

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

March 2026



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Rev. Jack Cherry, Pastor

Dear Friends,

As I write this it is Half-Past-February and I've had enough winter! So my hope is that when you read this we will have had two weeks of ever increasing temperatures, the white blanket will be gone from the lawns, and the first plants of Spring will be poking through the soil, searching for the sun.



However, whatever the weather, this much is certain: we will be into our Lenten worship and I hope to see you there on the Sundays when I am with you and I hope you are there on the other Sundays as well.

In this post-Covid era, Church attendance numbers have dropped across denominational and geographical lines as people have restructured their routines. At the same time, the public dialogue has soured, extremist language prevents understanding, and words of compromise and reconciliation are mockingly rejected as signs of weakness.

I will leave it to future social scientists to formally trace causes and effects, but I am increasingly convinced that there is no coincidence here! It is difficult to hear the words of Jesus, while sitting together with others in the intimacy of worship, and blindly hate those who speak, pray, think and love differently.

I hope you will make increasing your worship presence a priority as we move through Lent, Easter and rest of 2026 and the arrival of a new pastor. There may be someone, any given week, who needs what you have, what you know or just who you are.

And, who knows, there may just be someone who can fill a blank spot in your life. God likes to work that way, caring for those who care for others.

Peace,

Jack Cherry



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.

A/C FUND PROGRESS



Our \$35K Goal has been reached!!



**A/C
FUND**

To date, \$35,261.98 has been collected for the new Sanctuary Air Conditioning project. Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD PANTRY



We deeply appreciate your ongoing generosity!

To best manage our inventory and continue supporting our community, we are temporarily pausing requests for soups and cereal due to current storage limitations. Instead, your donations of the following specific items would be most helpful:

- * Chicken Broth
- * Chili
- * Coffee (regular or instant)
- * Black Tea
- * Baked Beans
- * Beef Stew
- * Hot Cocoa
- * Jell-O
- * Pancake Mix/Syrup
- * Corn Muffin Mix

Additionally, the food pantry is looking for volunteers to help with shopping, distribution and organization. These roles require moving around, lifting light to moderate items, and working independently. Dates and times are flexible. If you feel this would be a good fit for you, please call the church office.



Thank you for your continued understanding and vital support.

DEACONS UPDATE



Spring is technically just around the corner, but as we've all seen lately, winter isn't letting go without a fight. While the snow and ice have kept many of us tucked away indoors, they have also created a critical challenge for our community's health infrastructure.



Be a Lifeline: March Blood Drive

The recent extreme winter weather has caused widespread cancellations of blood drives across the region. This has left our local blood supply at a critically low level.

We are calling on our congregation to help replenish this life-saving resource. Every donation can save up to three lives. Whether you are a regular donor or a first-timer, your contribution has never been more vital.

When: Tuesday, March 31

Time: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Where: The Family Life Center



As the cold weather persists, more families are turning to our food bank for support. This month, we are focusing on providing warm, hearty meals to help our neighbors through the final stretch of winter.

Thank you for your continued heart for service. In these final weeks of winter, let's show our community the warmth and generosity of our congregation.



WORSHIP NEWS



Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for Easter flowers In Memory of a Loved One or In Honor of a Loved One, flower card donation envelopes will be in the pews from **March 1st – March 22nd**.



Palm Crosses



The Youth Group, Worship Committee, and Deacons will be making crosses for Palm Sunday. All are welcome to help.
The date is **March 22nd** at 6:00 p.m.

Church Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday, **April 4**, at 10:00 a.m.



Church Un-Decorating

We will be UNDECORATING the church on Sunday, **April 12**, at 11:00 a.m.

Thank you for all your help!



Palm Sunday, March 29th, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, Agape Meal in the FLC at 6:00 p.m.

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.



DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD



Dress A Girl Around The World (DAG) is a program of Hope 4 Women International.

This organization began in 2006 and is bringing dignity to women around the world. It is an international, non denominational, independent Christian organization. (Website: <https://www.h4wi.org>)

The dream of DAG is to provide every girl with at least one new dress. The hope is that these dresses will let girls know they are worthy of respect and loved by God.

Since learning about DAG, I have participated in making and supplying dresses for more than a dozen years. I would love to share this experience with other interested men and women (those who would also like to make dresses).

I am hoping that members of BPC would like to join in this mission, either by making dresses or donating supplies (or the means for purchasing these supplies). If interested, please contact me in church, by email (hupperman@msn.com), or by leaving a message on my phone (856-906-6457). Thank you for considering this worthwhile mission.

Helen Upperman

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada. Below is a sampling.

Disaster Recovery – National projects: Southern California Wildfires – deployment of National Response Team members to aid and assess needs; Puerto Rico – Solar panels and energy storage batteries were purchased and installed in a Resilience Hub to provide power assistance in emergency situations. **International projects:** assistance for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova; relief items for those suffering the effects of widespread flooding in Ghana.

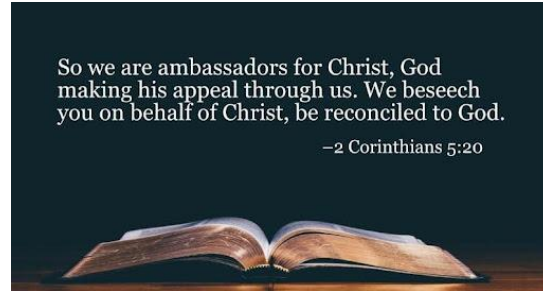
Hunger Relief – National projects: assisted Ekvn-Yefolec (a Maskoke community in Alabama) Ekvn-Yefolec to rematriate 5,584 acres of traditional Maskoke homelands along with significant progress in ecological restoration and regenerative agriculture; mobilized a coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers in Florida to encourage freedom and expand Fair Trade Program; **International projects:** Haiti’s Mouvement Paysan de Papaye empowers 125 farming families by providing legal, agricultural and community-building support to combat land encroachment; Hope Restoration South Sudan - Supported over 20,000 women and girls by raising awareness about gender-based violence, providing vocational training in tailoring and bead-making, and improving economic self-sufficiency to reduce dependency and vulnerability.

Poverty Relief – National project: Taste of Peace “New Neighbors” (Ohio) helps refugee women market their sweet and savory treats to farmers market patrons and other customers in the Columbus area; **International project:** Work with Panamanians to construct and install a 25,000-liter tank for clean and reliable water.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations and so many more. The Offering will be received on March 29, Palm Sunday, and provides a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need.



MISSION & EVANGELISM UPDATE



Our Mission and Evangelism Committee continues to see meaningful impact through our outdoor book stand, which offers Gospel message pamphlets and Holy Bibles to the community. Food pantry guests, blood drive donors, and other visitors have gratefully received these materials. In addition, we provided a supply of pamphlets to Minister Steve of Destiny's Bridge so they can be shared with individuals in the camps who request them.

With the recent stretch of freezing temperatures and growing concern for those experiencing homelessness—many of whom are sleeping in vehicles—our team has taken action. Using Presbytery grant funds, we purchased propane and zero-degree sleeping bags to help keep individuals warm and safe during the harsh winter conditions. This support for Destiny's Bridge will continue throughout the winter season.

On February 4, Minister Steve met with an Ocean County Commissioner to discuss a proposal for a tiny home community at the former Old Cedar Creek Campground, now owned by the County as open space. Our food pantry coordinator, Sandra Alho, also sent a personal email to the commissioner, respectfully advocating for the proposal and affirming the impactful work Minister Steve is doing through his nonprofit organization, Destiny's Bridge.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve both the spiritual and practical needs of our neighbors and appreciate your continued prayers and support.

RECOVERY AT BPC

AA Meetings in Fellowship Hall

Daily - 7 a.m.

Friday – 12 p.m., 8 p.m.

Saturday – 7 p.m.

Light of Life Recovery Bible Group in Room 4

Tuesday - 7:00PM

NA Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday - 6:30 p.m.





HELP NEEDED

Updated for March

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 –***

Food Pantry – The food pantry is looking for volunteers to help with shopping, distribution and organization. These roles require moving around, lifting light to moderate items, and working independently. If you feel this would be a good fit for you, please call the church office at 732-477-0676.

Bell Choir – Bell ringers are needed; **NO MUSIC BACKGROUND REQUIRED - WE TRAIN! All ages are welcome – We'd love to have one or more of our talented young people join us!** Practices are held weekly on Monday at 5:00 p.m., and the Bells play during Worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you are interested in joining this music ministry, please contact **Bonnie Luton** or the church office at 732-477-0676.

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 **Missy Brino** at 732-691-6209 or at msbrino@gmail.com or **Tom Fortier** at tfortier111@gmail.com or 848-333-2599.

Fundraising Committee – Seeking new members to join our fun, energetic group. Are you interested? If so, join us on the first Tuesday of the month in the FLC. Call the church office at 732-477-0676 with any questions you may have.

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, Weatherhead & Young Funeral Home, & Shorrocks Nursing 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.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH



3/8



3/17



3/20



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Easter flower donation envelopes available - 3/1 - 3/22
- Palm crosses activity, 6 p.m. - 3/22
- OGHS offering received - 3/29
- Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m. - 3/31
- Maundy Thursday Agape meal, 6 p.m. - 4/2
- Church decorating for Easter, 10 a.m. - 4/4
- Church un-decorating, 11 a.m. - 4/12

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



BPC ONLINE GIVING



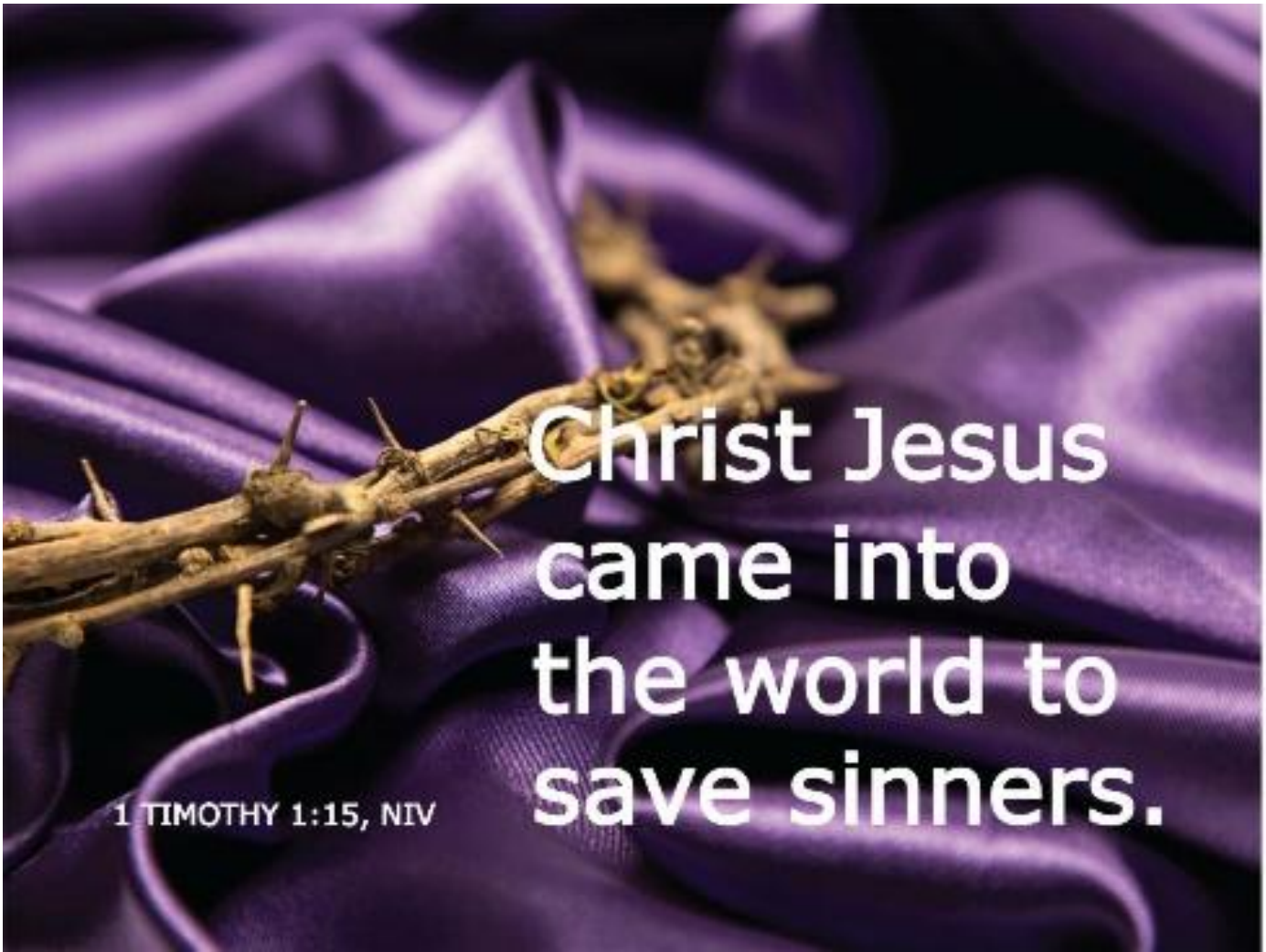
Please go to www.brickpresby.com/give-now/, and click on the "GIVE NOW" button to make an online donation to Brick Presbyterian Church.



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.



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