

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Rev. Matt Merriman

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

BUMC Family and Friends,

I don't talk about money very often and that is by design. But, sometimes the topic has to come up because the place that money holds in our heart is a very good indicator as to the state of our soul. That's what Jesus meant when he spoke the above words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. If we scrap and scrape for every penny we can get our hands on and refuse to share from our wealth, then we very likely are not in the right place with God.

Rather our Lord would prefer that we give money to help others and to support the many ministries and missions of our church. A generous heart is an indication of a person with a strong connection to God. I hope that you all will prayerfully consider your relationship with God and how money effects that relationship.

As you think about that, please also consider giving regularly to support our church. Every mission and ministry depends on your gifts to keep it going from the Food Pantry to the Blessings Box to Kids Connect and Youth Group and beyond—all of it happens because people like you give generously to this church. Additionally, our church itself is quite generous. As a congregation we regularly give money directly to our missionary Patrick Booth in Cambodia as well as local organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, That Place for Teens, and many others. We do this because generosity is an important hallmark of our faith.

However, for much of the past three years, BUMC has been operating at a bit of a deficit and we have had to dip into our reserve funds numerous times to pay operating expenses. We are all aware that our church recently received a fairly large bequest. Having seen the written recommendations for the use of this money from all of you, I'm sure that most of you would prefer that we spend that money repairing and improving our building, securing the future of this congregation,

(cont. pg. 2)



(Pastor's message continued)

and doing the transformative work of God—not making up budget shortfalls. Therefore, we have to close the gap another way.

So, let me close by asking this of you. If you do not give regularly to BUMC, please consider doing so. If you do give regularly, please prayerfully consider giving a little more. Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide you.

Blessings, Pastor Matt



Internship Recognition

By Karen McGoughran

This year is the third year we are partnering with the Medina County Career Center to provide students a work experience that also fulfills our need for someone to maintain our website and help with social media.

Addyson graduated in May and we then welcomed Kylee who served in the summer as an intern and will continue throughout this school year for the work placement program. Make sure you read last month's article about Kylee. Both she and our church were recognized at the school's Intern Recognition banquet on September 10th. You can see the plaque outside the church office.





Sunday School

Sunday school is in full swing. Thank you to Mallory Anglin, Maggie Sheets, Rachel Hammond, Jennifer Mille, Jessieca Paul, Julie Yanus and Kate Kintop (sub) for volunteering to teach Sunday school this year. We could use more teachers so these ladies could attend worship a couple Sunday's a month. Please reach out to any of them or to the church staff for more information.

This year we are able to offer 3 Sunday school classes: PreK-Kindergarten, 1st - 4th grades and 4th- 8th grades. In October, the curriculum's faith focus for the younger kids includes: God shows us compassion, God cares for us, and God helps us face challenges. Each week the kids will have a bible memory verse and our teachers plan a fun activity to reinforce the lesson.

The older kids grades 4th- 8th are using a curriculum that focuses on thought provoking questions that many youth have, such as:

How can I forgive when I don't feel like it?

If God Loves the world, why does he let bad stuff happen?

Does God Really expect me to love everybody?

Every Sunday we will delve into one of these questions and then use the bible to answer them.

On Sunday, October 18, we will be presenting bibles to the third graders and any older children who didn't already receive one. Please contact the church office if you would like your child to receive a bible.

Nursery Room Attendants

Providing nursery care in the crib/toddler room on Sunday mornings is critical if we want to grow our church. We need to make sure young families are able to attend worship and feel comfortable in leaving their children with volunteers from our church.

God Bless Andrea Reichle who works in the nursery every Sunday. However, according to our Child Protection Policy, we have to staff the nursery with two people. Please consider volunteering one Sunday a month. Sarah Crawford is coordinating volunteers so please see her or there is a sign-up sheet outside the church office to the right of the flower chart. Please sign up for a Sunday or two that works for you.



Kidz Connect meets every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 for children ages PreK - 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're excited to have Diane Haley leading the music and drama component of the evening. Mallory Anglin and Maggie Sheets are coordinating the other sections. Please see them with questions. We can always use help from the parents.

Mark your calendars for the Christmas pageant. The pageant this year is titled "Carriers of the Light" and will be held on December 6, the second Sunday in advent. Even if kids just go to Sunday school, but not Kids Connect, they are welcome to participate in the pageant. Diane will start rehearsing with the kids soon.





Youth Connection



The Youth Group is for ages 6th- 12th grades. We are meeting every other Sunday from 6:00-8:00 pm. On October 4th and 18th our discussion will focus on questions that the youth have in their faith, followed by games and fellowship. We hope to hold a bon fire during the month.

Although a few adults are working with Pastor Matt to coordinate the Youth Group, we could always use more adult leadership. If you are able to volunteer just once a month or even every two months, that would be a huge help. Please contact Tristan Anglin or Pastor Matt to learn more.



Pastor Matt will begin a Confirmation Class on October 4th for youth 7th grade and up who have not already completed confirmation. The classes will meet immediately after church on Sundays roughly every other week. If you have a youth who would like to participate, please contact Pastor Matt.

AUTUMN is here





LET'S CONNECT!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CONNECT



14th Annual Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 25th
4:00-5:30

We are planning the 14th Annual Trunk or Treat this year. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for members who will provide a car and pass out candy. We encourage everyone to decorate their trunks because it makes the event a lot more fun for you and those attending. However, this is not a requirement in order to participate. Many members do a fall theme and put a bunch of pumpkins and mums from their yard in their trunk and call it a day. It looks beautiful and it's easy. Other members go all out and do a creative theme. Many just dress up in a costume and pass out candy without decorating their car. It's entirely up to you. Our goal is 25 cars. Please help us reach that goal.

If you decide to decorate your car, the only thing we do ask is that you stay away from blood, gore, and knives/violent themes. Also, members providing cars are to supply their own candy. The candy donations are for those who run out and need more. We always seem to run out of candy. Plan on 250 kids. There is a box in the gathering area for candy donations.

As in previous years, there will be craft tables, hot dogs, popcorn and hot chocolate in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to this event as do many from the community. Questions? Contact Karen in the office.



Community Soup Dinners Return

Thursday, October 15

5:00 p.m.

It's that time of year again. The temperatures are dropping along with the leaves on the trees and therefore it's a good time to start our soup dinners. Our first dinner will begin on October 15 starting at 5:00 p.m. We ask everyone to make a pot of soup if you are able and if not, just join us for dinner and fellowship. This is a fun evening of outreach to our community.

Barb Porter is coordinating this year and she can use some help. We especially need someone who can run the dishwasher. The community soup dinner is offered the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. through March. Please call Barb Porter with any questions (330) 416-7192 .



October Birthdays

Shelly Saeger	10/02
Matt Merriman	10/03
Connie Baxter	10/05
Jean Combs	10/06
Janet Hartmann	10/06
Chuck Nicoletti	10/06
Kevin Jones	10/08
Diane Bunting	10/10
Joyce Jarrell	10/11
Denise Halenar	10/12
Kathy Nicoletti	10/13
George Kanya	10/15
David Wright	10/15
Julie Buttle	10/16
Darlene Beeching	10/17
Lola Finnell	10/17
Carl Pettry	10/17
Dan Monroe	10/18
Suzanne Slimak	10/20
Micah Ritter	10/21
Will Sutton Jr.	10/21
Dick Crane	10/22
Linda Cruise	10/22
Ron Cruise	10/23
Mary Jo Robinson	10/23
Mary Colbow	10/24
Josephine Mellott	10/24
Lois Pettry	10/24
Tom Arnold	10/25
Katelyn Solivan	10/27
Lori Thuener	10/28
Bill Eyssen	10/29
Barb Stieger	10/29
Julie Benson	10/31

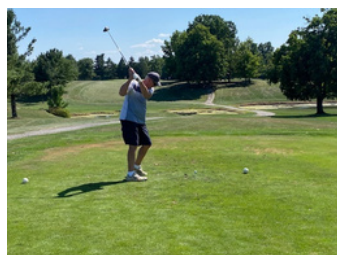


BUMC Golf League

The 2026 BUMC Golf League Finale was held on Thursday September 17th at Cossett Creek. This season we had 23 different golfers join us for play with the average weekly number of 12. We ended up getting 22 rounds in for the season with only 1 night getting rained out. That was better than most years. We also had some players put on injured reserve that also ended up on the prayer list. All appear to be on the mend and managed to attend the Finale Presentations and meal which was great.

For the Finale, each player was limited to 3 clubs and a putter. Normally 13 clubs are allowed, so this always makes it an interesting evening. After the golf concluded, everyone joined for pizza, wings and Judy Harmon's brownies followed by the award presentation and a putting contest. The proud 2026 winner of the league, now known as the "Broadus Golf Champion", was Wayne Isaac. Wayne is new to the league this year and steadily improved his play to win this award. As part of our Christ, Community, Connect theme this league is not inclusive and has a number of players that are not members of our church. In addition, Jeff Jarrell came in 2nd Place and Russ Arner finished 1st for our Alternate Golfers. Congratulations to them all.

Overall the league had another successful year and as always we are looking for anyone interested in joining us next season for fun in the sun – and a little rain.



Pastor's Bible Study



PAUL: The Call to Follow Christ Church-Wide Study

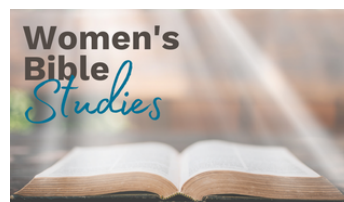
In September, Pastor Matt began a church-wide study on the life and ministry of Paul using the book, *Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton. Both the Wednesday night and the Adult Sunday School Class are studying this book through the month of October.

Join us as we explore Paul's dramatic conversion, his missionary journeys, and the powerful message of faith that continues to shape the Church today.

Everyone is invited to participate at any time! The Wednesday night study is also available via Zoom.

Note: The Thursday afternoon bible study has been canceled as there wasn't enough interest to continue it.

Women's Book Study



The women's book study meets once a month on Fridays at 6:00 pm 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

The new Mahjong group is alive and well. We meet the first Thursday of the month from 12:30-3:30 and the third Tuesday of the month from 9:30-12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome all levels of experience, and there are seats available for brand new beginners. Come join us and feel free to bring a friend!

Call Cathy Richard at
440-668-9018 for questions.



Music Department

Do you like to sing? It's not too late
to join the choir this fall!

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings for three weeks, sing in worship on Sunday, and then take a week off before beginning the next set of rehearsals.

Whether you can join us for the entire year or just for a few months, we would love to have you. We simply ask that you attend the rehearsals before the Sunday you plan to sing.

Everyone is welcome!

Contact Chris Chidsey for more information.
(christopherchidsey@gmail.com)

See you there!
Chris



Drama Team



By Diane Haley

I'm excited to start working on our new Drama Ministry! Our first informational meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th from 11:15-12:00 pm in the choir room (downstairs). We will be sharing our vision of what we hope to accomplish through our drama ministry and form a schedule. We will also be looking at scripts and brainstorm ideas for this year.

Anyone who is interested in helping out (from acting to set and costume design) is encouraged to attend! All ages are welcome - children, teenagers and adults are needed.

Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings immediately after choir practice from 7:15-8:15. You only need to attend rehearsal on the weeks you would be participating in an upcoming skit, so your time commitment will be flexible!

If you have any questions, please contact me at
440-554-9580 or email me at
dianepiano@hotmail.com.



Be On The Look-Out!

By Carole Jones

Foster kids' Christmas wishes will soon be posted on the Gathering Area bulletin board. It seems early to be planning for Christmas but the process to provide gifts for the foster kids of Medina County takes time. Our part of the process must be completed by mid-November.

Last year it was exciting to watch the enthusiasm and generosity that this congregation showed for the foster kids gift-giving. All items the kids wished for were purchased and promptly returned. It was an honor to represent our church when we took the gifts to the foster office in Medina.

Many times, I have heard and read that foster kids travel with their things in black garbage bags. So this year in addition to gifts our members provide, we will include a large gym style bag on each child's wish list. This should add some dignity to their moving process.

This effort is dear to my heart. As a mother, grandmother and teacher; it is difficult to imagine kids in foster care. I do understand that at times it is necessary and in the children's best interest to be placed in foster care but it is heart breaking that it needs to happen. It feels right and good that we as a church can do a little something to help the kids during the holiday season.



First Responders Followup



On September 11, our church put together "Thank You, First Responders" snack boxes as a way to show our appreciation to the people who serve and protect our community. Because of your very generous donations, we were able to fill—actually, stuff!—14 snack boxes and deliver them to our local city and township police departments, fire stations, and Emergency Rooms.

Each box contained a variety of snacks, along with yummy homemade cookies baked by Katie Kilpatrick, Carol Metheney, and Barb Slama. Our quilting group also donated many beautiful quilts to be presented to each station along with the snack boxes. These quilts may be used to provide comfort and warmth to fire or accident victims.

A very special thank-you goes to Jill Arnold, Sue, Barb Keister, Leah Glagola, Cathy Richard, Carol Metheney, Susan and Sharon Lausch, and Karol Brooks, Joanne, and Riki from the Yoga Group.

They helped fill the snack boxes and made the deliveries to each location. The stations were surprised and very appreciative of our donations. Knowing that they were being recognized and remembered meant a great deal to them.

Thank you again to everyone who donated, baked, quilted, packed, delivered, or helped in any way with this special project. Your kindness and generosity made a meaningful difference!

Barb Slama



Kids Hope Update

We have just launched another year of Kids Hope mentoring at Memorial Elementary School. The children were all so happy to see that their mentors have returned for another year. Twelve students started their mentoring with three additional mentors ready to be matched with a student. There are also several of our church members that have indicated that they want to be trained to become a Kids Hope Mentor. How exciting it is that our Kids Hope Ministry are touching the lives of kids at Memorial but also giving us the opportunity to live our faith through our BUMC vision of "Christ, Community, Connect". If you have been wrestling with the idea of becoming a Kids Hope Mentor, now is the time to act on that thought. I will be training new mentors over the next month so email or text your interest to me.

Our Kids Hope Ministry is entering its nineteenth year of existence. It was Tom Arnold that brought this ministry to BUMC after serving as a mentor at Towslee Elementary. After the BUMC leadership decided to pursue this ministry, Sue Kanya was given the task of getting it off the ground. I was glad to be a part of the leadership in those first years of Kids Hope at Memorial. Sue and I traveled to Holand, Michigan to be trained in person by the Kid Hope national office. For the past twelve years, I have been the sole director of the BUMC Kids Hope ministry with the much-appreciated help of Carole Jones, Julie Buttle, Bob Lewis, Susan Lausch and Matt Merriman to name a few. After this current school year, I have decided that it is time to step down from the director role of Kids Hope. Hopefully, someone will step up to fill this position so that our Kids Hope Ministry will continue at Memorial. It would be great if that person can become Co-Directors for this school year to shadow me and to get to know the Memorial staff. If you or someone you know are interested in more information, please let me know.

It has been my pleasure to serve our church in this way over the last nineteen years.

God Bless,
Ron Chidsey

kidshope@brunswickumc.org
440-785-0509



Operation Christmas Child

By Marcia Taylor

Thank you once again to all of you who so faithfully donate items for our shoebox ministry. For October let's collect t-shirts in small, medium and large. Also, we still need rulers. Monetary gifts are also needed to purchase items in bulk and for shipping costs. Just mark your donation for Samaritan's Purse. Happy shopping!

Our next workshop is scheduled for October 29 at 10:30. Please mark your calendars and if you have time, please join us. Call Marcia Taylor if you have questions at (330) 350-1479.



The "Quilt Group" would like to sincerely thank the recent anonymous monetary donation to our group. Our fabric is about 90% donated; however, the necessary batting, spray adhesive, and custom-made church labels are funded by group members. We so much appreciate this donation for the comfort quilts we provide for our church members and the greater Brunswick community. This year we have added first responder stations in the area, and these new recipients have been most grateful. Blessings to our donor and all our church family.

*Darlene Beeching, Diane Bunting, Barb Dunnig,
Leah Glagola, Janet Hartmann,
Jim Kreiner, Cathy Kilpatrick, Cathy Richard, and
Sandi Politowicz*

Editor's Note: The following is a letter we received from the Medina United Methodist Church. On behalf of the staff and the Leadership Board, we would like to also thank everyone who volunteered their time for Operation Fairgate. The \$741.00 has been deposited into the missions fund to help fulfill our commitment to supporting various organizations.

Dear Brunswick United Methodist Church,
From August 3 through August 9, many volunteers from several Medina County United Methodist Churches helped to greet Medina County Fair attendees for Operation Fairgate. It was a huge success and lots of fun!

Beth Myers was extremely helpful serving as a supervisor and putting in countless hours. The following people volunteered their time so that your church could benefit: Harry Caudill, Bob Custer, Ruth Dodig, Lynn Kendrick, Jan Kleinhenz, Susan Lausch, Karen Lipovits, George Michaels, Beth and Jim Myers, Jillian and Maddi Ritter, Aaron Seymour and Peg Streck.

Enclosed is a check for \$741.00. From the surveys, it appears that people would like to do this again next year. Please mark your calendars for the 2027 Medina County Fair that will be held August 2-8.

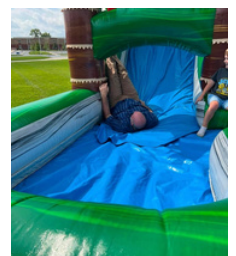
Blessings, Peggy Folk - Office Secretary



Church Picnic Thank You!



The church picnic was a huge success with approximately 85 members attending. It was a beautiful day with lots of sunshine, great food and fellowship. We would like to thank everyone who helped with setup, serving, grilling and cleanup. It was so heartwarming to see everyone pitching in as a church family to make the picnic successful. We appreciate everyone who helped. Special thank you to Ruth Dodig who helps coordinate the food every year. The kids had a great time in the bouncy house and talked Pastor Matt into going down the slide. He doesn't slide quite as well as the kids do. LOL Everyone also enjoyed their ice cream treats from the ice cream truck.





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

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

AN INTERACTIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE

Census →
Marketplace →
Inn →
Manger →

*Real People
Real Places
A Living Story
All Are Welcome*

COME HELP US

Build Bethlehem!

On December 20, our traditional Live Nativity will become an interactive journey — and we need your ideas, creativity, and helping hands to make it happen!



BE A PART OF THE STORY

Actors, greeters, townspeople, innkeepers, shepherds, musicians, children, and more!



DECORATE & DESIGN

Help transform our church into Bethlehem! Sets, props, backdrops, costumes, lighting, and creative ideas are all welcome.



SUPPORT ROLES

Hospitality, logistics, set-up/tear-down, costumes, donations, photography, parking, and more!

Interested in helping?

Contact:

Diane 440.554.9580 | Wendy 216.533.4726

MANY GIFTS. ONE STORY. ALL FOR HIS GLORY.



Office News!

All Saints Day

November 1st is All Saints Day. If you have a loved one who passed away in the past year and you would like their name mentioned during the service, please contact Karen in the office by October 23rd.

Monthly Breakfasts

April Sawicki is interested in bringing back the monthly breakfasts. She will coordinate but she needs others to help with prep work on Saturday, set-up, cooking, serving and cleanup. If you're interested in helping bring this back, please contact her at 330-635-0271.

Kitchen Team Wanted

The Building Maintenance Team is looking for individuals who may be interested in serving on a Kitchen Team. They have identified a need to revive this team to help keep the kitchen clean, organized, and well stocked for the many groups and events that use it.

We already have one person who has expressed interest in helping, and we would love to add a few more volunteers to the team.

If you are willing to serve in this ministry, please contact the church 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