

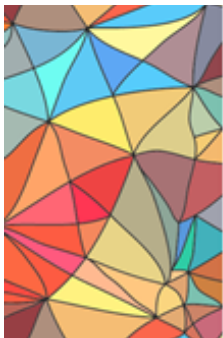
THE BURR RIDGE MESSENGER

The monthly publication of Burr Ridge Community Church

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YEARLY EXAMEN

EVERY YEAR YOU MAKE A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE YOURSELF. THIS YEAR, MAKE A RESOLUTION TO BE YOURSELF. – UNKNOWN

Many of us start the new year thinking about how we can change ourselves physically, emotionally, or spiritually. One of the things that I love about Ignatian Spirituality (a Christian spiritual path that began with St. Ignatius of Loyola) is that it focuses not on changing oneself, but rather discovering the true self that God has made us to be.

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One of the tools that can help us on this path of discovery is that spiritual practice of the Examen. This practice is usually done as a daily practice, but can also be done as a yearly review of sorts to help us pay attention to what God would have us see about ourselves in the past year to help us journey towards being who God created us to be in this new year.

Vinita Hampton Wright has a lovely version of this yearly examen:

Step One: Become aware of God's presence. *One way of doing this is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you review the year with a holy perspective—with wisdom, grace, and faith. Ask for the grace to tear yourself away from your own patterns of thinking and seeing so that you can see your life more as God sees it. Of course you will see your failings—but God sees you as a beloved daughter or son who has a future and a hope. Of course you will see your accomplishments—but God sees your deeper self, the person behind all the activity, a person made in God's image.*

Step Two: Review the year with gratitude. *As you use this holy perspective to review the year, pay attention to the good gifts from the year ending. Name specifically those that come to memory now, and thank God for them.*

Step Three: Pay attention to your emotions. *Think over the year again, and notice your emotional reactions. What memories speak most loudly to you? What events, conversations, relationships, or activities bring up the most emotion now, as you remember them? Ask God to help you linger with these emotions, whether they are pleasant or disturbing. Ask for help in understanding why you feel as you do. What can you learn about yourself or about your situation as you dwell in your emotional responses?*

Step Four: Choose one feature of the year and pray from it. *While you are lingering with your memories and emotions, settle on one feature. Perhaps it is a single event, or maybe it's a pattern of your own behavior that has come to mind as you reviewed the year. Whatever it is that has emerged, allow it to fuel your prayer. Don't worry about the many other aspects of the year that you could think about right now; stay with the one thing that has come to you with the most power and pray from those thoughts and emotions.*

Step Five: Look toward the new year. *Imagine what challenges and blessings might await you in the coming year. Think of important relationships, major (and minor) decisions to be made, skills to learn, habits to build, healing to seek, good work to accomplish. Make a simple list of highlights—matters that you expect to take prominence in your life in the new year. Bring them to God now, and ask for the graces you will need.*

End your prayer, thanking God for love and life and holy possibilities.

Also try out this 28-minute guided Examen by clicking the link or scanning the QR Code:

<https://store.anewliturgy.com/album/no-6-the-examen-extended-edition>



I hope this helps as we journey together in this new years towards discovering more and more who God has made us to be individually and as the body of Christ,

Peace, Pastor Alicia

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BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

January 1 - Kathy Alvisu

January 8 - Susann Pedersen

January 15 - Russ Beck

January 22 - BRCC Kids

January 29 - Serving Hope Sunday

If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant in 2023, please contact Pastor Alicia, Susann Pedersen, or sign up here:

Worship Assistants 2023

WEST SUBURBAN COMMUNITY PANTRY



FOOD DRIVE

Burr Ridge Community Church

15W100 Plainfield Rd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

West Suburban Community Pantry (WSCP) provides food and resources to people facing hunger, unlocking access to nutritious meals and strengthening hope for tomorrow.

Are you ready to make a big impact?
Please help by donating today!

Most Needed Items

Canned Vegetables | Canned Fruit | Boxed dinners | Canned tuna & chicken | Canned Tomatoes | Rice | Bottled Water | Paper towels | Feminine Hygiene Products | Baby wipes | Cleaning Supplies | Toilet Paper

Donations are accepted
Mondays - Fridays 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturdays 8:00 AM - Noon

Monetary donations are also appreciated! Donate online at
wspantry.org/donate-2/

6809 Hobson Valley Dr. #118 | Woodridge, IL | 60517 | (630) 512-9921 | wspantry.org

MANNA ORDERS

You can submit your upcoming January 8 Manna Gift Card order any of the following ways:

- Submit completed order form and payment at worship, Sunday, January 8;
- 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 5th

AMAZON SMILE

When you shop on Amazon, using the link below, Amazon will donate to Burr Ridge Community Church:

smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2591671

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you all for your financial support of BRCC!

Month of December 2022

Income \$ 21,865.53

Expenses 11,819.13

Surplus \$ 10,046.40

Year-to-Date as of 12/31/2022

Income \$ 157,239.25

Expenses 141,627.05

Surplus \$ 15,612.20

What a way to end the year!! December was an amazing month, and the increase in income resulted from all our wonderful endeavors (Christmas giving, parking lot rental for Christmas Tree sales, and proceeds from the Christmas Jazz concert).

To end the year with a surplus is an inspiring achievement. It speaks to our strength as a Congregation, a confirmation of our vision and dreams, and our love of Christ and for the word Jesus. I am so proud and filled with joy to be a part of Burr Ridge Community Church.

COFFEE MINUTE VOLUNTEERS

January 1 - Vicky Panos

January 8 - Kathy Alvisu

January 16 - Tom & Ann Fong

January 22 - Debbie Sanford

January 29 - n/a



COUNCIL UPDATES

BOARD OF STEWARDS

(FUNDRAISING)

The two December fundraising events were very successful. The Winter Jazz concert raised \$3,000.00. The event was AMAZING! The sound of the Quintet fine tuned the sentiments of Christmas. The food and wine were extravagant and elegant. This is the beginning of our annual Jazz Festival!

The Holiday cookie sale brought in \$1,200.00 in sales. We had 35 choices of homemade holiday treats. They were all amazing for the sale. We also thanked Santa and his Elves for bringing in more customers!

The BOS want to give a tremendous thank-you to all the volunteers who dedicated the many hours of talent and hard work into decorating our beautiful new lounge for the church's festivities. The theme was White Winter Forest, with colors of white, silver, and blue connecting the Sanctuary into the lounge. Our hats-off to all the designers in making the beautiful transformation possible.

TRUSTEE UPDATES

- Still needed - repair & paint inside of exterior door
- Latch on bathroom door in Gathering Place installed
- Chimney Cap has been installed!

RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDING

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

Interior Reserve: \$3,331

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

Exterior Reserve: \$2,308

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

Total Reserves (including the above): \$51,039

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

BOARD OF ELDERS

The Board of Elders had their board meeting in November. We discussed the Advent worship schedule, and assisted pastor with the Longest Night service. Spoonful of Comfort Soup packages and Get Well and Thinking of You cards were sent to those going through difficult times.

We have been praying for you; all of you. Please know that if you are or have been going through a tough time, medically or otherwise, please place your prayer request on the prayer wall on the Lounge Wall. Pastor Alicia and the Board of Elders(Kathy A., Barbara Jefferson, Susann P) will pray for you and with you. We pray for happy events as well!

Prayers requested for: Sarah and her boyfriend Eric Casper,Eileen and Mike Gambill, Patty Gambill, Ann Fong's father Peter, Brian Fong and Family, Mark Suva, Brandon Suva, Christine Suva, Tila Garcia's family at the passing of Tila; a long time friend of Kathy Alvisu, Krauklis Family, George Smith, Brian Fong and family. Lina Foncier's family.

Our Benevolence fund of gift cards really help the Board of Elders and Pastor deliver help where it is needed. If you are interested in providing us with a gift card for grocery, pharmaceuticals, or gasoline, please contact Pastor Alicia.

Lastly, we wish all of you a peaceful, healthy New Year!

Kathy Alvisu
Barbara Jefferson
Susann K. Pedersen

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](#)

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 19th 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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

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



January birthday celebrants, please join us after service on January 22 for cake as we celebrate all our January birthdays!

MEETINGS

January 16: Council Meeting, 6:30pm
January 22: Coffee & Conversation, 11am

Good Grief

"Life will not be as you envisioned it but it doesn't mean it still can't be good."

-Gerald Sittser, **A Grace Disguised**

This workshop, led by pastor and retreat leader Rev. Lisa Orris, will help you understand and integrate grief into your life. A sacred space will be provided to become present to your pain and learn new practices as you grieve.

Saturday, January 14, 2023

9:30am-3:00pm

Lunch provided & open to the community

RSVP to office@brucc.org or 630-654-4544

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

2023

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



15W100 Plainfield Road
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630.654.4544