

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Pastor Matt Merriman

Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Matthew 7:1-2

Brunswick UMC Family and Friends,

We live in a world in which it has become fashionable to judge other people and declare that they are either good or evil. Political bumper stickers are a great example. When we see a vehicle with stickers, we tend to decide whether or not they are a good person based on those stickers.

This tendency toward judgment is prevalent within Christianity as well. I have heard Christians declare that people of other religions are all going to hell. I have also heard Christians say that the LGBTQ+ community is going to hell. I'm sure there are Christians out there who are certain that everyone but themselves will go to hell.

I suspect that these purported "Christians" who make such judgments have not spent enough time reading the Bible. They seem to have missed the instruction that Jesus gave to all humankind on the topic of judgment. Jesus tells us not to judge others. Period. Judgment is for God—not us. Jesus states this in a number of places including the above example from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is very clear that true believers do not judge others because the judgment we render toward them will come right back at us. Again—Judgment is for God alone! Our mission is to simply be kind, loving, and helpful to all people and in doing so we emulate Jesus.

You might have noticed the growth happening in our church recently. More people of all ages are attending worship. Our Sunday school rooms are filling up. More teens are getting involved. I believe that this growth is due in large part to the kindness and openness people encounter when they meet us.

My hope and my prayer for this congregation is that we will continue to set aside this Christian tendency toward judgment and simply welcome everyone into our midst. On Sunday mornings, introduce yourself to people you don't know. Talk to the people who cross your path each day. Get to know them, nurture a relationship, and when the time is right, tell them about your faith.

(cont. next page)



Staff Spotlight

Jessieca Paul



We welcome Jessieca Paul to the church staff as our part-time Children's & Youth Ministry Coordinator. Jessieca has been a member of the church since October 2015. She jumped in with both feet back then serving as the 2nd/3rd grade Sunday school teacher from 2015-2020 and chaired the Worship Team during that time as well. In 2020 she needed to take a hiatus as she was hired as a Store Manager where her job required her to work on Sundays.

During VBS last summer she indicated that she was interested and able to help again. This past year she has helped Mallory Anglin coordinate Kidz Connect and she's back teaching Sunday school. She helped with Trunk or Treat, both the children's parents and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Jessieca is the mom to two children, 15-year-old Katelyn and 9-year-old Jaelyn who you will find helping on Sunday mornings and during events wherever they're able to.

Jess loves animals. So much so, she and her best friend established and run, "Tiny Feet Farm". They have goats, chickens, pigs, sheep and ducks all in her backyard.

Please stop by to meet her after church on any given Sunday morning.

(Pastor Matt's Letter cont.)

Let them know what you believe and why you believe. Also, listen carefully to what they believe. Then, maybe even invite them to church, or to a meal, or some other church event. This is how a church grows. But more importantly, this is how the Kingdom of God grows.

In summary: let us not judge others. Let us be kind, loving, and generous toward everyone. Finally, let us talk to people about our faith (in a non-judgmental way). This is how we bring folks into God's Kingdom.

Blessings to All,
Pastor Matt



Please note the following special dates:

May 7
National Day of Prayer



May 10
Mother's Day!



May 17
Teacher
Appreciation



May 24
Graduation Sunday



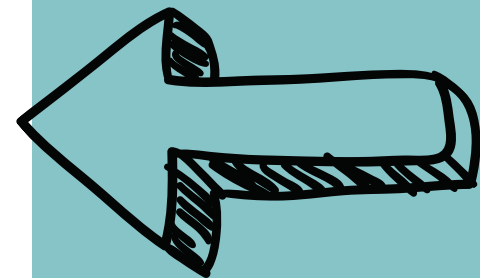
May 25
Memorial Day
We will be showing the
Memorial Day video
on Sunday, May 24.

**National Day of
Prayer
May 7th**

We encourage everyone to spend some time praying on this day for our country, government leaders, for our city and our church.

The theme this year is:

If you have any changes to the memorial day video, please contact Bob Lewis as soon as possible.





Sunday School

By Jessieca Paul

May is our last month for Sunday school and then we take a break during the summer. This month we're learning about the Good News. Our Sunday school classes are held during our 10 o'clock service after children's moments and our remaining schedule is below.

May 3rd (An Ethiopian Man Hears the Good News)

May 10th (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL MOTHERS DAY)

May 17th (The Good News is for Everyone)

May 24th (The Holy Spirit Brings Good News)

Last day of Sunday School

Kidz Connect



We have 2 more meetings

May 6th Our lesson will be on the Fisher's of Men and also making Mother's Day gift

May 20th This is our last day this year and will have lots of fun surprises for the kids.

Feel free to stop by and look at our Kidz Connect bulletin board by the office. I have pictures of the kids throughout this year. We thank you for your continuing support in the spiritual growth of our little disciples.

Vacation Bible School July 7-10

**Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School
the week of July 7-10 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.**

This year's VBS theme, Emerald Crossing, takes the kids on a journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.

The kids will enjoy a week of singing songs, making crafts, playing games and doing science projects.

Registration will be coming out at a later date. Keep an eye on the church website, social media pages, and bulletins/newsletters for information.



Music Department



As the school year comes to a close and we are approaching summer I want to thank all of you in the congregation who has participated in music this year. I also want to thank everyone for supporting us.

This summer I'd like to invite people to provide special music. If you have a musical talent you'd like to share, let me know and we can schedule you for a Sunday. Also be on the lookout for a summer choir Sunday that anyone can be a part of.

Contact Chris Chidsey at
christopherchidsey@gmail.com



Bible Studies

Every believer should participate in regular Bible study. BUMC offers a number of options. These groups are always open to new members so feel free to join one at any time.

Wednesday, 7 pm in room 101 - Pastor Matt leads this group. They read various books of the Bible together and discuss. Occasionally, this group mixes in a book study. Currently, they are studying the book of Isaiah.

Thursday, 1 pm in room 101 - Pastor Matt also leads this group. They use the Adult Bible Studies curriculum produced by Cokesbury. This curriculum is very scripture focused and takes the participants through a variety of books of the Bible and Bible stories.

Thursday, 7 pm in Library - Dick Beaching leads this Men's study which is organized very similarly to the Wednesday study. They are currently reading the Gospel of Matthew.

Youth Bible Study - This group is for 8th graders through high school. They meet on Sundays, immediately following worship until noon. Mason Crawford is leading this study with adult supervision.

May Birthdays

5/1	Sarah Crawford
5/2	Pat Beck
5/3	Frank Troutvine
5/4	Bonnie Yost
5/5	Janice Troutvine
5/6	Joey Breeden
5/6	Linda Slaga
5/8	Sheri Breeden
5/8	Paul Grant
5/13	Brenda Killey
5/13	Bob Stieger
5/16	Elizabeth Chandler
5/18	Bob Custer
5/20	Judy Bland
5/23	Meredith Stout
5/26	Brenda Wells
5/27	Wendy Heinle
5/28	Kathy Lang
5/28	Brad Saeger
5/29	Jim Coontz
5/31	Mallory Anglin
5/31	Lois Bewley
5/31	Heidi Merriman





Youth Update

By Pastor Matt

Things are going well for our youth. Mason Crawford is leading a youth Bible study that has been very well attended. They recently went bowling together and are all working very hard on Mission Trip fundraisers. We still don't know exactly where in Kentucky the team will be going, but they are excited to do some home repair work. The addition of Jessieca Paul to the church staff has given the youth program a huge boost. Jess organized the bowling outing and has helped keep the Youth Bible study on track. We also have a few parents who are getting more involved with the kids. Thanks to the kids for participating, Jess and the parents for helping, and to the entire church for supporting the mission trip.

The fundraisers coming up this month are as follows:

Saturday, May 2nd- 11:00 am-2:00 pm Car Wash

Sunday, May 3rd - 10:00 am Loose Change Offering

Sunday, May 10th - 10:00 am-Bake Sale

Saturday, May 23rd - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Car Wash



Operation Christmas Child

By Marcia Taylor

Thank you to all of you who so faithfully donate items for our shoebox ministry. For May let's use the bookmarks. There are some on the Welcome Center and also next to the shoeboxes at the top of the stairs. Take a bookmark, purchase the items listed on the bookmark and bring them to the church and put them in our donation box. Most of you know by now what items go in a well packed shoebox, so feel free to bring anything you wish (if you don't want to use the bookmarks).

Also, remember, you can pack a box on your own. Just pick up a box, fill it, and return it to the church. Thank you. Have fun!



Missions Team Update

By Carole Jones

Great news, Patrick Booth, the Missionary we are supporting is coming to our church. It will be nice to meet him, hear about his life and his mission in Cambodia. Mark your calendar for June 14, 2026.

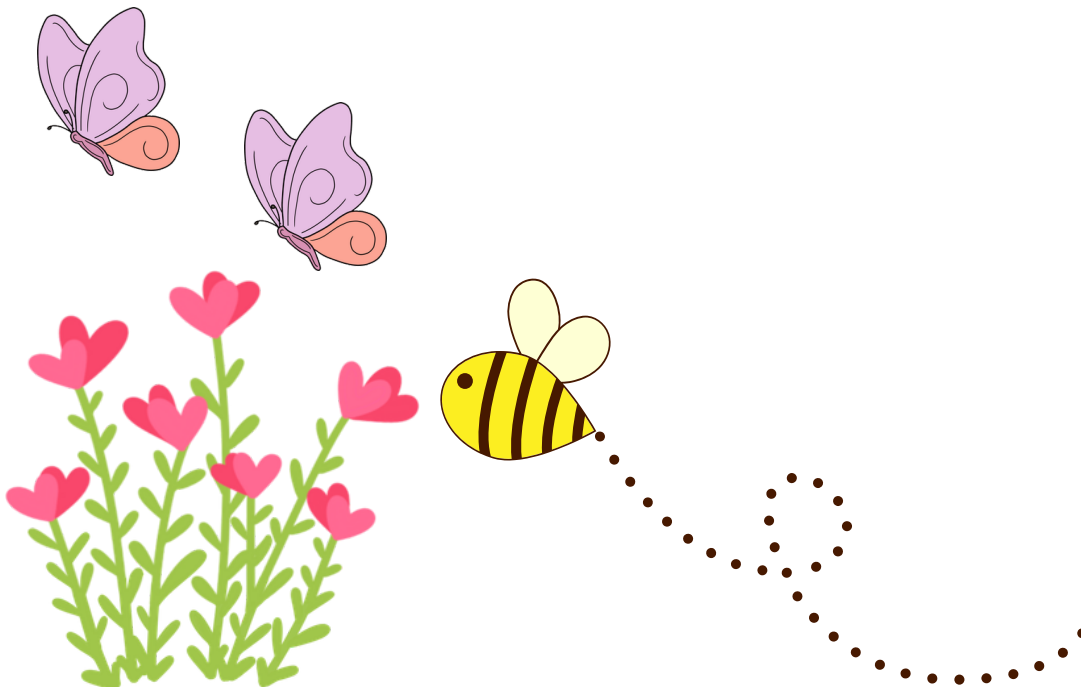
Details about his visit are being worked out so stay tuned for more information.

Earlier we announced that the Dornons, our Missionaries for many years, retired. We missed them in January because of our winter storm but thank them for their many years of service and we wish them well in their retirement.

The missions team decided to donate the Easter offering which totaled \$3000.00 to Habitat for Humanity. In addition, they approved the second quarter of giving as follows: \$2000.00 to our new missionary, Patrick Booth and \$1,000.00 to That Place For Teens. We thank everyone for your continued support to help those missions that are touching lives in our community.

Geraniums and Pentecost

For several years, Marilyn Springer has planted and beautifully maintained our geraniums, with Brenda Mileto and others joining her last year. They are no longer able to volunteer so we are looking for new people to keep this tradition alive. Please contact the church office by May 10 if you'd like to help so we can plan accordingly for Pentecost. If we get enough interest, we can set up a rotating watering schedule to share the workload.



SPRING



Culver's Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who helped support the Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser at Culver's. We earned \$720.00 just from people eating there that night. We also received \$278.00 in tips. Wow! Thank you also to the mission team members who helped host and to Culver's for opening their restaurant to share their proceeds with us.



hello
SPRING

Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League

The Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League is starting up again. It's not too late to come join us this year. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The golf league will play 9 holes every Thursday evening from April 24th through September 18th. Tee time is 4:05 pm at Cossett Creek Golf Course in Brunswick.

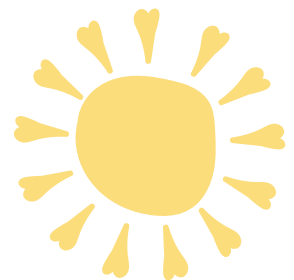
If you can't commit to being a Regular (players who plan to play at least 15 times during the season) we have space for what we call Alternates (players who plan to play at least 5 times during the season). The dues for Regular players are \$60 and for the Alternate players \$15. Hope to see you and a few new faces at the course this year. For more information on the league contact:

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

Ron Chidsey 440-785-0509 chidseyr@gmail.com



By Susan Lausch



Our Kid's Hope school year is nearly over. But it's not too soon to think about becoming a mentor next year. One of the blessings of mentoring is what you learn from your student. This year I am learning about dinosaurs from a fifth-grade boy who really knows them. One of the first things he wanted to do this year is to create a dinosaur-themed board game. So, we did. It includes dinosaur-related questions, some fiendish hazards—all his idea! —and often, a detailed story, as we navigate the game's challenges. More recently, he invented and named his own dinosaur. Of course, dinosaurs are not all he is interested in when we meet. He also loves building with Legos and playing board games. So, I'm not only busy discovering what a micro pachycephalosaur was like, I'm also learning how much sharing just an hour of your day once a week can mean to a student. Every student is unique. You might end up learning about black holes, or axolotls or something else, if you become a mentor. You may also learn how much God can do through you when you offer an hour to mentor a child. I encourage you to think about it, pray about it, and see if God is calling you to become a Kid's Hope mentor.



Holy Week Thank You

So many people made this year's celebration of Holy Week possible. Thank you to Chris, Connor, the choir, and the trumpeters who filled our services with music.

Thank you to the tech team, the people who make slides for the screens, and the people who decorated the sanctuary for each service and cleaned up later. Thank you to Jessiaca Paul, Mallory Anglin, and the children for their part in the Palm Sunday procession, and to the Goodyear family and Pete the donkey for making it so memorable. Thank you to everyone who worked to make the Easter Egg hunt a success. Thank you to Janet Sutton who made the bread for Maundy Thursday communion. Thank you to Harry Caudill, Mason Crawford, Maddie Ritter, Ruth Dodig, Karen McGoughran, and Susan Lausch for participating in the Good Friday service. Thank you to Pastor Matt, Karen and Susan Lausch for all the hours spent in creating the services, decorating, printing the bulletins and organizing everything needed, from flowers to a fire for the Sunrise Service. All of you blessed us as we walked with Jesus this Holy Week.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you ever so much for all your prayers and concerns, cards, food, visits, and phone calls during this difficult time of Buddy's passing. Also, for Pastor Matt being there for us. We are sincerely grateful and blessed. Thank you for remembering us in our time of need.

Love, *Liz Reed and Family*

Editor's Note: There is a memorial fund set up for Buddy. If you would like to donate to it, please make your checks out to Brunswick United Methodist Church and in the memo or on your offering envelope, please write Memorial for Buddy Reed.

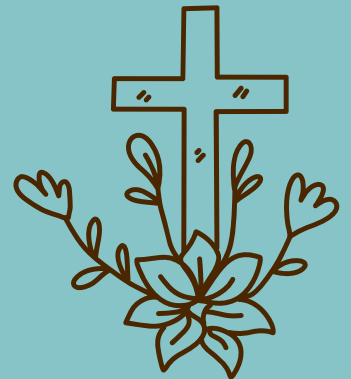
I would like to thank everyone who helped with the funeral luncheon for Barb Porter. Once again, so many of our church family took time out of their busy schedules to bake desserts, setup on Sunday morning, and come to serve and cleanup following the luncheon. Thank you to all of you! It always warms my heart.

Blessings, Karen McGoughran

Dear BUMC Church
Family,

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss. We deeply appreciate you. Your thoughtfulness and your kindness will always be remembered.



Thank you,
Ron & Linda Cruise
and Family



The congregation has been invited to a Celebration of Life for Scott Cruise on Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 pm at North Park Pavillion. A picnic will be provided.



God's Helpers



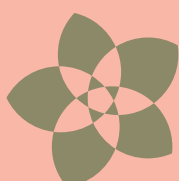

God could not be in every place
with loving hands to help erase
the teardrops from each baby's face,
and so He thought of mother.

He could not send us here alone
and leave us to a fate unknown;
without providing for His own,
the outstretched arms of mother.

God could not watch us night and day
and kneel beside our crib to pray,
or kiss our little aches away;
and so He sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,
He simply could not take command.
That's why He placed our tiny hand
securely into mother's.

The days of youth slipped quickly by,
life's sun rose higher in the sky.
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh
to love us still, was mother.



And when life's span of years shall end,
I know that God will gladly send,
to welcome home her child again,
that ever-faithful mother.

-- George W. Wiseman



Office News!

Change of Address

Every month if the office gets notifications that someone's address has changed, I include it in this section along with addresses for any new members.

Please make sure you update your church directory with this information.

Dick and Sandi Crane
Story Point Strongsville
19205 Pearl Road Apt. 110
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Brenda Mileto
4277 Keller Hanna Dr.
Brunswick, Ohio 44212



Parents, if you have a child graduating from high school or college this spring, please contact the church office and we will recognize them during the worship service on Graduation Sunday which will be May 24th or in the June newsletter.

Office Closed

**The office will be closed
on Memorial Day on
Monday, May 25.**

Office Hours:

Please plan your trips accordingly:

Monday thru Thursday:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The office is closed on Friday afternoons.

Mail

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

BUMC
PO Box 85
Brunswick, Ohio 44212



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION: 330-225-3179

Matt Merriman, Pastor

Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (Ext. 10)

Jessieca Paul, Children's & Youth Coordinator

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