

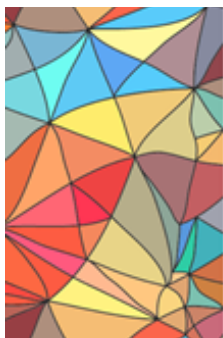
# THE BURR RIDGE MESSENGER

The monthly publication of Burr Ridge Community Church



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*Gospel Gab*  
with PASTOR ALICIA



## FACING THE UNKNOWN

"NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRUST AN UNKNOWN FUTURE TO A KNOWN GOD" -- CORRIE TEN BOOM

Facing an unknown future is terrifying and we, as humans, often spend a lot of energy trying to predict what will come next, especially when something happens that shakes up our sense of stability and normalcy.

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Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who, along with her family, hid Jewish people amid the Nazi Holocaust. It is believed she and her family helped save over 800 lives. They were, however, eventually betrayed and found out and sent to a concentration camp. Corrie was the only survivor. You can read Corrie's story in her autobiography, *The Hiding Place*. I find so much comfort in her words, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

I recently shared with my spiritual director that I was beginning to realize that life is really just leaping from one unknown place to the next, trusting that God is there to lead us one step at a time. While we cannot know what is ahead, we can trust that God goes with us. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." When I find myself in places of unknowing and feel the anxiety about what is next start to creep in, I often turn to one of my favorite quotes from Poet Rainer Maria Rilke:

BE PATIENT TOWARD ALL THAT IS UNSOLVED IN YOUR HEART  
AND TO TRY TO LOVE THE QUESTIONS THEMSELVES  
LIKE LOCKED ROOMS AND LIKE BOOKS THAT ARE WRITTEN  
IN A VERY FOREIGN TONGUE.  
DO NOT NOW SEEK THE ANSWERS,  
WHICH CANNOT BE GIVEN YOU  
BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE THEM.

*And the point is, to live everything.*

*Live the questions now.*

PERHAPS YOU WILL THEN GRADUALLY, WITHOUT NOTICING IT,  
LIVE ALONG SOME DISTANT DAY  
INTO THE ANSWER.

The unknown can sometimes immobilize us, leave us staring up into the clouds, like the disciples in Acts 1 did when Jesus ascended. They were stuck in an in-between space, a place of unknowing, between Jesus's resurrection and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. But, in their unknowing, they turned to God and waited for their next right step. We can march forward into an unknown future, living our questions, rather than being stuck in them, because we can trust a God who has marvelous plans for us and is walking with us every step of the way.

Peace, Pastor Alicia

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# BRCC UPDATES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

April Sunday Volunteers				
Week	Greeter/Opener	Usher	Worship Assistant	Coffee Minute
4/7	1. Carrie Delzer 2. TBD	1. Carrie Delzer 2. Tom Fong	Susann Pedersen	Tina Wolf
4/14	1. TBD 2. TBD	1. Tom Fong 2. TBD	Michelle Fore	Kathy Alvisu
4/21	1. Tom Fong 2. TBD	1. TBD 2. TBD	Tom Fong	Tom & Ann Fong
4/28	1. TBD 2. TBD	1. Tom Fong 2. TBD	BRCC Kids	Debbie Sanford

## TRUSTEE UPDATES

- Electrical panel replacement occurring in April pending no issues. Building will be closed while the project takes place. Thank you to all who donated to this very important project. Can't wait to share the joy of this success once the project is completed.

- Waterproofing in section of basement/ exterior by side doors happening April/May

-Mice bait stations placed in downstairs kitchen

-The church successfully hosted as a polling place on March 19. Thank you Tom Fong for all of your help with coordinating this!

- Keep an eye out for "trustee wishlist" signage to see how you can help support the trustees with supplies/home Depot/amazon gift cards for this seasons repairs and maintenance!

- Please join us for our spring clean up day, coming in April or May. Date TBD, will be announced and posted soon!

## MANNA ORDERS

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

- Submit completed order form and payment at worship, Sunday, April 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: May 5

# COUNCIL UPDATES

## BOARD OF ELDERS

Spring is officially here and we can say that praying for a moderately warm and dry Spring will be in our prayers after the crazy weather the past few months. When you pray, please keep these members and friends close to your heart.

Lillian Suva(Rick Suva's aunt) passed away. The Suva family has gone through more than their share of loss the passed few months. Phil Adler has aggressive cancer and father of 3. Tiffany, Jerry, Ashley, Mario, Sandy, Trenton, Micah, Owen are going through health and financial problems. Tim(Wolf family's cousin) passed away suddenly. Liz(hospice), Stacy & Debbie(sickness), Kim(cancer treatment is working), Michelle & Family(healing & strength) Walt McCarty(Lori's husband), Peter Hui, Mark Suva, Brandon Suva, Preston Suva. Ken Suva(hospice care), Eric Guldberg, Chris Bollnow(medical issue). Patty Gambill passed away from cancer(Mike's sister).

From our website prayer requests: Soften Melissa's husband's heart. Melissa's mother in law to please find it in her heart to respect their marriage.

Jonathan Matulac(son of Dado & Edith Matulac who were long time members of BRUCC) passed away after a sudden heart attack and following other medical issues. He has left behind his grieving spouse, Paul Sigler. Jonathan's funeral was officiated by Pastor Alicia Reese at our church on April 6th. Many of "Jojo's" family attended including the Joy Fonacier, Matulac family, May Fonacier Cortez, Cony & Ben Hartnett, Mendozas, and Tamandong families. Jonathan will be missed and gone too soon.

If anyone is interested in becoming an Elder, please see Kathy Alvisu or Susann Pedersen.

May you all have a wonderful month of April where Spring brings love and caring to all of you.

Blessings,  
Kathy Alvisu  
Susann K. Pedersen

## RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDING

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

Interior Reserve: \$757

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): \$84,453

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

## BOARD OF STEWARDS

(FUNDRAISING)

Happy Spring from the Board of Stewards! We had two fundraisers in March, OSOG coin collection and Lamb Cake sale. The UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing is a Lenten Offering supporting the disaster ministries of the United Church of Christ's wider mission. We collected \$322.68 and will be donating \$325.00 to the UCC carrying God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

We sold 54 Lamb Cake this year. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraising effort; through labor of love and/or owning one of our lambs in the flock. With the high cost of ingredients this year the cake sale grossed \$1,620.00; after expenses, BRCC netted only \$885.31.

The BOS committee is hard at work planning the next major event, our Summer Festival. As you consider Spring cleaning, downsizing, relocating, home sale... please think of donating your unwanted gently used items to our Rummage Sale. Donations will be accepted starting 5/1 - 5/27. Drop off donations during office hours and Sundays. A more detailed notice will be coming to members shortly. Meanwhile, you can contact Ann Fong with questions at 630-890-7762.

## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

### Month of March 2024

Income \$ 13,311.14

Expenses 13,072.30

Over \$ 238.84

### Year-to-Date as of 3/31/2024

Income \$ 26,310.89

Expenses 35,761.86

Deficit (\$ 9,450.97)

With Holy Week at the end of the month, giving for March was strong! Thank you to those who responded to our "Easter Letter" with an additional one-time gift. If you have not done so, please do consider that "extra" gift. Also watch for an information table on "Direct Deposit" and online giving in the lounge on Sunday, April 14th. There will be enrollment forms for direct deposit, and a demonstration on how to give online via our webpage or our payment systems app.



# 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, April 18th 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.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

Chris McNally Apr 7

Vera Hill Apr 13

Benny Santino Siguenza-Schei Apr 13

Richard Suva Apr 24

Carrie L Delzer Apr 24

Randy Sasso Apr 29



Please join us after service on April 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](mailto:office@brucc.org).*

## MEETINGS

Sunday, April 21, 11 am - Coffee & Conversation

Monday, April 22, 6:30 pm - BRCC Council

The  
CHOSEN

## THE CHOSEN

Watch Party & Potluck  
Wednesdays in April @ 6:00 pm  
The Gathering Place

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# APRIL

2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 6:00 pm "The Chosen" Watch Party & Potluck	4	5	6
7 Manna Due! 10am Sunday Worship	8	9	10 6:00 pm "The Chosen" Watch Party & Potluck	11	12	13
14 10am Sunday Worship	15	16	17 6:00 pm "The Chosen" Watch Party & Potluck	18 6:30pm Women's Wellness	19	20
21 10am Sunday Worship 11am Coffee & Conversation	22 6:30 pm BRCC Council Meeting	23	24 6:00 pm "The Chosen" Watch Party & Potluck	25	26	27
28 10am Sunday Worship 11am April Birthday Celebration	29	30				



**BURR RIDGE**  
Community  
Church

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