

# STEEPLEVUES

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

By Pastor Matt Merriman

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6

Brunswick UMC Family and Friends,

Today I want to talk to you about giving. When we dedicate our lives to serving God, we are committing everything that we are and everything that we have to God. We can give of our time, but if we hold back our money, then we are not truly dedicating all of ourselves to God. The place that money and possessions hold in our hearts—and how we use them—are good indicators as to the state of our soul and the true nature our relationship with God.

In the verse above, the Apostle Paul is telling the fledgling Christian Church in the city of Corinth, that giving money to help others is a worthy endeavor. Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly. A farmer cannot expect a bumper crop if they only sow a handful of seed in their field. However, if that farmer plants a huge amount of seed—and then does the work to tend and care for it—the farmer can expect an abundant crop. Our giving works the same way. If we don't give, or don't give enough, to support the missions and ministries of our church, then we cannot expect those ministries to bear abundant fruit.

There are a couple of things going on in our church that cause me to write this message to you. First, so far this year, our regular bills and expenses have been more than we have received through giving. Second, is that we have more children and youth involved in Sunday school, Kids Connect, and our youth group than at any time in the almost three years I have served BUMC and we have been without a coordinator for those ministries for 18 months.

Fortunately, we have finally identified an excellent candidate to fill the Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator position. In March, the Leadership Board voted to hire Jessieca Paul for that position, on a part-time basis, for a 90 day probationary period. If all goes well, Jess will then become a permanent, part-time employee of the church.

(continued on next page)

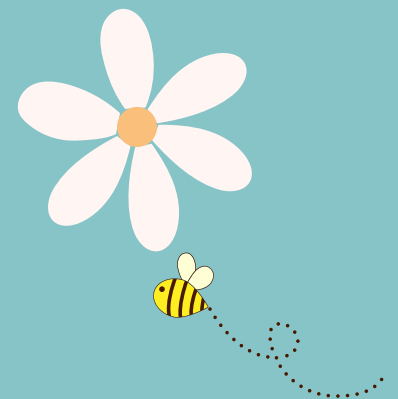
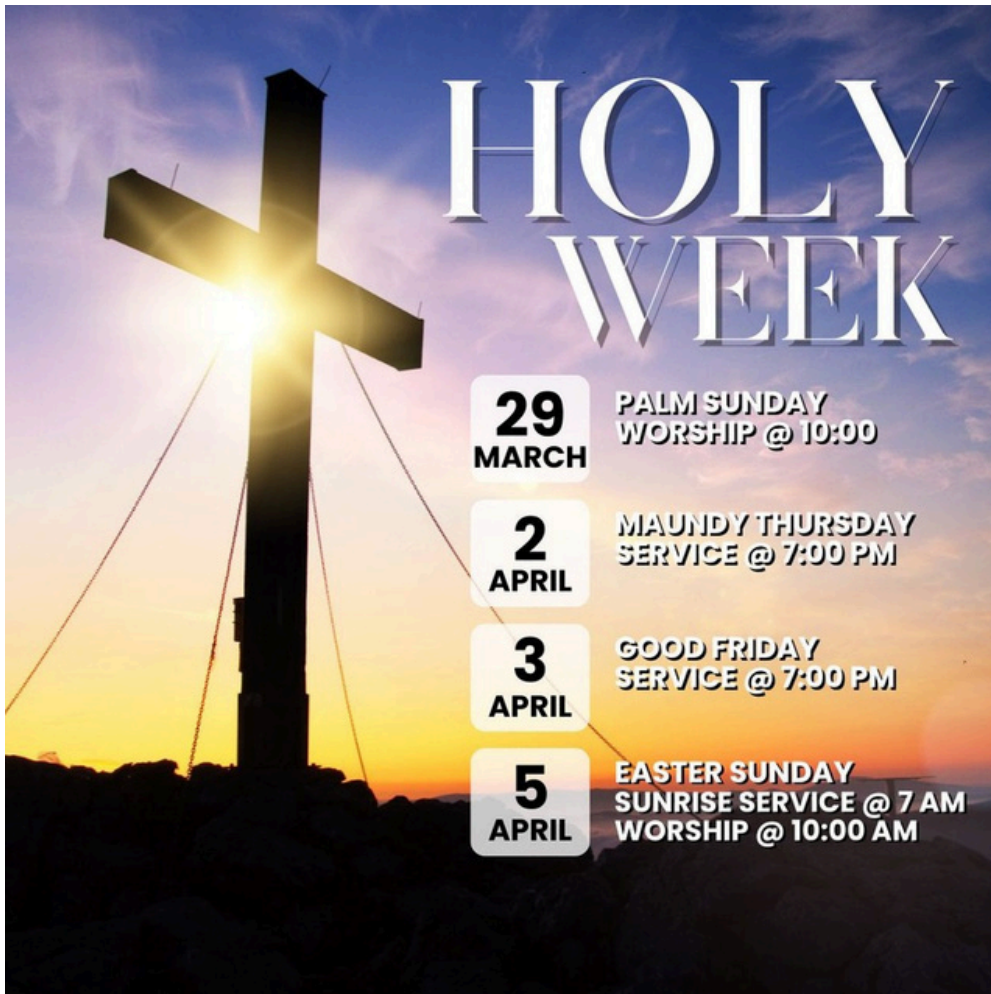


(Pastor's message cont.)

Our volunteer teachers and leaders have done a great job of filling the gap while the position was empty, but the lack of a staff member dedicated to those ministries has prevented us from serving our kids and youth as well as they deserve.

Now, I come to you, the congregation, and ask you to step up your giving so that we can meet all of our financial obligations without dipping into our reserve funds. If you do not give, or just give occasionally, please prayerfully consider giving on a regular basis. If you already give regularly, please consider giving more. Our church is growing and that is a blessing from God, but our giving must also grow so that we can maintain our huge building and provide the missions and ministries that help both adults and children grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Again, please pray, ask God for guidance, and consider giving a little more to support our growing church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Matt





# Kidz Connect

Our last meeting (March 11th) we learned about Lazarus and how Jesus awoke him from the dead. We all raced to wrap our partner up as fast as we could before the time went off. Pastor Matt got involved and the kids all wrapped him up in toilet paper. We had 2 new friends join us for a total of 11 kids!!! We've been averaging 12 kids monthly.

Susan Lausch also spent talking to the kids and teaching them how to acolyte. Many of them are interested in becoming acolytes so look for some our children during Sunday worship.



## Sunday School Schedule

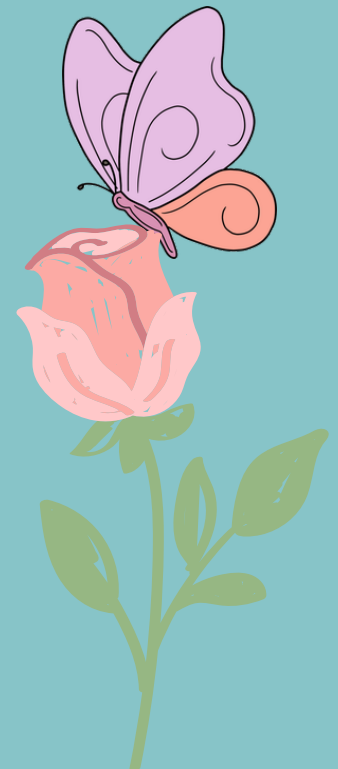
No Sunday School on Easter!

We'll meet on April 12, 19, and 26.

In May we'll meet on May 3, 17, and 24. We won't hold Sunday school on Mother's Day.

## Kidz Connect Schedule

April 8 and 22  
May 6 and 20



# Music Department



## Lent and Easter Music opportunities

The choir invites you to join us for the last performance date before the summer! If you like to sing and would like to join us for our May 17th Sunday performance, please come to our April & May rehearsals. This performance will feature a group of 4 different songs. Rehearsals are April 15th, April 29th, May 6th, and May 13th from 6-7 PM in the choir room. Contact me if you have any questions!

Please contact Chris Chidsey with questions  
christopherchidsey@gmail.com

## Missions Report

The youth of our church are fund raising for their summer mission trip. Their bake sale on Palm Sunday was a big success. Treat Mom on Mother's Day when the youth have their next scheduled bake sale.



## Bible Study Opportunities

Pastor Matt holds a Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm and on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm.

Following Lent, the Wednesday night study will resume studying Isaiah and the Thursday afternoon study will resume the standardized curriculum



## Adult Sunday School

On Sunday, April 12, the Adult Sunday School class will begin studying Moses, In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to join the class, you can call the church office so we can order you a book. The cost is \$11.19. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 11:15 in Room 101. Please stop in any Sunday to join us.

Please see Susan Lausch if you have questions.





## Mission Trip: May 30-June 6

The week of May 31 - June 6, our youth group will be working with the Kentucky Conference of the UMC on a home repair mission trip. Our exact location in Kentucky has not yet been determined. I anticipate that we will have about 15 youth and 10 adults and college students attending. The total cost of the trip will be about \$10,000.00. That amount includes the cost of rental vans, food, and making a donation to the Kentucky Conference to pay for building materials. To date we have raised about \$2500 and the attendees themselves will pay approximately \$4000.

Our remaining fundraisers are:

1. Loose Change Collections on Sundays April 5 (Easter) & May 3rd. The kids will take up a special offering at the beginning of the service. Please bring in your loose change to share.
2. The Stock Sale will continue through April 30. Each certificate is \$10. With this fundraiser you are purchasing stock in the development of our youth as disciples of Christ as they work to transform the lives of people in need in Kentucky in very real, concrete ways.
3. May 2 - Car Wash 9 a.m. - Noon.
4. May 10 (Mother's Day) - Bake Sale
5. May 23 - Car Wash 9 a.m. - Noon



Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of our youth!

## Habitat Build

**Date/Time:** May 9, 2026 8:00 am to noon

Back up Date: May 16

**Location:** Zion Lutheran Church at 2233 Abbeyville Road, Valley City

Participants:

Zion Lutheran Church, Medina UMC, Brunswick UMC  
York UMC, Medina UCC, Medina Nazarene

Home Owner: Bridgette and her 14 year old son. The family currently live in Brunswick, but the home will be located in Wadsworth.

There is no age limit for a wall build because no power tools will be used.  
Participants may want to bring their favorite hammer.



### At The Foot of The Cross

By Naomi Fata 2013

At the foot of the cross  
there is healing;  
At the foot of the cross  
there is mercy;  
At the foot of the cross  
power flows from  
sinless blood.  
Love pours into broken  
hearts from the perfect One.  
At the foot of the cross  
covered by his sacrifice,  
the Son of God sets me free.



# Golf League



Golf season is just around the corner again and the Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League is starting to get organized. Come join us this year. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The golf league will play 9 holes every Thursday evening from April 23rd 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 at least 15 times during the season) we have space for what we call Alternates (players who plan to play at least 5 times during the season). The dues for Regular players are \$60 and for the Alternate players \$15. Hope to see all of our regular golfers return as well as a few new faces at the course this year. For more information on the league contact:

Jim Armitage 724-814-4513 [jrarmitage1@gmail.com](mailto:jrarmitage1@gmail.com)

Ron Chidsey 440-785-0509 [chidseyr@gmail.com](mailto:chidseyr@gmail.com)

# Operation Christmas Child



It seems our shoebox donations are coming in slower than last year. Thank you to those of you who have given faithfully. Because of the fewer donations, let's keep April's items the same as March: stuffed animals, things for older Kids, (hygiene items, fishing kits, tools, sewing kits, solid deodorant, combs, brushes, hair clips, jewelry, etc.). Also, we could use monetary gifts so we can purchase some things in bulk. Thank you for providing opportunities for children around the world to hear about Jesus.

Contact Marcia Taylor at (330) 350-1479 with questions.

# Ronald McDonald House

Don't forget to save your tabs from soda cans, etc. and bring them to church. Brittany (Marcia Taylor's granddaughter) is collecting them for the Ronald McDonald house in Cleveland. If she collects a million in two years, they will put a plaque in baby Tony's memory on their wall. Brittany and Tony stayed there when baby Tony was in Cleveland Clinic.



# Easter Egg Hunt

By Karen McGoughran

We had such a fun morning at the Easter Egg Hunt. The weather was a little cold but that didn't stop anyone from having fun. We had over 1500 eggs stuffed and there were over 300 muffins served. We had approximately 200 people from the community in attendance. I can't thank everyone enough who helped and there were so many that I can't list them all. However, I'll do a shout out to the girl scout troop under the Leadership of Rachel Hammond along with her family who stuffed all the eggs, we had crew here on Friday setting up, a crew helping toss the eggs, our servers, our face painters: Sydney Beckett and Alayna Hammond, our Easter Bunny Kaitlyn Solivan, and my planning team included Jill Arnold and Jesseica Paul. Thank you everyone!



# Palm Sunday



# Fish Dinner Follow-Up

By Ruth Dodig

Thank You to all the volunteers that contributed to a successful 2026 Fish Fry. Pastor Matt asked the question, "Who Am I". All of Us should say, proudly, I am a member of Brunswick United Methodist Church and I serve and contribute in a variety of ways!

Many of our contributions and service go unnoticed, as we may feel. I would like to give a Shout Out to the roles and jobs, our members volunteered for, to provide a good meal to the community.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Pierogi makers in January. We sold out!

**SHOUT OUT** to our 9 am, Friday morning preparation and set-up crew. They cut and saute onions, mix coleslaw, mix tartar sauce, roll silverware and more!

**SHOUT OUT** to our Main Cooks and Pierogi Cooks! Excellent Job!

**SHOUT OUT** to our Take Out Team! About 30 additional meals go out the door.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Church Bakers and the Dessert Cutting Crew! Methodist desserts are always our favorite!

**SHOUT OUT** to our Beverage Team! They prepare and serve 5 different beverages.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Cashiers! Greeting customers and counting at the end of the night has its challenges.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Servers! Great service with a Smile!

**SHOUT OUT** to our Bussing Tables Crew and Clean-up Crew! They are an organized group!

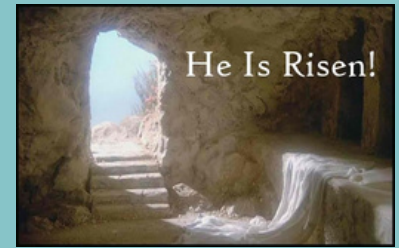
**SHOUT OUT** to our Dish Washing Crew! They make it possible for us to leave by 8:00 pm!

**SHOUT OUT** to the Boy Scouts and our Youth for being there to help all of us and assist our customers.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Church members supporting us and joining us for a good meal.

**SHOUT OUT** to our Church members supporting us through prayers and blessing.

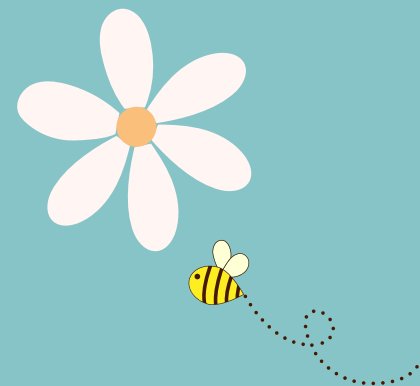
I appreciate everyone of you and am proud to be apart of the BUMC Family.



## Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

We will be meeting after church on Sunday, April 19 to plan VBS. Anyone interested in volunteering to help plan or help during the week of July 6-9, we ask you to attend this meeting. It will be held in room 101.

So, grab your coffee and a cookie after worship and then come join us.





# Soup Dinner

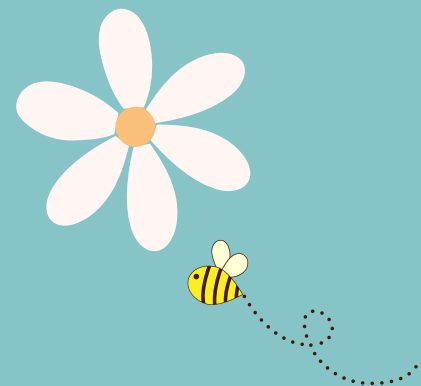
We wish to thank everyone who took part in the soup dinners this year. So many of you brought soup and many helped to set-up and clean-up. We had approximately 85 people attend our March soup dinner and we served 18 crockpots of soup. It seems like we've averaged around 85 people attending this year with the majority of those people being from the community. Praise God!

See you all again in October. Again thank you all for doing God's work.



Hello,  
I just wanted to reach out and say I appreciate the college care package you sent to me very much! It will definitely go to good use! It is so refreshing to know that I have so much support through my college journey!

With Love,  
Lauren Eyssen





# DINING to DONATE

Join us for a fun night at Applebee's all  
while raising money for

**BUMC Youth Mission Trip**

**Thursday - April 23, 2026**

**All Day**

**1421 Town Center Blvd #B-10**

**Brunswick, OH - 44212**

Available **TO GO** with code **DoinGood**

*Doin' Good in  
the Neighborhood*  
Applebee's



## Dine to Donate Fundraiser

**April 7th | 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Support the Brunswick United Methodist Church Mission Trip.  
Working with the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church  
to provide home repairs for financially disadvantaged individuals.



## Women's Book Study

We are studying "40 Days Through the Bible"

We meet once a month on a Friday at 6:30.

Our schedule is as follows:

April 24th

May 15th

June 26th (Meet to decide new study with group)

July - No meeting. Enjoy vacation and VBS season!

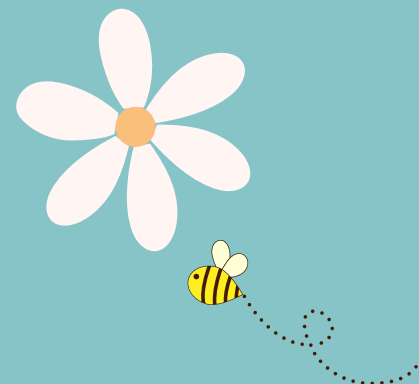
New Book Study: August 28th

Questions please contact Alyssa Kaczinski or Mallory Anglin.



## April Birthdays

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 2  | Jaxton Anglin       |
| 5  | Jon Fisher          |
| 5  | Robyn Spears        |
| 6  | Bill McGoughran     |
| 7  | Marianne McCracken  |
| 8  | Sally Rzicznek      |
| 8  | Justin Weinmann     |
| 9  | Eula Brooks         |
| 9  | John Ohler          |
| 9  | Tyler Robinson      |
| 10 | Theresa Taylor      |
| 11 | Molly Kaczynski     |
| 11 | Barb Porter         |
| 12 | Ed Mitchell         |
| 13 | Lyn Luttner         |
| 15 | Sherry Mitterholzer |
| 17 | Jessie Hammond      |
| 18 | Brenda Mileto       |
| 19 | Linda Bracker       |
| 20 | Henry Bracker       |
| 22 | Bill Eysen, Jr.     |
| 23 | Brayden Robinson    |
| 24 | Lynn Frantz         |
| 24 | Susan Ohler         |
| 27 | Donna Goessler      |
| 28 | Joe Lipovits        |
| 29 | Jennifer Gegorski   |
| 29 | Philip Long         |



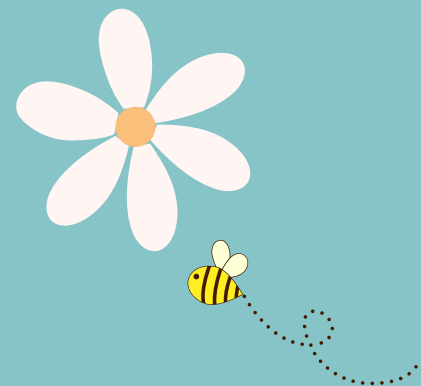
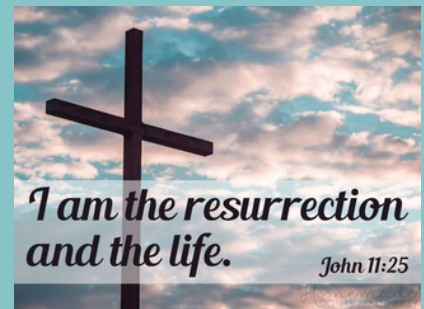
# Kids Hope Dinner

By Carole Jones

The annual Kids Hope Family Dinner was on Thursday, March 22. The delicious dinner of mac and cheese, and chicken nuggets was enjoyed by kids, parents and mentors. A big thank you to Ruth Dodig and her kitchen crew.

The entertainment was provided by Connor Stout and Chris Chidsey. Their audience-participation entertainment was a huge success. The whole room was alive as everyone joined in with silly songs and motions. One of the kids told his mom he did not want to stay for the entertainment because it would be boring. As soon as Chris and Connor started with their silliness, this little guy was totally involved. Everyone was involved. It was fun to participate and watch the kids, parents and mentors. Thanks to Connor and Chris for the fun part of the evening.

A big thank you to all the helpers and to Julie Buttle the event organizer.





# Office News!

## Blessings Box

Don't forget that we need ongoing donations for the Blessings Box. Currently we are in need of cleaning supplies, sponges, detergent and shampoo. Please drop off donations in the church office or in the gathering area.

The office is closed on  
Easter Monday, April 6.

Pastor Matt will be off that entire week.

### 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**

**Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (Ext. 10)**

**[matt.merriman@brunswickumc.org](mailto:matt.merriman@brunswickumc.org)**

**[karen.mcgoughran@brunswickumc.org](mailto:karen.mcgoughran@brunswickumc.org)**