

The Presbyterian Community Center Newsletter | Spring 2025

Providing Warmth & Support: Belmont Warming Station

Thanks to generous funding from Second Presbyterian Church's Mountain Ave. Fund, Emergency Services provided 143 unsheltered bags to the Belmont Presbyterian Warming Station during the extreme cold. These bags contained essential non-perishable food and warming supplies to support those in need.

We are incredibly grateful for the churches and volunteers who stepped up to help make this possible. It's through community collaboration that we can provide much-needed relief and support to those experiencing homelessness during difficult weather conditions. We hope these efforts made a meaningful impact, and we look forward to continuing similar initiatives as needs arise.







Building Update: Walls Are Going Up!

Exciting progress is happening at our new PCC facility! Concrete walls are up, and we are seeing our vision come to life. This new space will allow us to better serve our community, providing expanded resources for Emergency Services and Pathways for Youth.

Scan the QR code below to watch a video update on the latest construction developments!

How to Use a QR Code

- **1. What You Need:** A smartphone or tablet with a camera.
- **2. Open Camera App:** Use your phone's camera (most phones have a QR code reader built in to the camera)
- **3. Scan the Code:** Point your camera at the QR code and wait a moment—no need to take a picture.
- **4. Follow the Link**: A message or link will pop up. Tap it to view the video!





Pathways For Youth: Spreading Holiday Cheer

The holiday season at Pathways was filled with joy, thanks to the generosity of our incredible community! Every Pathways family was adopted this Christmas, ensuring that all of our students and their families had a memorable holiday. A heartfelt thank-you to those who made this possible!

December was packed with festive activities. Students participated in our annual Christmas card contest—congratulations to Strisha Romeus, our winning artist! Primary and elementary students enjoyed a visit to the Festival of Lights at Hotel Roanoke, while middle and high school students took a special trip to The Christmas Farm for dazzling light displays. They even stopped at Walmart, thanks to a generous donor who provided gift cards for each student.

The holiday fun continued at our "It's a Family Christmas" family night, where students baked cookies, read Christmas stories, and created handmade ornaments. Families gathered to sing carols, share laughter, and enjoy quality time together. A special shout-out to Belmont Christian Church for hosting us and Covenant Presbyterian Church for making the evening magical with a surprise visit from Mrs. Claus and her cheerful elves!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this season so special for our Pathways families. Your kindness continues to make a lasting impact!







Emergency Services: A Season of Giving

The true spirit of giving was on full display this holiday season at PCC Emergency Services. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to bring Christmas joy to 28 children, 11 adults, and 2 elderly clients. Families facing hardship due to job loss, rising costs, and fixed incomes expressed deep gratitude for the gifts they received—many with tears of appreciation.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to the following donors whose kindness made this possible:

- Churches: Westhampton Christian Church, Colonial Presbyterian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church
 - Businesses: Metalsa Roanoke Employees
- Individual Donors: Kay Hicks, David & Jessie Jones, Julie Blanchard, Thayer Walker





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Journey Church

Mount Pleasant United Methodist

Church

Ninth Street Church of the Brethren

Northview United Methodist

Church

Salem Presbyterian Church Second Presbyterian Church

South Roanoke United Methodist

Church

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Covenant Presbyterian Women's Center

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Building Bridges: A Look Back at our November Training Sessions

In November, PCC hosted a powerful Bridges Out of Poverty training program, welcoming organizations such as Roanoke Public Libraries, TAP, Carilion Trauma, Family Service of Roanoke Valley, and United Way. Participants explored the "hidden rules" of economic class and collaborated on strategies to address poverty in our community.

A participant shared, "This workshop completely changed how I view the challenges faced by those in poverty. I now feel equipped to make a real difference in my work."

A huge thank-you to Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vinton for providing space while we're undergoing construction.

If you missed this session, mark your calendars for our next Bridges Out of Poverty workshops: Tuesday, March 25th & Wednesday, March 26th.

For more details, contact Susan Frank at sfrank@pccse.org



Join us for an evening of inspiration, community, and hope as we celebrate the impact of PCC's Programs

FEATURING:
POWERFUL STORIES
SILENT AUCTION
50/50 RAFFLE
COCKTAIL HOUR



Holiday Food Basket Program: Feeding Families in Need

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, PCC was able to bring holiday joy to families in need through our Holiday Food Basket Program.

This season, we provided **Thanksgiving meals** for 25 households (102 individuals) and Christmas meals for 25 households (106 individuals), including 4 seniors.

Additionally **55 children** were served at Thanksgiving, and **58 children** received meals a Christmas.

Your suppor ensured that families facing hardship could gather around a warm meal and celebrate the holiday with hope and gratitude. Thank you for making a difference this season!





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Celebrating our Volunteers: A Season of Service

The generosity of our volunteers continues to amaze us!

- Covenant Presbyterian held its annual Trick or Treat So Others May Eat, donating \$2,264 worth of food.
- Second Presbyterian Middle School Youth collected \$2,367 in donations through their Hunger Buster initiative.
- Patrick Henry High School Honor Society hosted their first-every Hunger Buster, contributing \$150 in food donations and volunteering their time to sort and distribute food.

Current Pantry Needs: Tomato Soup, Cereal, Pasta Sauce, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna, Pasta, Pop-Top Foods

Want to get involved? We're creating a **Pop-Up Volunteer List** for one-time events and special needs. If you'd like to be added, contact **April Lewis at** alewis@pccse.org













