

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

By Pastor Matt Merriman

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Brunswick UMC Family and Friends,

In recent months, a number of people have returned to our church who seemed to have drifted away in recent years. As I talk to these folks, I find that they have returned for a variety of reasons. Some wanted their children to have an opportunity to learn about God. Some are empty-nesters who are answering a call to serve God in some way through our church. Whatever their motivation, all seem to have felt the Holy Spirit nudging them back into the fold. They felt ready to return.

All this causes me to wonder how many other people are out there who might be feeling that same call from the Spirit? How many people just need a little nudge or a request to get them back into Christ's holy church? There may be a lot of them.

All this leads to my big ask: Can each one of you think about people you know who have not been around church for a while and reach out to them? Send a card or email. Call. Maybe even knock on their door. Let folks know that we miss them. Tell them how we have re-opened all our ministries and missions after the pandemic closures. Our children's and youth ministries are taking off. Our food ministries are as vital and productive as ever. Everything is going really well. You even have a new pastor doing things a different way.

As the Apostle Paul tells us in the verse above, we are all ambassadors for Jesus and it is our responsibility to help people find their way into Christ's church. So, let's all reach out to some of our lost sheep and invite them to come back. You never know how God is working in a person's life or where you might fit into the picture.

Blessings to All,

Pastor Matt



May is a very busy month for the life of the church. Please note the following dates:



Confirmation Sunday May 7

May 14 Mother's Day!



In honor of Mother's Day, our children will be performing a Mother's Day tribute. You won't want to miss this!



May 28 Pentecost Sunday



May 28 Memorial Day

We will also be showing the Memorial Day video.



Graduation and Scholarship Sunday June 4

If you have a child or grandchild who will be graduating this year, we will be holding Graduation Sunday on June 4th. Please contact the church office and provide Karen with the pertinent information she needs for the bulletin and for the service that day.



Pentecost Sunday

For Pentecost we are asking everyone to dress casually and in red if at all possible, but we are also asking everyone to bring a red flower to church.

They will be put in the sanctuary for the service and then everyone who is able to, will help plant them around the church following the service. Please bring your trowels, shovels etc. to help with the planting.

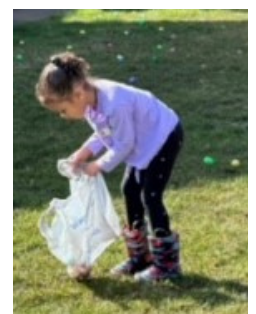
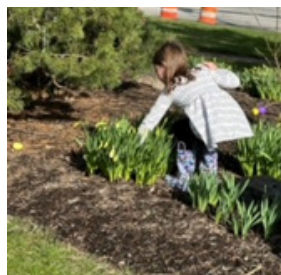
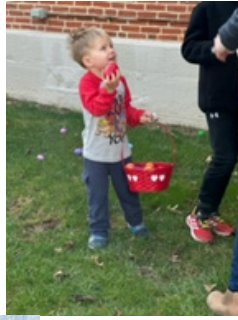




LET'S CONNECT!

**CHRIST
COMMUNITY
CONNECT**

Easter Egg Hunt!



Sunday School

As the school year winds down, so does our Sunday school classes. Please make a note that the children will be performing during the worship service for Mother's Day on May 14th. There will not be Sunday School that day. Our last Sunday school class for the year will be on May 21st.

How does your family spend their summers?

Do you go camping?

Rachel Hammond and Abbey Chuvilin will be offering "God's Camp Creation" for Summer Sunday School this year! Please join them on June 4 and 18, July 16 and 30, and August 6 and 20. The theme will be camping and will focus on the Creation Story. There will be scavenger hunts, snacks including trail mix, and many fun crafts and experiments. Each class will be held outside weather permitted. The kids are encouraged to wear their camping attire. Rachel and Abbey are excited for your kids to join them.



Kidz Connect



The kids have been incredibly hard at work using their singing voices and cool dance moves to bring the light of Jesus into this church! If you want to see what these awesome kids have been up to, be sure to watch the kids put on quite a performance during the Mother's Day service on May 14th at 10:00 am.

Kidz Connect friends are also invited to "Kidz Night Out" on May 28th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. The children will get to spend the evening hanging out with the big kids from the youth group while playing games, eating some delicious pizza and snacks, and even tie-dying. If you plan on being there, make sure you bring a white shirt! Parents are more than welcome to stay and join in on the fun. Let Katie know who from your family will be attending so we can plan accordingly. Hope to see you there!



Vacation Bible School July 10-13

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School the week of July 10-13 from 6-8.

This year we have a space theme called Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light. The fun will start as soon as the kids walk in the door. They will instantly feel the love of Jesus shining through everything we do.

We are creating a special event just for them! There will be God sightings where kids learn to see the evidence of God among us and of course the Imagination Station will spark kids' imagination with Sciency-Fun Gizmos.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Karen in the office.



Youth Connection

During the month of April the youth group did not get a whole lot of time together. From spring break to Easter it was a very busy month. The kids were able to squeeze in some fun time for bowling, and a cell phone scavenger hunt, and Indoor Mini Golf around the church as well! Check out the youth group calendar to see what fun we have scheduled for May and June!

The youth group will also be participating in the Mother's Day worship service with the little ones. If you or your child want to participate in this service, please let Katie know so she can give your child a speaking part. While we have already started practicing, that is ok! There is still time to join! We will have a combined rehearsal with the youth and children on May 13th from 10am-12pm in the Sanctuary. See you there!



SPRING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE	
Meet 4-6pm in youth room unless otherwise stated	
<i>April</i>	
April 9 - No Youth Group - Happy Easter!	
April 16 - Bowling (T&M Lanes- \$8)	
April 23 - Cell Phone Scavenger Hunt	
April 30 - Indoor Putt Putt	
<i>May</i>	
May 7 - Movie Night ("The Game Plan" Disney+)	
May 14 - Youth and Kids Mother's Day Service	
10:00 AM (No Youth Group 4-6)	
May 21 - Trivia Night	
May 28 - Kidz Night Out	
<i>June</i>	
June 4 - Late Night Game Night (6pm-11pm)	
June 11 - Field Day	
June 18 - No Youth Group - Fathers Day	
June 25 - Mission Trip (No Youth Group)	

***NEW* Young Adult Group:**

Calling all young adults! Were you at one point involved in Youth Group at BUMC? Do you miss those friendships and memories that were made with your friends and youth leaders? Maybe you weren't involved in youth group but you and some friends are looking for a new group of people to hang out with?

You're invited to join the new young adult group headed up by Wendy Kammer! We will meet Saturday, May 20th at 6:00pm at Foundry Social in Medina (333 Foundry St. Medina, OH) for duck pin bowling, arcade games, dinner, go karting, and more!

Have questions? Reach out to Wendy for details. 216-533-4726.



Mission Trip Update

Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Mission trip at the Bake Sale on Easter Sunday. Because of your kind contributions, we raised \$459.55! We are so blessed and thankful for all your contributions to our mission trip. We will be having one final Bake Sale on Mother's Day before and after the service as well. Thank you!



Operation Christmas Child

In 2022, Operation Christmas Child delivered its 200 millionth shoe box. To commemorate this milestone, former shoebox recipient, Elizabeth Geoff went on a special journey to help pack the 200 millionth shoebox. At each stop on the national tour she added an item to the shoebox: a doll in Denver, Colorado; a flashlight in the United Kingdom; a reusable canvas bag by Canada; a plush koala toy by Australia/New Zealand; a jump rope by Germany; and a jump rope by Korea. Then she headed to Aurora, Illinois where she added a necklace. In Nashville, Tennessee, she packed colorful socks; continuing on to Punt Gorda, Florida she packed a water bottle filled with pretty hair ties. The tour ended in Charlotte, North Carolina at the procession center where Franklin Graham dedicated the shoebox and added a bright yellow yo-yo.

Finally, the symbolic shoebox was given by Elizabeth to eight year old Natalya in worn torn Ukraine. She clung to the flashlight saying that it would help her not be afraid during the air raids. This is just one story showing how these shoeboxes impact the children's lives.

Each month we are collecting a different item for the shoeboxes we will be filling later in the year to be sent to Operation Christmas Child. For May, let's collect clothing: t-shirts, shorts, small dresses, socks, flip-flops, etc. Remember we can't accept anything liquid. Small stuffed animals or small dolls are collected every month. Look for the box in the gathering area marked Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

May Birthdays

5/2	Pat Beck
5/3	Frank Troutvine
5/4	Bonnie Yost
5/5	Linda Sheridan
5/5	Janice Troutvine
5/6	Linda Slaga
5/8	Sheri Breeden
5/8	Paul Grant
5/10	JoAnn Nemeth
5/12	Justin Ohler
5/13	Brenda Killey
5/13	Bob Stieger
5/16	Elizabeth Chandler
5/16	Brody Goodwin
5/17	Kathy Loop
5/18	Bob Custer
5/20	Judy Bland
5/23	Meredith Stout
5/25	Chuck Fisher
5/26	Brenda Wells
5/27	Wendy Heinle
5/28	Kathy Lang
5/28	Brad Saeger
5/29	Jim Coontz
5/31	Lois Bewley





Kids Hope Update

By Ron Chidsey

The BUMC Kids Hope Ministry is coming to the close of another successful year. Twenty-two children from Memorial School have been mentored during this school year with the same number of Mentors and Prayer partners. With only a few weeks left in this school year the Leadership Team is planning an end of the year picnic at North Park on Friday, May 19. We will have the students walk from the school to North Park with the Principal, Mrs. Mann, and a few other adults. There will be games and food and time to get to know the parents as they arrive to pick up their children. We look forward to connecting with the families of the Mentees and having a fun time closing out the school year.

I am looking ahead to starting another year of mentoring with recruiting new mentors for next year. If you have been considering becoming a mentor, there will be training for new mentors at the start of next school year. Your weekly commitment is only one hour each week plus travel time. Vacations can easily be worked around. Is it time for you to answer the call to this ministry?

Thank you to all the mentors and prayer partners who have served this ministry this year. Thanks also to the Leadership Team of Susan Lausch, Bob Lewis, and Matt Merriman. And thanks to Barb Slama for organizing the food for the end of year picnic and to Katie Kintop for organizing the games for the picnic. It takes a lot of hands for this to be successful.

God Bless,
Ron Chidsey
BUMC Kids Hope Director



Online Giving and Donations

We have gone back to passing the offering plates on Sunday mornings and will continue to do so. If you are viewing our services online, you can mail your donations to the office at our PO Box 85 address or you can drop them off in the office during the week.

If it's more convenient for you to give online, you can visit our website at www.brunswickumc.org and click on the give button. We have made it easier for you by simplifying your options. There will be just one "Donate Here" button and if you want to designate your donation to a specific fund, you can type which fund you wish your money to go to on the "other" line.



Dear Brunswick UMC,
Thank you for the wonderful care package!

Its hard to believe I am still in college but with boxes like those I might never leave. Seriously though, the snacks and supplies are much appreciated and its always nice to know you all are thinking of me.

Thank you again,
Will McGoughran

Hello Brunswick UMC,
I just wanted to say thank you so much for the care package I recieved earlier in March. It has been such a blessing and I am so thankful that you are keeping us college students in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks again!
Laura Miles

Dear Church Family, thank you to everyone for the many cards, thoughts and prayers. I received 125 cards for my birthday. Thank you for helping make it a special one. I miss you all.

With Love,
Mamie Grunau

Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League

Golf season is just around the corner again and the Brunswick United Methodist Church Golf League is starting to get organized. Come join us this year. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The golf league will play 9 holes every Thursday evening from April 27th through September 14th, with an 18 holes finale on September 16th. Tee time is 4:15PM at Cossett Creek Golf Course in Brunswick.

If you can't commit to being a Regular (players who plan to play at least 15 times during the season) we have space for what we call Alternates (players who plan to play at least 5 times during the season). The season dues for Regular players are \$50 and for the Alternate players \$15. Hope to see you and a few new faces at the course this year. For more information on the league contact:

Jim Armitage: 724-814-4513 jrarmitage1@gmail.com

Ron Chidsey: 440-785-0509 chidseyr@gmail.com



Golfing Gals
at
Cossett Creek
Brunswick Ohio

Tuesday Mornings

**If you are interested in joining us for
fun casual golf**

Contact Patty at 440.382.9154

Attention All Women Golfers

Here is a wonderful opportunity where you can begin building relationships with other women doing something you enjoy. Who knows where it might lead?

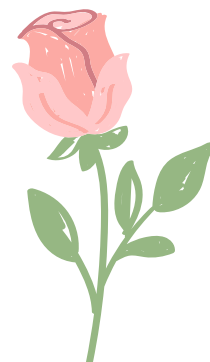
They are non-profit and asked us to get the word out for those interested in joining to play golf at Cossett Creek Golf Course, Brunswick every week..

Rambling Roses

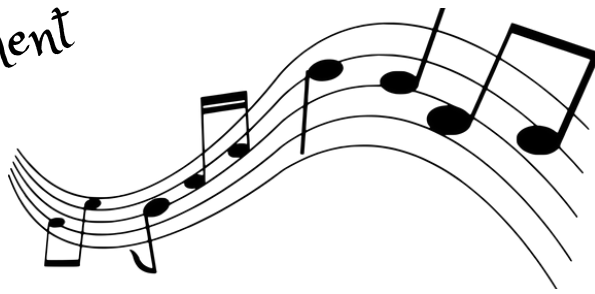
Happy spring ladies! Thanks to all who have helped to plan a monthly activity! We've been having fun! If you haven't had a chance to plan your favorite activity yet there is still time.

We will visit Cleveland Botanical Gardens in May. Watch the bulletin for details on the date and time.

Summer is on its way and we currently have nothing planned for July or August. If you have any ideas I will be glad to help you plan something. Please contact Debbie Vargo at 330-242-3467.



Music Department



Choir - meets Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30. We will continue to have 3 rehearsals prior to singing in church one Sunday a month. We will be singing May 7th and June 4th if you'd like to join us.

Bells will be practicing on Wednesdays at 7:30. We will be playing on Mother's Day May 14.

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



Bible Study

Pastor Matt has a Bible Study Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. and is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. This group requires no preparation and is a free form type of study. We read scripture and discuss among ourselves. New people may join at any time and there is no detriment if a person misses one or more weeks and then returns.

The Gospel of Matthew is a fascinating study. It was probably written for a Jewish audience that lived in Galilee and so it is full of references and allusions to the Old Testament. The author was trying to explain to the people that Jesus was the next step in God's plan to be revealed to humanity and therefore was a natural extension of Jewish belief. Very interesting material to read and discuss. Please consider dropping in.



Thank you all for the support offered after Dad's death. Your kindness and love made our sadness much easier to bear. It was so comforting to hear the many stories from those of you who have been touched by Dad in some way during your lifetime! Those stories were truly wonderful and will be cherished and remembered for years to come. The meal prepared by the ladies was certainly a gift of love. Words do not adequately express our gratitude. Our hearts have been so touched by all of you. Dad lives on through the lives of many. That is the legacy he wanted to leave. Although we are sad, we know that death is not the end. Thank you church family and God bless each one of you for your love!

The Leahy Family
Debbie, Diane, Kevin

That Place For Teens

Editors Note: The following is an article from Steve Pausch who is the Executive Director for Youth For Christ. Youth For Christ is who oversees, "That Place For Teens". As we build relationships with the kids that are participating in that program, it's exciting to have 3 of those boys participating in our youth group and they are attending church here periodically. They also helped with the fish dinners. We pray that, as members of the church show them Christian love when they are here, they will learn more about Jesus' love and eventually become Christians. It's exciting to see God working through our church and literally taking Christ out into the world. Amen

These monthly newsletters are posted on the bulletin board. Take time to see what they're doing. The following article is very pertinent to our church and what we are doing at "That Place For Teens". If you would like to be a part of this exciting experience, please contact Karen in the office.

What Is Church?

By Steve Pausch

When you hear the word 'church' what do you think of? As believers, we know that the Church is more than a building. We know that God calls the Church His Body (1 Corinthians 12:12 and following). We are members of his body, the church. In practical terms, we could say that a church is to be a place full of people who worship Jesus and enjoy being with one another and purpose to tell others what they have learned. A church is to be a safe place where you can share good times and bad times with people who listen and care. A church is a group of people who welcome others and share the good news of Jesus Christ with them.

Picture a big open space with some couches and a pool table. Do they remind you of a church? A place where people are learning about God and His plan for their life?

Teens often refer to "That Place for Teens" as their church. To teens, our programs are often referred to as "Church" because they are learning about Jesus and may come to know Him personally here. For the teens we serve, this is the Church! Our prayer is that our programs and the teen center are a place that leads teens to become part of His Body, The Church. It is our prayer that they become part of the local church... through the teen center and programs that they see as "church". Thank you for being a part of The Church, and allowing us to point teens to Jesus.

The Upside... Quotes from Today's Positive Thinkers

"The Farmer does the work he knows how to do, but when the work is done, he is at the mercy of God for rain, sunlight and harvest. Likewise, our souls must be carefully and daily tended to, even as we entrust ourselves to God for the growth.

By Scott Sauls

"Find your own unique expression in the world, the seed that was planted within you when you were born. You are a revelation of the Sacred, and there is only one revelation just like you."

By Christine Valters
Paintner





Office News!

"Do Something!"

If you tuned in to Susan Lausch's message on April 16, you'll recognize this title, "Do Something".

We are hearing wonderful updates from members of our Visitation Ministry who are "Doing Something" by making phone calls, visiting members, and sitting with loved ones so spouses can go to Easter Sunday service. Everyone, no matter what your age and circumstance, can "Do Something". Contact the office if you would like to serve on the Visitation Ministry.

National Day of Prayer

May 4th

We encourage everyone to spend some time praying on this day for our country, government leaders, for our city and our church.

Mail

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

BUMC
PO Box 85
Brunswick, Ohio 44212



HELP WANTED

Child Care Provider

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help sit in the nursery until SPR is able to hire someone to fill the Child Care Provider position. If you know someone 21 years or older who would be interested, Please have them contact the church office or apply by going to our website at www.brunswickumc.org. The position pays \$15.00/hr. and is primarily 9:30-11:30 every Sunday and then flexible days and times for holidays and other events where we may need to provide child care.

Office Hours:

Please plan your trips accordingly:

Monday thru Thursday:
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The office is closed on Friday afternoons.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION: 330-225-3179

Matt Merriman, Pastor (Ext. 12)

Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (Ext. 10)

Katie Kintop, Youth Ministry Coordinator (Ext. 11)

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