

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Rev. Matt Merriman

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Hello BUMC Family and Friends,

As summer winds down and the kids prepare to return to school, I find that I am very excited about the coming fall and all the attendant fun activities, ministries, and missions. As we think about that, let me encourage you to focus yourselves on being more active in worship and other activities in the coming year. The above verses from Hebrews remind us how important it is to gather and spur each other on “toward love and good deeds.” Serving God has always been a group activity and we need each other to remain strong in our faith.

As you think about being more regular in your worship attendance, know that there will be a lot of exciting stuff happening in our sanctuary this fall. Diane Haley has returned to our music staff which will increase our music offerings. She also intends to start a drama team to enhance not only our worship, but all our other programs. The praise band will play more often, but don't worry, you'll still hear all your old favorite songs on the organ. We will remain a blended service. New people of all ages are attending worship regularly and I encourage you to continue to greet them and make them feel welcome.

The youth group, Sunday School, Wednesday evening Kid's Connect, and a confirmation class will all gear up in September with strong lay leadership. Likewise, we will offer quite a few studies and small groups for youth and adults. I suggest that each one of you become active in at least one small group. Small groups are where we really get to know each other and it is through these relationships that we experience spiritual growth.

The world puts a lot of pressure us, and on our children, to participate in all kinds of programs and sports. These secular activities are important, but unfortunately church activities often take a back seat. I would encourage all of you to consider that it is only at church and at home that kids learn to be loving, kind, considerate, and non-judgmental.

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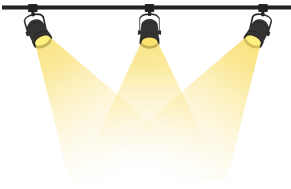
(Pastor's message cont.)

These are attributes that Jesus held to be extremely important, but we will not learn them out in the world. This just reinforces the need to gather in Christian love.

As you move into the fall, let each of us work to balance our secular and church activities as we strive to grow in Christ. I'm very excited to see all of you this fall.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

September Spotlights



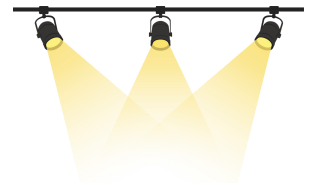
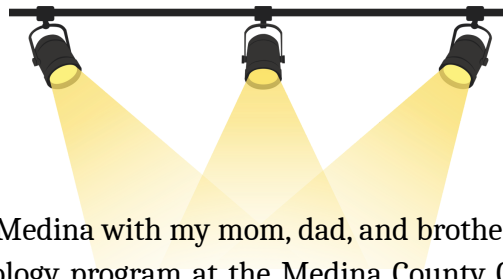
My name is Diane Haley, and I will be working with the music ministry team here at BUMC. I'm very excited to be returning to BUMC. (Some of you may remember me as the former Music Director.)

After leaving BUMC during the pandemic, I worked at St. Ambrose Church and school and also at Living Word ELC Church in Medina.

I have been teaching piano at Westlake Music Academy for several years. I also formed a duo called "The Escape for Seniors" and performed hundreds of shows for senior citizens in the greater Cleveland area.

I am thrilled to be returning to BUMC and am grateful for the opportunity to enhance and grow the music ministry. Some of my duties will include assisting Chris with the choir, working with the children during Kidz Connect, coordinating children's musicals and adding a drama team to enhance Sunday morning worship. I will also provide back-up when Chris is not available and play in the bell choir!

I look forward to meeting all of you - if you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at dianepiano@hotmail.com.



My name is Kylee Mickle. I live in Medina with my mom, dad, and brother. I'm a senior in the Business Marketing Technology program at the Medina County Career Center. I'm currently interning for Brunswick United Methodist Church to gain knowledge and experience in marketing and social media work. I've been working on your website during the summer and will continue during the school year. I fell in love with marketing and social media because I like seeing people's reactions over something that excites them. When I graduate I plan on going to school to continue my passion in marketing in hopes to pursue that as my career.



When I'm not working here you can find me working at Tilted Farmer, hanging out with my friends and family, in the kitchen baking, or reading my bible! I'm super excited to be working here and I can't wait to see what my future holds!



BRUNSWICK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

CEREAL CAMPAIGN



Snap, Crackle, Pop, Drop!
We will do a domino drop with the
boxes on Sept. 13th for Rally Day!



GOAL: 250 BOXES

We're collecting new, unopened
boxes of cereal to donate to our food
pantry for families in need.

Drop off in the
gathering area.

For more details, visit: www.brunswickumc.org
or call the church office: 330-225-3179.



RALLY DAY &

CHURCH PICNIC



SEPTEMBER 13

STARTS AT 10:00AM

FREE LUNCH, ICE CREAM
AND BEVERAGE

ACTIVITIES

GAMES, BOUNCY HOUSE
AND THE ICE CREAM TRUCK





Church Picnic – September 13 @ 11:15

We hold the Church Picnic on Rally Day so we can celebrate everyone being back following the summer break. This year the church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13th. It will be a fun time with a bouncy house and games for the kids, and corn hole and ladder golf for the adults. We'll grill out hamburgers and hot dogs. Potato chips and drinks will also be provided. We have coordinated the ice cream truck to arrive to provide dessert. This has become a fun tradition.

We'll need a few grill masters and help setting up and cleaning up.

If you can help in any way, please contact Karen in the office.



Music Department

BUMC Choir



Fall is arriving and September is here! It's time to start up the new season of choir. I'd like to invite anyone and everyone who likes to sing to come join us. Our usual pattern is 3 Wednesday evening rehearsals followed by a Sunday in church. Then we take a week off of rehearsal. We would love to have you for the whole year, but if you are able to sing a few months, that is ok too. I only ask that you attend the rehearsals preceding the Sunday you are singing.

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 6-7 p.m. in the choir room. Contact Chris Chidsey (christopherchidsey@gmail.com) for more information.

See you there!

Chris



September Birthdays

9/1	Bob Slaga
9/3	Marcia Taylor
9/5	Bob Beck
9/5	Amy Colella
9/5	David Kaczynski
9/5	Elaine Semper
9/8	Sue Szakacs
9/11	Susan Lausch
9/12	Suzanne Hawley
9/12	Cathy Richard
9/14	Mary Ann Goodyear
9/14	Peter Muha
9/14	Colton Szabo
9/14	Carol Walton
9/14	Robert A. Walton
9/15	Lynn Kendrick
9/16	John Szakacs
9/17	Joann Baechle
9/17	Jay Miles
9/19	Fran Homyk
9/21	Judy Barlett
9/22	Les Fuller
9/23	Bill Leair
9/23	Anthony Mille
9/23	Mike Robinson
9/24	Jacob Gegorski
9/25	Joel Mille
9/27	Paul Sheridan
9/27	Janet Sutton
9/27	Haley Weinmann
9/28	Ken Grove
9/30	Pat Coontz
9/30	Gary Lewis
9/30	Vivian O'Neill



With the school year starting, we are looking forward to meeting again on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. starting on September 16. We have a fun year planned and hope you will join us. Kidz Connect is for children ages Preschool (4 years old) - 5th grade. If you're new to the program, it follows a vacation bible school format. The evening starts with a bible lesson followed by games, songs, crafts and fellowship. We are blessed to have Mallory Anglin and Diane Haley leading the program. Diane will be bringing back the music portion and will also include some skits and drama with the kids. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays in September.



Sunday School will resume on Rally Day - Sunday, September 13th. We will offer two classes again this year: Ages 3 through 6 will meet in the Kidz Connection wing with either Mallory Anglin or Maggie Sheets, and ages 7 through 12 years will meet downstairs in room 103 with Rachel Hammond or Julie Yanus.



This quarter, children will explore the Big Faith Idea of "Faith in God" through three monthly units:

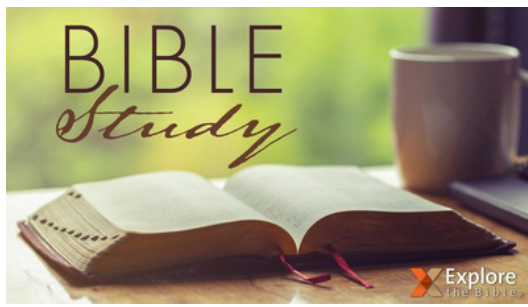
- Unit 1 (September): Connected: God Shows Us Compassion
- Unit 2 (October): Warm and Cozy: God Cares for Us
- Unit 3 (November): Run the Race: God Helps Us Face Challenges

Each week there will be a Faith Focus, Bible Story and a memory verse.

We are looking forward to your children joining us on Sundays.



Pastor Matt and Wendy Kammer will lead a Confirmation Class this year. The class is open to any student in 7th grade and up who has not been confirmed. The first class will be on October 4, immediately following worship in room 103. The class will meet approximately every other week until May, with a break for the Christmas Holiday. Confirmation students may also participate in the Youth Study held on Sunday mornings following worship, but they will miss some of the sessions. If you have a student in 7th grade or older who is interested in confirmation class, please let Pastor Matt know.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Led by Pastor Matt, this group will begin weekly meetings on Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. It will start with a six-week book study titled "The Call", by Adam Hamilton, which examines the life of the Apostle Paul. A Zoom option will be offered for this group. Any person may join this group at any time.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

Also led by Pastor Matt, this group will resume on Thursday, September 17 at 1 p.m. They will continue with the Adult Bible Studies Curriculum. Any person may join this group at any time.

Youth Bible Study

This group is youth led and open to kids from 6th grade through high school. They will begin a study of Genesis on Sunday, September 20 immediately following the worship service. They meet downstairs in the Youth Room.

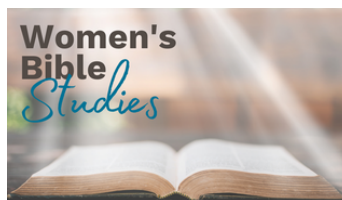
Adult Sunday School Class

On Sunday, September 20, the Adult Sunday School class will resume meeting. We will be studying "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul" by Adam Hamilton. To have the church order a book, please call the church office, or call or text Susan Lausch, 816-807-9614. The cost is \$13.00. The class will meet on Sunday mornings at 11:15 in Room 101. Please join us in exploring the life, teachings and influence of the apostle Paul.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study doesn't start until October 8 at 7:00pm. They meet in room 101 and will continue studying the book of Matthew.

Women's Book Study for all ages.



The women's book study will meet once a month on a Friday at 6:30 in room 101. This study is for women of all ages! Come, even if you haven't read the book, and bring a friend! We are currently reading "Boundaries and Goodbyes" written by Lysa TerKeurst. Questions, call Alyssa Kaczynski at (440) 823-8198 or Mallory Anglin at (330) 749-5573.



Mahjong Small Group

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall
the 1st Thursday of the month
at 12:15 pm
and
the 3rd Tuesday of the month
at 9:30 am.

Feel free to bring a friend!
Call Cathy Richard at
440-668-9018 for questions.





Operation Christmas Child

By Marcia Taylor

This is just a reminder that we are continuing to collect school supplies in September, especially crayons, regular pencils and rulers. Also, our next workshop will be on Thursday, August 27th at 10:30 am. Thank you for your ongoing support of Operation Christmas Child. You are helping to take the word of Jesus to children around the world.



Kids Hope Update

By Ron Chidsey

The excitement is in the air for the start of our nineteenth year of the BUMC Kids Hope Mentoring Mission. Over those years, seventy-seven different church members have served as a mentor. That is impressive! Would your name be on that list? If not, would you consider spending one hour of your week as a Kids Hope Mentor during the school day? If you do not have the time during the day, would you consider becoming a prayer partner for our mentor? Ask Ron Chidsey or any other mentor for more information about what is involved in mentoring.

Mentoring for this year will be starting the week of September 13th with the Commissioning Sunday to be held on Sunday, September 20th. All the Mentors and Prayer partners are asked to attend that day and to wear a Kids Hope shirt if you have it.

Our goal each year is to have twenty mentors available for students at Memorial Elementary School. This year we will be starting with sixteen mentors, possibly seventeen. I will be training new mentors within the next two months. Please contact me if you're interested in making an impact in a child's life at kidshope@brunswickumc.org or 440-785-0509.



Fun Facts About Labor Day...

1. In September 1882 the New York City Unions decided to hold a parade in order to celebrate their members being a part of the union and over 200,000 members attended.
2. Grover Cleveland was instrumental in making Labor Day a national holiday that celebrated the workers.
3. Oregon was the first state to celebrate Labor Day in 1887 as an official legal holiday. The rest of the states followed in 1894.
4. A machinist named Matthew Maguire and a carpenter named Peter McGuire received credit for creating Labor Day.
5. More than 7 billion hot dogs are eaten by Americans between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
6. The concept of not wearing white after Labor Day came from the upper-class returning from vacations and storing their lightweight summer gear for the season.
7. Labor Day is widely considered to be the end of summer.





First Responders Snack Boxes

On Friday, September 11, we will assemble thank-you snack boxes for First Responders in our community. We will deliver them to the Brunswick City and Brunswick Hills police and fire departments, as well as the emergency rooms at Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals in Brunswick. If you are available to help, we will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Needed items include small packages of crackers, Babybel cheese, homemade cookies, mini donuts, fun-size candy bars, beef jerky sticks, granola bars, small packages of nuts, and pretzels.



Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer so we know which snacks to expect.

Please have your donation to the church by Wednesday, September 9th.
Questions – call or text Barb Slama at 216-870-7371.

THAT PLACE For Teens

We have been partnering with That Place For Teens for four years now. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are in need of people to prepare meals. They don't have to be extravagant. They can be very simple meals from sandwiches to mac and cheese. We try to make sure there are at least 2-3 people helping, so no one person is required to do the entire meal. The meals are taken at 3:00 pm and although you help set it up, the kids serve themselves. We prepare for anywhere between 15-30 kids and adults.

If you can help cook a meal, please contact Karen in the office.



Soup Dinners

Soup dinners will be starting back up in October. A few of our members who coordinate this are unable to help this year due to health issues. Barb Porter said she can continue to coordinate but she can't do it by herself.

Could you please prayerfully consider volunteering to help Barb so we can continue to offer this wonderful outreach to the Brunswick community. This dinner is held the 3rd Thursday of the month from October - March so it isn't a huge commitment. Members provide crock pots of soup so Barb basically needs help with setup and cleanup. Please call the church office if you can help.



Missions Report

First Half of 2026

By Carole Jones, Mary Jane Broaddus, Janet Hartmann and Marcia Taylor

As a Mission's Team, we feel such joy and responsibility to pray and wisely support various groups and agencies in the name of the Brunswick United Methodist Church. We strive to balance our giving locally, nationally and internationally. The following list is our giving for spring and summer 2026.

Locally

Habitat for Humanity – Easter Offering - \$3000

That Place for Teens - \$1000

MCJFS (Foster Children) - \$500

Next Step Up - \$1000

Haven of Rest - \$500

Internationally

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) - \$1000

Patrick Booth (Our new missionary in Cambodia) - \$2000

Next Step Up is the new group added to our list. It is a new organization in the area designed to help people in need. Its motto is "A place to land. A place to launch." "The Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) is excited to announce Next Step Up, Medina County's first Emergency Housing Shelter, is open as of early 2025. The shelter is located on Walter Road in the building that formerly housed MMHA's administrative offices. The Shelter provides a total of 27 beds for men, women, and children in need as well as their pets."

"We envision a future where everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home, a sense of belonging, and a solid foundation for stability, self-sufficiency and success."

Many have benefited since Next Step Up opened in 2025.

285 people served

31 children served

49 households successfully exited shelter

and entered their own lease agreements

62 people secured employment while working toward stability

We express a great big thank you to the organizers of this group. It is clearly meeting a need in our county.

It is a blessing that we are able to help support their efforts.



TRUNK or TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

A fun safe alternative for families.
Free family fun for all!



FOOD – CRAFTS – FACE PAINTING

4:00 p. m. – 5:30 p.m.

Brunswick United Methodist Church



Dear Friends of Flat Rock Homes at Brunswick UMC,

We can hardly express our appreciation for the speakers the church donated to Flat Rock Homes. They were used for our 160th Anniversary celebration with Bishop Jung on July 31 and truly helped make a huge difference in the audibility.

Thank you so very much for this gracious and generous donation that will be used numerous times in the coming years.

Most Sincerely,
Rose Darling
Church & Community Engagement Coordinator



We wanted to say a very big thank you for the items you donated from our Amazon List for foster care placement needs. We were so surprised and thrilled when we received so many items!

We are very grateful for your support and partnership.

Thanks,
Layne Hedden
Foster Parent Recruiter/Peer Supporter
Medina County Job & Family Services



Office News!

**The Office Will be Closed
on Labor Day.**

Visitation Ministry

I was sick and you visited me...

Would you like to do something meaningful that reflects the love and compassion Jesus taught? We have shut-ins and homebound members who would be blessed by a visit or even a simple phone call. Some of our elderly members are no longer able to attend church, and we want them to know they are loved, valued, and not forgotten.

If you would like to help, please contact Karen to learn more.

Small Group Sign-Ups

On Rally Day, tables will be set up in the gathering area for small group sign-ups. If you currently lead a small group and would like to promote it, or if you are interested in starting a new group and want to see whether others would like to join, we encourage you to participate. Rally Day will take place on September 13. Contact Karen in the office.

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 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The office is closed on Friday afternoons.



CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION: 330-225-3179

Matthew Merriman, Pastor

Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (Ext. 10)

matt.merriman@brunswickumc.org

karen.mcgoughran@brunswickumc.org