

STEEPLEVUES

A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. MATT MERRIMAN

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

BUMC Family and Friends,

This wonderful advice from Ecclesiastes is something that we all probably have read and can easily take to heart. Those of us who are involved in any kind of ministry or mission know that we cannot do it alone and so we willingly and lovingly work with each other to accomplish God's purposes to help transform our world.

I bring this passage to your attention because it is pertinent to the second phase of our establishment of the Single Board Accountability Model of Church Governance. In the first phase, we established a single board which acts as Administrative Council, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations, and Trustees. That board is operating exceptionally well and this January we will have our first rotation of leadership in many, many years.

In the second phase we want to work on developing ministry teams. For most of our existing ministries, missions, and programs this part is easy—we simply call our organization a team. For example, our Sunday school teachers are the Sunday school team. The difference from before is that the Sunday school team is empowered to run Sunday school in the way they feel called. If they want to do things such as decorate their rooms, rearrange furniture, use different rooms, or adopt new curriculum, our church board empowers them to do that. They don't have to go to the Leadership Board to ask permission. The Sunday school team would work with the church staff to make the changes. Other teams are empowered in the same way. We want to identify a leader for each team so the staff knows who the main point of contact will be.

(cont. next page)



(Pastor's Letter cont.)

There is another aspect of developing teams that will be a little more involved. We need to replace the old Education Committee and Missions Committee with a Children's Ministry Team and a Missions Team. Neither of the original committees were in existence when I came to BUMC in 2022, so we are starting from scratch.

The Children's Ministry Team will do things like organize the big events we have each year such as Trunk or Treat, the Live Nativity Scene, and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Missions Team will keep track of the local missions, ministries, and programs that our church supports financially and recommend where and how much to donate. We are still working on the exact responsibilities for these teams, but I can tell you that they are both essential if BUMC is going to effectively serve our community and the world.

Please prayerfully consider serving on either the Missions Team or the Children's Ministry Team. If you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to serve, please contact me or Karen in the office.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt



We will be recognizing our Veterans on
Sunday, November 10.

Veterans Day

by Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank ALL veterans just the same.

November Birthdays

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 1/02 | Becky Hall |
| 11/03 | Dave Goessler |
| 11/03 | Kim Goessler |
| 11/04 | Alayna Hammond |
| 11/04 | Tom Myers |
| 11/05 | Hayden Litton |
| 11/07 | Kim Chidsey |
| 11/07 | Cathy Javaras |
| 11/07 | Janine van Staden |
| 11/08 | Elaine Monroe |
| 11/10 | Geoff Killey |
| 11/11 | Jaelyn Solivan |
| 11/13 | Tresa Goodwin |
| 11/13 | Julie Zevchek |
| 11/14 | Rose Miktuk |
| 11/15 | Howard Goodyear |
| 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 |



Look who turns 80...

Join us to celebrate
Dick Beeching's 80th Birthday
on Saturday, November 9
from 1-4
here in the Fellowship Hall.
Lunch served at 1pm
RSVP to Darlene @
440-476-4109
or radnama@frontier.com
No presents please.



Community Soup Dinner

Thursday, November 21

5:00 pm



During our first soup dinner last month we had approximately 100 people attend with 18 members making pots of soup. Thank you to everyone who helped cook, setup, serve and clean up! We were fortunate that we were able to feed everyone. We will serve soup to the community the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm.

Please plan on making your favorite soup or try a new recipe to share with the community each month. Our next dinner will be on November 21. Feel free to stay for dinner and have fellowship with those attending from the community and enjoy a fun evening of outreach. Please call Lynn Miller at 216-570-5133 with any questions.



November is the month when almost all the mentors for the school year are already visiting with their mentees on a weekly basis. Looking ahead, our Kids Hope Mentoring program is still short on mentors for the children that have been referred. Please consider becoming a mentor.

After meeting with the Kids Hope Leadership team, we are looking for a few volunteers to take charge of the upcoming KH Family Dinner night which will be held on February 18, 2025. Also, we need a volunteer to coordinate the end of year picnic at Goodyear Farm. If you can help in either of these events, talk to Susan Lausch, Matt Merriman, Bob Lewis or myself.

Finally, I want to welcome Beth Browning as a Kids Hope Mentor and Marcia Taylor who will be Beth's prayer partner.

Blessings to All,

Ron Chidsey, Kids Hope Director



Come one and all to the party of the year! Now that I have your attention let me invite you: men, women and children of all ages, to our annual Operation Christmas Child packing party. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, November 16th at 9:00 am. Too early? Then come when you can. We will have pizza delivered around noon for lunch. We have been working hard every Friday getting the items you donated ready to go in the boxes.

On Friday, November 15th from 1:30-3:30 pm, we will be arranging the items on tables in the Fellowship Hall. 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!

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sunday mornings at 11:15 am. in Room 101. In November, they will begin studying the Gospel of Luke focusing on the first 2 chapters to start.

You don't need a book or a bible to participate. Feel free to stop in any Sunday and join us. 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. They are beginning to study the Gospel of Mark. 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.



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,
We are so thankful for everyone's prayers and well wishes. George is healing much better from his second surgery and is currently on home IV antibiotics for 6 weeks (ugh). I am over 5 weeks post-op and my surgeon is impressed with my progress and healing - I can even play the piano for about 5 minutes a day now and am going back to teaching on a limited basis next week. When we watch the news and see all those poor people in NC etc. we realize how fortunate we are - kinda puts everything into perspective!

Diane Haley

Dear BUMC Women,
We can't thank you all enough for all your hard work. We feel so blessed to know so many of you and appreciate your continued dedication to the church. Thank you all for making Jill's memorial service exactly as she would have hoped it would be.

Much Love,
Lynn Frantz and Jeanne
& Anna Becker



Sunday School

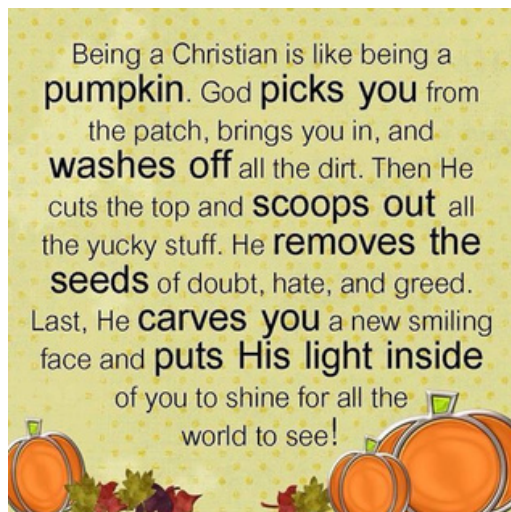
Sunday School is in full swing. Thank you to our dedicated members who are serving the Lord and our church by teaching our youngsters. The next lesson series is scheduled to start the first week in November (Nov 3-24). It's called Turkey Tales and is about being thankful. The Bible verse is Philippians 2:14, "Do all things without murmuring and arguing." We're looking forward to learning about Turkey Tales.

Also, on November 17th during Children's Moments we will be presenting bibles to the 3rd graders and any older children who haven't received one previously. Please contact Karen in the office if your child needs a bible.



Kidz Connect meets every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Kidz Connection room. This is a fun time for kids ages preschool - 5th grade.

During the month of November we will begin practicing for the Christmas Pageant which will be held on Sunday, December 22nd during the worship service. All practices for the pageant will be held during Kidz Connect. More information will be sent out to parents regarding parts and the schedule. Please contact Katie Kintop for more information at 330-741-1464.



Lost and Found

There has been a New Balance pullover hanging in the coat room since the church picnic. I thought someone would eventually realize they were missing it and pick it up but that hasn't happened.

Please check your coat closet and see if you're missing a blue pullover. If it's not claimed in a few more weeks, it will go to the food pantry clothing area.



It's daylight savings time again. On November 3rd, turn your clocks back one hour so you can show up to church on time.





Member Care

By Darlene Beeching

We need some help with coffee hour. Dick and I will be gone traveling this winter and Barb Porter will not be able to help if the weather is bad. It's not a difficult job and I will be happy to show any volunteers what to do. Unfortunately, if we don't get additional help, there will be some Sundays that we won't be able to hold coffee hour following the worship service.

Call Dick or Darlene Beeching at 440-476-4109, if you are interested in helping.

Staff Spotlight



In last month's newsletter we explained how we are partnering with the Medina County Career Center by providing a work-based learning experience to a high school student. We interviewed three students and hired Ava Lear.

Meet Ava Lear. She is a Senior at the Career Center. She enjoys learning about social media and finances. Outside of school she is involved in dance at the Ignite Dance Studio in Brunswick. She also enjoys learning about health and fitness, reading her bible, and spending quality time with her family.

She has been working for a few weeks and is doing a great job upgrading our Church's website and Instagram site. She created the flyer for the Holiday Toy Drive and Trunk or Treat. She is very creative, conscientious, professional and has excellent communication skills. We hear that she is also a straight A student. Welcome Ava!



Today and Every Day

Lord, too often our prayers are filled with impatience over what we want instead of gratitude for what we already have.

Remind us today and in the coming year what is truly important.

Remind us to give thanks for family and friends. Remind us to be grateful for the work you have given us. Remind us to appreciate our many material blessings.

Most of all, remind us today and every day to give thanks for your precious Son Jesus, and the sacrifice he made for us to give us eternal life with You in heaven.

Amen.

—Jack Zavada



Blessings Box

The items in the Blessings Box are being used. Kathy Thompson has been replenishing it every Friday. We can only hope that they are helping those who really need them. 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."

Thank you to everyone who has been donating items for the Blessings Box. We are in need of diapers, formula and detergent, hygiene and toiletry items, cleaning supplies and paper product donations are appreciated. These will be an ongoing need. So please consider donating items every month. You may drop off donations at the church office during office hours.

We could use a few more members to help Kathy Thompson in checking the box during the week and restocking as needed. Please contact her at (216) 906-1428.

New Membership Class

On Saturday, November 23rd 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.



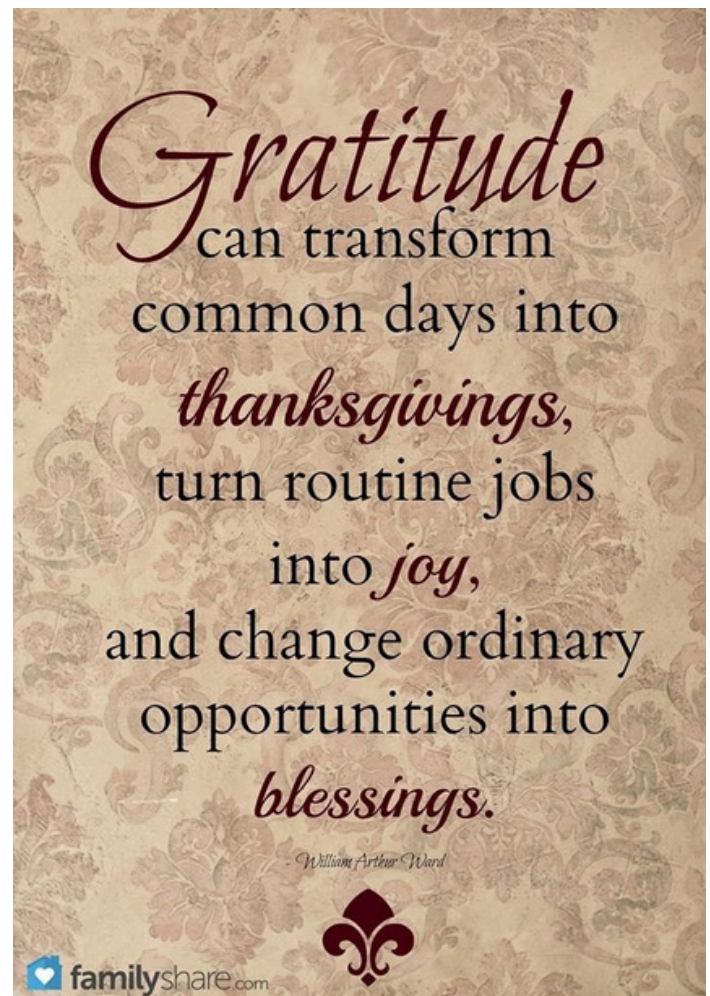
The Church Needs You!

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!



November 24
11:15 am



This year we will be holding a Hanging of the Greens following the church service on November 24th at 11:15. This is a fun tradition that we brought back last year. Everyone had a great time decoratiing the church for Christmas and then enjoyed 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.

We are in need of a 10-12 foot pre-lit Christmas tree for the gathering area. If you happen to have a gently used prelit tree with white lights this size that you could donate, plesae contact the office.



Calling All Shepherds
Live Nativity Scene
Sunday, December 15th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

We are organizing a Live Nativity Scene for Sunday, December 15, from 6-8 pm. 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 stoping and visiting our stable. They share a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie or two, and pet the animals. Last year 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

Last year, the door decorating contest was a huge success! Everyone who decorated a door had a great time and the rest of us enjoyed seeing their creations and voting on our favorite door. It added a bit of holiday spirit and a lot of fun to the season.

We are going to do this again. Anyone interested in decorating a door, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Feel free to pair up with other members. Doors need to be completed by December 14. Ballots will be available at church on December 15. Winners will be announced on December 22nd.

Stewardship Moment

By Pastor Matt

Giving has dropped significantly for the third consecutive month compared to last year and we have had to dip into our reserves for each of those months in order to meet our financial obligations. The deficit was between \$4000.00 and \$6000.00 each month. We are blessed to have decent reserves available, but the situation must be rectified. Please prayerfully and thoughtfully review your giving. As you do so, consider the myriad of missions and ministries that this congregation provides to the community. The money donated to this church makes all of that possible. Rest assured that the church staff and Leadership Board are cutting expenses wherever possible.

In spite of the recent downturn in giving, the Leadership Board feels that this is a generous and giving congregation. Therefore, the Board has decided to move forward with a capital funds campaign to raise money for some long-needed repairs and upgrades to our church building. This campaign is discussed below.

Capital Improvement Campaign

By The Building Maintenance Team

Just like our homes, our church home has ongoing repairs and maintenance. The Building Maintenance Team works quietly in the background with plumbing and electrical issues, parking lot maintenance, renovating the lower level women's restroom, etc. But sometimes there are bigger projects to tackle and this is where we all need to pull together to make things happen. There are 4 projects on our radar, with 2 of them already underway.

Fire Alarm System: Replace our 20-year old system that is failing and sending multiple false alarms to the Fire Dept, who responds every time. The first phase is the replacement of the fire panel, which has been contracted for and will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Ward Chapel Windows Restoration: Repair the deteriorating window frames and replace the protective covering over these antique leaded glass windows. (4 windows have already been done!)

Refinish Fellowship Hall Floor: Our floor is worn and damaged, evident as soon as church members and visitors first enter the room which is used a lot by our community.

Pavilion: New and exciting! Plans have been drawn up to construct this outdoor gathering area near the fire pit! To be utilized by our church family, kids and youth groups, Scouts and other groups within our church. This structure will also allow us to fulfill our church's vision statement by further connecting with our community during parades or with summertime events or meals, much like our fall and winter soup supper events.

THE GOAL: Utilizing funds we already have saved, we estimate that we need to raise another \$98,000.00 to complete these 4 projects. While this is a significant amount of money, it is amazing that we can complete all of these projects with just this amount of money still needed! Please prayerfully consider if you can contribute to this **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** by directing some additional giving to these very worthy projects. Your help is needed to keep God's House safe and in good repair, while remembering our mission to serve others within our community. You can designate your donation by marking Capital Improvements on your offering envelope or bring your donation directly to the church office. If you are unable to assist financially, we ask that you join us in prayer in raising the needed funds and successfully completing all of the above.

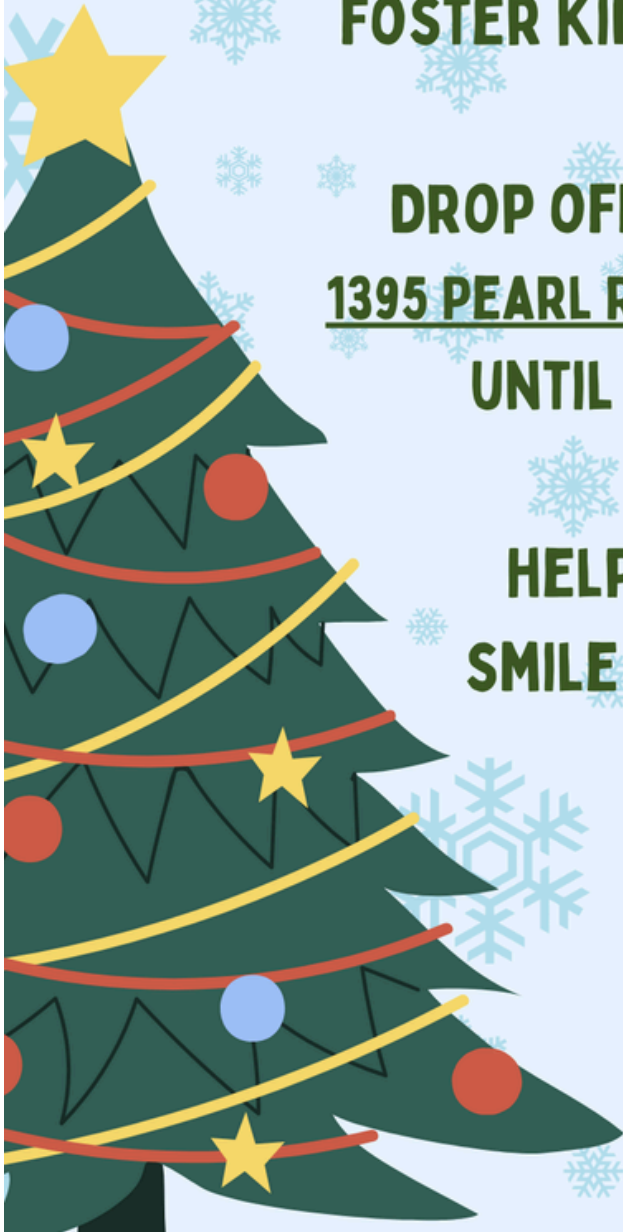
BRUNSWICK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Holiday Toy Drive

**WE ARE COLLECTING NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS
AND GIFT CARDS FOR ALL AGES FOR
FOSTER KIDS IN MEDINA COUNTY.**

**DROP OFF AT CHURCH OFFICE
1395 PEARL RD, BRUNSWICK, OH 44212
UNTIL NOVEMBER 14TH.**

**HELP MAKE A CHILD
SMILE THIS CHRISTMAS!**



Responding to Hurricanes Milton & Helene

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with disaster coordinators and Early Response Teams (ERT) in annual conferences to assist local churches impacted by Hurricane Helene, that first hit land on September 26, and Hurricane Milton, that made land on October 9. Both hurricanes claimed lives and devastated homes and businesses. “Although Milton came ashore near Siesta Key, Florida (a barrier island close to Sarasota), the reality is that this storm has impacted our entire state,” said Florida Conference Bishop Tom Berlin. “This storm brought flooding and wind to people and congregations who just began cleaning up two weeks ago from Hurricane Helene.”

As we pray for those impacted, please remember:

- Do not “self-deploy” into a region until invited.
- Do not send supplies and clothes.
- Do pray.
- Do support UMCOR

[Learn more about EOC Disaster Response.](#)

Preparing Now for Deploying Teams Later

“While we are overwhelmed by news reports of immediate needs, please know that United Methodist communities, annual conferences, and UMCOR Early Response Teams are and have been actively involved. I and other conference coordinators of Disaster Response have been meeting with UMCOR to determine where and when we can best help,” said Rev. Steve Court, EOC Disaster Response coordinator. “The best thing we can do in response is to pray, support UMCOR financially, prepare cleaning buckets to restock distribution centers, and begin planning now for how we can volunteer in the coming months and years.”

The Brunswick United Methodist Church is taking donations to help with the disaster relief through UMCOR. Please make your checks out to the church and in the memo write UMCOR and we will forward all donations to the conference. 100% of your donation will go to



Hello Church Family!

Each year I have the privilege to support The Meadows Turkey Bowl through my company, 1st Day School Supplies. This is the nation's largest backyard football game that is played every Thanksgiving Day just down the street from BUMC! Each player in the game raises money with 100% of the funds helping those battling cancer.

This year is even more special because my husband, Tristin, is one of the players! He gets to dust off the old cleats and spread the word about such a special cause. We are counting on our family and friends to help with our mission to raise a personal goal of \$3,000. Below is a link with more information about some of the great packages you can receive when you donate! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at (330-749-5573) or Tristin (216-219-5542).

Note: Please **do not** make checks out to the church if you want to support us. Please use this link to make a donation online: meadowsturkeybowl.com.

Thank you and God Bless!

Mallory Anglin



Office News!

Address Change

Please make the following change in your directory.

Rose Tokonitz
27420 Mill Road Apt. 219
N. Olmsted, Ohio 44070
(330) 321-9305

All Saints Day

November 3rd 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 28.

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 (ext. 12)

matt.merriman@brunswickumc.org

Karen McGoughran, Office Manager (ext. 10)

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. 8.** (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.