

# STEEPLEVUES

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

By Pastor Matt Merriman

*Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

Luke 6:37

Brunswick UMC Family and Friends,

I have been thinking about forgiveness a lot lately. When someone has hurt us badly, forgiving them can seem impossible. We might wonder why we would consider forgiving a person. So often we want to hold on to the hurt, nurture it, and even contemplate revenge. Our culture even pushes us toward revenge. It seems the natural thing for humans.

But, seeking revenge and holding on to our anger and resentment against people contradicts the teaching of Jesus. In the passage above Jesus tells us not to judge other people—even those who have done us wrong—and then goes on to say, “Forgive and you will be forgiven.” Jesus ties our personal forgiveness to our act of forgiving others. He says it again in Matthew’s Gospel. “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14-15.

So, it is clear that our being forgiven is contingent upon our willingness and ability to forgive others. That’s a hard thing, especially when someone has really done us wrong. But, the difficult truth is that holding on to anger and resentment is not only bad for us psychologically, it separates us from God. The hard feelings and anger push God out of our hearts and we begin to obsess and focus on them. When this happens, the anger and resentment themselves can become our God.

All that having been said, you still may be thinking, “But, that other person hurt me very badly and was wrong in doing it!” If that is the case, consider that forgiveness is not condoning or dismissing someone’s bad behavior. Forgiveness does not remove consequences. Forgiveness also is not necessarily reconciliation. Forgiveness does not mean that you forget the bad behavior as if it had never happened.



(Pastor's letter cont.)

Forgiveness is simply asking God to help us let go of the anger and resentment and move on. Forgiveness is acknowledging that we should forgive a person even though the process may take time. Through forgiveness we are released of our hard feelings and the light, love and grace of Jesus Christ begin to flow back into our hearts.

I personally have some anger and resentments that I have been holding on to for a long, long time and I suspect that I am not alone. Let us together ask God to wash those ill feeling away and help us begin to forgive.

Blessings to All,  
*Pastor Matt*



### High School Graduates

Alexandria Dorfeld  
Brunswick HS & the Medina Career Center  
(Marilyn Springer's Granddaughter)

### College Graduates

Kevin Charles Stieger  
Doctor of Philosophy in Neural Engineering  
University of Pittsburgh  
(Bob and Barb Stieger's grandson)



## June Birthdays

6/2 Bob Miktuk  
6/4 Barb Chidsey  
6/7 Christopher Chidsey  
6/11 William Mellott  
6/11 Jennifer Mille  
6/12 Steve Sutton  
6/14 David Lenigan  
6/14 Don Tripepi  
6/18 Sandy Sarnovsky  
6/20 Laurie Baker  
6/24 David Jahnke  
6/24 Maryann Snowbrick  
6/27 Hannah Crawford  
6/28 Dave Goodyear  
6/29 Diana VanDiest  
6/29 Evert van Staden Jr.  
6/30 Karen Haught  
6/30 Lorretta Sutton

## Upcoming Church Events

July 20  
Spaghetti Dinner  
for Mission Trip Recap  
(all invited)

September 7  
Rally Day & Church Picnic





Vacation Bible School  
July 7-10

## Wanted: "Secret Agents"

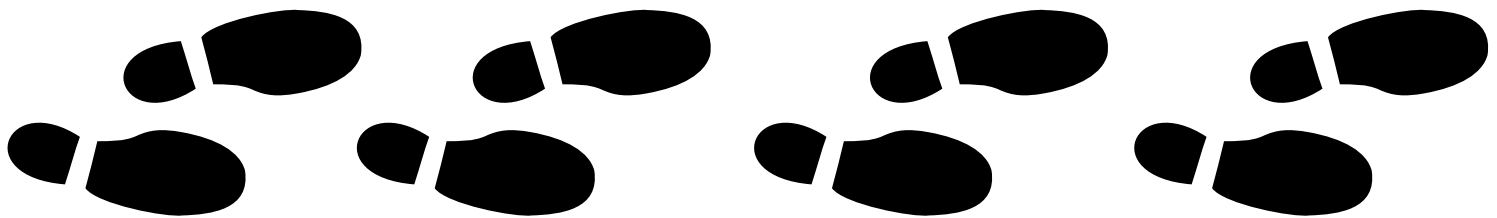


Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School the week of July 7-10 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Investigation Destination turns our children into secret agents. For a week they will be on a special mission to discover clues about the King of Kings and to investigate eyewitness accounts of our Lord in action. We'll sing songs, do experiments, make crafts, and play games. Where else can you find all that fun for free?

There will be plenty to entertain your child. Come join us. Please register your child by going to our website at [www.brunswickumc.org](http://www.brunswickumc.org) or call the office at 330-225-3179.

We are in need of a black light for our science area. Please call the office if you have one we can use.



## Kidz Connect

Kidz Connect went bowling and then has a Field Day scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are taking a break for the summer.







# Youth Connection

## *Girls Retreat*

Katie is leading a girls weekend retreat at Lakeside Chautauqua July 11-13. Please contact her if you are interested in attending. This retreat is open to all 6th-12th grade girls. Space is limited!

## *Youth Mission Trip*

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising efforts for the Youth Mission Trip.

The following shows how well we did:

Fees from Attendees (\$150 each) = \$3000.00  
Stock Sale (as of 5/24; more still coming in) = \$1944.00  
Marilyn Douglass Memorial Donation = \$400.00  
Fish Dinner Dessert Table Donations = \$516.00  
Loose Change Offerings = \$838.00  
Bake Sales = \$708.00  
Proceeds of Fish Dinners = \$2601.00  
Total as of 5/24 = \$10,007

The youth mission team is heading off to Augusta, Georgia in the early morning hours of June 15th. We will be doing home repairs for a community that suffers from flood damages after tropical storms last year. Our team consists of 9 youth, 4 Team Leaders, 3 Cooks, and 3 Leaders in Training. They include: Cinton Breeden, Emily Chidsey, Mason Crawford, Lucas Grove, Alayna Hammond, Rileigh Patera, Maddie Ritter, Dominic Zarife and Alexander Zimmerman. Team Leaders include: Pastor Matt, Tristin Anglin, Chris Chidsey, Katie Kintop, and Lexie Wald. Cooks include: Ruth Dodig, Vivian O'Neill and Annie Merriman. Leaders in Training include Cara Chidsey, Hayden Litton, and Amanda Merriman.

Please lift our group up in prayer for safety during this week as we travel and work.



# Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League

The BUMC Golf League is in full swing and we have completed the first month. So far we have about a dozen regular golfers every week. There is still time to come join us if you are interested. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The golf league will play 9 holes every Thursday evening from April 24th through September 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 the majority of weeks during the season) we have space for what we call Alternates (players who plan to play at least 5 times during the season). 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)



## Music Department



The choir will be taking a summer break. Anyone with any musical ability that would like to perform during the summer months, please let Chris know.

Contact Chris Chidsey at  
[christopherchidsey@gmail.com](mailto:christopherchidsey@gmail.com)



## Bible Study

We are on summer break and will resume in the fall. Enjoy your time off and look for updates in your August or September newsletters announcing the date we will resume and what the studies will be.

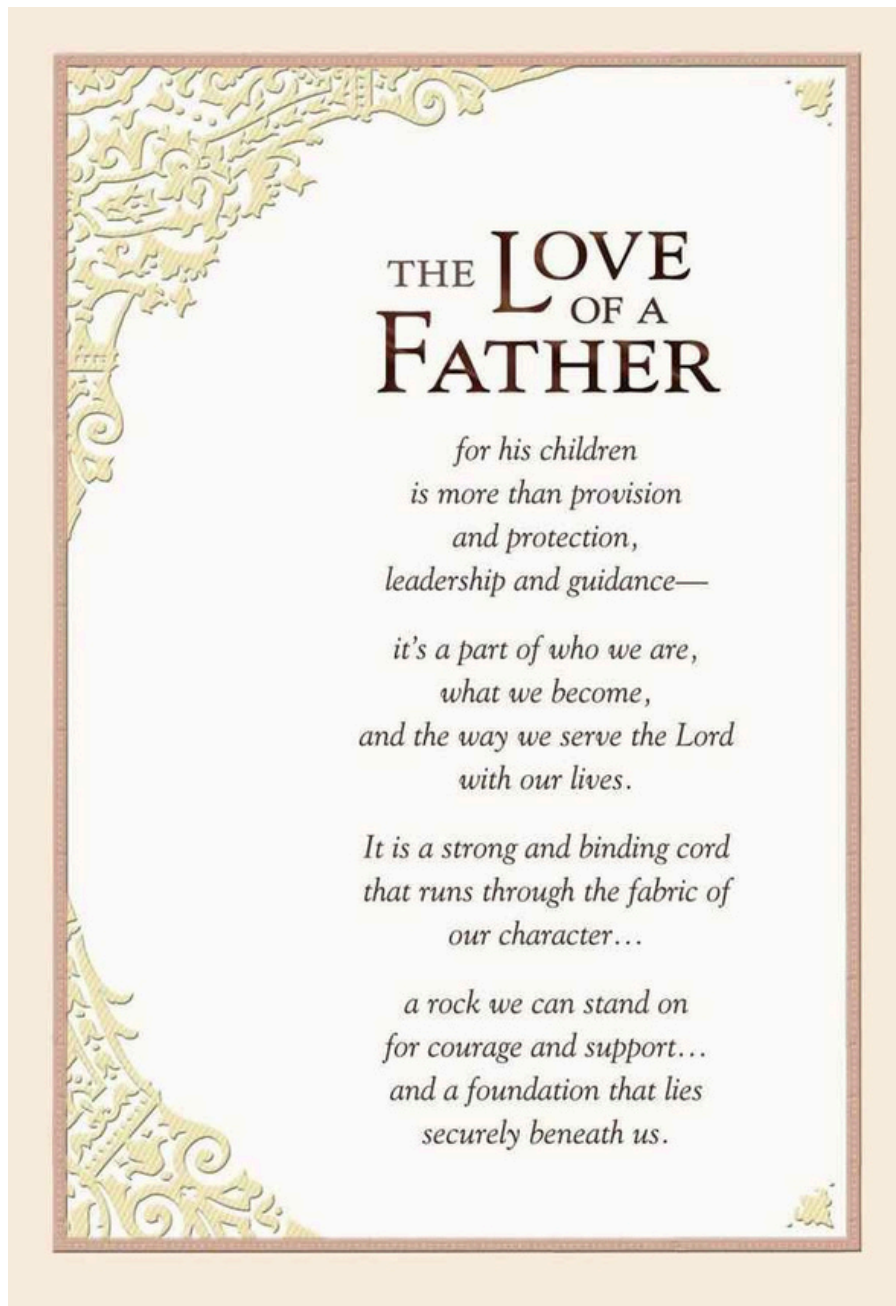
# Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for your faithfulness in donating items in May. For June, pick up a bookmark on the Welcome Center and purchase the items on the bookmark. Don't forget you can fill a box (or more) on your own or with your small group. We will be having a workshop soon to take inventory and sort the items we have already received. Watch your Sunday bulletin for the day and time of the workshop.

Please call me if you need anything or have a question.

Marcia Taylor, 330-350-1479.



Dear Brunswick UMC,

To everyone who had been praying and sending all the love to our little boy, we thank you so much! He had been fighting so hard and we couldn't have made it through the past months without his prayer warriors behind him!

Also we loved the  
Noah's Arc blanket too.  
God Bless You All!

Love,  
Brittany & Tony Teems

My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you, my sisters and brothers in Christ. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, support, kind words and hugs have held me up as I grieve the loss of our precious baby Tony. It is comforting to know so many care.

Love in Christ,  
Marcia Taylor







# Kids Hope Picnic

On May 23, Dave Goodyear welcomed the mentors and mentees of the Kids Hope Program as they arrived to picnic at his farm. A good time was had by all, with specialty games provided by Julie Buttle. An awesome scavenger hunt kept everyone busy when they first arrived! The group also enjoyed various relay races and were able to take home a "goodie" bag with trinkets to help celebrate their participation in the program. Picnic food was prepared and served by Ruth Dodig, Barb Slama, and Jan Kleinhenz. Immediately following, everyone was taken on a guided tour to enjoy the various animals that were available to pet. It was a superb way to round out the program and celebrate the end of the school year!

The mentors from BUMC have made a positive impact participating in the Kids Hope Program, with approximately 20 students being mentored this school year. Thank you for your dedication to the mentees and the program. Also, thank you to Dave Goodyear and the additional volunteers for their generous support!

*Lynn Kendrick*



## **Mental Health Conditions**

NAMI recognizes that other organizations have drawn distinctions between what diagnoses are considered “mental health conditions” as opposed to “mental illnesses.” We intentionally use the terms “mental health conditions” and “mental illness/es” interchangeably.

A mental illness is a condition that affects a person’s thinking, feeling, behavior or mood. These conditions deeply impact day-to-day living and may also affect the ability to relate to others. If you have — or think you might have — a mental illness, the first thing you must know is that you are not alone. Mental health conditions are far more common than you think, mainly because people don’t like to, or are scared to, talk about them. However:

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24

A mental health condition isn’t the result of one event. Research suggests multiple, linking causes. Genetics, environment and lifestyle influence whether someone develops a mental health condition. A stressful job or home life makes some people more susceptible, as do traumatic life events. Biochemical processes and circuits and basic brain structure may play a role, too.

None of this means that you’re broken or that you, or your family, did something “wrong.” Mental illness is no one’s fault. And for many people, recovery — including meaningful roles in social life, school and work — is possible, especially when you start treatment early and play a strong role in your own recovery process.

### **Conditions Include:**

**Anxiety Disorder,  
Attention Deficit Disorder  
Bipolar Disorder  
Boderline Personality Disorder  
Depression  
Disassociation Disorder  
Eating Disorders  
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder  
Posttraumatic Strees Disorder  
Psychosis  
Schizoaffective Disorder  
Schizophrenia**

As we continue to promote Mental Health Awareness, we plan scheduling a representative from NAMI to speak after church towards the end of the month.

## *Capital Campaign Update*

To date, we have collected \$17,130 of the \$29,280 that was pledged for the Capital Campaign. The current balance total of the Capital Campaign and Capital Improvement funds together is \$76,299.82. Thank you to everyone who has been fulfilling their pledge.

The resurfacing of the Fellowship Hall is scheduled to start the week of June 16. We are waiting for the weather to warm up and for the rain to stop before Peter can begin work on the Chapel Windows. We’re hoping that by mid-June he will be able to start working on that project.

The Leadership Board voted to use \$5,000 of the Capital Improvement fund to update some of our technology equipment in the sound room. The work on the pavillion is pending.

The Leadership Board would like to thank everyone for your generosity in fundraising money for these projects.





# Office News!

## Annual Conference

June 11-14

Pastor Matt will be out of the office during these days.

Pastor Matt will be on the Mission Trip June 15 - June 22.

The Office will be closed on June 19 (half day) & June 20.

## Pentecost

June 8

We are asking each family to bring one red geranium, please no flats and hanging baskets. Place it on the chancel area when you come to church. We will plant them on Monday, June 9 at 10:00 am. If you can help Marilyn Springer with planting that would be appreciated. Bring your own tools. She still could use a few people who can help water and weed during the summer.

We will be refinishing the Fellowship Hall floor the week of June 16-20. We have cancelled most activities that week as there will be strong fume smells on that side of the building. However, the office will still be open that week Monday thru Thursday morning.

## 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 pm

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)