

THE BEACON

The Broad Street United Methodist Church Newsletter

The Pastor's Corner

Advent: A Season of Anticipation and Renewal



As the Advent season unfolds, we are reminded that this sacred time is about more than decorating, gifting, or even preparing for Christmas Day. Advent is an invitation to step away from the noise of the world and enter a season of quiet reflection, active waiting, and profound hope. It is a time to prepare not only for the celebration of Christ's birth but also for His promised return a moment that defines the very core of our faith

For the modern believer, Advent speaks directly to the heart of our daily struggles and longings. In a world consumed by busyness and distraction, this season calls us to pause, to breathe, and to focus our eyes on the promises of God. It reminds us that even in the waiting, God is working, shaping us for what is to come.

Advent is not a passive experience. It is a season of active faith, mirroring the anticipation of the Israelites as they awaited the Messiah. As they held fast to the hope of His coming, so too are we called to hold fast to the hope of Christ's return. Each candle we light during Advent symbolizes hope, peace, joy, and love; illuminating the path forward and sustains us as we prepare our hearts for God's promises to unfold.

This sacred season also beckons us to lift our eyes beyond the present and to anticipate the blessings of the future. As we look toward 2025, we sense that God is preparing Broad Street for a powerful season of breakthrough, expansion, and grace. God is calling our church to be a place of transformation, where lives are renewed, faith is deepened,

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and His love reaches far beyond our walls.

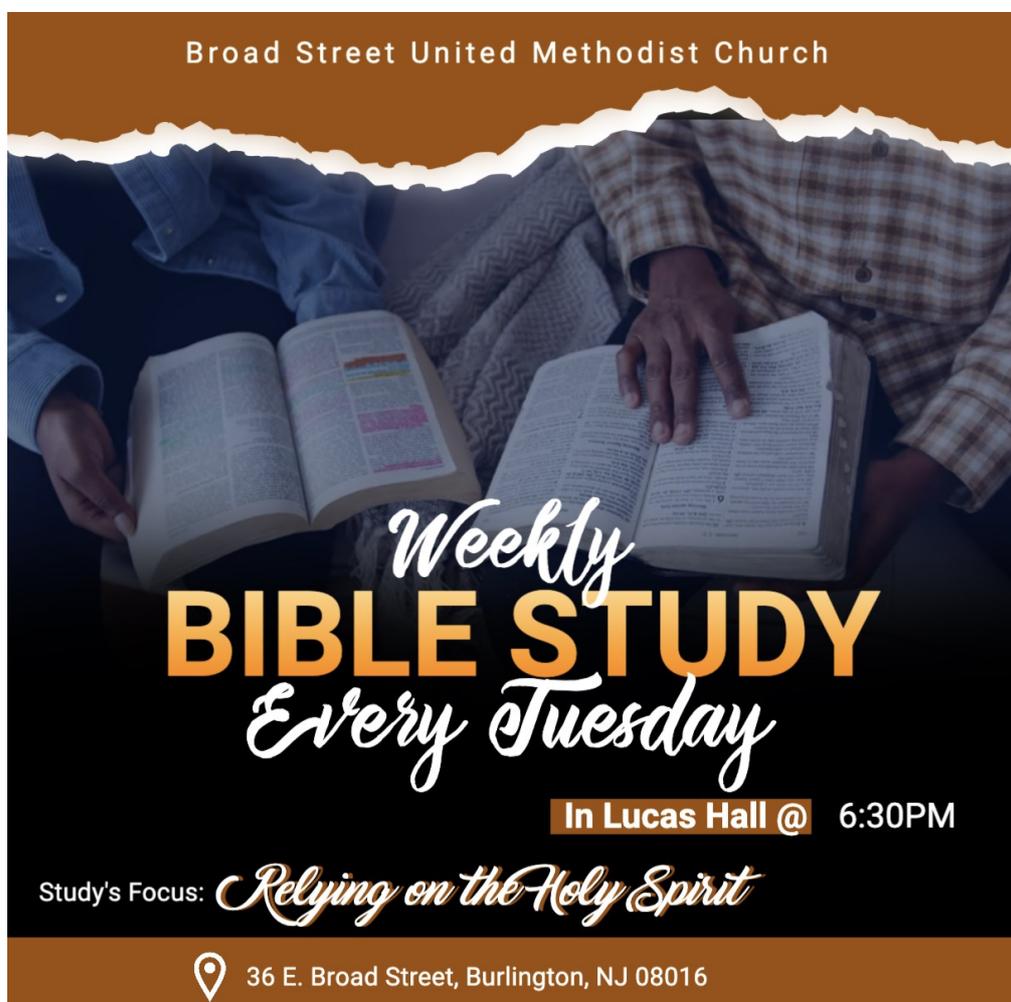
In Advent, just as Mary embraced God's plan with faith and the shepherds sought the Savior with urgency, we too are called to step forward in confidence. This season reminds us that God's plans are always good, and His timing is always perfect.

As we light the Advent candles, may their glow remind us of the light of Christ breaking into our world and into our hearts. Let us prepare for all that He will do as we step boldly into this season of renewal and growth, awaiting with great anticipation the season of breakthrough, expansion, and grace that lies ahead.

"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." – Romans 8:25

May this Advent season inspire you to wait with expectation and joy, knowing that God's promises are true and His plans are unfolding. Together, let us prepare for Christ with hearts full of hope and lives ready for transformation.

Blessings,
Pastor Temaris



Broad Street United Methodist Church

Weekly
BIBLE STUDY
Every Tuesday

In Lucas Hall @ 6:30PM

Study's Focus: *Relying on the Holy Spirit*

 36 E. Broad Street, Burlington, NJ 08016

Join us every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in Lucas Hall for our weekly Bible study! All are welcome! See you there!

Work Day Committee

- Marsha Danser

Our dedicated Work Day Committee is having another “fun” get-together on Friday, December 13. We started approximately 12 years ago as a group to do odd jobs around the church.... we wanted to help save some money at the church. Luckily, we have been blessed with several members who have the skills needed to help the rest of us! We have cleaned out closets, renovated closets, and organized the wall repair and painting of Lucas Hall. We keep a running list of goals/ideas for our group.

When the time came and we no longer had regular cleaners at BSUMC, the Work Day Committee began doing some cleaning jobs on a monthly basis. We tend to focus on bathrooms and the kitchen.

Whether cleaning or doing odd jobs, these volunteers have become a vital addition to the unofficial staff at Broad Street. On our scheduled work days, we meet at 9:30 a.m. in Lucas Hall.

Some of our volunteers have been members of the group from the very beginning. We welcome any new volunteers.

Advent Devotional Thank You!

A very special thank you to all who contributed to our first homemade Advent Devotional Booklet. We had five pastors and 18 lay members of Broad Street that contributed who made this happen. I am especially thankful to Pastor Tamaris for our cover and Laura Jaskot for the hours spent getting the booklet all together formatted and properly



ready to print. It is a gift. Read it and enjoy the blessings sent from God through the stories of our friends’ and families’ lives.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Helen L. Rainier

Editor’s Note: if you didn’t receive a copy of the devotional but would like one, please send a note to the church office, office@broadstumc.org. We have some copies available in the office and can print more if necessary.

THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST 2024

The 77th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast is in the books and it was an unqualified success. Led by the inimitable duo of Jeena Sheppard and Jalyn Sunshine, our youth and many others who are young at heart, worked hard on Wednesday night before Thanksgiving to prepare for Thursday morning's breakfast. Cracking eggs, setting up cooking stations for the next morning, setting the tables and making the Danish were all accomplished with efficiency and fellowship.

Thursday morning saw people arriving just before 8:00AM ready for breakfast which was served about 8:15 following a prayer led by Jalyn Sunshine. Served buffet style, guests were treated to scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast sticks, pancakes, homemade Danish, cranberry coffee cake and for those who needed it, Bryan Roth made a dairy-free/gluten-free French toast casserole.

Between guests and workers, there were more than 70 in attendance Thursday morning, and everyone enjoyed their breakfast. The youth came around to serve coffee and tea while others were cooking pancakes and eggs. A few people commented that the youth had gotten much better at making the scrambled eggs (and there were even a few folks who mentioned that none of the eggs were green this year—if you've ever tried to keep scrambled eggs warm for a period of time you know that they tend to turn green after a while which isn't harmful, but is certainly not the preferred color).

Thanks to everyone who helped or who came out to eat!

Here are a couple of pictures of the youth who worked hard to put on the breakfast this year:





by Cindy Borgstrom

The Girls of Grace (GOG) would like to thank you all for contributions toward the Samaritan Purse Christmas boxes. We appreciate all the monetary donations toward shipping as well. We exceeded our goal and sent more than 20 shoeboxes!

We would also like to thank be you for the contributions toward the flood buckets for UMCOR. We are continuing this effort into the new year. See page 7 for a list of needed items.

Our annual Christmas Tea is coming up Saturday, December 7th. The tickets are sold out and we look forward to another successful tea.

Thank you to all our members for putting together 21 Advent bags that have been delivered this week. We could not do it without each and every member of our small group.



*Broad Street
United Methodist Church
Girls of Grace*

Annual Christmas Tea



SOLD OUT!

**Saturday, December 7, 2024
12:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Broad Street
United Methodist Church**

36 E. Broad St.
Burlington, NJ

**Tickets:
\$20/adults
\$10/children**

Various Teas
Luncheon
Sandwiches
Scones
Desserts

Silent Auction

Musical performance by Cecil Danser

Tickets are available now.

See Sharon Durazolapaugh or Laura Jaskot

or

contact Cindy Borgstrom at
hockeymom212@comcast.net

Christmas Memories - What are Yours?

by Marsha Danser

Pastor Rob Tomer shared some Christmas memories a number of years ago in a church newsletter. Since Rob grew up at Broad Street and was an active member of our youth group, many of his memories centered around the church activities. The memories that Rob shared coincide with many of my memories, since we grew up together in this church.

- * Rehearsals (endless rehearsals!) for the Christmas Eve Service at 11 p.m. that the youth put on each year (and still do).
- * The Candlelight Service itself - all the good times (and serious times) we had putting the program together.... processing from the balcony while singing *O Come All Ye Faithful*.... holding real candles that were lit.... dressed in Biblical costumes.... hoping no one tripped and set the balcony curtains on fire.... or themselves.... or the person in front of them!
- * The solemn singing of the Christmas Carols and replaying the Christmas story through the scriptures and a seasonal skit....
- * Christmas caroling after the 11 p.m. service.... walking or driving to the homes of various members of the church, ringing their doorbells, singing a few carols but always ending with *Silent Night* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*!
- * Meeting at a home to have our Youth Group Christmas Party and getting home around 2 a.m. [Good times, but few of us stay up that late anymore!]

As Rob Tomer wrote in his newsletter.... it's funny the things that stick in your mind as the years pass us by.

As we experience the Christmas season once again in 2024, think back on your memories of this time of year. What are your oldest Christmas memories? What are the ones that truly stick out to you?

It's important to take that trip down memory lane and share your journey with others. We all have memories, some good and some not so good perhaps.

Think of what God has done in your life from the time you were in your youth and until now. During the Christmas season we will sing the carols of old and sense the excitement in the air as we draw closer to December 24-25. Mix the old-time remembrances with the present and enjoy the beautiful season of Christmas.





Support Broad Street UMC's donation drive

Help flood victims with cleaning supplies



Broad Street UMC is assembling disaster relief buckets to be distributed by UMCOR. This is a great way to help those impacted by recent hurricanes.

You can participate by donating items on the list below or coming to help pack the buckets. Drop off times are Sunday mornings from 10-Noon; Thursday, 11/7/24, from 7-8:30PM; and Tuesday, 11/12/24, from 1-3PM.

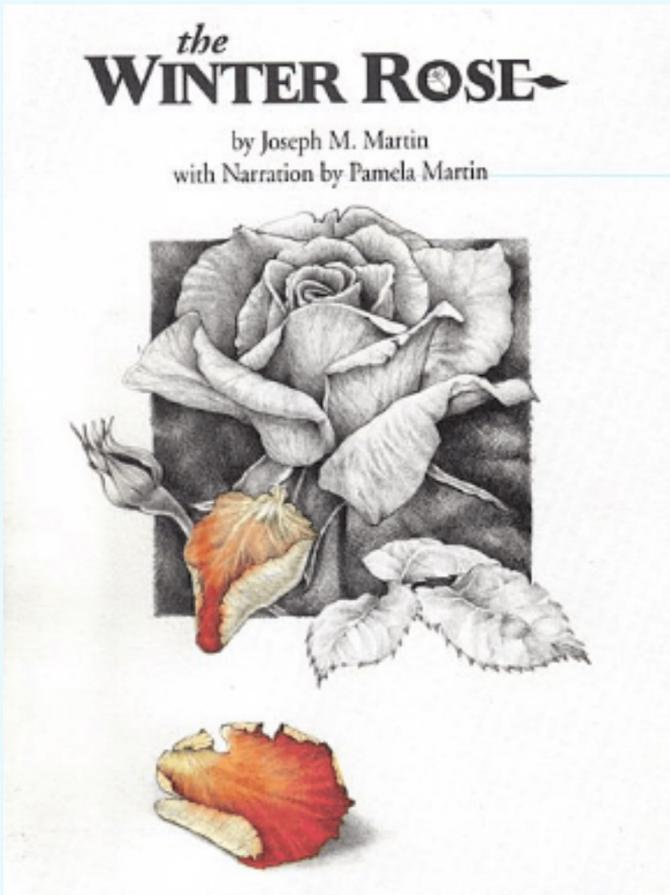
We'll assemble the buckets on Saturday, 11/16/24, at 9:30AM.

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (no spray cleaners)
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush with or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels)
- Five scouring pads (no stainless-steel pads with soap in them)
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- Roll of 24 heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness) (no surgical masks)
- Two pairs kitchen gloves durable for multiple uses
- One pair work gloves - cotton with leather palm or all leather

Join us in helping hurricane victims

Donate cleaning supplies today

Broad Street UMC
36 E. Broad St.
Burlington, NJ 08016
www.broadstumc.org



**The Sanctuary Choir will present its Christmas cantata,
The Winter Rose by Joseph Martin,**

on Sunday, December 15, 2024, during the worship service.

The cantata presents Jesus' life from prophecy through the passion. Including both traditional carols and new songs, this is a beautiful cantata, and the choir is looking forward to sharing it with you.

New Lights !



Have you noticed how bright it is in the front hallway, the chapel, the library, Lucas Hall? It's not your imagination! Broad Street UMC received a grant from PSE&G to replace our old florescent lights and light fixtures with new LED lights and fixtures. We received the lights for free but had to install them within a short period of time. Under the direction of Herb (Spike) Tomer and Mike Wright, a team of dedicated church members and friends have done a yeoman's job of getting the majority of the lights updated. While some installed the lights, others broke down the many boxes they came in and prepared the old bulbs for transport. There are a few areas to go, but the progress is impressive and we thank everyone who has been involved so far. It has been a big project, but it has really improved the way the church looks and it will help our electrical bills as well!



Christmas Poinsettias and Memorial/Recognition Donations

We will be decorating the altar of the church on Sunday, December 22, 2024, with poinsettias. You can purchase a poinsettia by completing the order form and turning it in to the church office (email or put it in the offering plate) **by Sunday, December 15, 2024**. In addition, if you wish or honor or remember someone with a donation to the church, you can do that as well. All poinsettia and memorial/recognition donations will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22, 2024. Order forms can be found [here](#) or in the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you following the December 22nd service or you can leave it for Christmas Eve and take it home following that service.



Sing Christmas Carols

**Annual Advent
Covered Dish Supper
Sunday, December 15, 2024
4:00PM**

Sign-up sheet will be in the front hallway starting December 8th. See Jalyn Sunshine for more information.



Bring a main dish, a side dish, a dessert - something to share



**BSUMC
Giving Tree
Deadline to return gifts
Sunday, December 15, 2024**



Betsy Grover, Margie Hoffman and Marsha Danser are coordinating this annual mission project for us. Take a tag or tags from the tree and bring back your unwrapped gift indicated on the tag by Sunday, December 15th. We are collecting warm hoodies and socks as well as money.



**Christmas Cookie Munch
following Worship
Sunday, December 22, 2024**

Bring your favorite cookies to share at coffee hour following the worship service. Hosted by the Admin Board.

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. You can find all of these and other activities at the church on the [church calendar on the website](#).

Tuesdays	Bible Study with Pastor Temaris in Lucas Hall 6:30PM
Thursdays	Praise Band Practice 6:00PM Sanctuary
Thursdays	Sanctuary Choir Practice 7:00PM Lucas Hall
Friday December 6, 2024	Set-up for Annual Christmas Tea 9:30AM Lucas Hall
Saturday December 7, 2024	Annual Christmas Tea Noon-3:00PM (set-up 8:00AM)
Friday December 13, 2024	Work Day Committee 9:30 AM Lucas Hall
Sunday December 15, 2024	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata during worship 11:00AM
Sunday December 15, 2024	Deadline to order poinsettias or make memorial donations for Christmas in order to get them listed in the bulletin
Sunday December 15, 2024	Advent Covered Dish Dinner Lucas Hall 4:00PM
Sunday December 22, 2024	Blue Christmas Service 7:00PM
Tuesday December 24, 2024	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00PM

Christmas Card

Opening Sunday, December 1st
 Donation of \$0.20/card requested.
 Include a check or cash with your cards.

Place your cards in the box in the chapel with your payment. The cards will be 'delivered' by the youth into the mailbox slots.
 Please address your cards with both first and last names.
 Please check your slot each Sunday in Advent.
 This is a great way to both support our youth and save money!

Post Office

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/



22 DEC

Broad Street United Methodist Church

Blue Christmas

JOIN US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FOR OUR BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
AT 7PM

A TIME FOR THOSE WHO SEEK A QUIETER, MORE REFLECTIVE CELEBRATION. GATHER WITH US IN A SERENE SPACE TO HONOR OUR MIXED EMOTIONS WITH PRAYER, MUSIC, AND COMFORTING WORDS, FINDING SUPPORT AND PEACE TOGETHER DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME OF YEAR.

[f](#) @BroadStreetUMC-Burlington [▶](#)



Broad Street United Methodist Church

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pastor@broadstumc.org