

THE BURR RIDGE MESSENGER

The monthly publication of Burr Ridge Community Church



MORE IN THIS ISSUE:
BRCC Updates -3
Upcoming Events - 4



Gospel Gab
with PASTOR ALICIA



SINGING A NEW SONG

Have you ever had a song stuck in your head that plays over and over and, even though you are weary of it, it doesn't seem to go away? I believe they call this an "earworm." Often it is just one part of the song, maybe just a few bars, that repeat over and over. (In my case it's often from one of the TV shows that my kids watch....)

cont. page 2

The trick to getting rid of an earworm for me is either singing the song stuck in my head in its entirety or playing or singing a new song. Psychologists say that sometimes listening to or singing the earworm in its entirety helps because the brain is stuck in a loop trying to "fill in the gaps" of the song and listening to it relieves it of this need. I found this so interesting because I have been challenged many times this past year of the ways I often get fixated on one part of my story (or song) and fail to see or sing the whole story. Sometimes singing a new song means singing the whole song.

And other times, singing a new song means singing an entirely new song. Psalm 96 declares: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." In fact, the Psalms are filled with declarations of singing a new song to God. When Mary found out she was pregnant with the Son of God, she too, sang a new song – one that declared the hope for a future for her and her people.

Because of the transformative love and grace of God, we can sing a new song, a better song, a hopeful song, a life-giving song about God, ourselves, and our future. I wonder what that song might sound like for you? What new song do you want to sing unto the Lord this year?

Preacher and theologian Howard Thurman wrote a beautiful poem about just this:

I will sing a new song
by Howard Thurman

*The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out.
It has long ago been learned by my heart;
It repeats itself over and over,
bringing no added joy to my days or lift to my spirit.*

I will sing a new song.

*I must learn the new song for the new needs.
I must fashion new words born of all the new growth
of my life - of my mind - of my spirit.
I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine before,
that all that is within me may lift my voice unto God.
Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day
and delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.*

I will sing, this day, a new song unto the Lord.

Wishing you a blessed new year full of new songs!

Peace, Pastor Alicia

.....

BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 2 - Susann Pedersen

January 9 - Tom Barone

January 16 - TBD

January 23 - TBD

January 30 - TBD

If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant in 2022, please contact Pastor Alicia, Susann Pedersen, or sign up here: [Worship Assistants 2022](#)

NEW ADDRESS

Sandy and Lee Petsche's New Address:

9301 Master's Blvd
Dade City, FL 33525

NEW MOBILE GIVING APP

Thank you for your vital support of God's ministries at BRCC. We have a new mobile giving app for church donations. To download the app for free, search "[Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement](#)" on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once you download the app, search for Burr Ridge Community Church, create an account, and you are able to give via the app.

Or click on the icon to be taken to the app



You can continue to give to the church by sending your contribution to the church office or donating online at the link below.

<https://www.brucc.org/online-giving>

BAPTISM

Congratulations

to

Ben & Cony Hartnett

and the entire

Fonacier family

on the baptism

of

Ella Marie Hartnett



MANNA ORDERS

You can submit your upcoming January 9th Manna Gift Card order any of the following ways:

- Submit completed order form and payment at worship, Sunday, January 9,
- 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 6th!

AMAZON SMILE

When you shop on Amazon, using the link below, Amazon will donate to Burr Ridge United Church of Christ.

smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2591671

BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRCC COOKIE SALE 2021



BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRCC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2021



COUNCIL UPDATES

BOARD OF ELDERS

The following members and friends are in need of prayers for a variety of reasons: Chris Mc, Ron C, Ruth Rohr, Matt & Kelsey Petsche and their family, Linda F, Gail and Rick, Jim G (Pastor Alicia's father), Brian Fong, Greg and Sarah, Mariam, Mike Gambil who has recently gone through surgeries and is recovering at home. Eileen Gambil needs prayers of support during this time while Mike is recovering.

Our beloved long-time member Oscar H. Pedersen passed away peacefully on December 4th from pancreatic cancer. Oscar loved his church family and spent many years maintaining the grass, lawnmower and property as needed. Oscar will continue to watch over our church and our family. Please continue to pray for his family during this fragile time. He is sorely missed. Oscar's family request our church friends and family to come celebrate his life with a memorial at church to be held in the next few weeks. More details to come.

We congratulate Matt Stiltner and Madelyn Pedersen-Stiltner on their marriage! They were married at BRCC on December 11, 2021.

We have a beautiful prayer wall outside the Sanctuary in the Narthex. At the beginning of January 2022 we will be clearing the board completely. For 2022 please once again, add names for prayer to the board as needed. Pastor Alicia and the Board of Elders pray for all on the Prayer Wall weekly.

If you are in need of prayer or a visit from Pastor Alicia, please feel free to contact her directly thru the church office at (320-654-4544 her email at pastor@brucc.org or cell at 734-637-5979.

Sandy & Lee Petsche will be moving out of the Burr Ridge area in January 2022. Our Board will miss her and all the prayers she and Lee said for everyone. Sandy has been an Elder for many years, completing her duties as an Elder without hesitation. We will really miss Sandy and Lee. We pray for their happiness as they journey to their next beautiful adventure in life. We wish them abundance and good health.

The Board of Elders has 2 vacancies. The responsibilities are few but important. If you pray, that already fulfills one of the requirements. If you can take a turn to assist setting up Communion when necessary, that is another duty. Please contact, Pastor Alicia, Susann P, or Kathy A, if you wish to help.

Have a Wonderful, Blessed, Healthy Holiday.

Kathy Alvisu - 630-325-5612

Susann Pedersen - 630-863-5736

BOARD OF STEWARDS

BIG THANK YOU to all that contributed to the cookie sale this year. Thanks to your baking efforts and giving of your time and talents, we made over \$1,100! The variety of cookies was amazing and they were all absolutely delicious. The few cookies that were left, trays were made up and taken to the local fire and police stations and a special tray was delivered to the Mayor of Woodridge to share with the families that found themselves removed from their homes this Christmas.

We have had a lot of successful fundraising events this year and all because of the hard work and generosity of our congregation. Thank you one and all for all you have contributed in serving our church and community.

Board of Stewards: Ann Fong, Kelsey Sundwall, Janet Suva, Debbie Sanford & Hannah Sundwall.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you all for your financial support of BRCC!

Month of December 2021

Income: \$ 15,058.73
Expenses: 15,287.61
Deficit: \$(228.88)

Year-to-Date as of 12/31/2021

Income: \$145,405.19
Expenses: 126,941.86
Over: \$18,463.33

If you have any questions about our current financials or how you can help, please reach out to Bill Sanford at treasurer@brucc.org.

RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDING

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

Interior Reserve: \$4,102

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

Exterior Reserve: \$1,103

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

Total Reserves (including the above): \$52,616

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.

If you are worshiping 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:

https://www.facebook.com/BurrRidgeUnitedChurchofChrist/live_videos/

In-person worship follows protocols set forth by the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health Guidelines and UCC.



WOMEN'S WELLNESS

Women of the congregation are invited to attend Women's Wellness, on Thursday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. We will be following CDC guidelines.

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.



MEETINGS

- January 16 - 2022 Council Installation & Congregational Meeting - 11a.m.
- January 17 - Council Meeting - 6:30p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

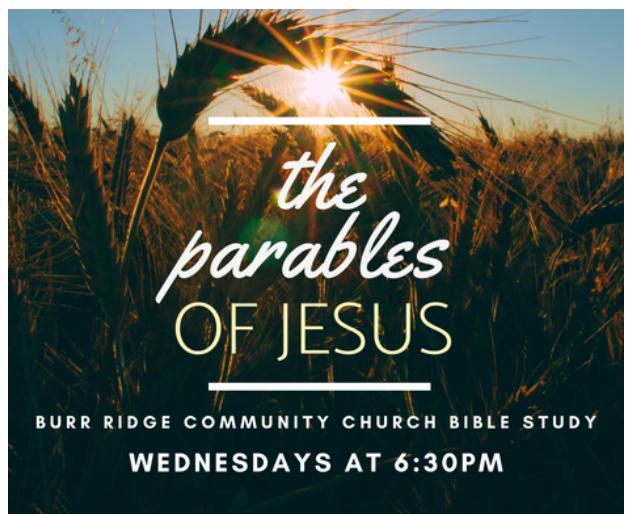
Ava Adcock - Jan. 20
Madelyn Pedersen - Jan. 21
Pete Gebauer Sr. - Jan. 31



January birthday celebrants, please join us after service on January 30th for cake as we celebrate all our January birthdays!

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday - January 12 and 26



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: \$_____

