

THE BURR RIDGE MESSENGER

The monthly publication of Burr Ridge Community Church



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Gospel Gab

with PASTOR ALICIA



GOD'S CALL IN 2024

"THERE ARE FAR BETTER THINGS AHEAD THAN ANY WE LEAVE BEHIND." -- C.S. LEWIS

When I was a child, my dad taught me an important practice of writing down my goals. After my dad's death a few years ago, as my brother and I were going through his things, we found notebooks filled with goals. It's a practice that I have adapted and used though out my life and found so helpful in encouraging me on towards who I am called to be.

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During Sunday morning worship on New Year's Eve 2023, I talked about what it meant to make spiritual resolutions for 2024. I'm sure many of us are thinking this time of year about things we want to do or want to do differently in 2024, whether it be physical goals, mental ones, or financial. I wonder how many of us also create and write down our spiritual goals for the year and found a helpful template in Mark 1 for doing so.

The beginning of Jesus' ministry in Mark 1 gives us a wonderful guide for considering what we need to leave behind and what we hope to discern going forward. Jesus' ministry begins with John the Baptist's call to repentance which calls us to consider, *what do I need to turn away from this year?* Next, the baptism of Jesus affirms our belovedness and asks, *What affirmation of God's love for me do I need to hear in the New Year?* Sometimes this is the hardest thing to hear: that God calls us God's child in whom He is well-pleased. To aid in this affirmation of your belovedness, I found this poem so beautiful and needed:

The Bravest Thing We Can Do by Sarah Are Speed
Trust your belovedness.
Let it be a protest,
an act of resistance,
a song of celebration.
Trust your belovedness in a world
that is rarely satisfied.
Wear it like a badge of honor.
Speak it as confidently as your last name.
Tattoo it to your heart.
When outside forces
chip away at your sense of self,
when life asks you
to hand over the keys,
remember the water.
Remember creation.
Remember how it was good,
so very good.
Let that truth hum through your veins.
Sing it so loud
that it drowns out the weariness of the world,
for the bravest thing we can ever do
is trust that we belong here.

After his baptism, Jesus is sent out into the wilderness and, unlike the other gospels, Mark does not say much about it except that Jesus was tempted and attend to by angels. *What is one place that God showed up in the wilderness this past year?* Finally, Jesus calls some of his first disciples - *What is one way God is calling you into ministry in this new year?*

During worship I gave folks time to complete a reflection sheet with these questions. It is attached on the next page. I hope it will be a useful tool as we all consider our spiritual resolutions and discern how God is calling us forward in 2024.

Peace, Pastor Alicia

.....

New Year Reflection



**WHAT DO I NEED TO TURN
AWAY FROM THIS YEAR?**

**WHAT AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S
LOVE FOR ME DO I NEED TO HEAR?**

**ONE PLACE GOD SHOWED UP IN
THE WILDERNESS IN 2023:**

**ONE WAY GOD IS CALLING ME
INTO MINISTRY IN 2024:**

BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

January Sunday Volunteers

Week	Greeter/Opener	Usher	Worship Assistant	Counter	Coffee Minute
1/7	1. Tom Fong	1. Janet Suva 2. Susann Pedersen	Tom Fong	Tom & Ann Fong	Janet Suva
1/14	1. TBD 2. TBD	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	Susann Pedersen	TBD	Kathy Alvisu
1/21	1. TBD 2. TBD	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	TBD	TBD	Tom & Ann Fong
1/28	1. TBD 2. TBD	1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD	BRCC Kids	TBD	Debbie Sanford

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Month of December 2023

Income \$ 18,377.94
Expenses 14,269.97
Over \$ 4,107.97

Year-to-Date as of 12/31/2023

Income \$ 227,876.03
Expenses 151,807.50
Over \$ 76,068.53

The year-end surplus primarily reflects the \$20,000 donation for the establishment of the "Margaret Burton Tower Hill Camp Memorial Fund", and the \$60,000+ donations for the "Electrical Giving Challenge". All-in-all 2023 was a remarkable year, and may the Lord continue to make his face shine down on us and be gracious to us. God Bless each and everyone of you, and thank you for your contributions to our Church.



MANNA ORDERS

You can submit your upcoming *January 7* Manna Gift Card order any of the following ways:

- Submit completed order form and payment at worship, Sunday, January 7;
- Call the church office with your order and submit payment via mail or on-line giving;
- Send an email with your order and submit payment via mail or on-line giving.

All payments must be submitted at the time the order is placed. ****please be aware if you use a credit card for your Manna purchase, there is an additional processing fee charged to BRCC by the bank.****

Next Manna Order date: February 4

TRUSTEE UPDATES

- -Electrical project update will be given soon.
- -Bait in exterior rodent stations has been maintained. If you see any rodents, or rodent droppings/activity, please notify the trustees.

Trustee wishlist items:

- Home Depot gift cards (most needed item!)
- Rechargeable spotlight/flashlight
- Turbofan
- Gorilla tape (any width)
- Black and red sharpies (thick or very thick size)
- Rechargeable hand trimmer
- Desk fan/Standing fans

COUNCIL UPDATES

BOARD OF ELDERS

Happy New Year BRCC Family! How many of us prayed for a healthy, happy new year? Well, I bet we all did. Please know that prayer is not a one time thing. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with our Lord, Jesus Christ. So as we get comfortable in this new year and month of January, let's say some prayers for the those in need:

Shawn Rafique and spouse, Becky Malak, Patty Gambill, Chris & Cassie, Michelle & Family, Walt McCarty, Krauklis Family, Mark Suva, Brandon Suva, Peter Hui, Barbara Jefferson, Preston Suva, Foster Children Everywhere, Russ Smith(healing), Barb Welch, Debra Allen(healing from a broken bone), Prayers and gratitude and love to Cheyenne Katrina Pedersen-Stiltner, born to Madelyn & Matthew Stiltner on December 27th. All are doing well. Blessings and love to them.

Website prayer request to the Bradshaw Family for healing emotional and physical medical issues. Add prayer requests to the prayer wall right outside the Sanctuary entrance The Board of Elders and Pastor Alicia review and prayer for all weekly. If you have a prayer request and you want to talk about it, please see Pastor Alicia Reese or Susann Pedersen & Kathy Alvisu. We will be happy to pray with you and for you. We are also looking for a person(s) to join our Elders group. If you pray and you like to send birthday and get well cards, then you are just perfect. Please see Susann P for more details.

Happy New Year!

Kathy Alvisu
Susann K. Pedersen
Board of Elders - BRCC

BOARD OF STEWARDS

(FUNDRAISING)

• **Happy New Year!** As we start 2024 with a big burst of energy, so shall the Board of Stewart be energized in putting together our duties to perform. Here are the end of year's final events.

• **Church decorating:** The church will be taking apart the sanctuary and lounge holiday appearance. The beauty of the church has become a landmark of impressions. We are proud it did its purpose; however, the sanctuary is ready to be dismantled on Sunday, 01/7/2024. If you are in the area, please consider giving a hand with taking down the Christmas decorations. Thank you to the members and friends who came together to make the church beautiful! The decorating committee will continue to work on finishing the church. There is a sign up sheet online to help with the chores. We welcome all those who wish to help. Contact Ann Fong with questions, 630-890-7762.

• **Jazz Concert:** Presenting our 2nd annual BRCC Jazz concert, bringing in the sights and sounds of the Christmas holiday was the Stuart Seale Jazz Quartet. It was a FANTASTIC evening that was enjoyed by everyone! The Wine Pull and Cash Prize drawing were both successful! Congratulations to Kelsey (Sundwall) Quintos for winning the Grand Prize. The event brought in \$4,308.29, less the expenses, netted \$3,417.45. A HUGE thank you to all our volunteers and those who supported the event.

• **Holiday Cookie Sale:** Our popular BRCC Holiday Cookie was followed by the delightful Children's Christmas Pageant. The baker elves made a huge impact on the huge selection for our guests. Our first time trying of plated cookie ready for gifting was a huge success. For the first time in history, we sold out of cookies! Good job, Santa helpers! The two-day sale brought in \$1,810.00. Santa and Mrs. Clause made a special appearance at our cookie sale and spreading good cheers. Thank you, Santa, and Mrs. Clause!

• From all the members of the Board of Stewards to our family and friends, may you achieve all you want with ever present happiness in 2024.

RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDING

Thank you everyone for supporting our Reserve Account Fundraising! The balance is as follows:

Interior Reserve: \$744

Can be used for sound system, interior updating & repairs.

Exterior Reserve: \$0

Can be used for exterior projects such as parking lot sealcoating and new outdoor church sign.

Total Reserves (including the above): 79,937

Feel free to either mail or drop off your donation to the church. Please indicate where you would like your donation applied.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. either in-person or on Facebook Live or YouTube. If you are worshipping with us at home, follow along with the weekly Worship Folder found on our website. You can find the worship live stream by following the link below:

[Facebook Livestream](#)

[YouTube Livestream](#)

WOMEN'S WELLNESS

Women of the congregation are invited to attend Women's Wellness on **Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 pm.**

Anyone who is or has gone through an emotional or physical situation and would like to come, relax and enjoy each other's fellowship are welcome. All conversations are personal and confidential. What is spoken at the gathering, stays at the gathering.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

We wish Happy Birthday to those that celebrate this month. We hope you have a wonderful day!

Carson Abrahamian Jan 4

Linda McMahon Jan 8

Ron Culen Jan 9

Taylor Madden Jan 15

Mike Gambill Jan 16

Madelyn Pedersen-Stiltner Jan 21

Elisabeth Schei Jan 25

Pete Gebauer Sr. Jan 31



Please join us after service on January 28 for cake as we celebrate all our birthdays this month!

HEAVENLY BIRTHDAYS

If anyone would like a Heavenly Birthday added, please email office@brucc.org.

MEETINGS

January 16: BRCC Council Meeting, 6:30pm

January 21: Annual Meeting, 11am

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Looking for a way to serve your church family? We are in need of a volunteer to provide and serve coffee minute once a month.

What's required, you ask? Make coffee Sunday morning and provide a sweet treat such as donuts, brownies or cookies along with a gluten free option such as fruit, veggies or cheese. Coffee is provided but you would need to provide juice or soda for those non coffee drinkers. Cups and paper goods are available along with cream and sugar. If interested, please contact Debbie

Sanford 630-330-5251.



RESERVE ACCOUNT DONATION

If you would like to donate to the Reserve Account Fundraiser, please complete the below information and return with your donation to the church office. If you prefer, you can make your donation on our website, and select the funds category to which you are supporting.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Select the project(s) you are supporting and the amount of the pledge.

☐ General Operating Expenses

☐ \$ _____

☐ Exterior Projects (Parking Lot Preservation, Building Stain, New Church Sign)

☐ \$ _____

☐ Interior Projects (Lounge Updates, Office Technology, Boiler Maintenance)


☐ \$ _____

Total Donation: \$ _____



JANUARY

2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 Manna Due! 10am Sunday Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10am Sunday Worship	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	16 6:30pm BRCC Council Meeting	17	18 6:30pm Women's Wellness	19	20
21 10am Sunday Worship 11am Annual Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10am Sunday Worship 11am January Birthday Celebration	29	30	31			



BURR RIDGE
Community
Church

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