

THE BEACON

The Broad Street United Methodist Church Newsletter

The Pastor's Corner

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



I had the opportunity, along with other pastors from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, to attend the Postponed 2020 General Conference.

Every four years, The United Methodist Church gathers together with delegates from all around the world in order to discuss and vote on matters that pertain to the whole body of The United Methodist Church. This year should have been the 2024 General Conference, but due to the pandemic, the 2020 General Conference convened this year in Charlotte, North Carolina.

This is a historic General Conference. Much of the news surrounds the number of petitions brought forward for amending our *Book of Discipline's* exclusive language with regard to human sexuality. Specifically, on May 1, 2024, the General Conference voted on the removal of The United Methodist Church's ban on the ordination of clergy that are "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." The overall goal by the end of the General Conference is to have a *Book of Discipline* that contains neutral language with regard to human sexuality.

The amendments pertaining to human sexuality follow legislation that will affect how the worldwide United Methodist Church organizes itself. These legislative actions deal with 'Regionalization.' Without getting too technical, regionalization will allow for greater autonomy and freedom for different regions around the world to adapt parts of the *Book of Discipline* for their specific context.

Above are the most impactful things decided and being decided upon at General Conference. Additionally, I want to lift up two other important moments that reflect the spirit of unity of this General Conference. During one of the days, we formalized the full communion relationship with The Moravian Church in North America, which is a church that we have deep roots with. John Wesley was profoundly influenced by the spirituality and leaders of the Moravian Church. Secondly, we adopted a resolution to affirm and



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implement a full communion relationship with the Episcopal Church in America.

Overall, this General Conference contrasts sharply with previous General Conferences, especially the Special General Conference convened in 2019, which was marked by contention and divisiveness. In this General Conference, moves were made that will awaken new possibilities of what The United Methodist Church could look like in the future and how we can embody Christ's unity to the world.

In Christ,
Pastor James

Hoagie Sale



Our next sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 21st and 22nd. The funds raised by that sale will go towards the

Breath of God Capital Campaign which is paying for the air conditioning in the gym and Lucas Hall. The third hoagie sale of 2024 will be in September, the 27th and 28th, and the proceeds from that will be designated for the heating bill as we head into the winter.

As we did last summer, the June hoagie sale will be a 'buy one (for \$10), give one (for \$5)' sale. If you'd like to donate a hoagie to a local first responder you can add \$5 to your order for each hoagie you purchase for yourself and a second hoagie will be made and donated. Last year we donated to the Burlington City Police, the Endeavor Emergency Squad and the Burlington Township Fire Department on the Bypass. All were very appreciative and it's a wonderful way to do some community outreach to those who are serving the community themselves.

Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters, on the website and in the bulletin for when you can purchase your hoagies. And again, we appreciate all of the support. Please helps spread the word. People who are working might like to participate in an office-wide purchase of hoagies on a Friday.

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/

Thoughts on Mother's Day

from *God's Tender Promises for Mothers*

1998 Word Publishing

Shared by Marsha Danser

Mother's Day is celebrated once a year in May.....this year the date is Sunday, May 12. An argument could be presented that mothers should be celebrated much more than that!

Word Publishing put out a mini-book on promises for mothers many years ago. We will share some thoughts from the book. Take them to heart on Mother's Day.

Mothers know: That which you give freely to others will be given back to you in greater measure. It's a rule of God's kingdom!

Mother always said that even the youngest child can reach up and grasp the loving hand of God.

Mother taught us that our heavenly Father sees the transgressions in the shadows as easily as those on the mountaintop. The good news is that He forgives both equally.

You only value Jesus at all when you value Him above all.

To all busy mothers: God wants to be your first choice, not your last resort.

Thank you for teaching me, Mother, that life with God is endless hope—without Him it is a hopeless end.

Good news, Mom! With God, your line of credit has no limit.

Mothers, teach your children to be quick in what they stand for and slow in what they fall for.

Jelly beans come in all colors and flavors—like mothers. Everyone is a different flavor, because God made us that way!

Mother always taught us that sometimes God calms the storm—and sometimes He calms us in the midst of the storm.

Some of these little sayings may ring true with you and your memories of what you learned from your mother. Perhaps there are lessons learned from mom that are not included here. Give some thought to what you learned as you were growing up, what you are still learning! Give thanks to God for your mother!

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*



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 - currently on hiatus
Thursday Evenings	Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Monday May 13, 2024	Admin Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Wednesday May 22, 2024	Girls of Grace Meeting 7:00 PM
Wednesday June 5, 2024	<i>Sondheim Remembered</i> Concert 7:00PM (see flyer on next page)
Sunday June 9, 2024	Music Appreciation Sunday Scholarship Sunday
Tuesday June 11, 2024	United Women in Faith Picnic 5:00 PM
Sunday June 16, 2024	Summer hours begin. Worship at 10:00AM through September 1st.
Friday & Saturday June 21 -22, 2024	Girls of Grace Hoagie Sale
Sunday September 8, 2024	Sunday School Rally Day 9:45 AM Worship returns to 11:00 AM
Monday October 21, 2024	Gerald Dickens returns with <i>A Christmas Carol</i>

A Note from the Worship Committee Concerning Flower/Bulletin Dedications

Flower and bulletin dedications have been a staple at BSUMC over the years. The \$10 donation for the bulletin dedication helps pay for the paper and copies of the bulletin. The cost of the flowers has gone up over the years and is directly tied to the cost we are charged by the florist. Unfortunately we can't order the flowers only for the weeks that we have sponsors and maintain the current price (now \$40) - we order them every week and the church pays for them on the weeks that we don't have anyone sponsoring the flowers. Over the past few years, we have seen the number of people who want to sponsor the flowers decrease significantly so the church was picking up that expense.

At our last Worship Committee meeting, we decided that at least for the foreseeable future starting in July of this year, we will use bouquets of artificial flowers on the altar which will be changed monthly with the season. We will still have live flowers at Christmas and Easter. We will reevaluate at the end of the year and see if there is renewed interest in weekly live bouquets. Bulletin dedications will continue to be available for \$10/week and Jean Tomer will coordinate those.

Roundtable Productions- Delaware Valley Presents Sondheim Remembered



Performed by
Rachel Cetel
Piano accompaniment
by
Joseph Krupa



Join us at Broad Street United Methodist Church for an unforgettable evening celebrating the legendary composer, Stephen Sondheim and the songs he created.

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 5 · 7 - 9 pm

Admission: Preorder tickets for \$20 or \$25 at the door.

Children and students with ID-\$10.00

Email concerts@broadstumc.org to reserve tickets and pay cash

Location: Broad Street United Methodist Church

36 East Broad Street Burlington, NJ

Free parking is available in the municipal lot on Stacy Street

Direct inquiries to:

Bill Holt at wlh7@comcast.net

Michele Hogan at concerts@broadstumc.org

Zoom Link available upon request.



Please help us share the word about this concert. It is exciting to have a musical performance with these well-known artists at Broad Street and we'd like to have a large audience come to hear them. Most people are familiar with the work of Stephen Sondheim. You can read more about him [here](#).



The Beacon on Broad Street



Broad Street United Methodist Church

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