



# March & April

Volume 205 - Issue 205 – March & April 2020

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## Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

### *Don't Give up Love for Lent*

The season of Lent is upon us. A season of reflection where we are asked to give up something to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus in the desert for 40 days. It seems people will fast, give up chocolate, eating out, things they like. One year I gave up saying no, to my daughter Emily. I did of course say no to some things but my immediate response to requests could no longer just be no. This changed our relationship as I grew to listen to her in deeper more meaningful ways.

This year I want to suggest to not give up love. In this world we live in, where social media shows us the only things, we love are puppies and babies, and people we disagree with we cannot talk to let alone love. As a result, love is in short supply. You may even think you cannot love the world, or neighbors, the people different from us. The good news is you can learn how, you don't even have to know them.

There are four ways we as a church can show unconditional love today.

#### **1. Welcome strangers like long lost siblings.**

Imagine how it would feel to be welcomed into a new space as though the people knew you and cared for you. "How are you? It's great to see you." Simple statements to change the attitude of welcome a stranger.

#### **2. Pray for people you disagree with or are angry with.**

I don't mean pray to change their heart. Rather pray for your heart to change toward them.

#### **3. Love people as they are.**

For an entire day, every time you think about wanting to fix or change someone, take notice, ask God to help you to reach out to them in love.

#### **4. Invite people to church you wouldn't normally associate with.**

Don't think about why you wouldn't associate with them, no economics, not socially, no judgements. Just invite them. This can take away conditions of our love for others and allows for the unconditional love from God.

It is hard to love people, let alone like them. Love is what is needed, unconditional love. This Lent let's make a real difference in the world by not giving up love, or our neighbor, or being the church. Instead let's start loving unconditionally instead of giving up start something new.

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Joel*

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#### **Update to Contact List**

Please remove Shirley Jacobsen from your contact list.  
With great sadness Shirley has passed away.  
Our condolences to her friends & family.

#### **Handbell Choir**

The Handbell Choir will be ringing at the upcoming Palm Sunday & Easter services.

There will also be the regular Bonanza Bell service on Sunday, May 3.

Please plan to join us if you enjoy the music of the bells and chimes.

#### **Upcoming Events**

HAT's Next Performance

*"Nonsense"*

May 1-3 & 8-10

Directed by: *Christine LeVan*

(Our Administrative Council Secretary)

Mark your calendars. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling Ethel LeVan.

*HAT holds many of their rehearsals here at our church. Please support this wonderful community of talent.*



## Administrative Council Minutes - January

The Administrative Council met on **January 9<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 pm.

- Financial Reports were submitted for approval. .
- Committees reported on what each has been doing in the past month.
- Pastor report was given.

Old business was addressed.

- Lay leader back up is needed. The church needs a ne Lay Leader due to Laure Conroy stepping down as of May 1st .

New business was discussed.

- Weather closings will be called to Penny C., who will then use the School Closing Network system.
- Internet service for the church was discussed.
- Discussed the Old Mission Statement. "Through our community outreach benevolent donations and time we support a variety of worldwide and local ministries." it was agreed that we need to revise and update this statement.
- The Administrative Council will meet on the third Sunday of the month after church service.
- There was a discussion about March Mission Madness. Each Sunday service in March there would be mission envelopes available for donations to the different missions.
- There was a discussion regarding new reports of the upcoming Conference vote.

Next meeting date is February 16, 2020 at 10:30 am.

Check the website for updated information on coming events. The website is: [www.centerbrunswickumc.com](http://www.centerbrunswickumc.com).



## Administrative Council Minutes - February

The Administrative Council met on **February 16<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am.

- Financial Reports were submitted for approval. .
- Committees reported on what each has been doing in the past month.
- Pastor report was given. A book study group will start on 2-25 at 7 pm. The book to be discussed is *The Walk* by A. Hamilton

Old business was addressed.

- Mission Dinner and Mission Statement is tabled until the March meeting.

New business was discussed.

- CCLI insurance (copy right) was discussed and approved for enrollment.
- Discussed different types of promotion. No decision made.
- Marie Himes has been sending cards to shut ins. She has requested return address labels and stamps for his outreach. Penny Corlew will supply.
- A discussion was had about setting up a more regular schedule of greeter and ushers.
- HAT was given permission to hold their summer workshop at the church. Tat will be July 6-10.
- Kathleen Burden has offered to start the process of updating the church membership roll.
- Dates through April were discussed and set.
- Key positions were discussed for the church. Will need to get job descriptions for positions.

Next meeting date is March 15, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Check the website for updated information on coming events. The website is: [www.centerbrunswickumc.com](http://www.centerbrunswickumc.com).



### Easter Flowers

We invite you bring your own plant(s) to church to decorate the alter for our Easter services.

If you would like to put a memorial or honorarium in the bulletin, please contact Sheryl Burke by April 05. She can be reached at (518) 469-7692 or email at [smb148tr@aol.com](mailto:smb148tr@aol.com) with details or you can fill out the insert provided at the 9:30 Sunday morning service.

Plants should be brought to the church on Sat., April 11, from 9 – 10:30 am.

Thank You & Happy Easter! - *Sheryl Burke*

*She believed the best is yet to come*

A woman was diagnosed with terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her preacher to come by her house to discuss her funeral. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures to read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

As he prepared to leave, she suddenly remembered one more thing. "I have one more request," she said excitedly. "What's that?" the preacher replied. "This is very important," she continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The preacher looked at her, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you?" she asked. "To be honest, I am puzzled," he replied.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church fellowships and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork."

It was my favorite part, because I knew that meant something better was coming . . . like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful!

So, I want people to see me in that casket with a fork in my hand. When they ask you, 'What's with the fork?'

Then I want you to tell them, "She believed the best is yet to come."

**Outreach Opportunities**

*Pastor Discretionary Fund*

In the pews you will find a special offering envelope called Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This is a Church fund made available to the pastor to distribute as the pastor sees fit, typically for emergency financial aid to families and individuals in the community.

These donation envelopes allow the support of those in need without breaking the confidentiality of the people we serve as a community of faith. Please consider making a donation.

Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or given directly to Pastor Joel.

*Bottle and Can Drive - Support our Youth Activities*

As a church community we are collecting Bottles and Cans to help support our youth activities. Please leave your empty, clean bottles and cans in the blue barrel in the lift entry way. There will also be a container in the social hall for collection. Thank you for taking part in this drive to help out our youth.



*Damien Dinners*



A mission of our church, is to prepare a meal each month for the clients at Damien House in Troy. We do this on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.

The Church of the Covenant in Averill Park shares this outreach with us. We are looking for people to prepare these meals monthly when needed.

Please call Helen at 518-663-5268 to be part of this important mission. We are God's hands for this outreach to be accomplished.

*St. Jude's Card Collection Mission*

At St. Jude's there is a teen run recycled card program for the residents. Card covers are collected and new ones are made and sold. This program teaches the skills of an entrepreneurial skill as well as the opportunity to earn some money for their "work." They use all types of cards from birthday to get well and even thank you cards. They do not accept Hallmark, American Greeting or Disney cards for this program. Cards must not have any writing on the back of the front picture.

Our church's outreach mission is to collect the covers of greeting cards. Please tear off the cover of the cards and bring them to Helen Godfrey so she can send them to St. Jude's.



# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 7 pm Bell Choir	3	4	5	6 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	7
8 9:00 am - Worship ( <i>Girl Scout Appreciation Sunday</i> ) 10:00 am – Jubilation Station	9 7 pm Bell Choir	10 7 pm - Choir	11	12 6:30 pm - Finance Mtg.	13 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	14
15 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am – Admin Mtg. 10:00 am – Jubilation Station 2:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	16 7 pm Bell Choir	17 7 pm - Choir	18	19	20 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	21 Fellowship Hall - Girl Scout Dinner
22 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am – Jubilation Station 2:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	23 7 pm Bell Choir	24 7 pm - Choir	25	26	27 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	28
29 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am – Jubilation Station 2:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	30 7 pm Bell Choir	31 7 pm - Choir				

### March Birthdays

02 - Samantha Hill	17 - James Foust
05 - Jerry Looney	20 - Barbara Carr
06 - Sue Hayner	21 - Ann Austin
09 - Mark Schott	23 - David Morton
12 - Tyler Schott	25 - Cassie Freemantle
13 - McKenzie LeVan	26 - Kathy Pagano
14 - Salvatore Fallova	Justin Walton
15 - Timothy Foust	31 - Barbara Conroy

### March Anniversaries

12 – Pastor Joel & Sharen Holcomb
26 - David & Gretchen Morton

# April 2020

SSunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am - Worship - <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:00 am – Jubilation Station	6 7 pm Bell Choir	7 7 pm - Choir	8	9	10 Good Friday 12 –3 pm - Church opens 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	11
12 6:15 am - Sunrise service at Berlin 9:00 am - Worship Easter - Egg Hunt to follow service	13 7 pm Bell Choir	14 7 pm - Choir	15	16	17 6:30 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe	18
19 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am – Jubilation Station	20 7 pm Bell Choir	21 7 pm - Choir	22	23	24	25 4 –6 pm - Italian Buffet Dinner
26 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am – Jubilation Station	27 7 pm Bell Choir	28 7 pm - Choir	29	30		

## April Birthdays

01 - Joyce Hamel	18 - Charles Boehm
Jim McGuirk	Donna Bonesteel
02 - Donald Cushman	Albert Greene
DanMcIntyre	Keith Hoffman
06 - Patrick Ouimet	Betty Schott
11 - Eleanor Wighton	26 - Laurie Conroy
17 - Helen Godfrey	28 - Gretchen Morton
	30 - Marie Himes
	RyanOuimet

## April Anniversaries

07– Jerry & Lorraine Looney
09 - Ron & Betty Schott
24 - Timothy & Christine LeVan

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church  
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## The World is Hugged By The Faithful Arms of a Volunteer

Looking to Lend a Helping Hand?

Scripture Readers  
Greeters  
Ushers

Contact Pastor Joel  
for further information

If you are feeling down — unsure — unhappy — or just lost  
**Go Volunteer!**

I promise you—the best feeling in the universe is  
helping someone in need.

I believe that the quality of your life is solely  
determined on the quality of your contribution to others.

When you take the time to stop thinking of yourself,  
and start working to improve the life of someone else,  
God steps in and improves yours.

Unsure of how to begin?  
Start where you are - use what you have - and do what you can.

*LeeAnne Locken*

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