

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

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January/February 2024

The Wayside

*In the Loving Arms of
 God this New Year*



Publication of the
 Broad Brook Congregational Church

volume 131, issue 114

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

Pastor
Ministers
Moderator
Treasurer
Organist
Chair, Board of Deacon
Secretary

Pastor Brian Baeder
All Congregation Members
Wade Signor
Rich York
Dr. James Clark
Betty Stratton
Chinue Clifford

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

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Pastor's Paragraphs



There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So, the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

As we begin 2024, we stand in the doorway to a new chapter in the history of Broad Brook Congregational Church. A bright future beckons - will we boldly drive into tomorrow?

I don't know about you, but on New Year's Day, I always think back to the previous year. I remember the highs and the lows, the challenges, and all that God has brought us through. But I also look forward to the future, knowing that there's no way for us to predict exactly what's going to happen, but aren't we glad that we don't go into the future all alone? We go with Christ, arm in arm with our brothers and sisters.

And our Family of Faith has increased! We are even "less alone" now!

So, let's climb into the car, and get going! As we buckle our seat belts and adjust the seat, we glance up at the rear-view mirror. With it, we can see where we've been, how we got here and how far we've come. But it shouldn't be the focus which is why it is small in comparison with the windshield. Yes, glance occasionally so that we remember our journey, but our focus is forward. Looking forward is the key. The view through the windshield shows the signs we need, all the possible routes and any detours we may have to deal with. But which way do we go? What's the plan? Well, we have those, too.

First, and most important, we have the teachings of Jesus. In the early church, those who believed in Jesus as the Christ were called “Followers of the Way” and as we move forward, He provides The Way for us, too.

Another guide is our Constitution and By-Laws. In these documents we “Say what we do” to follow The Way, and how and the people that need to implement the plan. Everyone has a part of this work - and there are no small or unimportant tasks. Incidentally, we are overdue for a By-Laws review to ensure that what we say we do and what we really do agree! This needs to be done in 2024.

We are the Body of Christ here in Broad Brook as it says in our verses from 1 Corinthians (above). We need to function as one body. Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Hands. Remembering our rich past, with our eyes on the future.

I want to thank all of you who support this ministry. It’s because of you that God has enabled us to grow this ministry and continue our journey together. Let’s enter the new year gospel-driven, willing to take on the challenges that God has given us - to do it by His grace - and live the gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do.

From my heart to yours, Happy New Year!
Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brian

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:

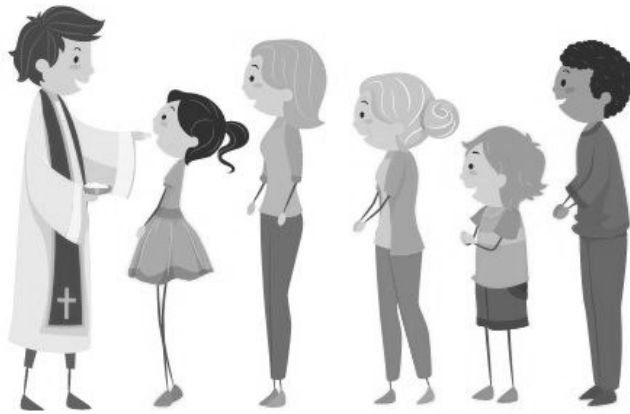
In Honor of:

Please send your donation to:

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



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the first Sunday of every month**





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FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS
- Betty Stratton, Chair of the Board of Deacons

- Betty Stratton

During the past several months the Deacons have held 2 meetings to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

During Advent, individuals read the morning litany; Christa Berthold, Melissa Gopp, Linda, Rich & Susan York, Charles and Sylvia Sylvester, and Dave and Judy Merrill, and Pastor Brian and Jan Baeder on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ Candle. We thank you all.

The Christmas program was held on Dec. 10. It was an All-Church pageant. It was fun to have so many of the congregation participating in the Christmas story. Thank you to all and mostly to Linda York for her direction of the Christmas Story. There was a delicious pot luck following with a Yankee swap. FUN, FUN!! Thanks to Jan Baeder for her planning of all the festivities.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) morning service at 10am will be the 4th Sunday in Advent and @ 6 pm the traditional Christmas Eve service with scripture readings, music and candle lighting as we welcome Jesus on Christmas Day. Special Music sung by Pastor Brian and the choir. All are welcome.

As we look forward into 2024, there will be a new 2024 Directory of Broad Brook Church members and friends. Hopefully it will be available by the end of February.

Happy and safe New Year.



The Sunday School now averages three to six students aged five to thirteen. We have used the Shine Current Curriculum, “Seeking God Together” with extra activities for the Fall. We then worked on Thanksgiving and Christmas lessons. Although it is a creative challenge to meet the range of ages, we are making the lessons engaging and meaningful for all.

On December 10, 2023, we presented an all-church pageant involving the entire congregation to act out the Christmas story called “Listen to the Sounds of the First Christmas”. The Sunday School acted out the cast of speaking angels, Mary, Joseph, and the Star. The congregation acted out the story as the town’s people, inn keepers, shepherds, the multitude of angels, and the three kings. Costumes and props were provided by the church. All appeared to enjoy acting out the story, bringing the meaning of Christmas to our hearts. An all-church potluck luncheon followed the service with a delicious variety of home-made dishes. An old-fashioned Yankee Swap followed the luncheon. We had a great time. Much work went into setting up the day. We thank all who helped decorate the church, set up the luncheon, make or bring food, run the Yankee Swap, and clean up after the event.

In the New Year, we will continue to follow the Shine Current Curriculum. Stay tuned for other Lenten activities and our annual missions project.

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 _____

The Members of the Broad Brook Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the Annual meeting/Potluck lunch to be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:15 am. A pot luck lunch will be held. Agenda items will include:

Hearing and accepting reports of officers, boards, and committees.
Election of officers, board and committee members for 2023
Vote on the Call to Pastor Brian to become the settled Pastor of
Broad Brook Congregational Church
Vote on the Active Membership role update
Any other business thought proper when met.

Additional agenda items should be given to the moderator by Sunday, January 21, 2024. A tentative agenda and copies of the annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

Wade Signor, Moderator
(860) 623-4548

Missions Committee

The Mission's Committee continues to support the East Windsor Five Corner

Cupboard Foodbank with food collections from the congregation and collections from the community. We thank Wade and Debra Signor for picking up food from our donation boxes and bringing that food to the food bank each week. We thank the community for their generous donations of food.

The Mission's Committee gives money and collection support to local, state, national, and international needs. This year we gave to:

- The East Windsor Senior Center: to sponsor one monthly birthday party.
- The East Windsor Social Services Department: to help purchase gift cards and hams for holiday meals for local families.
- The East Windsor Social Services Department: to purchase a few children's winter coats for those needing coats.
- The East Windsor High School Scholarship Fund.
- Connecticut Food Share.
- Alzheimer's Association.
- Habitat for Humanity International.
- The Network Against Domestic Violence: (donated pillows, wipes, flashlights, batteries, cleaning supplies, snacks, and gift cards).
- The East Windsor Social Services Department: (donated hats, mittens, and scarves.)

The Mission's Committee will be meeting soon after the annual meeting to plan projects and direct budgeted monetary donations for the upcoming year. Please give your ideas to a committee member.



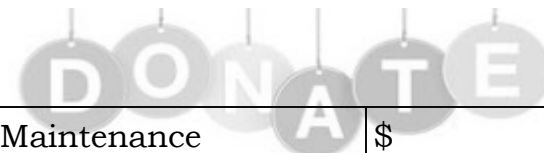
Debbie's Kitchen Corner

Red Lentil Soup

It's that time of the year where we love to eat soups in our house. In fact we enjoyed a satisfying White Bean Soup with a side of a grilled cheese sandwich for dinner before submitting my recipe for this issue of the Beacon. Last week we gave the Red Lentil Soup a whirl when it was so cold and damp feeling. This is a small batch recipe so just double the ingredients to yield more as needed. It takes less than an hour to make and it's relatively simple. The lemon offsets the deep cumin and chili flavors. The soup strikes the balance between chunky and pleasingly smooth in texture. The aroma begins with the sauteing of the onion and garlic. We are all starting a new year with some of us having goals set to eating better and to be healthier by doing so. You can't go wrong with this soup on hitting those goals along with enjoying what you eat. Some foods just doesn't pass the palate test. If it doesn't taste



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



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



Gary & Judy Tetrault	Jan 6th
Rev. Dr. Joseph & Laura Callahan	Jan 10th
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew (Signor) Curren	Jan 28th

LAY READERS

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
7	Rich York	4	Sylvia Sylvester
14	Debbie Signor	11	Wade Signor
21	Joyce Bonelli	18	Karla Vince
28	Judy Merrill	25	Rich York

INGREDIENTS:

3 TBSP olive oil (plus a little for drizzling)
 1 large onion, chopped
 2 garlic cloves. Minced
 1 TBSP tomato paste
 1 tsp ground cumin
 ¼ tsp kosher salt
 ¼ tsp black pepper
 Pinch of chili powder or ground cayenne
 1 quart chicken or vegetable broth
 2 cups water
 1 cup red lentils
 1 large carrot, peeled and diced
 Juice of ½ lemon
 3 TBSP chopped fresh cilantro
 Fresh grated parmesan cheese for dusting
 soup

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large pot heat the oil over high heat until hot and simmering. Add the onion and garlic, sauté for approx. 4 minutes.
2. Stir in the tomato paste, cumin, salt, the black pepper and chili powder. Sauté for 2 minutes.
3. Add broth. 2 cups water, lentils and carrots. Bring to a simmer, then partly cover pot and turn heat to med-low. Simmer until lentils are soft, approx. 30 minutes. Taste and add salt or additional seasonings to taste as needed.
4. Using an immersion blender with a heat proof bowl or regular blender or food processor, puree half the soup, then add it back to the pot. The soup should be somewhat chunky.
5. Reheat soup to a low simmer, stir in lemon juice and cilantro. Serve soup drizzled with good olive oil and a dusting of parmesan cheese.

Makes 4 servings

Happy Birthday

Calendar

JANUARY	
7	Happy New Years 2024 Communion Sunday
15	Annual reports due
28	Annual Meeting & Potluck @ 11:15am
FEBRUARY	
4	Communion
6	Deacons meet at 10am
14	Ash Wednesday ~ Valentine's Day
18	1st Sunday in Lent
25	2nd Sunday in Lent
MARCH	
31	Easter



January

Beth Siekiera Walker	6th
Kaitlyn Rouleau	8th
Zachary Siekiera	9th
Janice Lang	10th
Braelynn MacDonald	13th
Joyce Cahoone Rookstool	22nd
Christa Berthold	29th
Judy Merrill	29th
Katherine Siekiera	30th

Joyce Bonelli	1st
Jerry Marquis	14th
Abel O'Hara (Townsend)	14th
Penny Savoie	18th
Arthur Sweet	20th
Amanda Wallace	23rd
Joseph Molinari Jr.	28th
Brittany Townsend	28th

February



Announcements:

The 2024 Lay Reader list is hanging on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Any questions, please see Betty Stratton.

The 2024 Altar flower donation chart is ready for sign-ups. Please see the back wall of the fellowship hall for the sign up chart on the bulletin board. They are \$25.00. For questions, please see Betty Stratton, Joyce Bonelli or Judy Tetrault.

In case of inclement weather, please watch Channel 3, WFSB for storm closings.

Five Corner Cupboard: Each week we deliver donations to our local food pantry. They are grateful for any food or toiletries. Thank you for adding items to our "Five Corner Cupboard" box located in the kitchen by the back door- Missions Committee.

The BBCC Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to fill some vacancies on our boards and committees. There are several openings that would benefit from some fresh eyes, thoughts and suggestions. Please sign up where interested to help revitalize the work done here at BBCC. A print out with a list of openings has been made available in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to sit in on a meeting to see if they would be interested. Any questions see Betty Stratton or the pastor for clarification of duties on these committees.

A word of thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias that beautified our pulpit during the 2023 Christmas season.

-The Flower Committee

Pledge cards and donations:

Pledge envelopes for 2024 are now available for those who have pledged to Broad Brook Cong'l Church. They will be on the table in the Narthex after December 17th.

Extra pledge cards are on the table in the Narthex and on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who did not pledge and would like offering envelopes only, please see Bill Stratton. Anyone who would like a record of their 2023 donations to Broad Brook Cong'l Church, please see Bill Stratton.



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

BBCC Christmas Pageant 2023

