



The Broadway Life

OCTOBER 2023

BROADWAY HOMECOMING THIS SUNDAY

BY DAVID SHIREY

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING OCTOBER 22

Fall in the Midwest. Changing leaves. Cooler weather. The annual Homecoming football game at Mizzou. The whole month's worship theme is "Take Me Home." It does a soul good to return to the places, promises, and people that spell home for us. And since there's plenty of room at a Disciples' table, it is a fine month to invite someone to come for the first time, come again, or come back to Broadway. The centerpiece of our celebration is "Take Me Home to Broadway" this Sunday.

Our day will commence with a special **Homecoming Gathering** during the 9 am Discipleship Hour in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Pastors David Shirey, Terry Overfelt, and John DeLaporte will lead an hour-long celebration of Broadway's history through an interactive icebreaker, Broadway Bingo (a trivia game brimming with nuggets of Broadway's heritage), and a photo presentation of Broadway's early years.

Time permitting, we'll view the premiere of a video Taby Lane prepared for our Search Committee to send to prospective candidates that introduces our congregation. Our children, youth, and some adult classes will still meet as usual during the 9:00 hour.

A special table in the narthex featuring Broadway's original brass cross will have

memorabilia including photos, sure to spark memories of and appreciation for Broadway's 65 years of worship, witness, and service.

We're 65 years old this fall, Broadway, but we are far from retiring. We are looking ahead and discerning our journey of faith. David Shirey's sermon, "**Homecoming 522 B.C.E.**," will offer wisdom from our biblical forebearers as we look to the future to which God beckons us. Discover the one constant between that Homecoming of old and our Homecoming: the presence of the Living God. God made all the difference back then ... and still does today.

Maybe you were here last Sunday, last week, last month, last year or more but it's time to come home, Broadway. **Welcome home!**



IN THE MEANTIME

INTERIM LEAD PASTOR DAVID A. SHIREY



This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best..." (Philippians 1:9-11)

It's hard for me to believe I'm in my fourth month with you. I continue to give thanks for your graciousness and hospitality. There really is a Broadway Spirit!

Your thoughts, please, on Broadway's worship. During the month of October, we're seeking your reflections at this six month mark of "Together at 10:30 am."

My letter of call as your interim Lead Pastor includes the charge: "Help leaders evaluate the ministry plan and programs to decide whether they should be continued, altered, or replaced with a different program." To honor the letter and spirit of the above in evaluating our Unified Worship Service, I gathered leaders representing the Worship Committee, Executive Committee, and Elders. Together they charted a process that begins with your input.

Your leaders have developed a survey with three questions. What have you learned these months that will contribute to our discerning the best shape for Broadway's worship? What do you long for in worship? Tell us what centers, feeds, and inspires your soul. What has surprised you?

The survey is available in hard copy form in your mailboxes at church and in the Narthex at the Engagement Table. Digital forms are available on Broadway's homepage (Click on the Registrations tab at the top of broadwaychristian.net) and by scanning the QR code or [clicking the link](#). Plus, the Weekly e-news throughout October will have the link.

Completed hard copy forms returned to the box at the Engagement Table will be collected by Board Chair Robin Perso. Surveys mailed to the church and

digital forms completed online will be received by Church Administrator Ingrid Luckenbill and forwarded to Robin Perso. Please return your form by 5:00 pm on October 29.

On October 30, the surveys received will be given to a team of Broadway members approved by the Board at the October 24 meeting. Representative of our congregation's previous 8am, 9am, and 11am worship communities, they will analyze the data, highlight recurring themes, and offer a report of their findings at the December 12 Board meeting.

The next step will be to discern the shape our worship ought to take going forward, with a recommendation for desired modifications/changes to come before the Board early in the new year.

This process begins with and derives from you. Please offer your thoughts, patience, and prayers. In turn, I promise to continue to give you my heart, mind, soul, and might as we worship together at 10:30 am on Sunday.

Grace and peace to you,

David Shirey

You may have visited David's website to learn more about the Shireys but I invite you to join David in his writing den, [The Maple Loft](#).

There you will enjoy his thoughts, ponderings, sermons, and writings through his blog. A particular post I recently read and enjoyed was [Discernment: A Primer](#). Check it out to see if you are ready to begin this journey.

Leslie LeSieur

John Lynner Peterson Photography



LEAD PASTOR SEARCH REPORT

Join Us for a Broadway Café Event!

BY TINA VAN NESS

The Lead Pastor Search Committee invites you to contribute your thoughts and insights as we gather for shared conversations around our search for the next lead pastor of our beloved faith community. Select the Broadway Café event that works best with your schedule, and RSVP by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 18, so we can plan for your presence. Both cafes will take place in the BCC Fellowship Hall.

Two options:

- Thursday, October 19th at 6:30 pm
 - Arrive ahead of time to gather some snacks and a beverage so we can begin the café experience promptly.
- Sunday, October 22nd after the Sunday morning service
 - Broadway's Fellowship Committee will have soup and fixins' available as you arrive.

There are several ways you can RSVP for one of the Broadway Cafés.

- Sign-up sheet available at the Engage Center in the BCC narthex.
- Use the QR code available with this article.
- Sign up [here](#).
- Email or call Tina Van Ness at tinayvanness@gmail.com or (573) 864-0626.

This is a pivotal time in Broadway Christian Church's history. We know God and the Holy Spirit are with us during this season, and we trust that as we come together, collective wisdom and hope will beautifully emerge.

Our Search Committee is also pleased to share with you our congregational profile and Broadway Welcome packet that is being shared with potential candidates. We invite you to take a [look and listen here](#).

Please also continue to pray for Broadway Christian Church, the work of the search committee, and for our next lead pastor. Your presence in this process matters!



BROADWAY CAFÉ where thoughts & ideas meet...

Thursday, October 19th, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 22nd, after worship, Fellowship Hall

Both cafés will serve either snacks (Thursday) or a light meal (Sunday), so you'll want to arrive a few minutes early to get your food and beverage in order for us to begin on time.

Childcare Provided with RSVP.

There are several ways for you to RSVP. You may use the QR code, [Signup Genius](#) or email Tina at tinayvanness@gmail.com.



Let this bookmark be a reminder that we invite you to join us as we pray through this season of seeking who we believe God is raising up to be our next Lead Pastor.

Loving God,
Open our minds.
Open our hearts.
Open our ears to
Your leading!
A-men



CareLink is here to provide care for our church family. CareLink volunteers provide 12 ministries such as cards, meals, flowers, prayer ministry, calls of concern, handy help, and others.

So let the church office or Patsy Dalton, 573-356-6036, know of anything we can do for you. This is truly church family caring for church family!

WHILE WE WAIT

THE SEASON OF ADVENT IS COMING



Advent is traditionally a season of waiting. We set aside 28 days wherein we anticipate the

coming of God in the Christ child. But what if we aren't the only ones who are waiting? What if the very thing we are preparing for is here, already present, waiting for us to receive it?

This Advent, you are invited into a new spiritual posture that isn't focused on something yet to come, but rather on something that already is. While we wait for the coming of God in Jesus, hope waits for us. Peace waits for us. Joy waits for us. Love waits for us. Jesus waits with arms wide-open ready to receive us and offer us His gifts.

There are several ways you can enter this Advent. The first is through our Broadway inspired devotional featuring daily reflections on our Advent theme written by our own members. The second is by joining our Advent study series centered on the book, [*While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent*](#), by [Mary Lou Redding](#). This 5-week series will highlight biblical figures who don't always garner much of the Advent spotlight and use the questions these figures ask to inspire reflection and conversation in us. Finally, you can participate in the myriad of other activities Broadway will host throughout the season.

So what are you waiting for? Come experience the hope, peace, joy, and love that is standing by awaiting your discovery! Contact [John DeLaporte](#) to participate and learn more!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS!

OCT 22- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 12 – 1:30 pm

NOV 11- Setup Tree of Hope

NOV 12- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 12 – 1:30 pm

NOV 16- Fluffing of the Greens

NOV 19- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 12 – 1:30 pm

NOV 26- Advent Decorating- After worship service

NOV 27- Advent Decorating

NOV 28- Advent Decorating

DEC 2- Decorating of CLC by Broadway's children

DEC 3- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 12 – 1:30 pm

SERRV Sale, 9am, Fellowship Hall

DEC 5- Blue Christmas Harp & Healing, 6:00 pm

DEC 9- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, TBD

DEC 10- "Glory to God!" Christmas Pageant Sunday

Goodie Sunday

SERRV Sale, 9am, Fellowship Hall

DEC 17- Children and youth caroling, 4 pm

DEC 24- Discipleship Hour for children and adults

with Christmas Story & ornaments

Christmas Eve Worship, 10:30 am followed by

Soup Luncheon

Christmas Eve Evening Worship, 5:30 & 8:00 pm

DEC 31- Story Tradition Sunday

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

While We Wait...

Broadway Advent Devotional 2023!

We are excited to announce that Broadway is creating our own church-wide devotional for Advent, 2023! It is easy to compose and submit your devotional entry and **entries are due by October 25**. Select a scripture on the theme of hope, peace, joy, or love, write a brief 250 word reflection and prayer, and select a personal photo to submit.

Contact John DeLaporte or Ingrid Luckenbill with questions or to express interest!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Parades and Pageants

Children's Christmas Pageant

The 2023 Children's Christmas Pageant, "Glory to God!", will be performed in worship on Sunday, December 10. We are so excited to have had 14 participants audition and sign up! This pageant will be a musical, with backup from our awesome Youth Choir, directed by Kristi Larsen.

Thanks to all who have already been SO much help getting us started – including Kristi Larsen, Taby Lane, Kate Stecklein, Sarah Merz, and Deb Carr!

If your child missed the signup, don't fret, there is still a place for them to participate! No child is too young or old (anyone over middle school age will sing with the Youth Choir) – we started rehearsals but would love to have you join our production! Call Ellen Flottman at 573-881-1501, or email her at deflottman@yahoo.com



Broadway Youth and Adults showing #broadhearts, #broadminds, and #broadreach

Enjoy a glimpse of the events we have shared including our Fall Kick Off featuring a build your own float bar, games, and a group blessing for the school year. Those attending Midnight Mission Impossible created baskets for the community, shared family breakfast, and held a Bible presentation.

TIDES College Campus Ministry held a Fall Retreat. This is CoMo's only ecumenical, affirming, and inclusive campus ministry led in partnership by Broadway, First Christian, MOUMC, First Baptist, Calvary Episcopal, St. Andrews ELCA, and First Presbyterian.

Middle & High Schoolers share food, discussion, and prayer on Sundays. We explored the spirituality of athletics (MS) and the spirituality of social media (HS) and in November we tackle big questions about the Bible (MS) and the afterlife (HS).

Finally, we have nothing but PRIDE as our BCC Youth Ensemble, teens, and parents marched in Pride Fest parade.





Inclusion Corner

BY LEA ANN LOWERY



“We don’t have anyone who is needing that type of support” or “I’m all for helping people/kids/families with disabilities, BUT” are commonly expressed sentiments when the topic of disability inclusion comes up. The idea that we can

somehow spot everyone that might benefit from basic modifications is a commonly held and misguided belief. Similar but different, statements that begin with the, “but what about” clause signal to others that our welcome mat is filled with doubts and barriers. Consider these statistics from *Welcoming People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families: A Practical Guide for Congregations*:

1. **Undertaking congregation-wide disability awareness efforts** – 70% of parents reported this would be helpful, only 10 % said their congregations provided this support.
2. **Identifying a congregational advocate for families** – 68% of parents reported this would be helpful, and 6% said their congregations provided this support.
3. **Offering respite care** – 61% of parents reported this would be helpful and 8% of congregations provided this support.
4. **Making modifications in religious education programs** – 59% of parents reported this support would be helpful and 12% said this was provided within their church home.
5. **Crafting a spiritual or religious education plan** – 59% of parents reported this would be helpful and 11% indicated this was provided within their church home.

6. **Designing special worship services that include people with disabilities** – 47% of parents desire this and 7 % indicate that this happens within their congregation.

Many of you recall that the six steps listed in bold above are areas that BCC has addressed in the past, but we have experienced challenges with keeping up the momentum. Although there is a small and dedicated group of individuals who are still discussing this important topic, we need more people to bring new energy and effort to this important topic. *Are you someone who likes to read a book and discuss how to apply ideas to your everyday life?* Then consider reaching out to our committee for idea on books your small group can explore about disability inclusion in faith communities. *Are you someone who enjoys supporting kids and youth?* Reach out to learn more about basic tips for building inclusive practices in our Sunday School and other children/youth programming. *Do you want to see better representation of persons of all abilities within the weekly activities of BCC?* Then invite disabled persons and their family members to be a part of discussions and planning for events and activities. Want to know more about this effort? Reach out to [John DeLaporte](#) for more information. Our committee would love to increase the reach and impact of this important conversation.



Community Garden at Broadway: A Brief History

BY DON DAY

A proposal to use some of Broadway's property to establish a community garden was approved by the church board in August 2006. Contacts with the Refugee and Immigration Services and the Community Garden Coalition assured the community garden task force that a community garden was needed in this part of town.

The garden was established in the spring of 2007 with a total of 24 plots. Plots were about six feet wide and eighteen feet long. Due to demand for more garden plots, the garden was expanded to 48 plots in 2009 and 96 plots in 2010. An area originally developed as a Master Gardener demonstration garden has since been converted into additional plots. Several expansions have taken place over the years to the point we now have 350 plots.

There have been seven Eagle Scout projects to support the garden including fencing around the plots, construction of a garden shed, two raised beds, a gravel path to the garden, and a bulletin board. From the early days, a number of

immigrants have been gardening at the Broadway Christian Church community garden. Immigrants can also plant crops they planted in their native countries. Some are from Myanmar (formerly Burma), some are from African countries, and several families are from China. A Chinese gardener described the community garden as a mini United Nations. One year, the families from Myanmar asked if Broadway would provide space they could use for worship and Sunday school. They worshipped at Broadway for a number of years until they obtained a building of their own. We say, "We grew a church from the garden!"

Many of our gardeners are low-income. Having garden plots enables them to save money on food. One gardener said they had saved \$1,000 on their family's food bill in one year. There are 37,800 square feet in the community garden. It is estimated that $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of food can be harvested per square foot per year. This totals 18,900 pounds of produce grown per year. If produce costs \$1.50 per pound in the grocery store, the value of vegetables grown in the garden would be \$28,350 - a conservative estimate.

It is the mission of Broadway Christian Church to use some of our land for people to raise food. There is no charge for the plots and the church supplies water for the crops. The community garden is but one way we at Broadway strive to be good and gracious stewards of our time, talents, treasure, building, and land.





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BROAD HEARTS BROAD MINDS BROAD REACH
WHERE LOVE LEADS

Connect with us:

David A. Shirey, Interim Lead Pastor

Terry Overfelt, Pastor

John DeLaPorte, Director of Youth & Faith Formation

Ingrid Luckenbill, Church Administrator

Kate Stecklein, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Church Office 573.445.5312

bcchurch@broadwaychristian.net

www.broadwaychristian.net

[facebook.com/broadway.christian](https://www.facebook.com/broadway.christian)

[instagram.com/broadway.christian](https://www.instagram.com/broadway.christian)

twitter.com/broadwaycomo

[youtube.com/user/BCCcolumbiamo](https://www.youtube.com/user/BCCcolumbiamo)

Church Office hours:

Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

What We've Been Up To

We have been busy since our Fall Kickoff in late August. Enjoy some of these captured moments at the Blitz Build, Seasoned Spirits Trip, Pride Parade, M.O.M 300 Challenge, Blessing of the Beasts, and Children's Choir.

