

“Vision 2030”

Strategic Plan for Burnt Store Presbyterian Church

Introduction:

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church stands at a pivotal point amid rapid residential growth along Burnt Store Road. The Session has adopted this strategic plan as our guiding strategy for 2026–2030. It sets a clear direction for how we will expand our reach, deepen our ministry, and flourish as a multi-generational community of faith. The plan affirms our mission and vision and identifies the strategic focus areas that will shape our decisions, budgeting, staffing, and ministry priorities over the next five years.

BURNT STORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Reaching up... Nurturing faith... Loving neighbors.”

Mission Statement:

*“Glorifying God by **reaching up** in joyful worship,
growing together by **nurturing faith** across all generations,
and being a force for good in the community by **loving neighbors** with the love of Christ.”*

Vision Statement:

“Burnt Store Presbyterian Church will be a thriving, multi-generational beacon of Christ’s love in Punta Gorda and along the Burnt Store corridor by:

- *Becoming a church family where all ages worship and serve together.*
- *Becoming a community partner where new families find a spiritual home.*
- *Becoming a place where neighbors experience God’s grace in tangible ways.”*

A. Ministry and Program Development:

i) We will strengthen and expand our Children’s Ministry and develop a sustainable Youth Ministry as more families join our congregation. We will prioritize consistent Christian education, safe and joyful faith formation, and clear pathways for children and teens to belong, grow, and serve.

Key actions include launching a dynamic Sunday School or “Kids’ Worship” program during the 10:30 contemporary service, forming a youth group for preteens/teens with mid-week gatherings, and offering family-friendly events (seasonal festivals, movie nights, Vacation Bible School).

We will build on the strong base of volunteers already serving in these areas. Over the course of this strategy, we will pursue dedicated staffing for Children and Youth Ministry so that these ministries are championed, coordinated, and resourced for growth.

This not only nurtures children in the faith but also signals to young parents that “your kids are valued here.”

ii) We will develop programming that ministers to parents and strengthens families. This may include parenting workshops, a regular “Parents’ Night Out” with childcare provided by the church, and making childcare available at key church events and classes so that young parents can participate fully in congregational life.

iii) We will create regular opportunities for cross-generational worship, learning, outreach, service, and fellowship so that the congregation grows as one church family rather than as separate age-based silos.

We will plan activities that intentionally mix ages – for example, an intergenerational mission day where children, parents, and retirees serve together on community projects, or periodic classes where youth and adults dialogue on faith topics. We will explore initiatives such as an “Adopt-a-Grandparent” mentoring program, pairing older members with children or youth for mutual encouragement. Many younger families in Florida live far from relatives; connecting them with loving surrogate grandparents and spiritual mentors meets real needs and strengthens the church’s sense of belonging.

iv) We will strengthen adult discipleship and small-group life (“Life Groups”), including on-ramps for newcomers, and we will start neighborhood-based groups in areas where new developments are emerging.

B. Outreach and Community Connections:

i) With new homes going up along Burnt Store Road, we will establish clear ways to welcome new residents and make the church known as a caring neighbor. We will form a “Welcome to the Neighborhood” team to coordinate practical, friendly touchpoints and periodic new-neighbor receptions or open houses at the church. Our location at the corridor’s north end positions us to serve as a community gateway between Punta Gorda and the predominantly residential Burnt Store area.

ii) We will increase the church’s presence by hosting and supporting events that serve and engage the broader community. We will continue community-wide gatherings such as our Winter Fair and will

pursue additional family-friendly touchpoints (outdoor movie nights, holiday events, concerts, and similar opportunities) that build trust and relationships.

iii) We will strengthen partnerships that connect us with families in our area. In particular, we will explore missional opportunities connected to the YMCA and other local partners – such as tutoring, after-school clubs, or support for students and families in need.

C. Worship and Spiritual Life

i) We will continue to offer both traditional and contemporary worship, recognizing that this dual approach serves different preferences within our congregation and community. At the same time, we will intentionally cultivate unity across services so that we grow as one Body of Christ rather than as “multiple churches within one church”. Periodically, we will plan combined, intergenerational services and all-church gatherings that bring everyone together.

ii) As new people join us, we will remain open to fresh expressions of worship and fellowship that serve our mission – such as occasional evening praise gatherings, a monthly Saturday family worship event, or other offerings that meet the rhythms of life for families in our community.

D. Facilities and Infrastructure

i) We will evaluate the campus and make improvements that better accommodate children and families. We will ensure the nursery and children’s classrooms are clean, safe, and inviting, with clear signage and thoughtful first-time-guest flow so that new families can navigate the campus with confidence.

ii) As resources allow, we will add a playground or outdoor play area. Even a modest, well-designed play space signals that children have a place here and supports fellowship among families.

iii) We will make technological upgrades to Stewart Hall (projectors, sound, cameras), so it can better host seminars, classes, and community groups.

iv) We will continue to improve accessibility for those with limited mobility. In addition to our disability parking and ramps, we will evaluate key entrances and pursue improvements such as push-button door access where needed.

E. Digital Presence and Communications

i) Our digital presence is one of our primary “front doors” for first-time guests. We will keep the church website up to date, visually welcoming, and mobile-friendly, with clear information for visitors, service times, and next steps for connection.

ii) We will maintain an active Facebook page (and other platforms as appropriate), sharing photos and stories that reflect our multi-generational warmth, worship life, and community engagement, along with event announcements and pastoral encouragement.

iii) We will encourage members to share church posts, invite neighbors, and, when appropriate, offer online reviews that help newcomers find and trust Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

iv) We will continue improving the live-stream of worship services to serve snowbirds and homebound members and to provide an accessible first look for those considering in-person participation.

v) We will produce brief devotional videos and other short-form content that can be accessed during the week, offering spiritual encouragement to busy households.

vi) We will explore and, if beneficial, implement a dedicated church app and/or other streamlined communication tools to strengthen connection, share timely updates, and support spiritual formation between Sundays.

Conclusion:

This strategy positions Burnt Store Presbyterian Church for a vibrant future. By clarifying our identity (mission and vision) and concentrating on focused priorities in ministry, outreach, worship, facilities, and communications, we will honor our legacy while adapting to serve the evolving needs of our context. The years 2026–2030 will be shaped by prayerful dependence on God, faithful stewardship, and a shared commitment to reach up, grow together, and reach out with the love of Christ.