

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Pastor Matt Merriman

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:31-5:2

BUMC Family and Friends,

As you are all well aware, we live in an ever increasingly divided world: politically, racially, financially, theologically and in many other ways, Americans separate themselves from others. More often than ever before, we encounter hate and anger over these differences. Even within our denomination we have experienced this leading up to and during disaffiliation and as a result of the recent changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline enacted by the General Conference. If you want to learn a little more about those changes, please refer to my recent special message which can be found on our website.

As professed believers we have a responsibility to seriously consider how we respond to these things. We are obligated to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ. In the passage of Paul's letter to the Ephesians found above, we have excellent advice on how to treat those who disagree with us or even hate us. We must set aside "bitterness and wrath and anger...and malice" for a more measured, calm response. Paul goes on to tell us that in addition to controlling our anger we must strive to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving and walk in love just as Jesus did.

All of that is a lot easier said than done, but I really do believe it is imperative now, more than ever, that people on different sides of an issue work to respect each other, find common ground, and treat each other with Christian love. Let's all of us try to avoid judging others and focus on how we can be of benefit to them instead.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt





High School Graduates

Cara Chidsey
Amanda Merriman
Isabelle Maldonada

College Graduates

Evert van Staden
Bachelor of Science in Communication
Ohio University

Graduation and Scholarship Sunday

June 16



Scholarship Awards for 2024

At Brunswick United Methodist Church we have the following Scholarship Funds: the Douglas Bruder Scholarship, the Rob Lewis Scholarship, the DJ Monroe Scholarship, the Joshua Sheridan Scholarship, the Memorial Scholarship and the Seminary Scholarship (for seminary students who will be entering vocational ministry in the United Methodist Church).

Every year the Scholarship Committee receives applications for scholarships; in a typical year the committee awards anywhere from one to five scholarships. Graduating high school seniors who are members at Brunswick UMC are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the church.

The Scholarship Committee at the Brunswick UMC is pleased to announce this year's recipient for a Brunswick UMC Scholarship: Cara Chidsey, Amanda Merriman, and Isabelle Maldonada. The Scholarship Committee invites you to extend your best wishes to them on June 16th.

Upcoming Children's Events

Ages Prek-5th grade

- June 1 - Volunteer at the Library
- June 19 - Mini Golf & Ice Cream
- June 30 - Baking Class
- July 8-12 - Vacation Bible School
- July 14 - Cedar Point
- July 21 - Wacky Water Olympics
- August 6 - Kidz Day at Spring Mist Farms
- August 11 - Nature Hike & Picnic
- August 16 - Bonfire
- September 11 - Popsicles on the Playground

Upcoming Church Events

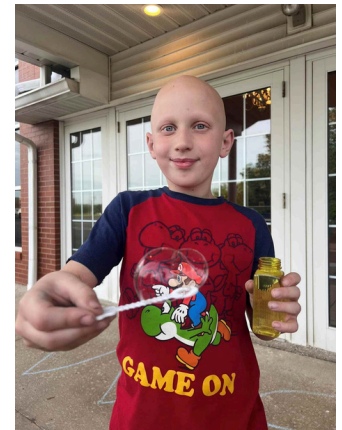
- July 7 - Brunswick Parade
Serve hot dogs
(See Details on page 7)
- September 8 - Rally Day
and Church Picnic



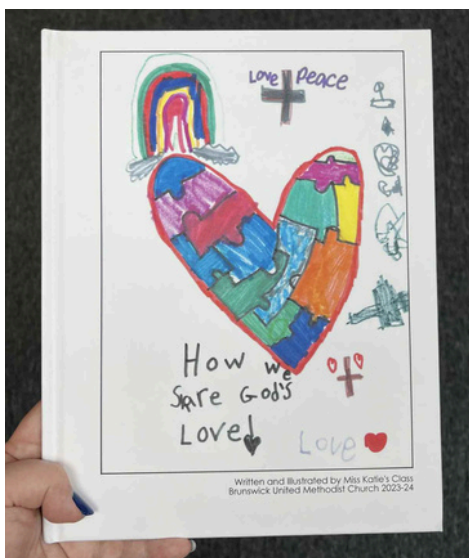
Kidz Connect



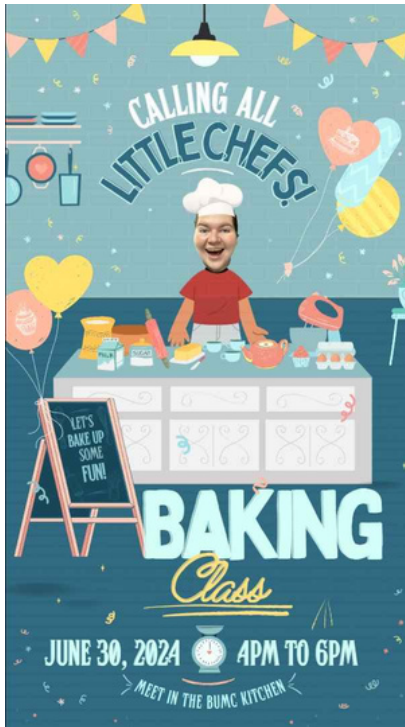
Kidz Connect is taking a break for the summer. We had a lot of fun one night blowing bubbles and drawing with sidewalk chalk.



There are some new and exciting changes this year! Our littlest worshippers at BUMC are getting ready to enter the summer and participate in "Miss Katie's Super Summer Stay-cation!" Imagine a summer hanging out with all of your church friends participating in fun things like a day at Cedar Point, wacky water olympics, volunteering at the Brunswick Library and so much more! Information will be sent out very soon!



Did you know Miss Katie's Kidz Connect friends are officially all published authors?! We can't believe it either! Since February, we worked on creating a book entitled "How We Share God's Love" and we are so excited to finally have a hard copy in hand. If you would like to see the book, please let Katie Kintop know and she will be happy to share it with you.



Vacation Bible School July 8-12



Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School the week of July 8-12 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

This year's theme is "Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God!" Kids will be taken deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. **WE LOVE HOW:** Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

Kids will explore how Jesus shined hope, love, forgiveness, and joy to the world - and how we can do the same with His power! You can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in friendship with Jesus! We will spark creativity with the ever-popular Kidvid Cinema, which is a 5 minute video of actual kids sharing their life stories and music followed by crafts, games and interactive experiences with science projects. There will be plenty to entertain your child. Come join us. Please register your child by going to our website at www.brunswickumc.org or call the office at 330-225-3179.

Registration is up on our website. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Katie Kintop know. We hope you will join us.

Youth Connection

Youth Group



The youth group will be taking a break for the summer with some additional fun activities planned here and there. We hope that everyone is able to enjoy some time off while school is out. Keep an eye out in your emails and social media for updates regarding some fun field trips later in the summer.

Girls Retreat

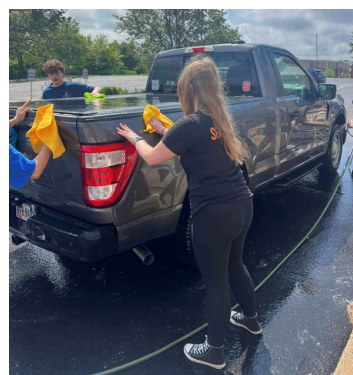
Katie is leading a girls weekend retreat at Lakeside Chautauqua June 21-23. Please contact her if you are interested in attending. This retreat is open to all 6th-12th grade girls. Space is limited!

Youth Mission Trip

Thank you to everyone who attended our Car Wash fundraiser on May 15th! We raised \$573.87!

The youth mission team is heading off to Lumberton, North Carolina in the early morning hours of June 2nd. We will be doing home repairs for a community that suffers from flood damages after tropical storms. Our mission team has increased in size and changed a lot since the last time they were introduced to the congregation. While you may not recognize many of the names on this list, you should know that most of the kids have built relationships with us through That Place for Teens, Brunswick HS Marching Band, and word of mouth. Our team now consists of 15 kids, and 6 chaperones. They include: Brayden Belloma, Olivia Boodheshwar, Cara Chidsey, Cassie Chidsey, Emily Chidsey, Leah Fortuna, Lucas Gove, Alayna Hammond, Grace Hollingsworth, Castalia Koson, Isabella Maldonado, Amanda Merriman, Rileigh Patera, Chad Witt, Alexander Zimmerman. Chaperones include: Chris Chidsey, Hank and Janet Hartmann, Katie Kintop, Annie and Matt Merriman.

Please lift our group up in prayer for safety during this week as we travel and work.



Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League

The BUMC Golf League is in full swing and we have completed the first month. So far we have had 13 golfers every week. There is still time to come join us if you are interested. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The golf league will play 9 holes every Thursday evening from April 25th through September 17th. Tee time is 4:00PM at Cossett Creek Golf Course in Brunswick.

If you can't commit to being a Regular (players who plan to play the majority of weeks during the season) we have space for what we call Alternates (players who plan to play at least 5 times during the season). For more information on the league contact:

Jim Armitage: 724-814-4513 jrarmitage1@gmail.com

Ron Chidsey: 440-785-0509 chidsey@gmail.com



Music Department



Both Choirs will be taking a summer break. Anyone with any musical ability that would like to perform during the summer months, please let Chris know.

Contact Chris Chidsey at
christopherchidsey@gmail.com



Bible Study

We are on summer break and will resume in the fall. Enjoy your time off and look for updates in your August or September newsletters announcing the date we will resume and what the studies will be.



Hearing Receivers

If you have difficulty hearing, there are hearing devices in the sound room that fit over your hearing aids and ears to magnify the worship service. The Technology Crew has been tweaking the sound on these to make sure they're all working well and the volume is set to be helpful to those using them. You can locate them in the basket outside the communications room. After every service, please return to the basket where the Technology Team will sanitize them and have them ready for the next time they are needed. Please see Ron Chidsey or Ed Mitchell if you any have questions.

Operation Christmas Child

On the counter on the Welcome Center you will find some bookmarks marked Operation Christmas Child.

Written on each bookmark are items that are needed for the shoeboxes. If you are able to donate, please take one (or more) bookmarks, shop for the items on them and put them in the OCC box in the gathering area. Also, I discovered that Amazon has a special area for OCC. Just type in Operation Christmas Child bulk. You can get ideas or order there if you're into Amazon.

Thank you, again, for supporting this worthy mission. Please contact Marcia Taylor with any questions.



City Parade Outreach

The city is holding its city parade again this year on July 7th. A few years back we had grilled hot dogs and passed them out to anyone attending the parade. We want to do this again.

Steve Sutton will grill the hot dogs but he will need some help. We would like to handout hot dogs, bottled water and freezer pops. We need a few people to help with the shopping, setup and cleanup, and a few people to greet and hand out the items. Please let Karen know in the office if you're willing to help with this community outreach.

This is a perfect opportunity to be visible in the community and to make connections with the residents. Christ Community Connect!



Thank you to everyone who purchased and donated a geranium to the church on Pentecost.

We also want to thank Marilyn Springer and Amy Francek for planting the geraniums last month. Amy is the Girl Scout Leader from the troop that was supposed to help.

Marilyn could use help throughout the summer with weeding and watering the flowers so they will look nice all season. Please contact her and see how you can help.





We have wrapped up another Kids Hope Year at Memorial Elementary School. So many positive relationships have been established over the course of this school year. The Kids in the program look forward to visiting with their mentors and the mentors have told me that they also look forward to their visits with the Mentees. Since my last update, each of our Kids Hope Kids were given a \$10 gift certificate to the Memorial School Book Fair to purchase books. (This made a big impact since the Spring book fair is a “Buy One, Get One free” occasion.)

On Friday, May 17, 2024, the Spring Mist Farms hosted our annual Kids Hope Picnic after school. The students were transported from the school to the farm by school bus and picked up by their parents at 5:30. Katie Kintop oversaw the games and Barb Slama took charge of the food. Thanks Katie and Barb. And, of course, Dave Goodyear gave his usual excellent animal tour at the end of the picnic. Thanks, Dave, for continuing to support our Kids Hope Ministry in this way.

As the children advance to the next grade, I start preparing for the start of our seventeenth year for the Brunswick United Methodist Church Kids Hope Ministry. Some current mentors will not be returning as a mentor for the next year so I will be needing more of our church members to step up and fill in the gaps. Will it be You?

Thank you to all the Mentors and Prayer Partners for your continued dedication to the life of your mentee. Our Kids Hope Ministry is only as strong as each link in the chain. It has been a great year this year.

Blessings to All,

Ron Chidsey
BUMC Kids Hope Director





Directory Update

By Carole Jones

Directories have been handed out on several Sundays. If you have not received yours yet, you may pick it up from Karen in the church office.

I enjoyed making the directories and am hopeful that I'll be able to do it again in three years. During the process of collecting pictures, I discovered several family connections that I wasn't aware of such as sisters or parents and adult children. This brought back a memory from many years ago when a church friend introduced me to my own mother. So, for the next directory I'm thinking it would be nice if we had pictures of these family connections. Please start documenting those connections with current pictures so you'll be ready.

A recurring comment I received while asking for photos was that members don't have pictures of themselves. I encourage everyone to take pictures and be included in them. My parents are both deceased, and I treasure their pictures. At some point we will all be deceased, so do your kids and grandkids a huge favor and have your picture taken frequently. The casual everyday pictures are fun and certainly help tell a story of a person's life.

I hope you enjoy your directory and use it to stay connected with church friends.

The Women Behind Father's Day

The first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.

Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died. However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted; very few people outside of the local area knew about it.

Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself, after his wife Ellen died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27 years old, came up with the idea.

Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons. Thus, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Happy Father's Day



Fathers are wonderful people
too little understood,
and we do not sing their
praises
as often as we should.

But fathers are just
wonderful
in a million different ways,
and they merit loving
compliments
and accolade of praise.

For the only reason Dad
aspires to fortune and success
is to make the family proud
of him and to bring them
happiness.

And like our Heavenly Father,
He's a guardian and a guide,
someone that we can count
on to be always on our side.



Brunswick United Methodist Church Quilters Group

Did you know we have a quilting group that meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Members include: Darlene Beeching, Barb Dunning, Janet Hartmann, Cathy Kilpatrick, Jim Kreiner, Sandi Politowicz, Cathy Richards, and Barb Broadbent. Anyone is welcome to join them. They will be donating 20 quilts to Akron Children's Hospital, Hospice Care and nursing facilities such as Brunswick Point. We will be blessing these quilts on June 23rd. Come see the beautiful work they have done.





Blessings Box

By Karen McGoughran

Pastor Matt and I were talking about the Blessings Box that was at one of his other churches and whether that would work here

at our church for people who couldn't make it to the food pantry on Thursday mornings. Two days later, I received a private message from Kimberly Nagy Publik who is the Facebook Administrator for the, "You Know You're From Brunswick If..." Facebook Page. She asked me if our church would be interested in hosting a Blessings Box.

Now, as a Christian I found this to be a God instance. I told Matt about the message and we discussed the logistics of doing this. He talked to Theresa Taylor, Food Pantry Coordinator, to see how this would fit into our mission and work with our Food Pantry and we have decided this would be a great outreach to our community.

What is a Blessings Box you might be asking. If you look at the above picture, it is a box that is located outside by the church where people from the community who need food or hygiene products can stop and take what they need. Our church members and people from the community would help provide the products and supplies we need to fill it.

Kimberly has people from the city who are willing to help build it unless we want to do that ourselves. I already saw a post where there were many residents willing to help supply the products needed. Theresa is encouraging us to stock it full of hygiene products, household products, diapers etc. These items are not covered under government assistance programs such as WIC. There are many food pantries in Brunswick so residents are getting plenty of opportunities to get food. Personally, I get phone calls for hygiene products and diapers all the time as there aren't that many churches and pantries providing these.

In order to get this project off the ground, we need one or two people to serve as a Team Leader or Leaders for this project. They would be the contact person, make the connections and work with people from the city, oversee the area where we will store these items including finding people to keep the shelves stocked. We see where there are already residents who are willing to help with this so we don't think it will be difficult to find volunteers. We could also tap into our Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops for service projects. What a great way to fulfill our vision statement: Christ Community Connect.

Please contact me if you feel the Lord moving you to help with this outreach project.



June Birthdays

- 6/2 Bob Miktuk
- 6/4 Barb Chidsey
- 6/7 Christopher Chidsey
- 6/11 William Mellott
- 6/11 Jennifer Mille
- 6/12 Gerrie Hawk
- 6/12 Steve Sutton
- 6/14 David Lenigan
- 6/14 Don Tripepi
- 6/16 Grace Ruth
- 6/18 Sandy Sarnovsky
- 6/20 Laurie Baker
- 6/24 David Jahnke
- 6/24 Maryann Snowbrick
- 6/27 Hannah Crawford
- 6/28 Dave Goodyear
- 6/29 Diana VanDiest
- 6/29 Evert van Staden Jr.
- 6/30 Karen Haught
- 6/30 Lorretta Sutton



Editor's Note: I read the following as part of my morning devotion. I thought it was very pertinent to our church so am sharing it with you.

You Are Valuable, No Matter Who You Are

BY RICK WARREN — MAY 15, 2024

FROM SHAPED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

Human life reveals God's purpose and shows God's glory—so we must always protect the sanctity of life.

No matter who you are or where you're from, you are valuable. And the same is true for every child, no matter what society tries to tell you today.

None of us are perfect, but the Bible tells us that God accepts responsibility for all our genetic imperfections. Did you know that? That doesn't mean he takes responsibility for the problems in our lives that we brought on ourselves because of poor choices like overeating or smoking or drinking too much. But your genetics—all the things that you didn't have any say in, even the things people might call “defects” or “weaknesses”—are all part of your SHAPE. SHAPE stands for Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences. These are the five things that make you, you.

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 16:7, “The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (NIV).

God accepts responsibility because he has a bigger perspective than any human. He can see what we can't see. And he loves each of us for our potential to do the great things he has planned for us, regardless of our handicaps, imperfections, or weaknesses.

God isn't going to compare you with anybody else. He made you to be you. You are his masterpiece. He's going to help you reach your unique potential.



Summer



- A glass of raw lemon juice or a spoonful of honey before bed has been proven to drastically improve your nights sleep. Try it!

- Feeling nauseous? Smell rubbing alcohol. It will relieve the nausea almost instantly.

- How to remove permanent marker:
Clothes - Hand Sanitizer
Walls - Toothpaste or Hairspray
Wood - Rubbing Alcohol
Carpet - White Vinegar
Dry Erase Board - Rubbing Alcohol
Furniture - Milk

- Scratched furniture remedy:
1/2 cup of vinegar with a 1/2 cup of olive oil. Rub it on, leave for a minute. Good as new. It really works.

- Deodorant on an insect bite or other itchy site will stop the itch.

- When looking for something you've lost, always scan right to left with your eyes. You'll pick up more because your brain isn't used to reading that way.

Donation Reminders

Did you know that there are several steps to processing your donation?

First, we have a team of 2 counters which include Dick and Darlene Beeching, Mary Jane Broaddus and Bonnie Youngblood, Gerrie Hawk and Karen Lipovits, and Mimi Gilbert and Chuck McConnell. We appreciate all their time and effort every week of the year to record your donations accurately and then they deposit the money in the bank.

Second, we have a Financial Secretary who records the donations into the Church Windows database. Amy Francek who was doing this recently stepped down so Karen in the office is now inputting the donations. Julie Zevchek has been entering the online donations. This may change as Karen learns the program better.

The counters and the Financial Secretary both use your offering envelope to input and record your donations. So, it's important to include all the information on the offering envelope that you can. The database requires a check number if you are paying by check. Please remember to write the check number on your envelope and if you're paying by cash, please mark the cash box. If you include more than one check in your envelope, please write both check numbers on the outside of the envelope.

As we continue to work on a budget and move toward using one general fund, we encourage members to not restrict your donations as we will be paying most everything out of the general fund. We will continue to have a Food Pantry, Trustee Maintenance and Capital Improvement Fund but if those begin running low, we will just move money from the general fund into those funds to cover the cost of any bills.

If you are designating your donation for something other than the general fund (currently called Unified) or Capital Improvement, please indicate on the "other line" on your envelope how much and what it's for. For instance, if you purchase Altar Flowers or are making a donation to UMCOR please write that on this line.

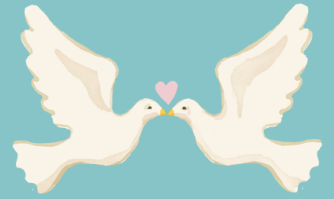
If you use an envelope that doesn't have your name on it, please write your name and your envelope number on the envelope. The counters use your envelope number to record your donation but the software program uses names so we need both to input your donation.

We have many checks and balances which is why the record keeping is set up the way it is and everyone dealing with your donations is understanding how important confidentiality is where your contributions are concerned.

If you ever have a question regarding your contributions, please feel free to contact Karen in the office.

Wedding Coordinators:

We are in need of a few more Wedding Coordinators to assist the wedding party and the pastor during the rehearsal and the wedding. If you are interested in learning more, please call Julie Buttle at (216) 408-6888.



Hollie Taylor
to
Steven Dropcho
on
May 25th!

Congratulations!



Office News!

Annual Conference

June 12-15

Pastor Matt will be out of the office during these days.

Pastor Matt and Katie will be on the Mission Trip June 2-June 8.

The Office will be closed on June 28.

Month in Review

Starting in June, we will be showing a "Month in Review" Power Point presentation during one of the worship services. The idea is to show what's going on in the life of the church and with our members.

However, we need help to make this happen every month! We need people to take a few pictures any time you are here for a church activity and email them to the church office. Karen will be compiling the pictures into the slide show.

We are looking forward to receiving your pictures.

Once again, we need to remind everyone, if you leave an item in the kitchen, or the refridgerators or freezers, please write your name or group name on it, otherwise it will be thrown out or used for another event.

Mail

Please remember to mail your donations and any other correspondence to the following:

BUMC
PO Box 85
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Office Hours:

Please plan your trips accordingly:

Monday thru Thursday:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The office is closed on Friday afternoons.



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION: 330-225-3179

Matt Merriman, Pastor (Ext. 12)

Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (Ext. 10)

Katie Kintop, Youth Ministry Coordinator (Ext. 11)

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