

The Broad Street United Methodist Church Newsletter

The Pastor's Corner

Grace and Peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Advent has passed, and I write this as we are immersed in the season of newness—the season of Christmas. Yes, the actual day of Christmas is December 25th, but for 12 days we are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And it just so happens that New Year's Day also falls during this season. I myself have never been one to make New Year's resolutions, but I am encouraged by this season to consider what new things God in Christ is doing in our midst. I know this season is often thought of in terms of what new habits one can start for this upcoming year—and this is a worthwhile enterprise. There is nothing wrong with wanting to develop healthier habits. However, I also want you to consider situating the celebration of a new year within the new life that God has invited us into through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Let us not merely consider, 'What new thing should I start this year?' Instead, let us enter into a season of prayer and attend to what new thing God has prepared for us. All new things do not end when Jesus comes as a baby. God will continue to surprise us! The story of the Christmas season teaches us that we need to be attentive, so that when God calls us we can respond like the shepherds and recognize the birth of our savior in a manger.

When was the last time you were truly surprised by God? It can be difficult to escape the weight of worries that the world brings about. So many things can cloud our sight, trample our spirit, and make receiving the gift of joy difficult. Here is my encouragement for us this new year: Live expecting to be surprised by God! Let us live believing that God has something wholly new for us.

In Christ,

Pastor James



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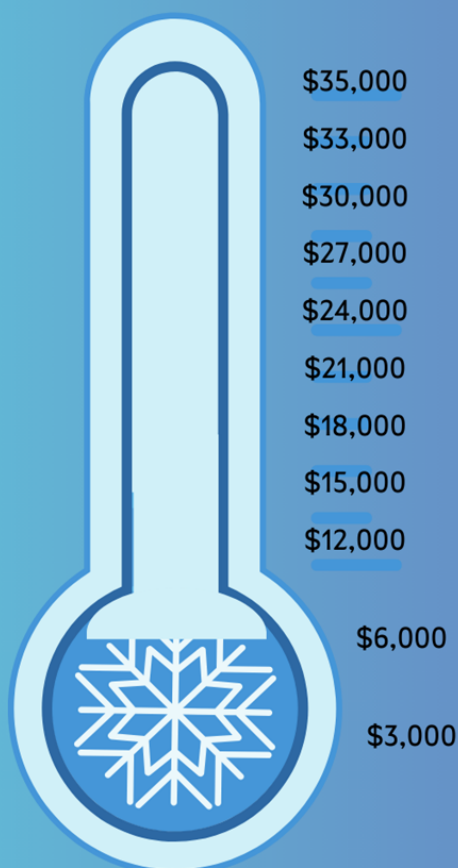
- Pastor's Corner
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- Volunteers Needed
- Financial Matters
- Upcoming Events
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- And more!

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 we have started a capital campaign to do so.

We have received donations totaling \$6,071 so we're 17% of the way there. Please prayerfully consider how you can help.



How are we doing?



Soup Sunday – February 4, 2024

Soup Sunday is coming! Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 4, 2024, when we'll enjoy soup following the worship service. This year we're going to make all of the soups the week before Soup Sunday, so we'll need help Monday through Friday peeling and cutting up vegetables and on Saturday setting the tables and preparing the last soup. Watch the bulletin and website and listen for announcements in church for the specific times we'll be meeting to make the soups. Many hands make light work. We have a lot of fun and it goes pretty quickly when we all work together.

Volunteers Needed



There are so many opportunities to help out at Broad Street UMC. Review the list below and reach out to the person coordinating each activity if you can help or even just to find out a little bit more about what's involved:

Readers – we're always looking for people to assist in the worship service by leading one or more of the readings. Please see Marsha Danser if you're interested in helping out. Let Marsha know what weeks you are available and she'll get you on the schedule.

Children's Sermons – Laura Sourwine coordinates our Children's Sermons each week. There are many resources available if you're willing to help out with this ministry. The children's message should be five minutes or less and targeted towards our youngest congregants. There are books of object lessons in the library or you can find children's sermons online as well. You'll be given the week's scripture lesson ahead of time so that you can coordinate your sermon with the theme of the service if you'd like. It's so much fun and everyone (young and old) enjoy the children's messages. Please see Laura S. if you're able to help out.

No Meeting Committee – our church is a large facility and while we now have cleaners hired to come in monthly and clean the building, there are always things that need to be done. Marsha Danser heads a team of people who come in approximately once a month and tackle some of those odd jobs, usually on a Tuesday morning for about 2 hours. Watch the bulletin and website, and listen in church for announcements and join the team the next time they get together.

Social Media Assistance – do you follow our Facebook page or Instagram account? Would you like to help make some of the things we post? Please see Laura Jaskot if you're interested. We use Canva to create pictures for Bible verses and hymn lyrics. If you have a computer or a tablet and are interested in helping out, we can have a short meeting to go over how to do it and you can start creating content for our social media pages. You'll be surprised how easy and how much fun it is to do.

Praise Band – do you play an instrument? Do you need an outlet for playing more often? Join the Praise Band. Practice Sunday mornings and participate in worship once a month. See Bryan Roth if you'd like to participate.

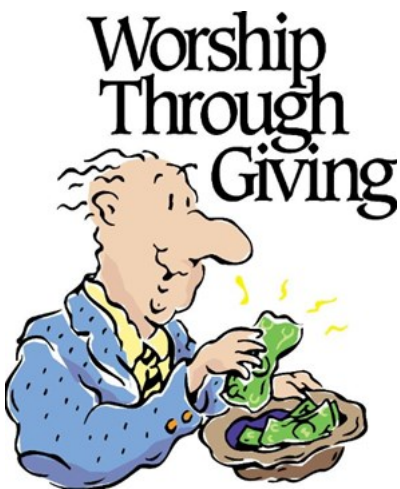
Altar Guild – the Worship Committee is looking for people who will help each week with the worship service (making sure the paraments are the right color for the season, filling the altar candles each week, recycling unused bulletins after the service each week, etc.). It's an important job with a small time commitment, good for anyone in their teens or older. Please let Laura Jaskot know if you can help.

Financial Notes

2024 Giving Envelopes are now available in the narthex. Note that some envelope numbers have changed from last year so please check your number carefully. If you only donate online, you have been assigned a number but will not be given envelopes. Please check with Don MacMillan or Steve Sampson for your 2024 number.



For everyone – please include your envelope number on anything you give to the church. Don MacMillan is our Financial Secretary and he produces a report of your giving in March/April each year so you have that information for your taxes should you need it. To that end, if you purchase anything that you’re donating to the church, you can give a copy of your receipt to Don for that to be included in your giving total.



Those who use the giving feature of our website should have received an email today outlining their giving for calendar year 2023. Please notify the church office if you didn’t receive your email. If you use PayPal to make your donations, you can get a copy of what you’ve donated by going to the bottom of the ‘Recent Donations’ section on the PayPal home page, clicking ‘See All’ and

then choosing ‘Last Year’ from the blue filter button for timeframe.

Finally, a reminder from the Counting Committee:

- Please do not tape your envelopes shut. Seal them using the glue or tuck in the flap.
- You do not need to write your name on your envelope, but if you’re not using one of your envelopes, please make sure to write your envelope number on your check/form.
- You may write one check to cover multiple weeks of giving or one check to cover multiple things in one week (such as offering, communion, flowers or bulletin). Just make sure to note on your envelope how much is allocated to each item so that it can be correctly recorded.
- Especially for the next few weeks, check your dates carefully and make sure you’ve written 2024 and not 2023.

Happy New year!




WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

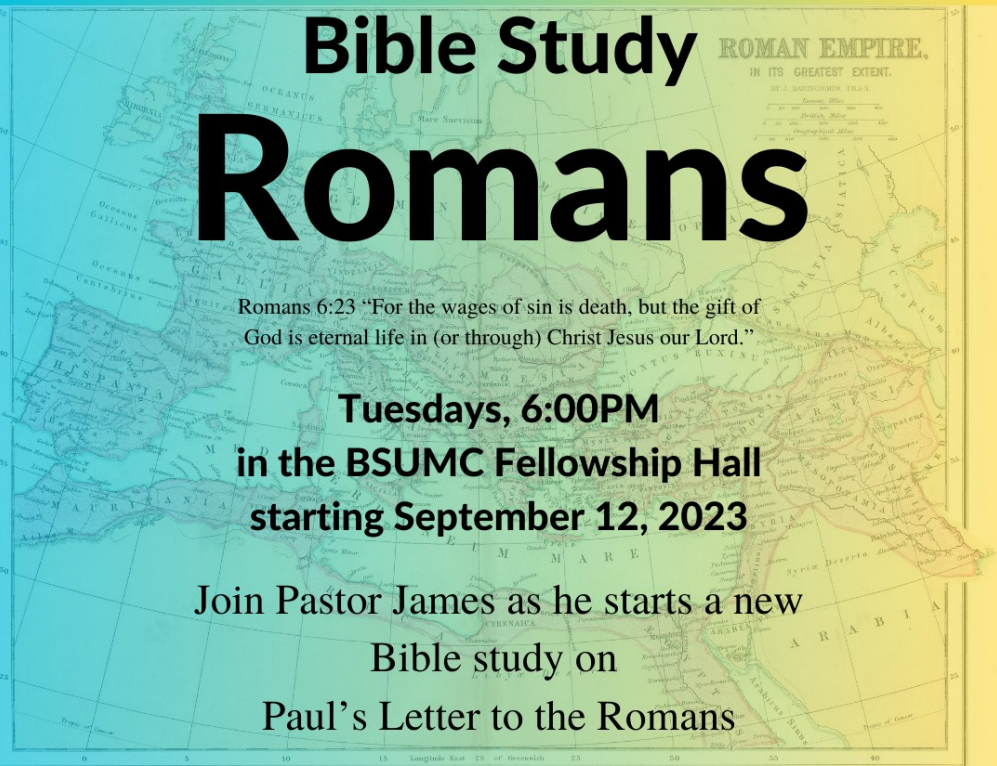
- Marsha Danser

Every November we decorate our church for the festive and special holiday of Christmas, and we tend to “go all out”. We had a lot of help this year and the decorating went very smoothly. Unfortunately, what goes up must come down and eventually we have to put away all of those lovely Christmas decorations for another year.

We will be looking for volunteers to help ‘undecorate’ the church on **Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 10:00AM**. Meet in the sanctuary for instructions, and then we’ll work together to carefully put away all of the beautiful decorations. While it’s sad to put everything away, it is a time of fellowship, and as with many other things, many hands make light work. Hope to see you there.



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](#).

Please note there is no Bible study on January 2nd or January 9th. Bible study will resume on January 16th.

THE BEACON

Starting this month, The Beacon will be published the first of the month instead of the 15th. If you have an article that you would like to have included, please send it to the church office (office@broadstumc.org) by the 27th of the month.



The Souper Bowl of Caring was started in 1990 in Columbia, SC with an idea that maybe the weekend of the biggest football game of the year could also be a weekend to collect money and canned good for those in need.

Youth choose a day or days leading up to the Super Bowl, and all donations are given to a local charity of their choice. We are going to hold our collection on **February 11th** (Super Bowl Sunday). Our youth will be standing in the back of the sanctuary with soup pots to collect your monetary donations on your way out of the worship service. Canned goods/non-perishable food items can be brought in and put in baskets in the back of the sanctuary on the way into worship. Monetary donations will support the Neighborhood Center in Camden. The food items will be distributed to the Sisterhood, the Burlington Township Food Pantry and First Baptist (across the street).

Let's see if we can exceed our goal of \$200 and 100 canned goods.

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

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/

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

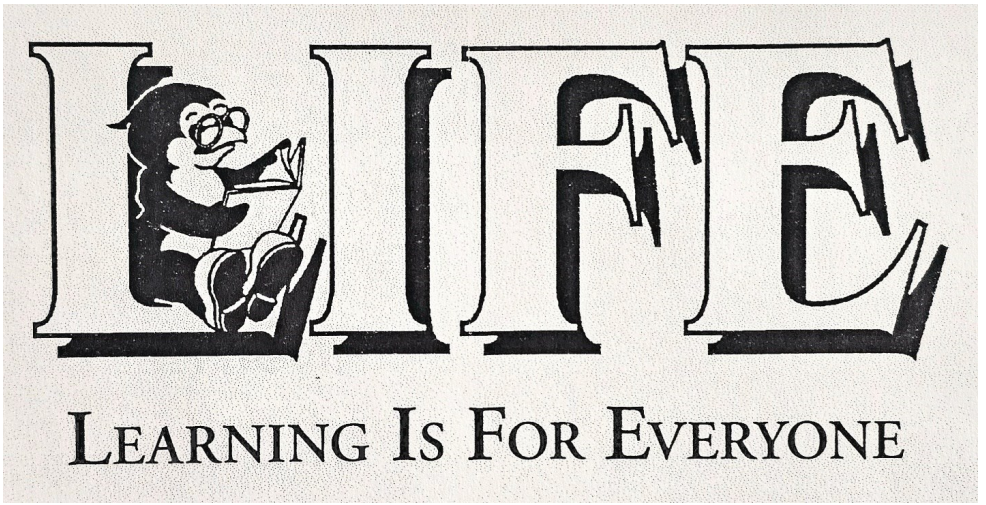


We have a lot of activities coming up this year. Mark your calendars now to be sure you don't miss any of them. Click on the link below to go to our website page that includes more information about most of these events.

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
Tuesday 1/9/24	United Women of Faith Meeting 1:00PM
Tuesday 1/16/24	Girls of Grace Meeting 1:00PM
Saturday 1/20/24	Un-Decorate the Church for Christmas 10:00AM in the Sanctuary
Sunday 1/21/24	Trustees Meeting after Worship
Sunday 1/21/24	Coffee Hour following Worship—please bring something to share
Week of 1/29/24—2/2/24	Soup Sunday Soup Prep—Church Kitchen—watch for specific days/ times in the bulletin and church website
(Saturday 2/3/24	Final Soup Prep Set-up for Soup Sunday 9:30AM Church Kitchen
Sunday 2/4/24	Soup Sunday following Worship
Sunday 2/11/24	Souper Bowl of Caring Monetary and Canned Good Collection Following worship to benefit Neighborhood Center and local pantries
Tuesday 2/13/24	United Women of Faith meeting 1:00PM
Tuesday 2/13/24	Annual Pancake Supper 5:00—7:00PM
Wednesday 2/14/24	Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 PM
Sunday 2/18/24	Coffee Hour following Worship—please bring something to share
Sunday 2/18/24	Admin Board Meeting 7:00PM
Saturday/Sunday 3/9 24 & 3/10/24	Hoagie Sale

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://broadstumc.org)



Michele Hogan works for Rowen College at Burlington County and among her responsibilities is coordinating the L.I.F.E. program. LIFE is a program for individuals age 50 and over. For a low *annual* ‘tuition’ of \$80, LIFE members can take as many courses as they’d like in topics from art to history, science to writing, and many other things taught by volunteer instructors. If you’re interested in enrolling, check out their [website](#) where you can find the program brochure with the list of programs as well as an enrollment form. Some of the classes meet just once, others meet over multiple dates. There’s no homework or tests – just the opportunity to learn something new. Consider enrolling with a friend and enjoy some time out of the house doing something different. See Michele if you’d like more information.

Speaking of learning, there are multiple opportunities to enroll in classes through the annual conference or online through the [Be A Disciple website](#). Read more about becoming a [Lay Servant](#) on the conference website.

There are several levels of lay servants in the United Methodist Church starting with Basic, moving to Advanced and then to Certified Lay Speaker. Lay servants are trained to help in various ways throughout the church.

Broad Street UMC has several lay servants of varying levels including Marsha Danser, Margie Hoffman, Betsy Grover and Laura Jaskot. Talk to any one of them if you’d like to learn more about what’s available and what’s involved.

If you are already a Basic Lay Servant, you might want to take an Advanced Lay Servant course. There is an upcoming course called [Healing Communities](#) that will count as a required Advanced course if you are in need of recertification.

Welcome aboard Flight #2024. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. Negativity, hurt, and discouragement will not get past the security check point as those elements are not allowed to enter into 2024 (those elements will be escorted out of the airport immediately).

If we lose altitude under pressure during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers. In addition there will be no baggage allowed on this flight into the new year. The overhead compartments are to be used for greatness and elevation only!!

The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination..... GREATNESS.
HURRY aboard your flight!!!

And yes, I see you have already secured your ticket!!!!

So buckle up and be ready for takeoff. 2024 will be one of your most enjoyable trips.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Shared by Marsha Danser



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