

Broad Brook Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
122 Main Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016

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January-February 2022

The Wayside BEACON

January-February 2022



Publication of the
Broad Brook Congregational Church

volume 119, issue 102

BBCC Mission Statement



Our Mission Statement

We are a caring family of God
where all people are welcome
to share in spiritual growth,
guidance, fellowship, and support.
We work together to spread
God's love and the words and
mission of Jesus Christ to others.

Broad Brook Congregational Church

122 Main Street
Broad Brook, CT 06016
860-623-4547



Broad Brook Congregational Church

Ministers
Moderator
Acting Treasurer
Organist
Chair, Board of Deacon

All Congregation Members
Wade Signor
Rich York
Dr. James Clark
Betty Stratton



<http://BroadBrookCongregationalChurch.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/BBCongregationalChurch>

Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 AM.

Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

Church Sunday School is held from September to June and starts at 10:30 AM after the children and teachers leave the Worship Service.

Please email staff@broadbrookcongregationalchurch.org with announcements or corrections to the weekly Bulletin or the Beacon.



Please Patronize the stores at
TOWN CENTER SHOPS
 next to
 Broad Brook Church
 860-432-8900

Important Reminders:

BBCC has resumed in-person worship services and Sunday school on Sunday mornings.....welcome back!! In careful consideration for all in attendance, please wear your mask and maintain social distancing in the pews and in the Fellowship Hall. Extra masks and hand sanitizer are available in many areas as needed.

There are openings for altar flowers .Please sign up on the chart hanging on the bulletin board.in the fellowship hall.

The recent Daily Bread devotional booklets are available on the table in the narthex and the table in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to everyone who donated altar flowers during the 2021 year.

Annual Meeting: The BBCC Annual Council Meeting will be held on Sunday January 30th, 2022 following the am worship service. All church committees should have their reports to Chinue no later than January 9th. A Pot Luck Lunch will be served before the meeting starts. Please see the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall as for menu suggestions requested.

Betty Stratton, Clerk pro tem

In Remembrance: On Dec 11, 2021 our long time friend, member and church treasurer, Bob Cormier went to be with his loving wife (Connie) to his final resting place. Bob has been the Treasurer of Broad Brook Congregational Church for over 15 years. He was a very dedicated Member of our church and took his position on the Investment Committee and as Treasurer very serious. He was always willing to help where he could and loved to attend our tag sales and church suppers, he was a great potato peeler!! If you have ever attended one of our suppers, you more than likely had those potatoes he diligently worked on!!! He very much liked to get out to be with people. He was a social butterfly, very kind, sweet, friendly, honest to the core, an avid reader. We all here at BBCC will certainly miss him. Our Condolences to his family.



- Betty Stratton

The Board has been very fortunate to have such talented individuals working with them as Linda and Rich York. Whenever we do not have a scheduled pulpit supply Pastor, Linda and Rich will step up by providing a complete worship service, sermon, prayers and all! We have had the students from Sunday School, individuals from the congregation and Dr James Clark, our organist, take part in our services and even write sermons. Thank you all for making this time without a Pastor more tolerable We are so fortunate to have such talented individuals in our church.

We do want to thank all the Pulpit supply pastors we have had to date; Rev. Marilyn Kendrix, Rev. Betsy Mauro, Rev. Michelle Wiltshire-Clement, & Rev. Carla Dietz. We have a few more Pulpit supply ministers coming to cover the Sundays in January and February.

The Interim Process seems to be at a standstill presently, we had some formal paperwork to submit to the UCC first, plus we were transitioning into a new Area Conference Minister who just started his new role as we began the process. We have had a Zoom meeting with the new ACM, the Rev. Isaac Lawson, to help guide us in the process. In a recent conversation with Rev. Isaac Lawson, he stated that there has been some interest being shown toward BBCC.

Our application for Broad Brook Cong'l Church on becoming an Open and Affirming church has been approved. You will be seeing some evidence of this in the future. There will be some changes added to our Mission Statement, explaining in more detail what Open and Affirming means to us. This will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 30, 2022. Please see the formal approval letter from the UCC on another page here in this issue of the Beacon.

We celebrated "All Saints Day" on Halloween by honoring our members and friends who have passed during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We also remembered our friends from the past who will eternally be remembered for their commitment to BBCC. A bell was rung for each name read.



Please keep you and your family, community and fellow BBCC members safe by following all CDC guidelines pertaining to the Covid-19 virus. Wear a mask, social distance as much as you can, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face. Stay safe!

Hymnals Order Form

Each hymnal costs \$20.00. To donate a hymnal to the church, fill out the following form, neatly printing how the front inside cover donation plate should read. Turn in this form and a check for \$20.00 to BBCC, indicating "hymnal fund" in the memo. Thank you for your generosity.

Hymnal Donated by:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Please send your donation to:

Music Committee
Broad Brook Congregational Church
122 Main Street
Broad Brook, CT 06016



Thanks to
**Broad Brook
Gardens**
for our wonderful
flower
arrangements!

(Deacons con't)

In November, BBCC held a food drive to contribute to the East Windsor Food Bank. Members generously brought in items to fill several boxes. The donations were presented and blessed on Thanksgiving Sunday where we had a beautiful cornucopia display filled with fresh produce in which was added to the donation boxes after. We thank the Signor's for delivering the food to the town food bank.

Much heartfelt sympathy and prayerful condolences to the Stratton/McMahon Families on the loss of their daughter/sister/wife/mother in November. She was a godsend to all who knew her and to BBCC as she actively helped, supported and participated in the life of this church. She left this earth too soon and only God knows the better plan. A Memorial Service was held on Dec 6th at the church, she will be deeply missed.

Also in December, the deacons prepared for the most magical day of the year, the day we celebrate the birth of our new born King, Christmas. Each week we had a family light one of the Advent candles and read the Liturgy for that week's candle. The traditional Christmas Eve service of "Lessons and Carols" was held, and a Holiday Luncheon was held for those who attended the service on Dec 26 which included a birthday cake for Jesus. Poinsettias donated in memory of loved ones decorated the sanctuary.

2021 has been a very busy year with so many challenges. Yet we are still filled with much hope and joy as our faith has guided us through it all, the thick and the thin, we know we have not been alone. We look forward to a new year filled with so many more opportunities, accomplishments, less sadness and a pandemic that's been beat.

We wish you a Happy, Healthy, Safe New Year,
Betty Stratton, Debbie Siekiera, Richard York



Sunday School continued to learn about Social Justice this fall until Advent started. We then prepared for Christmas and our annual Christmas Pageant. Since we only have 3 active members in the Sunday School, we decided to do an all-church pageant and involve everyone. Linda York wrote a program everyone could participate in called "Listen to the Sounds of the First Christmas". The children helped each member of the congregation pick a role to be as they entered the church and picked out costumes. The congregation were animals, angels, and shepherds. The youth group were Mary, Joseph, the Angel of the Lord, and the star. It was amazing how a small church could still participate in the story in creative ways, bringing joy to all who attended.

Confirmation class will begin in January. Students in grade eight and above will be refreshing their Bible knowledge, learning about our faith, and participating in church life. They will be using a workbook called "Affirming Faith", A Confirmand's Journal. We hope to have an interim minister soon who can help us with the process. We welcome our present students and new faces to participate in Confirmation classes, Please call or email Linda York with questions (860-716-4395, lyork76769@sbcglobal.net).

Memorial Garden Order Form

Fill out the form below with your desired inscription to purchase a Memorial Garden engraved brick and /or a Memorial Garden nameplate. Send the form along with \$35.00 for **each** item to:

Memorial Garden

Broad Brook Congregational Church
P.O. Box 466, Broad Brook, CT 06016

Memorial Garden Brick

(placed within the garden, along the path, on the mulch) (Leave spaces between words and dates)

Memorial Garden Nameplate:

(placed onto the Dovecote Pole) (Leave spaces between words and dates)

Note: allow 4 weeks to produce nameplates and bricks.

Name _____

Contact number/email _____



Building Maintenance	\$
Music Committee	\$
Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	\$
Office Supplies	\$
Sunday School	\$
Coffee hour	\$
Historian	\$
Deacon Wish List	\$
Discretionary Fund	\$
Other (Please Specify)	\$
Total Amount of Donation	\$

Check payable to Broad Brook Congregational Church:

Name:

Phone:

Reason for Donation:

Drop in collection plate or mail to:
Board of Trustees
Broad Brook Congregational Church
PO Box 466
Broad Brook, CT 06016



Missions Committee

The Missions Committee continues to support the 5 Corner Cupboard with food collections from the congregation and collections in the community. Any donations are highly appreciated especially at this time of need for many families. This is true also for the many organizations on the front line keeping us safe and meeting basic needs. We thank Wade and Debra Signor for picking up food from our donation boxes in the community and taking the food to the food bank each week. We thank the community for their generous donations of food.

The Sunday School is collecting gently used winter clothing and blankets for those in need. If anyone has gently used clothing they are not using, please bring them to church or contact Linda York (860-716-4395) for pick-up. We have quite a pile so far to donate to the town,

The missions committee met recently to decide on our mission's donations that we budget for each year. This year we decided to go with all local gifts due to the needs in town. The following gifts were given this year:

East Windsor High School Scholarship Fund \$500.00
East Windsor Ambulance Association = \$100.00
East Windsor Senior Services = \$150.00 (to sponsor a senior birthday lunch)
Town of East Windsor = \$100.00 for the Arts and Culture Commission
Gift cards for the town Christmas giving = \$200.00 (8 \$25.00 gift cards to Walmart)
Five Corner Cupboard Food Pantry =\$250.00
Pauline's Soup Kitchen =\$100.00

If you would like the church to support a worthy project or organization, please let a member of the committee know. (Linda York, Debbie Signor, and Katherine Mickens.) We are always looking for new ideas.

Ways and Means

The Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Healthy Prosperous New Year! We will begin to look forward to future endeavors to help raise funds for BBCC. Please remember that we raise funds for various outreach/missions for work in our community, state and globally. Your dollars in any amount can help support any one of these projects and can go a long way in achieving their goals. Please use the coupon page in this bulletin to send in your donation, do it in honor of or memory of a loved one. You can delegate where you would like your donation to be applied by writing it in on the coupon or a separate piece of paper. Currently, most of our fundraising efforts have been to support our town food bank. Times are so tough for so many families that we, who have been more fortunate, need to help feed those so desperately in need of our help. Purchasing an extra item on a shopping trip and donating it would help tremendously.

BBCC will be holding it's annual tag sale this year. I know it's a little early to worry about unwanted old treasures but think of us as you may have received an upgrade of an old favorite item, or a new bad Santa gift!!!

Blessings to you all,
Ways & Means
Debbie & Mike Siekiera
Joyce Bonelli
Debbie Signor



Rev. Dr. Joseph & Laura Callahan Jan 10th
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Curren Jan 28th

Volunteers for BBCC always welcome!
We can use a hand with:

- Food pantry donations/collection
- Refreshments after church service
- Prep and clean up for fundraisers
- Lay readers and greeters
- And more



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LAY READERS

JANUARY	
2	Joyce Bonelli
9	Wade Signor
16	Dr. James Clark
23	Debbie Signor
30	Rich York



FEBRUARY	
6	Debbie Signor
13	Karla Vince
20	Mike Siekiera
27	Katherine Mickens

Debbie's Kitchen Corner



For our vegetarian and vegan lovers out there (or even healthier lifestyle eaters), you have to try this tasty treat. My husband and I like to eat a lot of one pot meals during the colder months. We do enjoy a meatless meal from time to time, we have a few that we rotate between, this is one of them. This chili recipe doesn't make you miss the meat! It's all about flavor and you get to control how much flavor you want out of this recipe. You also have a choice on how to cook it, on the stove or in your crockpot. To be honest, we prefer the crockpot. The flavors seem to marry better in our opinion but it's just as good over the stove. To compliment this meal we like to eat crackers & cheese or have some tortilla chips with guacamole on the side. Bon Appetit!!

Sweet Potato & Quinoa Chili

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 5 – 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 ½ tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- Himalayan salt to taste
- 1 cup dried quinoa
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz) fire roasted diced tomatoes with juices (or 1 ½ cups diced fresh tomatoes)
- 1 can (6 oz) tomato paste
- 1 large sweet potato (approx. 1 lb.) diced with or without skin
- 5 – 6 cups water or vegetable broth (or combination of both)



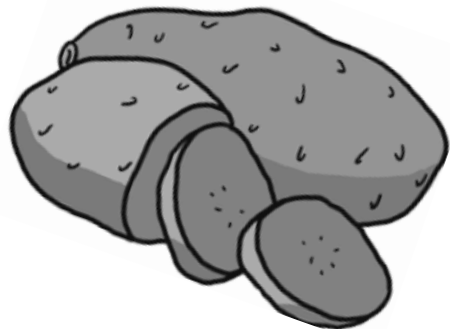
INSTRUCTIONS

Stock Pot: In a 5 qt Dutch oven or stock pot, sauté the onions in garlic in the olive oil until soft. Add the water (broth or combo), bring the broth to a soft boil over medium heat, add the remaining ingredients. Cook for 30 to 40 minutes stirring occasionally. Chili is ready when the sweet potatoes are tender.

Note: Add some additional water if chili is too thick for your liking.

Slow Cooker: Add all the prepared ingredients to the bottom of the crockpot insert, stir until combined. Turn on high and cook for 4 – 6 hours or turn on low and cook for 6 – 8 hours.

Note: You may use any combination of your favorite beans for this recipe. You may also adjust the seasonings to your taste. If you'd like to add some heat to the chili, add a ½ tsp or so of chipotle powder to your liking!
Makes 4 to 6 servings.



Tell us how you did; post your results on our Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/BBCongregationalChurch>



Christmas Pageant



Happy Birthday

January

Beth Siekiera Walker	6th
Zachary Siekiera	9th
Janice Lang	10th
Braelynn MacDonald	13th
Madelaine Clark	18th
Katie Siekiera	30th



February

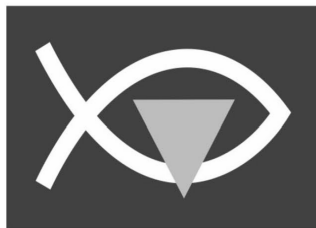
Joyce Bonelli	1st
Jason DiMauro	12th
Abel O'Hara (Townsend)	14th
Jerry Marquis	14th
Penny Savoie	18th
Arthur Sweet	20th
Amanda Wallace	23rd
Brittany Townsend	28th

Calendar

January	
2	Communion Rev. Julie Olmstead
9	Committee annual reports due Rev. Julie Olmstead
16	Rev. Julie Olmstead
23	Rev. Robert LaRochelle
30	Annual Council Meeting, Pot Luck Lunch Rev. Julie Olmstead
February	
6	Communion Rev. Robert LaRochelle
13	Rev. Julie Olmstead
20	Rev. Julie Olmstead
27	Rev. Julie Olmstead

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Welcome the newest ONA church in the Southern
New England Conference!

Dear ONA family:

Please join us in welcoming Broad Brook Congregational Church in Broad Brook, Connecticut as a newly-certified Open and Affirming congregation!

As ONA church #1724, Broad Brook Congregational is now part of the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world! We're proud of Broad Brook Congregational, and grateful to the church's leadership for the hard work that led to this milestone in their history.

The congregation will be added to the ONA map at openandaffirming.org/find. We've notified the UCC's Yearbook office to assure the map of UCC congregations at ucc.org/church-finder also reflects their ONA status.

Please join the entire Open and Affirming movement in celebrating Broad Brook Congregational, and prayer that their ONA covenant will be a blessing to their LGBTQ+ neighbors, and inspire new passion and energy for living the Gospel!

Blessings,

Andy Lang
Executive Director
ed@openandaffirming.org
Pronouns: he, him, his

The Rev. Derek Terry
President
office@openandaffirming.org
Pronouns: he, him, his

The church's ONA Covenant reads:

We welcome everyone from our community, becoming a safe and nurturing place of worship for all. "Everyone" includes all ages, races, and cultures. "Everyone" includes all levels of income and education. "Everyone" includes those who are challenged with physical, hearing, vision, emotional, and other disabilities. "Everyone" includes the LGBTQ community.



"Seeking Justice Together"

A curriculum for the whole church,
Bringing children, youth and adults all together in worship and learning! Explore Biblical justice, wholeness for humanity and all of creation.

We will follow Covid-19 protocols. Masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizers are required. We want to worship and learn together safely.

Questions? Call Linda York 860-716-4395