

JUNE, 2024 – NEWSLETTER



As we head into the summer of 2024, seldom has the world had more need of the Christian qualities of faith, trust and hope coupled with charity and compassion .

One of the elders at BEPC suggested this as the starting place for our newsletter this month, and this summer. It's wise, and challenging, and hits the mark.

We are heading into a time which we typically think of as 'down' time—time to relax, refresh, enjoy time outside. Spiritual, physical and emotional care are all important parts of our lives as Christians—both for ourselves, others and the world God made. On the seventh day of creation (which became the Sabbath in the Jewish tradition), God called a halt, a rest. That rest was for a purpose. It wasn't permanent. It was for refreshing so that creation could resume the cycles and growth that God had put in place.

As we look at summer, and at the quote above, we can take time to refresh our view and our priorities for how we witness to Jesus here and now. The quote specifically names the qualities as Christian—what makes them that way?

At BEPC, our mission and vision are “To know Christ and make Him known” and to ‘Live every day for Jesus’. When we look at the qualities of faith, trust, hope, charity and compassion, we can see that when Christ is at the centre of our choice to embody these qualities, we also choose to engage in the sacrifice, awareness, openheartedness, and hope in the gospel that will make these qualities part of a witness to who and what the church is in the world rather than just trying to ‘be good’.

We are not just called to be good. We are called to be like Christ. As we’ve learned in the study on James, our faith in Christ and actions that witness to God’s love complete each other.

And to do that successfully, we need to know who Christ is and where we are called to be.

This summer, as we try as a community to live our faith, trust, hope, charity and compassion, I’d invite you to journey in faith as we do three things:

1. Get to know Christ better through reading the gospel of Luke. We’ll be journeying through Luke and Acts later in the fall and winter of this year. Let’s make this the community summer reading project!
2. Listen and look as we go from day to day, from news article to conversations with friends. Where is God calling you to be Christ’s presence and to tell Christ’s story?
3. Pray that God will show us where to work to fill needs of the community with faith, trust, hope, charity and compassion, and that we will have the courage to act on the visions God gives (as you read through these pages, you’ll see some initiatives have already started!).

Here is another quote that may help us think and act on that. Fredrick Buechner said that “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” (Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC.*)

Where are those places for you?

Looking forward to journeying with you.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Susan



BEPC Session met May 6, moderated by Rev. Susan Kerr

A letter from the city has been pinned on the bulletin board for members to read about a proposed multi-tenant housing proposal on three lots on the other side of Walkers Line.

Session continued discussions on a proposed new pastoral care model based on the results of an April workshop. The current model remains in effect until the Fall.

Rev. Kerr plans to lead a BEPC visioning team starting in the fall of 2024.

Rev. Kerr reported enthusiastically on the youth group, whose members have been helping with activities in the church and with visiting, and are bringing skills and enthusiasm to BEPC's Summer Camp.

Flyers have gone to nearby churches about Summer Camp. Rev. Kerr plans orientation/leading with care briefings. Margot Polk and Ann David have volunteered to do follow up personal calls to all families that attend.

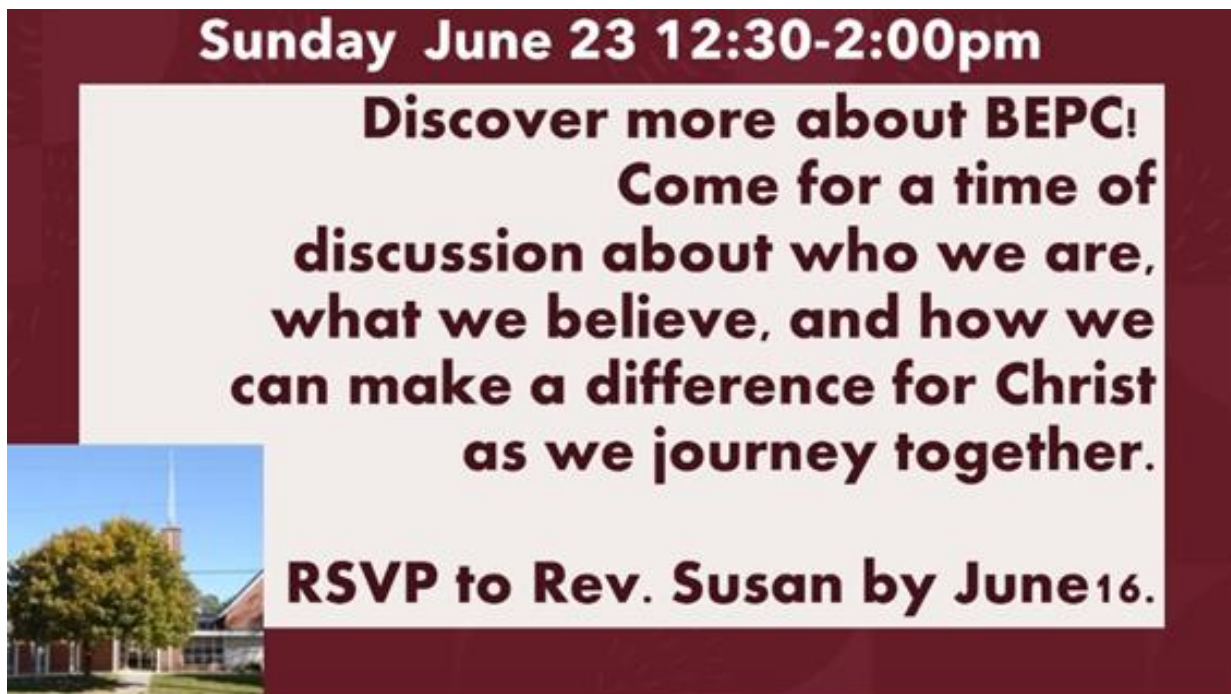
Rev. Kerr thanked parents and grandparents who are bringing children to Sunday School.

For the Congregational Care Committee, Stephen Shields also noted with satisfaction the growth in the number of children attending church school, the increased membership of the youth group and additional newcomers to BEPC.

Rev. Kerr noted that there will be classes for new members on Sunday, May 19 and Sunday, June 23. The first Sunday will be a welcome and orientation to the PCC and what we believe. On June 23 there will be a meet-and-greet with Session followed by a celebration at the church picnic.

Session agreed on a greeting table for new members and visitors (see below). Ron Dekker and Margaret Whitwell will lead this initiative.

Ron Dekker reported for the finance and maintenance committee that BEPC's deficit continues to grow, but at a slower rate, thanks to a positive response following the financial update provided to the congregation on April 28. *The Finance & Maintenance team is appreciative of all who have increased their givings.*



Sunday June 23 12:30-2:00pm

Discover more about BEPC!
Come for a time of discussion about who we are, what we believe, and how we can make a difference for Christ as we journey together.

RSVP to Rev. Susan by June 16.

Introducing the New Hospitality Table

In response to the growing need for a more intentional and accessible welcome experience, BEPC is excited to introduce the **Hospitality Table**. Rather than relying solely on greetings at the sanctuary doors, the Hospitality Table will be hosted and supported by dedicated greeters. Here is what you can expect:

1. **Location:** The Hospitality Table will be strategically placed within the front door lobby. Despite space limitations, we are committed to making it a central hub for information and connection.
2. **Purpose and Services:**
 - o **Visitor Information:** The Hospitality Table will provide essential information about BEPC for visitors. Whether you are new to the area or exploring faith, our greeters will be there to answer your questions.

- **Upcoming Activities:** Stay informed about church events! From the annual Church Picnic to Fire Drill practice sessions and Communion Sundays, the Hospitality Table will highlight what is happening.
- **Mission Month Calendar:** Discover how you can contribute to our mission initiatives. Whether it is donating egg cartons for Food for Life or participating in specific activities, we will keep you informed.
- **Groups and Services:** Learn about our social groups, choir practices, and services. We will even provide Walmart Gift cards for those in need.
- **Accessibility:** The Hospitality Table will offer assistance for those with impaired hearing, including headset options and hearing aid connectivity.
- **Online Service Access:** Find out how to watch our online services from the comfort of your home.
- **Minister Visits:** Need pastoral care? Our minister will be available for hospital or home visits.
- **Greeter Training:** We are developing a comprehensive training program for our greeters. They will be well-prepared to welcome you and guide you through the Hospitality Table experience.

3. Visitor and New Member Engagement:

1.
 - **Contact Information:** Share your name, telephone number, and email address. We are here to assist you in any way we can.
 - **How Did You Hear About Us?** Let us know what brought you to BEPC. Your story matters!
 - **Follow-Up Procedure:** We will connect you with our minister for a warm follow-up. Building relationships is essential to us.

4. Greeter Schedule:

1.
 - Our greeters will take turns running the Hospitality Table. Look out for friendly faces during our worship services and events.

[At BEPC, hospitality is not about perfection](#)—it is about extending privilege across differences. Just as God welcomes broken people into His family, we aim to create a space where everyone feels like an insider. So, whether you are a longtime member or a first-time visitor, stop by the Hospitality Table. Start date is scheduled for June 8, 2024.

Ron Dekker

Join Our Joyful Choir!

Are you passionate about singing? Do you want to be part of a community that shares your love for music and faith? Our church choir is looking for new voices, and we would love for you to join us!



Why Join Our Choir?

- **Community Spirit:** Be part of a warm, welcoming group who support each other both musically and personally.
- **Musical Growth:** Discover new and varied pieces to sing to the glory of God, whether it be through prayerful songs or those lifted in celebratory praise. Your singing voices will strengthen. And who knows what else musical you may learn along the way!
- **Inspiring Performances:** Sing at our Sunday services and special events, bringing joy and inspiration to our congregation.
- **Spiritual Fulfillment:** Experience the profound connection between music and worship.

Who Can Join? *Everyone* is welcome. Whether you're an experienced singer or a beginner, we have a place for you. No auditions are required—just bring your enthusiasm and love for music.

Rehearsals: We meet every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, September to mid-June. Our rehearsals are filled with laughter, learning, and a lot of singing.

Get Involved! Interested? Come to our next rehearsal or contact Halyna Dickison (hdickison@cogeco.ca) for more information. We can't wait to sing with you!!

Margaret Whitwell

Save the date for....
Summer Adventure:
Camp Big World!

Exploring God's creation!

- **July 22-26, 9:00-12:00**
- **@ Burlington East Presbyterian Church**



June is Mitten Tree Month - time to start knitting!

Next!! Monthly Prayer Group

June 20 11am



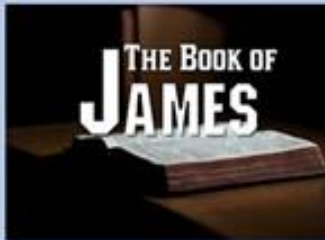
- Come join us for a time of confidential prayer for others—**ALL WELCOME**
- Questions? Please speak to Rev. Susan or Jackie Wolfe
- Do not be anxious for anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests to God. And the peace of God, which goes beyond all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:6-7

NEW!

Gather and Connect
Thursday, June 20
7:00-8:30/9pm

A CHANCE TO VISIT AND RECONNECT.
INVITE A FRIEND OR THE WHOLE FAMILY

BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB



BEPC
McRae Room



EVERY
MONDAY



MORE
INFORMATION SEE
REV. KERR

Food For Life



Donations to purchase
Egg Cartons can be made
During fellowship or
through your
envelope or
etransfer, mark as
“Egg Carton”

Burlington East Social Club



The Social Club continues to meet
every Monday afternoon,
from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$2.00 admission covers coffee,
snacks and future events.

New members always welcome.

See Ron or Susan for details





COMMITTEE MEETINGS



COMMITTEE / GROUP	DATE / TIME
CHOIR	EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 AM
F&M COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 @ 7:30 PM
PASTORAL CARE	WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 @ 10:30 AM
PRAYER GROUP	THURSDAY JUNE 20 @11:00 AM
SESSION	MONDAY JUNE 17 @ 7:30 PM
TECHNOLOGY GROUP	WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 @ 7:00 PM


Men's Group

**COME HELP THEM SOLVE THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS
MONDAYS AT 10 AM - McRAE ROOM**

NEXT WOMENS
GATHERING IS
LUNCH @


**ON THURSDAY
JUNE 13 AT 1 PM**



645 Plains Road East

**LET ANN or JANE KNOW
BY JUNE 9, IF YOU ARE
ATTENDING**

Burlington East Social Club



The Social Club continues to meet every Monday afternoon, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.


\$2.00 admission covers coffee, snacks and future events.

New members always welcome.


See Ron or Susan for details

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE TO HEAR THE SERVICE?


BEPC offers several sound reinforcement & listening options



Bluetooth



Headset



T-Coil

**See Ron Dekker or Bob Dickison
for confidential assistance.**

Prayer Requests



minister@burlingtoneast.net

Flowers in memory



Send your request to:
minister@burlingtoneast.net

DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL IN-BOX



SEND YOUR REQUEST IN TODAY
OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET



LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND BACK OF SANCTUARY

e-Transfer

SEND TO CLERK@BURLINGTONEAST.NET

HOW TO GIVE TO BEPC



MAIL TO: BEPC, 505 WALKERS LINE
BURLINGTON, ON L7N 2E3



SEE RON DEKKER TO USE POINT OF SALE



Hostage

1 John 5:19 - We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. (NLT)

When people say that they are hostage to something, it means that they are being involuntarily controlled by some outside influence. Sometimes, I feel like I'm being held hostage by forces over which I have no control.

The recreational vehicle park in which I live was bought by a large corporation in 2021. Since then, we've had five managers, three activity directors, constant upheaval with remodelling, and conflict between administration and residents, as this company tries to figure out how to do business in a situation for which they have no previous experience. What used to be a pleasant place to live is not anymore, and there is nothing that I can do about it, except move. I like my house, and my family lives here, so I remain.

On top of all this, inflation is rampant. Gas prices are constantly rising without warning or apparent cause. A bag of groceries is now triple the price of a year or two ago. But I still need gas and groceries, so I, like the rest of the world, pay, despite my worry about finances.

Government leaders pass laws that are completely contrary to biblical principles or that waste millions of dollars on programs and purposes that benefit only their own selfish ambitions. Christians in government positions are constantly stymied in their efforts to make the right decisions. I pray for our leaders, but otherwise, I am held hostage by their actions.

2 Corinthians 4:4a - Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. (NLT)

We shouldn't be surprised at any of this, as throughout history, mankind has rejected God and been deceived by Satan. It started in the Garden of Eden and continues unabated. Satan actively participates in blinding the eyes of those who don't believe in Jesus and thus have no desire to come to Him or do what is right in His eyes. But there is hope!

1 John 5:4-5 - For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (NLT)

This verse tells us that we can win this battle by putting our faith in Him, trusting our lives to Him, and letting the Holy Spirit lead us. We may not see resolution in our time, but we will have the ultimate victory when we reign with Jesus in heaven. He said:

John 16:33 - I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. (NLT)

Because Jesus is victorious, so will we be! Hallelujah!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that You are in control. Help us to look to You as we deal with life's difficulties. Amen

Our senior years can be viewed as a pleasantly useless era ... Or we can see them as a time of great opportunity to be used for God.

We can serve as mentors, teaching wisdom and virtue. (Psalm 71:18; Jeremiah 6:16).

There is power in the example of an ordinary life lived with an awareness of God's presence - seeing him in everything and doing all things for him. This is the mark of the mature soul - quietly and humbly going about ordinary tasks, living in joy, and leaving behind the fragrance of Jesus' love.

Even if our journey leads to illness and weakness ... we can still pray. Prayer is one of the special privileges of infirmity, and in the end may be its greatest benefit.

Above all, we can love. Love remains our last and best gift to God and to others.

Mentoring, being a godly example, praying and loving. These are the opportunities of growing old with God.

When I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation. Psalm 71:18

Excerpt from an old issue of Our Daily Bread, courtesy of Jackie Wolfe

Please remember, we are doing everything we can to keep all the information in these newsletters as accurate, inclusive of everyone in our BEPC family, and informative as possible. We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors. They are by no means intentional.

BURLINGTON EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Burlington East Presbyterian Church
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