

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. MATT MERRIMAN

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them,
so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Mark 11:25

BUMC Family and Friends,

This verse from Mark's Gospel is a wonderful passage. It reminds each one of us that God's grace abounds. God loves each one of us and forgives each one of us—no matter what we have done or even how many times we have done it. God's love and forgiveness are freely offered to every human being at any time. What a wonderful gift!

Unfortunately, at the same time, we often hold grudges and remain angry at others. Sometimes we harbor anger in our hearts and nurture it and let it grow. When this happens, the anger eats away at our soul separating us spiritually from God.

In this verse, Jesus is showing us a better way. When we go to God, we should take time to forgive those who have done us wrong. How can we truly devote ourselves to Jesus when we harbor anger and hatred in our hearts? The answer is that we cannot. We must forgive others, just as God forgives us. Our love and forgiveness must flow as freely as God's.

But that can be really difficult. Forgiveness is hard. But Jesus is telling us that we have to try, so we begin by saying the words, "You are forgiven." Even if we don't feel it, by speaking the words we acknowledge that we know we must try to forgive. That is a great starting point. From there, we keep forgiving the person who wronged us. Every time we pray, we pray for that person and ask God to help us feel forgiveness. Eventually it will come.

There are a couple of caveats to forgiveness. Forgiving someone does not mean that there are no consequences for their actions. The drunk driver who causes a car accident will face jail time, but can be forgiven. The spouse who strays from the marriage bed may be forgiven, but never trusted again. Forgiveness does not mean the thing that hurt us never happened, it simply means that we acknowledge that love, grace, and forgiveness are a better way than hatred and anger.

Let's all think about this the next time we pray. Who should be forgiven?

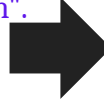
Blessings, Pastor Matt





Sunday School News

On October 12th during Sunday School we learned about David and Goliath. Each of the kids were asked to sculpt their own "Goliath".



Our Faith Focus for November will be: "God shows us the way". Psalm 119:10 - Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light unto my path.

During the month of November we will begin practicing for the Christmas Pageant which will be held on Sunday, December 21st during the worship service. All practices for the pageant will be held during Kidz Connect and Sunday school. Please contact Jessicca Paul for more information at (216) 387-5495.



Kidz Connect meets every other Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Kidz Connection room. This is a fun time for kids ages preschool - 5th grade. In November we will meet on November 5 and 19.



For the past few weeks, we have been retelling some of our favorite Old Testament stories (7 Days of Creation and Noah's Ark). Here are some pictures of our Noah's Ark Lesson on October 8th. The kids with baskets were the "Ark" and they were trying to catch all the animals.



Here is a picture of our Walking Rainbow Experiment like the Rainbow at the end of the Noah's Ark Story.



Sink or Float? Activity... Some kids were surprised by what floats. This was to prove that it did not matter the size of the object. Having Faith in God allows us to do the unthinkable.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings at 11:15 am in Room 101. We joined the church-wide study of the Gospel of Mark using the book, *The Gospel of Mark* by Amy Jill Levine. When the study concludes we will study Philippians in November and December. Please stop in any Sunday and join us. You don't need a book or a bible to participate. If you have questions, please contact Susan Lausch at 816-807-9614, slausch@me.com.

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Matt holds a bible study on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. When the churchwide study ends on the Gospel of Mark, we begin to study the book of Isaiah. Anyone is welcome to join us and you can drop in anytime.



He also holds a book study at 1:00 pm on Thursdays. The next book topic will begin mid-November and will be an Advent Study. We will share the name of the book as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for more information in the Sunday bulletin. Feel free to stop in when you can or attend every week.

Men's Bible Study

Dick Beeching has started a Men's Bible Study that meets on Thursday nights from 7:00-8:00 in the church library. They are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. If you have bible you can bring it with you, if not we can provide you with one. For more information, talk to Dick.



Music Dept.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD" - Psalms 95:1

Come sing with the choir! You are invited to join us this upcoming holiday season. We will sing twice during the holidays including Christmas Eve and we'd love to have you.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 pm

Contact me for more information.

Chris Chidsey

216-403-5912

christopherchidsey@gmail.com



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, hugs, contributions, and participation for Mel's celebration of life. I feel very blessed.

Sincerely,
Renate Wilk

To all of our Brunswick UMC
Family,

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the love, support, prayers and generosity. It helped us navigate our most challenging time in our life. And we feel the love and positive prayers still toward us.

Thank you and God Bless!
Brittany & Tony
for our angel Tony the Tank

The Building Maintenance Team wants to say a special thank you to Harry Caudill, Hank Hartmann and Bill Radcliffe who spend so much of their time fixing and repairing things around the church.

Thank you everyone for your prayers and beautiful cards they sent me. It's comforting knowing that people care for you.

Carol Metheney

Stewardship Moment

By Pastor Matt

First John 3:17-18 states: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." This is one of many passages in the Bible that teach us that being a disciple of Jesus Christ involves financial generosity toward others. This passage challenges us to literally put our money where our mouth is and do something real and concrete for others in the name of Christ.

Along those lines, understand that the many missions and ministries of this church operate through the generosity of those who give regularly. We help those in need through mission trips, the food pantry, the blessings box, and many, many other ministries. When you give to this church you give to those ministries, to help fund our mission center (the church building), and to support the paid staff who are essential to making everything happen.

Giving has been kind of moderate in recent years. Two years ago the church received a \$60,000.00 bequest from a former church member who had passed away. The Leadership Board felt it best to hold on to that money in case giving was not adequate to meet our expenses. In retrospect, this was a wise decision.

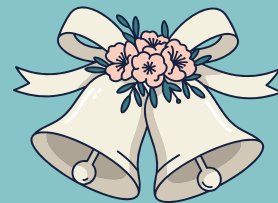
We periodically had to make transfers from this bequest to our operating account in order to meet our financial obligations and as of now all of that money has been used. Our total annual expenses come to approximately \$500,000 and so being short \$60,000 over a two year period is not too bad, but it does indicate that we are dipping into our reserves too often.

If you have never given to this church regularly, I challenge you to prayerfully consider doing so. If you are a regular giver, please prayerfully consider giving a little more. As stated in 1 John and in many other places in scripture, our God loves a generous heart and encourages each one of us to work toward that end.



November Birthdays

1/02	Becky Hall
11/03	Dave Goessler
11/03	Kim Goessler
11/04	Alayna Hammond
11/05	Hayden Litton
11/07	Kim Chidsey
11/07	Janine van Staden
11/08	Elaine Monroe
11/10	Geoff Killey
11/11	Jaelyn Solivan
11/13	Julie Zevchek
11/16	Emerson Breeden
11/18	Dick Beeching
11/19	Leslie Robinson
11/20	Harry Caudill
11/21	Marilyn Springer
11/22	Cindy Kintop
11/23	Janet Kleinhenz
11/25	Yvonne Dentz



Congratulations to
Melinda and Ryan
McGlynn
who were married on
October 24, 2025
in Beacon NY.
Proud parents are
Karen and Bill
McGoughran.



Community Soup Dinner

Thursday, November 20

5:00 pm



Thank you to everyone who helped cook, setup, serve and cleanup at the October's soup dinner! It was great to see so many members step-up to help make sure our soup dinners were able to continue this fall. Special thanks to Joanne Beachle, Barb Porter, Jim Kreiner and Darlene Beeching.

We had over 80 people attend with 14 members making pots of soup. We were fortunate that we were able to feed everyone. However, we did run out of soup. November should have more people attend so please mark your calendars now and plan on bringing a pot of soup on November 20. This monthly dinner is a good time to try a new recipe to share with everyone. Please stay for dinner and fellowship. This is one of the best outreach events we have where we can get to know members of the community and build relationships with them. You have no idea whose life you might touch with God's love just by having a bowl of soup with someone.

Mission Team – Christmas Outreach

The Missions Team is working on a Christmas outreach for foster children in Medina County. The program is being organized by the Medina County Job and Family Services. The holidays can be an especially difficult time for children who have been temporarily separated from their families. We hope to provide a little extra cheer this Christmas for children experiencing foster care. Although it does not erase what they are going through, it communicates to them that they are seen and that they are surrounded by a community who cares about them.

Any child in MCJFS custody has the opportunity to fill out a wish list with gift ideas. Our congregation will have the opportunity to give a child a meaningful Christmas by fulfilling their wish. The missions team has cards available with requested gift items. Please pick up a card, purchase your gift, and return it to the church by Sunday, November 16th. The gifts should be unwrapped, labeled and returned to the church. See Carole Jones, Mary Jane Broaddus or Janet Hartmann for details.

Operation Christmas Child



Our annual Operation Christmas Child packing party will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 8th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please come when you're able and stay as long as you are able. We will have pizza delivered around noon for lunch.

On Friday, November 7th at 10:30 am, we will be setting up and arranging the items on tables in the Fellowship Hall in preparation for the packing party. If you can help then we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you very much for supporting this mission with your prayers, donations and help.

Questions, call Marcia Taylor at (330) 350-1479.

See you there!

Ladies Book Club

Hey Ladies,

We are studying the book, "40 Days Through the Bible" by Lysa Terkeurst. She is the same author that wrote the churchwide study we are doing on the Gospel of Mark.

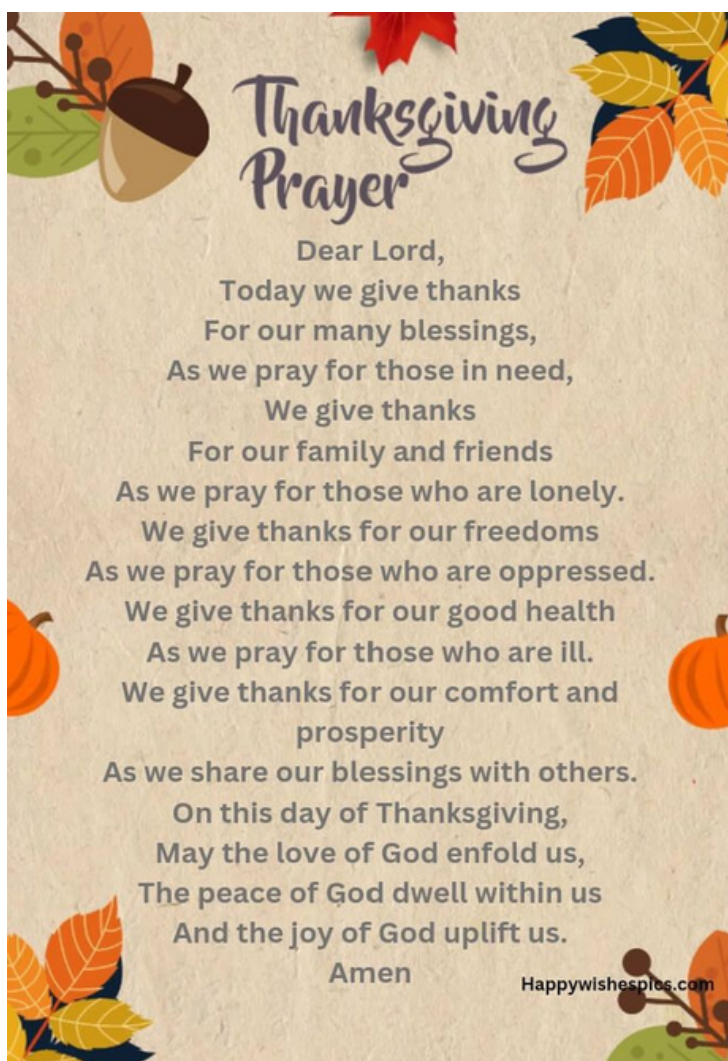
We meet once a month on Fridays at 6:30 in room 101. Our next meeting is on Friday, November 7 and then December 5th. The books can be found on Amazon for only \$10.00. Come give us a try and meet some new friends.



Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support. I can't communicate how touched I was by our church family's response to Jessie's medical emergency. Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to send them up for Jessie as he continues to recover.

God Bless,
Rachel Hammond



Blessings Box

Thank you to Kathy Thompson and Harry Caudill who have been maintaining and replenishing the Blessings Box. Items get taken quickly so they have to put them out sparingly otherwise we will run out of stock.

Thank you to everyone who has been donating items for the Blessings Box. We are in need of diapers, detergent, cleaning supplies, hygiene and toiletry items, and paper product donations are appreciated. Please consider donating these items every month so we don't run out of stock. You may drop off donations at the church office during office hours or on Sunday mornings you can put them in the box in the gathering area.

As the scripture from Matthew on the box reads, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."

New Membership Class

On Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am Pastor Matt will be holding a new membership class in room 101 for those who would like to learn more about the church. There is no obligation to join the membership but if following the class you are interested in joining, please let him know.



The Church Needs You!

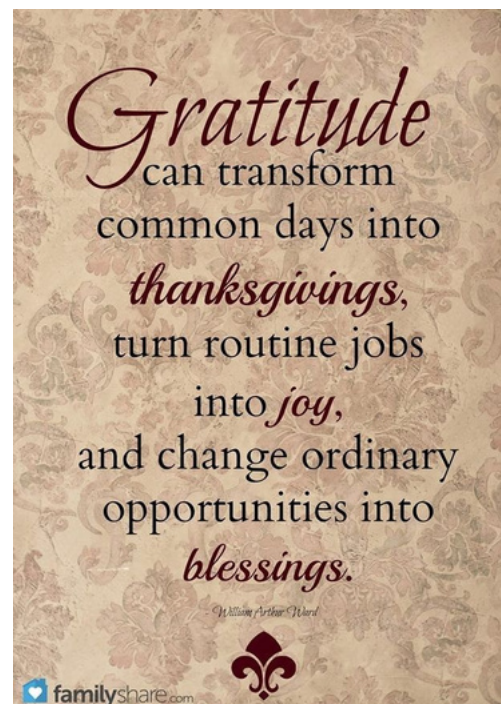
As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you! And you need the church!

Editors Note: I found this article following Covid in 2022. It still applies today as many members never returned to Sunday worship. However, many of our members are unable to attend in person and we are happy that you are able to stay connected with the church through our online services.



Capital Improvement Campaign Follow-Up

Last November, the Building Maintenance Team communicated to all of you that we were starting a Capital Improvement Campaign in order to pay for a number of major renovations that needed to be completed. It's been almost a year and we would like to update everyone on how that campaign has gone.

Our goal was to raise \$100,000.00. We had collected \$73,861.42 in direct donations. We've accomplished the following:

Fire Alarm System: We replaced the fire panel last year and it has been working well with no false alarms.

Ward Chapel Windows Restoration: The remaining deteriorating window frames and replacement of the protective covering over the antique leaded glass windows was completed in October.

Refinish Fellowship Hall Floor: The Fellowship Hall floor was replaced in June and looks beautiful!

Pavilion: Although we would love to begin construction of this structure, it has been put on hold for the time being. We currently do not have enough money to cover the cost of building the pavilion. We hope to find the money to pay for it next year.

One last final note: we had a few other major repairs that couldn't wait to be done. The easement in the parking lot was sinking. That had to be replaced for a cost of \$9,475.00. This is being paid out of the money market account. We are also getting the roof of the church replaced costing approximately \$150,000 but the insurance company is covering the majority of that expense. We only have to meet a \$1,250.00 deductible. No money from the Capital Campaign was used for these expenses.

We thank everyone for your donations and your support in helping us pay for these repairs. If you made a pledge and haven't fulfilled that yet, you still have two months to accomplish that goal. If you would like to contribute to the campaign, you can designate your donation by marking Capital Campaign on your offering envelope or bring your donation directly to the church office.

The picture below is the broken easement. The picture on the right is what it's supposed to look like.



November 23
11:15 am



This year we will be holding a Hanging of the Greens following the church service on November 23rd at 11:15. This is a fun tradition that has been working well over the past couple of years. Everyone has a great time decorating the church for Christmas and then enjoys lunch and fellowship at approximately 12:00 pm. It should be a lot of fun again this year. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us.



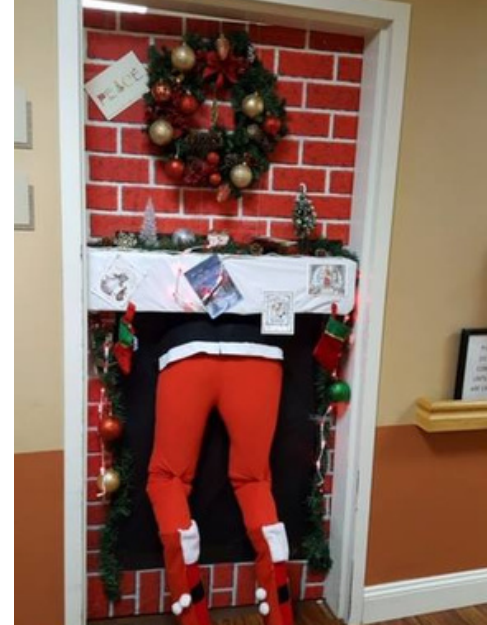
Calling All Shepherds
Live Nativity Scene
Sunday, December 21st
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

We are organizing a Live Nativity Scene for Sunday, December 21st from 6-8 pm. Last year we got rained out because the animals couldn't be out in the rain. So we hope this year we will be able to hold this fun tradition. Hank Hartmann and Bill Radcliffe will help set up the stable again this year and Dave and Howard Goodyear are supplying the animals. "WE" need to provide Joseph, Mary, and the three shepherds. Are you willing to help?

This has been a meaningful and wonderful outreach to the Brunswick Community. It has grown every year with more people from the community stopping and visiting our stable. They share a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie or two, and pet the animals. A few years ago we even made the newspaper. We heard parents explaining to their children who Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are. Wow! Isn't that fantastic? Now, that's taking Christ into the world.

In past years we have had a schedule and everyone who served as an actor only sat for 30-minute shifts. We hope to have enough volunteers again this year to stick with that same schedule.

Please call Karen in the office at 330-225-3179, if you are willing to help.



Door Decorating Contest

As of this year, the door decorating contest is now a fun BUMC tradition. During the past two years, members have decorated doors in the office hallway and the downstairs classrooms. Everyone enjoys seeing how creative our members can be and it adds a bit of holiday spirit to the church.

The contest will begin on November 30th and needs to be completed by December 13. Ballots will be available during the worship service on December 14. Winners will be announced on December 21st. Anyone interested in decorating a door should sign up at the Welcome Center. Feel free to pair up with other members.



Turkey Bowl

By Mallory Anglin

I have the honor and privilege of working for an amazing family-owned company, 1st Day School Supply, located in Hinckley, Ohio. Every year, they host the nation's largest backyard football game that's played on Thanksgiving Day. The Meadows' Turkey Bowl has received a ton of media coverage. You cannot turn on the radio or watch TV without seeing something about them. They have recently been on "New Day Cleveland" discussing the amazing opportunity. This year, I am a virtual player, helping raise money for people in need in our community as well as those battling cancer. This cause is near and dear to my heart.

I am looking for family and friends to help me give back to this charitable cause. When you make a donation, 100% of the funds go to help those battling cancer. The oldest son of the Meadows' Family, Pete Meadows, my fellow colleague, had a life-altering experience when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in May 2020. Later, Pete and his wife lost their beautiful baby girl, Gianna Rae, eight months into pregnancy. Thirty percent of all donations will go to the Gianna Rae Meadows Fund to find a cure for Oligodendroglioma, the type of cancer Pete is battling. Her legacy will live forever while finding a cure.

So when you donate not only are you helping the needy but you're getting incredible packages and value in return. Please use the direct link for more information: <https://www.meadowsturkeybowl.com/> or you can donate at MeadowsTurkeyBowl.com - You can select "Mallory" as the player!

Thank you and God Bless, *Mallory Anglin*

Thought for Today:

Dear Veterans,

Those of us who have not served
will never fully understand
the sacrifices you've made
both in times of peace and of war.

We will never fully understand
what you were required to do
or how you were able to do it.

We will never fully understand
the depth of your scars.

But what we can offer you is this:

We see you.

We recognize your humanity.

And we send you Love
that is gentle, patient and healing.

With Blessings and Gratitude,
we ask that you remember you are loved.

Thank you.



Daylight savings time ends on November 2nd. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night so you can show up to church on time.



Youth Group

The next Youth event will be at Scene 75 on Center Road in Brunswick on Sunday, November 16. We will meet there at 6 pm and finish at 8 pm. The cost will be \$18 per person and will include unlimited attractions for 2 hours and a \$10 game card. If we have some additional \$10 game cards we will give each kid one more. Take a look at the Scene 75 website to peruse the attractions.

Please RSVP to Pastor Matt by November 9 so that we can register for the group rate.



Office News!

Address Change

Please make the following change in your directory.

Wendy Kammer
8983 Gatestone Rd.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Vewteran's Day Video

We will be showing the Veteran's Day video on November 9 following the worship service. If you're a Veteran and haven't submitted your picture to Bob Lewis, please drop it off in the office by November 3rd.

Attention, Snow Birds!

It's that time of year again when members start planning trips to warmer states for the winter months. Please make sure you notify the office if we need to put a hold on your church mail or if you have a forwarding address. Thank you!

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)

matt.merriman@brunswickumc.org

karen.mcgoughran@brunswickumc.org



Christmas Poinsettias!!

Order Form

We would like to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia plants in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. To order, please complete the form below and place it in one of the offering boxes with your payment or turn it into the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 7.** (Please note that the cost of the poinsettias have gone up as well as the delivery fee increased significantly and therefore, we had to increase the cost of the poinsettias.)

(No orders can be accepted after this date.)

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

No. of plants _____ @ \$13.25 each

Total Payment: _____ ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash

_____ I will take my plant home after the Christmas Eve service.

_____ Please donate my plant to a shut-in.