

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Pastor Matt Merriman

*For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.*

Psalm 62:5

Brunswick UMC Family and Friends,

Each year I look forward to summer thinking that I will have some time to slow down and relax. Then, when summer arrives, I find that I was mistaken. We go from the mission trip straight into Annual Conference. Then Bible School and a couple weeks of vacation. And in between all those big events we are planning studies, confirmation classes, the church picnic, and all the other things that begin in the fall. It seems like I never have time to take a breath. I know that I am not alone. Most people are very busy throughout the entire year.

I often let all this busyness distract me from finding quiet time with God. Every year I choose a daily devotional book and ideally, I would start each day by reading a devotion and entering into prayer. When I begin a day in this way, I find that I am in a better place with God throughout the day. However, I sometimes let my anxiety over all the things I have to do take control and I skip my devotion. I jump right into work. These are not my best days. I feel more separated from God than I should, and everything is just “off.”

Psalm 62 talks about this quiet time that we humans need to open ourselves to God. Our hope rests in God and so we must take a moment each day to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Then throughout the day we continue to pray and commune with God. For me, these days are always the best days. As summer continues, I am going to strive to begin each morning with my devotions and I hope that each of you will do something similar. If you have never used a daily devotional book, find one. You can buy them at any bookstore or online. Some years ago, I began using a Kindle version so that I can read it right from my phone. My devotional is always with me. I have no excuses.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Matt





&

Youth
Connection



Pizza & Canvas Painting

Join us for some pizza and channel your inner BOB ROSS...

Who is Bob Ross? Come and find out.

Everything you need will be provided.

Get ready to paint some happy little trees and more.

Kindergarten - 12 grades invited

July 19th

4-6 pm

Please contact Jessieca with questions at jessiecapaul@brunswickumc.org.



Youth Mission Trip Follow-up

By Pastor Matt

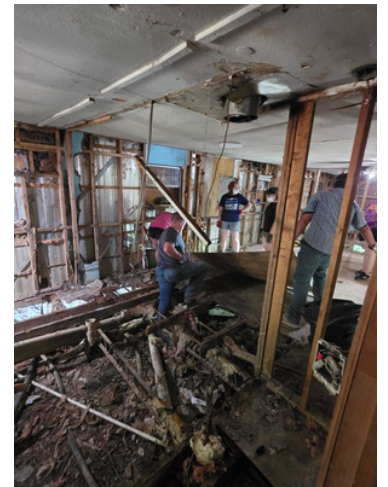
The first week of June a group of 22 souls traveled to Kentucky for the annual youth mission trip. Our group consisted of 12 youth, 2 college students, 3 cooks and five adults for the worksite. We were hosted by Mount Washington UMC in the small town of Mount Washington, KY. The group worked very hard all week removing rotten flooring from a house that had been flooded. The home had originally been two single-wide trailers that had been joined together. The floor joists of the older trailer were extremely rotten, so all the kids could do there was remove the old wood. On the other side, the kids not only removed the rotten flooring, they insulated underneath and replaced most of the flooring.

There was a strong spiritual component to this mission trip, especially, on the work site. The owners of the home were an older couple who lived in a borrowed travel trailer on the site and were struggling to find hope. A year after the flood, very little work had been done on their house, and they had given up hope. The arrival of our team helped stoke the Holy Spirit in their hearts and revived their hopes for repairing their home. Although the kids did not finish, their work gave the couple a strong start on rebuilding. With God's help and our prayers, Sue and Greg will one day soon be back in their home.

See pictures on the next page. There are also a lot of pictures posted on our Facebook page.



Youth Mission Trip



Operation Christmas Child

By Marcia Taylor



Once again thank you for your donations to the shoebox ministry. We took inventory recently and found items for the 2-4 kids very sparse. So, for July, let's concentrate on bringing items for that age: sippy cups, bibs, toys, plastic table settings, coloring books, small books, clothes, etc. Remember, if you can't shop for these items, we are also in need of monetary gifts so we can buy in bulk. Also, it's fun to fill a box on your own. Just pick up a box from the gathering area, fill it and return it to the church. Happy shopping!

If you have any questions, please call Marcia Taylor at 330-350-1479.

Blessings Box

We would again like to thank all those who have contributed to the Blessings Box. Especially with prices the way they are now, this makes a real difference in people's lives. Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."



September 13th

11:00 am



Mark your calendars now and save the date. Rally Day and the Church Picnic will be held on September 13 following the worship service. Like last year, we will have a bouncy house and the ice cream truck will be here. We'll grill burgers and hot dogs, provide chips and watermelon. Let the church office know if you can help.



Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!



July Birthdays

- 1 Harriet Radvansky
- 2 Kathy Brogan
- 2 Sica Peres
- 4 Jean Rice
- 6 Chelsea Buttle
- 6 Roger Jarrell
- 8 Heather Colbow
- 9 Sara Honse
- 10 Mary Lynn Janas
- 14 Cliff Schnear
- 16 Abigail Hammond
- 16 Sheila Schnear
- 17 Louise Wiatrak
- 18 Charlotte Pagrabs
- 18 Mary Rozar
- 19 Amanda Merriman
- 20 Greg Janas
- 20 JoAnn McMahan
- 21 Denise Lewis
- 21 Pattie Stout
- 24 Bob Lewis
- 25 Grant Richard
- 26 Sandie Crane
- 26 Connor Stout
- 26 Amy Weinmann
- 27 Russ Arner
- 27 Diane Eyssen
- 27 Terri Wright
- 28 Fred Kappeler
- 28 Jim Myers
- 29 Linda Hennis
- 30 Ron Chidsey
- 31 Tristin Anglin

Making Pierogis

Although it is really early, we are going to try something different this year and make pierogis on October 12 from 10-1. This will allow some members who leave for the winter to help. Save the date in your calendars.

Editor's Note: Quite a few members came to mind when I read this devotion so I thought it might be helpful.

How God Blesses Your Broken Heart

By Rick Warren — 06/08/2026

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed.” Psalm 34:18 (NCV)

You don't get over a loss. You can't go under it; you can't go around it. You've got to go through the grief. And if you're scared to express emotion and refuse to go through it, you just get stuck. You get unstuck by letting God help you. Here are six ways God blesses a broken heart.

1. God draws you close to himself.

Psalm 34:18 says, “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed” (NCV). When you grieve, God is not a million miles away, even though it may feel like it. In fact, he's never been any closer.

2. God grieves with you.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was “a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief” (Isaiah 53:3 NLT). When you come to Jesus with your grief, he knows what you're talking about, and he understands your pain. God is not apathetic. He is sympathetic, and he grieves with you.

3. God gives you a church family for support.

We're meant to grieve and heal in community. We're better together! The Bible says, “In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. . . . Be devoted to one another in love. . . . Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:5, 10, 15 NIV).

4. God uses grief to help you grow.

God uses grief and pain to help you become more like Christ, and he does it in three ways: God uses pain to get your attention (Romans 5:3-5), he brings good out of bad (Romans 8:28), and he prepares you for eternity (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

5. God gives you the hope of heaven.

Your life on earth is short, but if you trust Jesus Christ for your salvation, then you have the hope of spending eternity in heaven with God. That hope will sustain you through your time of loss. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, “We don't want you to be ignorant about those who have died. We don't want you to grieve like other people who have no hope” (GW).

6. God uses your pain to help others.

This is called redemptive pain, and it is the highest and best use of the pain you go through. God does not want you to waste a hurt. “[God] comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us” (2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT).



Thank you Brunswick United Methodist Church Family for all the outpouring of love and support in the prassing of our son, Scott Cruise.

Your cards, messages, phone calls, visits, and sharing in his Celebration of Life helped us through this most difficult time.

God has truly blessed us and we are forever thankful.

*With Love and Gratitude,
Ron & Linda Cruise & Family*

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the cards, warm wishes, hugs of encouragement and the many prayers. Cancer is a scary journey, but I have had God, my family and my friends walking with me.
God bless you all!

Thank you,
Brenda Mileto





Office News!

Mahjong Small Group

We are starting a small group on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. July 28 will be an introductory class to learn how to play. Contact Cathy Richard (440) 668-9018 with questions.

Aspire

The women's night, Aspire, is back on September 18 at 7:00 pm in Elyria at Church of the Open Door. If any women are interested in attending, please contact the office and Karen can arrange getting a group rate on tickets.

Mail

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

BUMC
PO Box 85
Brunswick, Ohio 44212



Fellowship Hall

Bill Radcliffe spent the month of June hanging drywall over all of the areas that were paneled in the Fellowship Hall. This included each of the pillars, the storage room and the soffits. Of course, this also required him to paint everything. It looks so beautiful downstairs. The room now has a finished look to it and it is so much brighter. Thank you, Bill, for all of your hard work!

Please take a moment to go downstairs and see how nice it looks.

We want to keep this room looking nice so please do not hang anything on the walls or put anything on the floors.

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.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION: 330-225-3179

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