

THE BURR RIDGE MESSENGER

The monthly publication of Burr Ridge Community Church



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Gospel Gab
with PASTOR ALICIA



LEAPING WITH ADVENT JOY

Do we leap for joy at the coming of Advent? Most of us certainly did as children – the joy of anticipation was one of the most magical parts of Christmas. I remember as a child being so excited the night before Christmas that I could hardly sleep! But somewhere in the process of growing up, we might have lost our Advent joy.

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In Luke 1:39-41, we are told that “Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”

The Greek word Luke uses in verse 41 for “leapt” actually connotes the skipping and frisking of young animals. John’s prophetic leaping in Elizabeth’s womb was the joyful jumping and frolicking of a child anticipating the very first Advent. Advent is often seen as a time to look back and remember the birth of Jesus. We remember the day that salvation came to the world in the body of a tiny human baby.

I wonder though, how often though do we see Advent not as a time to simply remember, but as a time to look forward and anticipate with joy the coming of our Lord to complete the restoring, redemptive work God began that first Christmas night?

Advent is my very favorite time of year and I am giddy with excitement for the beginning of it. I love decorating and sending out Christmas cards, buying presents for those I love, and listening to Christmas music. However, this past weekend I found myself in a really foul mood because my plans to sit down and address Christmas cards were postponed. As I stewed in my inability to control all my carefully planned Advent activities, I was convicted at how I got so caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season that I forget the true meaning of Advent. I forgot momentarily what my Advent joy is really about: waiting for Jesus. Looking forward to the whole world knowing the hope, peace, love, and joy of Jesus and to God setting all things right.

This season, may we be fully present in the activities and festivities of Advent while also holding onto that eager anticipation we all embodied as children. May we anticipate the coming of our Lord in our hearts as we join in celebration and in our hands as we participate in the work of furthering God’s kingdom.

Advent Blessings, Pastor Alicia

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Thanks to all who brought canned and boxed goods in November to decorate our altar with. After Thanksgiving we were able to donate an entire trunkful of food to HCS Family Service's Food Pantry!

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BRUCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

DECEMBER ADVENT READERS

December 5 - Danielle Hill

December - 12 - Mark Malak

December 19 - Vicky Panos

December 26 - 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](#)



Congrats to the Hill family on the baptism of their daughter, Vera.

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>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Kathy Alvizu - December 12

Janet Suva - December 19

Carly Miller - December 22



December birthday celebrants, please join us after service on December 26th for cake as we celebrate all our December birthdays!

MANNA ORDERS

Last call for Manna gift cards before Christmas! Check your Christmas lists for those last minute gifts and stocking stuffers!!

You can submit your upcoming December 5th Manna Gift Card order any of the following ways:

- Submit completed order form and payment at worship, Sunday, December 5th,
- 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: January 2nd!

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

BRUCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

BROOKFIELD ZOO TREE TRIMMING



BRUCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

DECK THE GREEN & LIGHT UP THE NIGHT



COUNCIL UPDATES

BOARD OF ELDERS

The following members and friends are in need of prayers for a variety of reasons: Chris M., Ron C., Ruth R., Pam, C., Theresa B., Oscar P., Matt & Kelsey and children, Linda F., and her recent cancer diagnosis, Gail and Rick, Jim G. (Pastor's father), Brian F., Greg and Sarah, Miriam, and all that are affected by sickness or worry and those fighting disease.

Don't forget about our beautiful prayer wall outside the Sanctuary to post a prayer for you or someone.

The Elders monitor and pray for those requests weekly. If you are in need of prayer or a visit from Pastor Alicia, please feel free to contact her directly through the church office at 630-654-4544, her email at pastor@brucc.org or cell at 734-637-5979. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sermon feedback sheets are available in the Narthex.

If you wish to join this board, please let Susann Pedersen or Pastor Alicia know.

Kathy Alvisu: 630-325-5612

Susann Pedersen: 630-863-5736,

susannkpedersen@gmail.com

Sandy Petsche: 630-887-8424, usonpark@aol.com

BOARD OF STEWARDS

Burr Ridge Community Church has teamed up with Drive Coffee to raise funds for our church. If you have family or friends who love coffee, what a great Christmas gift this would be. Maybe you are a coffee lover. Either way it's a nice and easy way to get some shopping done and help the church in the process.

Just go to the link below to place your order. You have until Monday, 12/6/21 to get that order placed.

<https://www.drivencoffeefundraising.com/ref/burr-ridge-community-church/>

Our annual Cookie Sale is back! Saturday, 12/18 and Sunday, 12/19. We will be looking for volunteers to help supply cookies! During the cookie sale, we will also have a gift wrapping table. Too busy to get your gifts wrapped? Let Burr Ridge Community Church take care of that. \$6 a package or \$25 for 5 packages.

The Board of Stewards would like to thank everyone for the continued support in our efforts to raise funds supporting the church and our missions.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Early during the month of June, our Congregation received approximately \$20,000 from the Small Business Administration as part of the *Paycheck Protection Program*. Although we are blessed to have received this money, the funds are "restricted" and can only be used to fund payroll and utilities through the end of August. As we continue to expand our programming and maintain and upgrade our facilities, your financial support over the summer months is as important as ever!

Month of November 2021

Income: \$ 15,117.94

Expenses: 10,021.37

Over: \$5,096.57

Year-to-Date as of 11/30/2021

Income: \$130,346.43

Expenses: 111,126.79

Over: \$19,219.64

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! So far, we have the following balances:

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): \$58,919

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 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:

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.

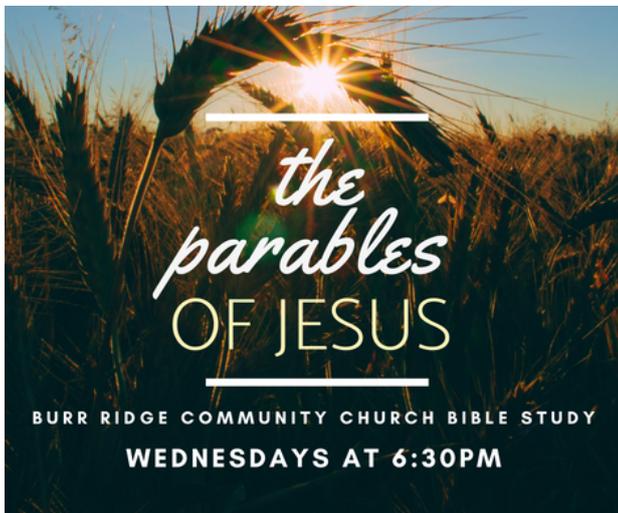
ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!!



On December 18th & 19th we will once again have our annual Christmas Cookie sale! Saturday 12/18, 10am-3pm and Sunday 12/19, 11am-2pm. We will be looking for volunteers to help supply the cookies. More details to come on when cookies can be dropped off.

BIBLE STUDY

December - Holiday Break



MEETINGS

December 20th - Council Meeting (6:30pm)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Join us for Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24 at 7pm at Burr Ridge Community Church.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS

Women of the congregation are invited to attend Women's Wellness, on Thursday, December 16th 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.



- December 4 - BRCC Tree Lighting Ceremony
- December 8 - "Christmas with The Chosen" Movie Theater Event at Seven Bridges (Woodridge), 7pm
- December 15 - "The Chosen" Christmas Potluck, 6:30pm
- December 18 - Cookie Sale, 10:30am - 3pm
- December 19 - Cookie Sale, 11am - 1:30pm
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7pm



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: \$ _____

