year! As we close the book on the past year and look forward to the opportunities and growth that this new chapter brings, we are grateful for your fellowship, commitment, and faith. We pray that 2026 is filled with health, joy, and a deeper connection to our Lord.



Seeking Communion Servers

As our church continues to grow, so does the opportunity to serve one another. The Deacons are currently seeking assistance with serving communion during the first Sunday of each month.

The current Deacons will continue to handle the preparation (setting up the elements, ensuring everything is ready), but we need a few more hands to help serve the congregation.

We are specifically reaching out to our Past Deacons!

Your experience in this role is invaluable, and we would be incredibly grateful if you would consider volunteering to serve communion one or two times per year to supplement our current rotation.

What is needed: Serving the prepared elements (bread and cup) to the congregation during the service.

Time Commitment: Approximately one or two Sundays per year.

Preparation Needed: None—the current Deacons will prepare the elements.

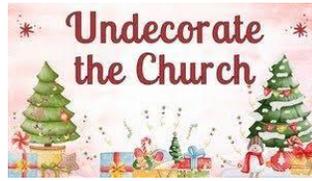
If you are a Past Deacon willing to serve, please reach out to any Deacon, and we will get you on the schedule.

We are excited about the possibility of working alongside you in this important ministry!

Wishing you a New Year filled with God's grace and peace.



WORSHIP NEWS



UN-DECORATING THE CHURCH

The Worship Committee is asking for your help!

The Worship Committee will be undecorating the church on **January 4th, 2026 at 2:30pm** after the **Pentecostal service**. Please consider helping for a few minutes. Thank you!



DONATION ENVELOPES

Your offering envelopes for 2026 are in the Narthex for pick up. If you do not see your box there, please let Karen Ellis know and one will be made up for you. Karen's cell phone is 732-232-1495 or e-mail kjellis45@gmail.com.

Please note that any donations made after December 28, 2025, will be posted to your 2026 statement. Also, if you have a change of address, be sure to contact Karen Ellis or the church office with your information. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR ON-GOING FUNDRAISERS

Ink Cartridges Collection



Bring them in and deposit them in the designated black trash can at the entry to the FLC. ***Proceeds help with the cost of printing for the church committees for special events.***



Hymnal Dedications and Memorial Bricks

Hymnal Dedications and Memorial Bricks, both of which are available throughout the year, are two memorials that are a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one or to commemorate a special date or event!

Order forms can be found on the BPC website, or visit the fundraising table.



STEWARDSHIP & BENEVOLENCE NEWS



WE ARE THE MESSENGERS!

Thank you to those who have submitted a Planned Giving card for 2026. It's not too late to do so. You can mail it or drop it off at the Church.

We welcome your pledges of support in the new year as we continue to bring the message of hope and God's love to all!



THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN MINISTRY AT BPC!

The offering boxes contain offering envelopes for each week of the year. In addition, they contain the following envelopes:

- **Initial Offering Envelope –**

Contributions in this envelope are made in addition to the regular offering and are used to defray the cost of the envelopes.

- **Per Capita Apportionment –**

Presbytery of the Coastlands has indicated that the per capita rate per member is \$42 for 2026 to support the connectional ministry and work of PC (USA). Our per capita funds are used to support the Presbytery of the Coastlands, the synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly. Payment may be made in full or in installments. When making installment payments, please make a note that the payment is for per capita.

- **Easter Offering**

- **Thanksgiving Offering**

- **Christmas Offering**

If you have not received a box of envelopes and would like to have one, please contact our church office.

May God's Spirit continue to guide and bless our ministry in 2026!



THANK YOU



Thank you for your contributions to the Christmas Joy Special Offering.

Your donations will help to ease the burdens that retired pastors, church workers and their families face at critical moments in their lives, and to assist students with their education and development of leadership skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

We thank you for this support of church leaders among us — past, present, and future — who have pointed us to God.

RECOVERY AT BPC

AA Meetings in Fellowship Hall

Daily - 7 a.m.
Friday – 12 p.m., 8 p.m.
Saturday – 7 p.m.

NA Meeting in Fellowship Hall

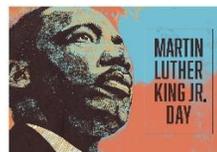
Thursday - 6:30 p.m.



SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY



1/1



1/19





HELP NEEDED

Updated for January

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 –**

Bell Choir - Bell ringers are needed. All ages are welcome – We’d love to have one or more of our talented young people join us! Practices are held weekly on **Mondays at 5:00 p.m.**, and the Bells play during Worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. If interested in joining this music ministry, see Bonnie Luton or call 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).

Worship Committee - If you are available for one hour per month to clean and restock the pews, please contact Tom Fortier at 848-333-2599 or Missy Brino at 732-691-6209. Thank you for considering this worthwhile job. 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 Missy Brino at mbrino@comcast.net or 732-691-6209.

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, and Weatherhead & Young Funeral Home, are always needed. All projects may be done at home. Call the church office at 732-477-0676 with any questions you may have.



If you are a group leader and need volunteers, simply email your info to bpnewsletter111@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 CALENDARS!

- 2026 Donation envelopes - pickup available now
- Un-decorate the church - 1/4
- Annual Congregational Meeting - 1/25



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



BPC ONLINE GIVING



Please go to www.brickpresby.com/give-now/, and click on the "GIVE NOW" button to make an online donation to Brick Presbyterian Church.



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

getC^{CONNECTED}



Fear not,
for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with

My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10, NKJV

