



December

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Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

Jottings from Joy

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'"

Christmas is coming! A welcome change of focus and celebration. It was neat the past month to see at the Community Thanksgiving Service and our many coworkers in the field reaping abundant gratitude despite National and world disasters! How comforting it is to hear the bell choir share their gifts further than us once again and share faith-filled songs that urge us to celebrate our lives together across denominations and hopefully across faiths at some point.

It is amazing that Christianity first comes to us as a baby born in a stable among the animals in a dark, dank, earthy place – the lowest of low, most undesirable and least likely for a King! Yet, as a child my most memorable Christmases were those when we brought my dad yet another

Crèche piece bought from the five and dime for a quarter. We added hay and homemade stable and proudly presented it at advent! He never cared about it being cheap, or homemade or even incomplete! What mattered was that we knew he would like it! Also, that we knew the real Christmas story even though in a simple way.

I had opportunities to be with Jubilation Station extra this past week and it brought such renewal and uplift to my soul! The excitement over how many bags were put out to collect food and anticipation of the huge results! I also went to Friends of Music and as soon as I entered the school with Stevie B. some high schoolers eagerly greeted him and his winning smile chimed back a simple "Hi!! Entered and found familiar faces to sit with, Emma and Dad and watch her exchange with her friends! Then Scottie sang "I'll Fly Away" and many students sang and played instruments restoring hope that all is still well!

Though some things seem grave in our nation, and world, we can experience great elation! We know that Christ is working among us to bring old made new, songs of the heart, and restore Peace, contentment and expectation of a better more loving time in the midst of it all, as he did so long ago in the birth of his son.

Peace and Love, Pastor Joy

December Kindness Kid - Sarah Walton

One of the first times I met Sarah Walton (who some of you probably remember as "little smiley faced Sarah" from the pictures from Jubilation Station) was I believe, during the Children's Moments after Rev. Art's death. We read a book about Water Bugs which explained for children about death. We talked about losing a loved one and Sarah spoke up courageously and confidently about her experience of finding her dad and then his being pronounced dead. Such a profound experience she shared so sensitively! Then, I had the good fortune to observe her even more in worship and at Jubilation Station with the children younger than her. She was a big help with each and all from showing them how to do a craft to helping them feel comfortable while listening quietly to an adult talking.

She is indeed a fantastic helper has quickly given me lessons on tech stuff, from use of my phone to how to show videos. Getting to know her even better during confirmation class was also an eye opener to her many talents and abilities from Reading from the lectern in worship, clearly and confidently, to sharing well thought out opinions and concerns.

(Cont. pg. 2)

Special Points of Interest

- ◆ Jubilation Station
- ◇ Special Thanks
- ◇ Save the Date - Brooks BBQ
- ◇ Building Christmas Program
- ◆ Youth Advisory Team
- ◆ Project Update
- ◆ D.O.V.E - Bandage Brigade
- ◆ Holiday Outreach
- ◆ Christmas Poinsettia Sale
- ◆ Bake Sale
- ◆ Finance Committee Update
- ◆ Mabel Keyes Scholarship
- ◆ December Calendar Events

December Kindness Kid - Sarah Walton (Cont. pg1)

She seems very empathetic, raising funds for various causes like Kicking at her Tae Kwon Do to raise money to get turkey meals to people in need. At Girl Scout camp she did leadership and helped little ones learn new things, guiding them through camp. Her latest concern is to raise funds for children with cancer at the St. Jude's hospital.

She has diverse interests from dance to soccer and seems comfortable with adults as well as children! She has grown up here in Center Brunswick UMC and is the traditional can food pyramid constructor every year on the altar and in the entranceway. Some mentioned how much of a young woman she has become and she has more years to go being only a 9th grader!

Sarah we are so grateful for you and all you are! We thank you for being among us sharing your many gifts and graces!

Pastor Joy



Give Thanks & Celebrate

Thank you for all your donations which were gratefully received by the Grafton Seniors.

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this outreach a success, from the packers to all those who delivered a truck full of donations.

This was truly a great Thanks - giving!

Jubilation Station



SAVE THE DATE - BROOKS BBQ January 6, 2018

Tickets are an awesome idea for stocking stuffers. Stuff their stockings by stuffing their tummies!

- ◆ 2:00 - 6:00 pm
- ◆ Eat-In or Take-Out
- ◆ Adult Dinner \$12. (includes baked potato, vegetable, roll, dessert and beverage)
- ◆ Child Dinner: \$8.00
- ◆ Half Chicken: \$6.00
- ◆ For tickets call Jill Walton 258-2164

Jubilation Station Presents— *Building Christmas* Sunday, December 10

The Christmas season would not be complete without a special Christmas program by our children and youth of Jubilation Station. This year we invite you to "Building Christmas" on Sunday morning, December 10 at 9:30 am. Come build your holiday spirit as we build with Legos to help remind you what Christmas is all about.

Following the service there will be refreshments and a special guest - Santa! Be sure to mark your calendars for December 10!

Youth Advisory Team

We are looking for a group of former youth either in Rev. Hagy's Confirmation class, went on a mission trip or knew him at Skye Farm as Grampa. We are hoping you can pass on the inspirational relationship to the children and youth in our church and those to come. Also included in this team could be those who have children or themselves have participated in a camp program. It would be the goal of this group of enthused people to come together and brainstorm monthly activities for youth in the church from 7th to 12th grades. To advertise, promote camps and brainstorm ways to raise funds for campers to go to camp.

We have a couple of folks already on board and welcome a few more. The team will decide for itself how to gather, function and plan. I, Pastor Joy, will be around to start the ball rolling, then be a resource, supporter and encourager.

Please contact me at joylow69@gmail.com / text to 802-578-9328 or call 518-621-7313.

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Project Update

The work on the east wall of our Church is almost complete. The project was an unplanned and an expensive undertaking. As we explored the condition of the existing block wall we found that the conditions were worse than expected. The scope of the work increased as we found that the entire wall needed to be replaced.

The remaining work includes sealing and painting the wall, replacement of the baseboard heat and cleaning the Fellowship Hall.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered their time with helping to move the project along. The Trustees appreciate the financial support that the congregation has shown and look forward to your continued generosity.

The expected cost for this repair is approximately \$30,000.

Donations to help with the cost of the repairs would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and patience.

Jim Burden, *Trustee Chairman*



D.O.V.E - BANDAGE BRIGADE

History of the D.O.V.E (Development of Vietnam Endeavors) Fund was founded in 2000 comprised of a mixture of Vietnam Veterans and Rotarians and has built over 44 schools, including 11 day care centers, three medical centers, implemented an Emergency Medical Residency Program and provided micro-finance programs for the poorest women in Quang Tri Province. The D.O.V.E. fund has also provided tuition assistance to more than 500 children, conducted workshops for English teachers, purchased computers, industrial sewing machines and other equipment for the various schools they have built. They have also provided Braille computers and a Braille printer for the Hue school for the blind and funded two computer centers for high schools.

Another wing of the D.O.V.E. Fund is the Bandage Brigade started in 2005 whose volunteers provide hand knitted or crocheted bandages and relief supplies to the various Leper colonies banished to the mountainous areas of the Asian nation. They have delivered well over 20,000 bandages to the Leper colonies.

Mission Opportunity: A few years ago the Center Brunswick Administrative Council voted to participate in this mission. In partnership with Hope UMC, we were pleased to send our first shipment of 30 bandages in 2011. Each year we continued to send bandages to the D.O.V.E. fund. This year we will send 22 bandages bringing the total to 116 bandages sent over the past 7 years. This will be our last shipment.

Why the Last shipment? "The D.O.V.E. Trustees returned from Vietnam in February 2017 and had much to report on the needs of the people with Leprosy and the bandages being supplied by our army of volunteers. During their trip they visited remote Leper villages to deliver your beautiful lovingly made Leper bandages (a.k.a. Works of Love). In follow up they also discussed the ongoing care of the lepers with the nuns who visit them and tend to them. What they learned was that, while Leprosy continues, most of the open sores which needed bandaging have been healed. Also, they have been able to start utilizing disposable gauze for bandaging. It is readily available there locally and does not pose the challenge of trying to wash and sterilize. The cost for purchase of the disposables is just a fraction of the cost and effort for our volunteers to make the bandages and ship them to Ohio. And then for the D.O.V.E. Fund volunteers to package/handle them, plus increased expenses incurred transporting them to Vietnam and distributing them within the country. Therefore, the decision has been made to ask our volunteers to use up their supply of cotton thread and turn in their completed bandages by December 1.

Please know that your efforts have enabled great accomplishments in the care and continued support of these special people. It may have seemed like you were "just" making a bandage but you were also helping the D.O.V.E. Fund Bandage Brigade bring attention to the other needs of the Leper community.

Thank you for your love, dedication and service to this Brigade. With your help we have done more for the Lepers than we could have dreamed of when we started down this path in 2005. The Brigade will "March On" with the continued work of the D.O.V.E. Fund. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**



Holiday Bell & Chime Choir - Outreach Performances

Our bell & chime choir will be performing at the Colonie Seniors holiday dinner held at the Beltrone Center on December 18.

They will also be playing on Christmas Eve at the 9:30 morning service as well as at the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.

Missed a Performance

Kelly Conn has put together a Facebook page dedicated to our Bell & Chime Choir. Check it out by going on Facebook to the Center Brunswick United Methodist Church Bell Choir. There you will find videos of several of their performances as well as further information. Thank you Kelly!

Bell & Chime Choir November 19 Performance

Sunday, November 19 our Bell & Chime Choir performed at the Community Thanksgiving service at the Transfiguration Parish.

Click below to see the performance.

- ◆ [Service 1](#)
- ◆ [Service 2](#)



Looking for the Perfect Christmas Gift? Purchase a Christmas Poinsettia

Purchase a Christmas Poinsettia – In memory or honor of a loved one. Proceeds will help to sponsor our children to attend summer camp at Skye Farm. Forms: *located in the back of the church* – Deadline: Dec. 16 – Cost: \$10 per plant Payment: *Cash or Checks made payable to CBUMC (Memo line – Poinsettia)* – See Kathleen Burden or drop in collection plate.



Mabel Keyes Scholarship

This award is given in memory of Harold and Mabel Keyes, whose last will and testament created the trust that provides the funding for it. Harold and Mabel were prominent members of the church for many years. Mabel taught in the Brunswick schools that preceded Tamrac, and continued teaching Sunday School for many years after she retired. Through this award, her love of helping young people learn and grow will continue to reach the your of our community.

A \$500 scholarship will be award to a student of the Tamarac High School Class of 2018 selected by the CBUMC Finance Committee. Interest students must apply no later than April 1, 2018. Application form available at the districts Guidance Office, the Church or our website www.CenterBrunswickUMC.com

Christmas Bake Sale

- ◆ Bake sale will be Friday, Dec. 15 from 5-8 pm
- ◆ Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9 am – 2 pm.
- ◆ Like to help bake: Contact Jill Walton at 518-258-2164 or wgems03@aol.com



Finance Committee Update

Thank you all who pledged for 2018. Currently we received 29 pledges totaling \$26,870. Our budget for 2018 is \$66,000.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or can be mailed to you . Please contact Mark Schott, finance secretary, at cbumcfs@outlook.com with any questions.

2017 Pledge Commitments - Thank You for Your Support

- ◆ Hurricane Harvey \$ 855
- ◆ Hurricane Irma \$ 115
- ◆ Hurricane Maria \$ 50
- ◆ World Wide Communion \$ 91
- ◆ Thanksgiving \$ 301



The World is Hugged By The Faithful Arms of a Volunteer

Looking to Lend a Helping Hand?

Scripture Readers
Greeters
Ushers

Contact Pastor Joy
for further information



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 am –Worship 1st Sunday of Advent	4 7:00 pm— <i>Bell Choir</i>	5 7:00 pm — Choir	6 7:00 pm –Worship Blue Christmas at Melrose UMC Route 40	7	8 7:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe Fellowship Hall	9
10 9:30 am – Worship Children’s Program 2nd Sunday of Advent 2:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe Fellowship Hall	11 7:00 pm— <i>Bell Choir</i>	12 7:00 pm — Choir	13 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe Fellowship Hall	14	15 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Bake Sale	16 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Bake Sale
17 9:30 am –Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent	18 7:00 pm— <i>Bell Choir</i> (Performs at <i>Colonie Seniors</i>)	19 7:00 pm — Choir	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 am – Worship – Bells 4th Sunday of Advent 7:00 pm – Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight Bells & Choir	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 am –Worship						