

Dear Church Family and Friends:



As you know Burbank First Presbyterian has been through a dramatic season of change and loss. Some of us are still grieving losses from COVID's shutdown, members moving to other cities, the sudden departure of Pastor Ross, and long-term members dying. As a result, we are a smaller congregation with a deep awareness of the past and hopeful eyes toward the future.

In the struggle for life, we grasp tightly to faith, hope and love in our servant Lord Jesus Christ, as we know him through Holy Scripture and walk in his Spirit. In all the loss, we desire to grow into the full stature of Jesus and become the whole human beings God created us to be, full of joy and generosity.

Trusting God through turmoil and tragedy takes tenacity and spiritual discipline. It takes the love and encouragement of our friends in Christ. As we pause to consider the importance of life together in Burbank Pres, most of us would say it is good to know Christ and to share in the love of his people, who become our friends. This knowing and the loving can bring us joy and make us thankful to be part of a gracious congregation who shares and sacrifices for each other and those around us.

If during recent COVID isolation or feeling grief over personal losses, you have grown distant from church participation, we hope you come back and join us in person. We miss you. We want to share life with you. We'd love to see you face to face, shake your hand, or give you a big hug.

Whether you worship remotely or in person, we hope you do not neglect your financial support of our church. As we have lost a number of folks through death, some have moved on to new jobs, new cities, or other churches, thus, our financial support is less than before COVID.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to persevere and support this church through recent changes. Your faithfulness is amazing and highly valued. We have a wonderful ministry staff, church leaders (Elders & Deacons), and friends and members that truly believe the best is yet to come. We have experienced and seen joy in the midst of transition.

In past years, to confirm your support, we have asked you to fill out a pledge card for the coming year. If you prefer to do that, we still have them available at the church, and would gladly send you one. Or rather than completing a pledge card and turning it in, this year, we want to simplify the process – so we ask you to give us an “estimate of giving” via an email to the church. Just send an email to Tim Black ([tblack@burbankpres.org](mailto:tblack@burbankpres.org)) and indicate your estimated giving for 2024, and whether it will be weekly, monthly or annually.

Whatever you decide to give, it is important that you give what you are able, of yourself, your presence, your time, and your wealth, so that the mission and ministry of First Pres Burbank can continue forward in the way of Jesus, the grace and mercy of our God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you, and all those you hold dear, as you love, serve and support him through your church, First Presbyterian of Burbank.

David Lessley  
Elder

Gareth Icenogle  
Interim Pastor