

# THE BEACON

The Broad Street United Methodist Church Newsletter

## The Pastor's Corner

*"Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking."*  
—2 Corinthians 8:7



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are entering into the season of our Stewardship Campaign. First and foremost, I am requesting you to prayerfully consider God's generosity towards you. The Stewardship Campaign is not the church asking for money. It is an invitation to respond in faith to what God has done for us and to renew once-more our commitment to our faith.

This year, I have made the theme for our Stewardship Campaign **"Generosity,"** grounded in Scripture from 2 Corinthians 8:7-15. Paul requests something rather difficult from the church at Corinth. He requests that they undergo an act of generosity that is Christ-like:

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though he was rich,  
yet for your sakes he became poor,  
so that by his poverty you might become rich."

He is on a mission to collect money from the Gentile churches in order to support the impoverished and struggling church in Jerusalem. This response in faith by the church at Corinth truly must reflect an act of generosity commensurate with Christ's gracious act towards us. They are entrusting money to a cause that has no immediate impact on themselves. It is simply an act of faith.

Faith, as such, is expressed in concrete ways. Our stewardship campaign is an invitation to pledge a specified amount to entrust to the Lord, relying on Him to make your act of generosity possible throughout the year. It is not a matter of how much. Paul writes, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have." Make this pledge as a way to participate in the mission of Broad Street to make disciples for the transformation for the world—to make disciples for the transformation of the city of Burlington.

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We depend upon each individual act of generosity. The collective health of our beloved church community depends upon it in order to make disciples through worship, Bible studies, providing space for community groups, outreach, and the numerous other ways that we participate in the kingdom of God.

**Here is what I ask: First, pray about the commitment you believe the Lord desires for you to make for 2024. Second, fill out a pledge card indicating the amount.**

**Our pledge Sunday will be on December 3, 2023, the first Sunday of Advent and beginning of the new church year. This will be one more way to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. We will have pledge cards available to fill out in person at worship on Sunday November 26th, as well as on Pledge Sunday, December 3rd.**

I am grateful for your continued generosity and your renewed commitment in faith to Jesus Christ and his church here at Broad Street.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor James

Romans 3:23-24 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

# Bible Study Romans

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in (or through) Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Tuesdays, 6:00PM  
in the BSUMC Fellowship Hall  
starting September 12, 2023**

Join Pastor James as he starts a new  
Bible study on  
Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Pastor James is facilitating a Bible study on Paul's Letter to the Romans. The group meets on Tuesday nights at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join and participate in this Bible Study whenever you can.

Each week, Pastor James will provide some insight and suggested pre-reading. You can find that information on our website [here](#).





## CHRISTMAS AT BROAD STREET UMC

- Marsha Danser

Every church you might attend or visit has its customs and traditions. Broad Street is no exception. In November we decorate our church for the festive and special holiday of Christmas, and we tend to “go all out”. Many will remember Ruby Dickerson, who for years was in charge of making the church look beautiful and elegant. For quite a few years I have “encouraged” a faithful group of volunteers to help with the decorating process (as well as the decoration removal process!). Without our faithful volunteers, as is true with anything at the church, where would we be?!

On Saturday, November 18, we will gather to put splashes of red, green, gold and silver onto our “Christmas canvas”. A fun time will be had by those who assist, and we will all see the results on Sunday morning.

You will find 7 or 8 decorated trees throughout the church building when you arrive on Sunday. There will be wreaths with bows hung in a variety of places, and garland will be very apparent. Look around for four large nativity displays (and several smaller ones). Windowsills will display greenery and snowmen, depending on where you are in the church.

Just as you may enjoy decorating your own home for Christmas, it is quite an event to decorate our church. BUT the decorations are a small part of Christmas....Christmas isn't only about Santa, the reindeer and the decorations. Christmas doesn't occur merely on the outside. Christmas occurs in our hearts and minds, in our preparation for the Christ Child, and in the true inner spirit that reigns supreme due to the love of our Lord.

Merry Christmas, and all  
that it means, to one and all!

## Hanging of the Greens



Saturday  
11-18-23  
9:30 AM

All are welcome to join us decorate  
the church for Christmas.

## **Clothing Drive Update**

- Michele Hogan

We are in the final countdown! If you still have more donations, please drop them off by 9 am Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

*All donations must be bagged.*

### **\*\*Help Needed\*\***

**When:** Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am

**Where:** The Gym at Broad Street UMC

**Need:**



- \* Truck and/or SUVs to go from Broad Street UMC to 39 Everett Drive Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
- \* People to help load vehicles

\*We have one confirmed truck and could use 1-2 more\*

**Contact:** Michele Hogan 609-354-2004



**Reminder:**

**What We Accept:** All Merchandise in Plastic or Paper Bags that are of different colors that are directly packed and folded from the homes and not re-bagged once they have left the homes. Adult & Children Clothing, Shoes, Apparel, Handbags, Purses, Wallets, Sandals, Sneakers, Boots, Jackets, Coats, Rain Gear, Leathers, Belts, Ties, Pants, Shirts, Sweaters, Vests, Blouses, Dresses, Skirts, Robes, Undergarments, Sheets, Towels, Linens, Tablecloths, Hats, Scarfs, Gloves, Wallets, Jewelry, Watches, Uniforms, Jerseys, Backpacks, New Diapers

**NOW ACCEPTING** Household Items, Utensils, Hard and soft Toys, Electronics, and Small Bric-A-Brac Items.

**Thank you, Broad Street!**



# Gerald Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*

*Friday, November 24, 2023  
1:00PM and 7:00PM*

**It's finally here!!** Gerald Dickens is returning to Broad Street UMC on Black Friday, November 24, 2023, for two performances, 1PM and 7PM. What a wonderful day to start the holiday season with our annual Thanksgiving Breakfast

the day before and perhaps some holiday shopping that morning.

Tickets are available. They are \$20/adults and \$18/students and seniors in advance. All tickets are \$20 at the door.

We are looking for people to help with the shows including setting up the sanctuary before the program, selling tickets, taking tickets at the door, running the elevator, directing people through the building, handing out programs, baking for our reception, setting up and cleaning up the receptions and putting the sanctuary back in order after the evening performance.

***If you are willing to bring baked goods for our reception following each performance, it would be greatly appreciated!***

***Bring baked goods with you to the Thanksgiving Breakfast to drop them off or bring them to the church on Friday, 11/24, after 11:30AM.*** Our reception is a big hit with our audiences and people tend to stay and talk for up to an hour following each show. Many other venues charge extra if there is a reception or they don't have one at all. We have received so many compliments on our food spread and people look forward to that and being able to peruse our used book sale when they come to our church. Everyone's help makes this successful every year!







**The Giving Tree** will again be set up in the front of the sanctuary. Information and notices/time lines will be in our weekly bulletin each Sunday. We will be collecting **new** warm white socks and hoodies for both women and men, and also collecting cash donations, as we've done in the past. The hoodies and socks will be donated to the Sisterhood, and the cash donations will be divided equally between St. Mary's Ladle of Love program and the Sisterhood.

**The United Women of Faith** and the **Girls of Grace** groups are making Advent bags for our shuts-ins. They will be distributed prior to December 1st so that each recipient can open one gift from the bag each day of Advent. If you know of anyone, from our church members, who cannot get 'out and about', please mention their names to either Betsy Grover or Cindy Borgstrom. If they are not already on our list we will do our best to have a bag made up for them.



## Advent Devotional

- Laura Jaskot



I'd like to try and put together an Advent devotional booklet that will be shared with our members and friends for use in December of this year. Similar in format to the Upper Room devotional booklets, contributions can include a favorite scripture, and brief (one paragraph) commentary on either that scripture or a favorite poem or movie or story that sort of goes along with it, and then a two or three line prayer at the end. I think it would be really special to have a devotional booklet for the season that's put together by us. I know it's short notice, but it's a short request (just a paragraph).

Can we get 25 people to participate and send me something at [office@broadstumc.org](mailto:office@broadstumc.org) before **November 30th**? Feel free to send more than one submission if you're so inclined.

I'm hoping to make this an annual tradition where everyone who wants to can participate. Maybe in the future we'll have a specific theme for the year's devotionals, but this year being the first we won't limit submissions to a particular theme—maybe we'll just try to stay within the peace, hope, joy and love ideas that go with each week of Advent. Everyone is qualified to do this, so please don't think you can't send in a submission.

Thanks in advance. I look forward to sharing the finished product with everyone!

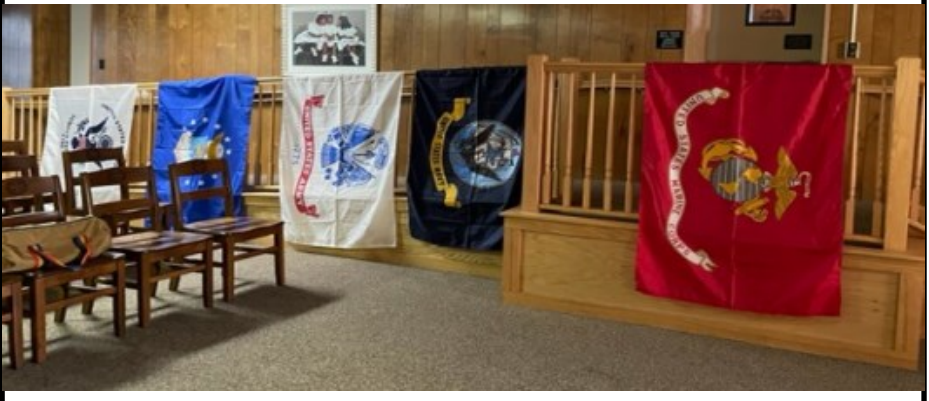


24 Boxes delivered and prayed over!  
Thank you for beating the goal of 20!

We salute our Veterans and all they have done....  
and still do for our country.

In the Chapel we had a display of flags, one for each branch  
of the service. We hope you had a chance to see them while  
they were up, but if not, here's a picture.

We especially thank Helen Rainier for lending us the flags  
for this tribute.



For more information about any of these stories or upcoming  
church activities, please visit our website:

[www.broadstumc.org](http://www.broadstumc.org)

Previous editions of this newsletter can be found at this [link](#).

You can also follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BSUMCBurlington>

We're on Twitter:

<https://www.twitter.com/BSUMCBurlington>

and on Instagram:

[https://www.instagram.com/bsumc\\_burlington/](https://www.instagram.com/bsumc_burlington/)

# Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events



We have a lot of activities coming up during the rest of the year. Mark your calendars now to be sure you don't miss any of them. Click on the link below to go to our website page that includes more information about most of these events.

Ending 9AM	Drop-off used clothing. Collection is a fundraiser for BSUMC. Drop off bags of new or used clothes in the gym.
Tuesday Evenings	Bible Study - Romans 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday Evenings	Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
<b>Saturday 11/18/23</b>	<b>Decorate the Church for Christmas 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary</b>
Sunday 11/19/23	Admin Council Meeting 7:00 PM—8:00 PM
Wednesday 11/22/23	Set up for the Thanksgiving Breakfast 5:30 PM All youth 8-18 are invited to come help prepare for the breakfast.
Thursday 11/23/23	76th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast 8:00 AM This annual tradition is a fundraiser for our church scholarship fund.
<b>(Black) Friday 11/24/23</b>	<b>Gerald Dickens performs <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 2 performances: 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM</b>
Thursday 11/30/23	Girls of Grace Meeting—Set up for Tea 9:30 AM
Friday 12/1/23	Girls of Grace Meeting—Set up for Tea 9:30 AM
Saturday 12/2/23	Girls of Grace Christmas Tea Prep 8:00 AM
Saturday 12/2/23	Annual Girls of Grace Christmas Tea 12:00—3:00 Musical Entertainment for the Christmas season
Sunday 12/10/23	Advent Covered Dish Supper Time will be announced closer to the date
Tuesday 12/12/23	Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Theater to see <i>Miracle of Christmas</i> Bus leaves at 9:30 AM from in front of the church
<b>Sunday 12/17/23</b>	<b>Blue Christmas Service 7:00 PM : a service for those who are not feeling up to the festivities of the season due to loss, illness or any reason</b>
Sunday 12/24/23	Regular Sunday School and worship in the morning Evening Candlelight Christmas Eve service—7:00 PM

Read more about many of these upcoming events, get tickets or registration forms, etc. on our website events page located here:

[Weekly Announcements - Broad Street United Methodist Church  
\(broadstumc.org\)](https://www.broadstumc.org)



# Christmas 2023

- Marsha Danser



## *The Musings of Mary!*

The Virgin Mother was but a girl  
yet she could see her dreams unfurl;  
as she beheld her Infant Son  
through Whom salvation had begun!  
Yes, Mary was to watch Him grow  
from Infancy to Manhood's woe;  
to taste the sorrow and the pain  
of Him Whose death would be our gain.  
Yes, Mary must have known it all  
yet she would not her pain recall;  
as He Whom once in manger lay  
would bring her joy of Easter Day!

- Sancier Earman King

From the cradle to the cross.....it is an expression that is used to describe, in a simple way, the journey of Jesus. In the poem about Mary and Jesus and His journey that is quoted above, we are reminded that the infant in the cradle became the man on the cross.....the man who died for our sins.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus that has morphed into a Christmas movie moment, a holiday extravaganza, a time for feasting until we practically burst, a wonderful reason for families to come together, the giving of gifts that we can hopefully pay for in January, a time of wonder for children, and a return to those childhood memories of our own.....a time to believe and feel the magic of this special holiday. We hope for that to describe all of our Christmases, and pray for those who cannot experience the same.

Do you know your birthday? Of course, we not only know the date we were born, but we remind others when the time is drawing near.....in case they forget!

We do not know the exact date of Jesus's birth but we celebrate it on December 25. [He was probably born in the spring, by the way.] Do we throw Jesus a birthday party? Do we buy Him gifts? Well, not exactly! We do that for family and friends and for those less fortunate.....but we think of Jesus and His birth as a sort of overall umbrella over Christmas. Sometimes we even put Him in the corner.

We don't always give Jesus his due at Christmas, if we are being honest. It is such a temptation and something so easy to do.....to skip Jesus at Christmas. If you take the time to think about the real meaning of Christmas, the fact that Jesus is the reason for the season.....your Christmas will be even more special and more meaningful. Remember the Christ Child, born of Mary, born to save us from our sins, destined to go from the cradle to the cross for our sake.

Should you choose to honor Jesus at Christmas, there will be plenty of time left for those Hallmark moments.

## A Note from the Counting Committee

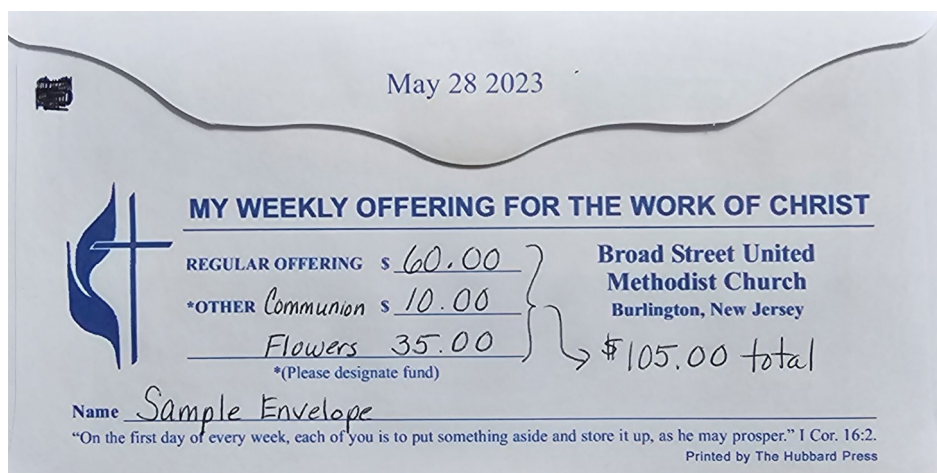
- Steve Sampson

When you are using a check for your weekly offering or for a contribution to a designated fund, please consider writing one (1) check to cover your offering and your contribution. We have been using a new counting method which is more efficient and streamlined than the previous method and when we have a single check, we find that counting is much smoother and faster. This should save you money as well since you would only write one check for any contributions that week.

Please remember to write the dollar amounts and funds on the front of your envelope. This will help us to apply the check correctly. See sample below with regular offering, communion offering and a payment for flowers all in one envelope with one check. If you want to use separate envelopes for each item, just write the amounts on the envelopes, fold them and include them with your one check for the total amount into the regular offering envelope.

Thank you for your consideration.

- The Counting Committee



A sample envelope for a weekly offering. The date "May 28 2023" is stamped at the top. On the left is a blue logo of a cross with a flame. The title "MY WEEKLY OFFERING FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST" is printed in blue. Below it, the following information is handwritten: "REGULAR OFFERING \$ 60.00", "\*OTHER Communion \$ 10.00", and "Flowers 35.00". A bracket groups these three items, and next to it is written "\$105.00 total". Below the bracket, a small asterisked note says "(Please designate fund)". At the bottom left, the name "Sample Envelope" is written in the "Name" field. At the bottom right, the church name "Broad Street United Methodist Church" and location "Burlington, New Jersey" are printed. A small quote from 1 Corinthians 16:2 is printed at the very bottom.

MY WEEKLY OFFERING FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST	
REGULAR OFFERING	\$ 60.00
*OTHER Communion	\$ 10.00
Flowers	35.00
* (Please designate fund)	
Name Sample Envelope	
Broad Street United Methodist Church Burlington, New Jersey	
\$105.00 total	

## Girls of Grace Annual Christmas Tea

It's shaping up to be another very successful tea. Tickets are almost sold out (we have to limit to 100 for space reasons), but there are a few left. If you haven't gotten your ticket yet, please see Cindy Borgstrom on Sunday. Tickets are \$20/adults and \$10 for children ages 5-12.

We have musical entertainment provided by Marjorie McCardell and Cecile Danser and some amazing silent auction gifts. Don't miss it!

## Christmas Eve Service 2023

Christmas Eve falls on December 24 this year!! Imagine that! We hope you will be able to join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Savior at Broad Street United Methodist Church. Our service is at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a family service as it has been for many years. We try to include a time for all, even the youngest in our midst, to be a part of this special night. There will be plenty of music, our youth will do some speaking parts for you, we will light our candles, and just enjoy being together to celebrate.

We hope you can join us this year!

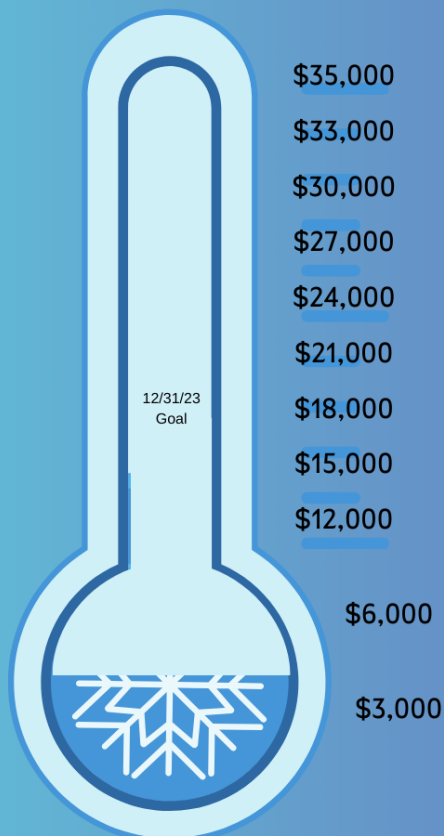


## BREATH OF GOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are excited to announce that the project to air condition the gym and Fellowship Hall has been completed.

This will allow these areas of the building to be comfortably used year-round and we can invite the community in for fellowship activities as well as use the facility for things like funeral repasts and wedding receptions.

We are thankful that the Bridge Players are covering half of the cost of the project. We will need to raise \$36,000 and are starting a capital campaign to do so. We have received donations totaling \$4,550 so we're 12.6% of the way there. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. We'd like to be halfway to our goal by the end of the year.



How are we doing?



### 76th Thanksgiving Breakfast Thursday, November 23, 2023 8AM

Tickets available during church or at the entrance day of.

Volunteers and Helpers should contact:  
Jeena Sheppard at [sheppardjeena@gmail.com](mailto:sheppardjeena@gmail.com) or  
Jalyn Sunshine at [jalynsunshine@gmail.com](mailto:jalynsunshine@gmail.com).

Thanksgiving eve prep :  
Wednesday November 22, 2023 5:30 PM

Thanksgiving morning setup :  
Thursday November 23, 2023 at 7AM.

Youth of ages 8-18 encouraged to come and help!



## ADVENT COVERED DISH DINNER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023



Mark your calendars now for our annual, traditional Advent covered dish dinner on Sunday, December 10th. Announcements will be made in church. Look for a sign-up sheet and plan to bring a main or side dish or dessert to share as we fellowship and sing Christmas Carols.

If you have a medium or small nativity set and you would like to bring it to put on the center of your table as a centerpiece, that would be great. You would be taking it home again with you that night after dinner and carol singing. We can share with each other about our nativity sets. It will be interesting to see the variety that people have.

We know that getting to some of our events in the winter is difficult as some people don't like to drive at night. Please don't let that deter you from coming. We have a number of people who are willing to pick you up if you want to come but just can't get to the church. When you sign up with what you're bringing, just write 'ride needed' next to your name/food item and we'll let you know who will come and get you and bring you home again. We don't want anyone to miss out.



Tuesday December 12, 2023, the bus trip  
to Sight and Sound will be leaving at 9:30 AM  
from in front of Broad Street UMC  
36 E. Broad St., Burlington.

**PARKING** is behind Edmar's Restaurant Supply  
across from the church.

Any questions call Susan at 856-873-1479.



How to  
***REST***

In Prayer

**R RECITE GOD'S GOODNESS**

Praise God for who He is and what  
He has done in your life.

**E EXPRESS YOUR NEEDINESS**

Confess your sins and receive His  
forgiveness, then boldly present  
your requests to Him.

**S SEEK HIS STILLNESS**

Quiet yourself in God's presence,  
then listen for His still, small voice.

**T TRUST HIS FAITHFULNESS**

Declare your confidence that God  
is who He says He is, and He will  
do what He said He will do.

PRAYERSOFREST.COM



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