



September

Volume 196 - Issue 196 - September 2018

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

Jottings from Joy

“Let the LORD give strength to his people! Let the LORD bless his people with peace!” Psalm 29:11 Common English Bible (CEB)

Beloved! I missed you all but what a non- pressured summer and how energizing and refreshing! I look forward to the Fall and what God has in store for us!! Even though the summer was pressure free it gave me permission to get caught up, to delve into those beyond the church happenings and commitments and look forward to re-grouping, finding our way forward and seeing with “eyes wide open” what God has instore for us.

- Ponder these exciting happenings in the summer and in the United Methodist Church:
- Two youth, Jake Huerter and Trevor LeVan are doing an independent Confirmation Class!!
- The 62 page report from the Commission on the Way Forward is an amazing work of prayer, hope and trust in God’s leading us to remain one in the love of Christ!
- I hope to report to you on the “Mission Site” information that gives data about the Center Brunswick community demographics, needs and wants plus.
- The “Imagine No Racism” is amazing! Gives each of us and our church specific ways to decrease our own “unconscious biases” and ways to work on the systems of racism intact all around us!
- We had 6 campers, 2 new, attend camp this summer!

There are those hard and challenging life experiences happening among us too! Continue to seek God’s peace through it all because a heart of pain, bitterness, jealousy, discouragement, guilt and shame only defeat the work of love and loving! “Praise God in all times” said prisoner Paul, who experienced terror first hand all his life, both as a perpetrator and as a victim. We are ever loved, and so we go forth to love with help and strength from a compassionate and merciful God within and beyond!

Look forward to seeing you each and all in September!

Peace and Love, Pastor Joy



Center Brunswick United Methodist Church - Strategic Planning Process

Summary to Date: The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee decided to engage in a strategic planning process to determine concerns within the church and a vision and focus for moving forward. As a result, a questionnaire was created, which received very good response from the congregation. The results of that questionnaire were tabulated, categorized and discussed by the SPPRC. Our process facilitator, Rev. Ray Stees then grouped responses question into areas for whole church discussion. We have subsequently had two such discussions; the first being a whole church discussion around the topic of worship. The second was a more formal process, where church volunteers gathered, were grouped and each group addressed either an area of church “in-reach” or outreach. This document is a verbatim compilation of the responses from that session.

The first portion of the church planning process was labeled as “Discovery”. Once we reviewed questionnaire responses, we moved into the “Dreaming” phase that created the following dreams for our church’s future focus. This document will become the resource for the next phase of the process; “Design”, where we will create the means of accomplishing our dreams. The final phase will be the “Delivery” of the programs and projects we have designed; in other words, the fulfillment of our dreams for the church’s future.

At the “Dreaming” session, groups were provided questions and told to create three dreams relating to their questions. Each group’s dreams were transferred to large poster boards that the entire group then ranked according to which they determined to

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Center Brunswick United Methodist Church - Strategic Planning Process *(cont. pg. 1)*

be their highest priority. So as you see each dream listed below, you will note their order, designating the total number of votes that dream received in becoming a focus of the church's effort. (In other words, the 8 dreams are listed in order of their priority (except that the first four basically tied and so they are listed randomly.)

1. **Become known as Brunswick's Family Church; advertise what we already do and create family centered events.**
2. **Making Visitors Welcome:** Greet and provide visitors with our guest card to sign. Consider having pastor greet visitors. Invite visitors to sit with you. Follow up with invitation for coffee, dinner, a phone call or note. Add a hospitality committee.
3. **Become known as a community that builds youth faith through action.**
 - A. Jubilation Station
 - B. Youth Advisory Team
 - C. Participation in worship and church events
 - D. Creation of a Family Room in the sanctuary's anteroom.

Note: Make known that at Center Brunswick our children don't just "sit through church" but are involved, often lead worship and have are a special focus for us. We are not just tolerant, we encourage participation.
4. **The church becomes a facilitator for comfort;**
 - A. Meeting the needs of those at home
 - B. Attract elder members with a familiar atmosphere
 - C. Serve as a conduit for assistance
 - D. Provide transportation for elders and college students
 - E. Create a Helping Committee to coordinate those with needs and those who can help

These are the top 4 priority Dreams. The following are Dreams that were identified but received a lower priority ranking.

5. **Create Monthly Family Nights, publicizing well ahead;**
 - A. Monthly pot luck suppers
 - B. Dessert and coffee and games
 - C. Create a committee but have 1 person in charge of each month's pot luck or dessert event.
6. **Engage a college student involved in marketing to come up with a plan on how to market our church.**
7. **Community Ministry;**
 - A. Prayerfully continue what we're doing
 - B. Coordinate our ministry efforts with other area churches to expand the scope of our outreach
 - C. Share what we're doing in other church newsletters
8. **Create a Community garden on land between the parsonage and lower parking lot.**

What's Next?

So far, we've engaged in the Discovery and Dreaming phases of our planning process. The next phase is to Design the ways we'll carry out those dreams. Finally, we'll deliver; through our effort and God's help. The next step is for the church to meet to discuss the designs for our priorities. Please use this list to help you think through how we might go about establishing the items on the list, with special focus on our ability and what resources we would need. Finally, it's clear that God is with us in this process. We have moved from a very frustrated and grieving congregation, to one that is looking forward to what we can become in this part of God's Kingdom. **Please continue to pray**



Beyond Our Church

Regional Gatherings with Bishop Webb

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church. Our Albany District Date is in December!

UMV Mission Team Leader Training

UM Volunteers in Mission team leader training will be offered on Sat. Oct. 27 from 9:00-3:00 at First UMC, Schenectady. Training will be led by Sylvia Reimer, an experienced team leader and member of the Upper NY Conference UMVIM steering committee. The cost of \$30 covers lunch and books. This training is valuable for anyone interested in being either a team leader or a more effective team participant. Having a trained team leader not only promotes more effective teamwork, but is essential to obtain team insurance, grants, or scholarships for team members. Save the date!!

Imagine No Racism From the Desk of Bishop Webb

Bishop asked for a four-step process.

Emailed to all active clergy using my letterhead by Tuesday.

If possible email to any laity who are serving as small group leaders using my letterhead (I assume someone has those contacts) by Tuesday or Wednesday

Publish in Weekly Digest on Thursday

Send to District Offices asking them to publish through their various avenues on Thursday

Dear Imagine No Racism Group Participants,

I am grateful to each of you for your participation in Upper New York's Imagine No Racism ministry. You are engaging in the urgent work of addressing racism in ourselves, our Church, and in our communities. This is holy work that we join our sisters and brothers throughout the Northeast Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church in doing. Thank you.

Imagine No Racism groups across the Annual Conference are at different points in their journeys. As expected, some are half-way through this initial study. Others are beginning. Wherever you and your group are, I hope you find the materials helpful in undergirding and equipping you in this important work. If you have not yet joined a small group, I remind you of the expectation for every clergy member to participate and to encourage laity to do the same. You can contact your District Advocate for assistance in starting or joining a small group. For your convenience, click here for a list of District Advocates.

With some groups past the half-way point, I wanted to call our attention to the future. We know that this current study is but a preparation for the ongoing work of addressing and combating racism. What we do in these groups- while significant- will mean little unless we bring its importance home and find ways to help brothers and sisters in our local congregations and mission fields participate. Our primary goal has always been to equip local congregations to fully engage in this work among themselves and throughout the community where God has planted them to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There is a "brainstorm" exercise in the sixth and final session designed to help us do that. However, please do not wait until then. This "What's Next?" discussion is an important one your small groups will want to grapple with in planning for local church engagement. More than simply answering a question or two with your District Superintendent and on a Charge Conference form, finding ways to support and uphold one another in the work of anti-racism is crucial as we move into the future.

Remember you do not engage in this work alone. Your District Advocates, Regional Coordinators, and the Cabinet stand ready to assist you when and as needed. Do not hesitate to contact them.

Again, my grateful prayers are with you, your colleagues, and your loved ones as we move through these closing days of summer and prepare to continue our missions and our ministries in the year ahead.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

One year after Charlottesville, the alt-right is gathering again.

The one-year anniversary of white nationalists assaulting Charlottesville with hate speech, racialized terror tactics, and a weaponized car, we know of their plans to invade DC with a rally just blocks from the United Methodist Building. Whether you live in Charlottesville, DC, or anywhere in the world, the mandate remains the same. The Church must speak, the Church must act, the Church must be the Church.

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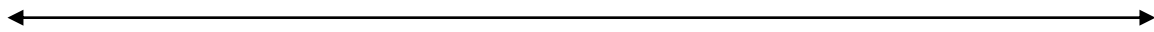


Beyond Our Church *(Cont. Pg. 3)*

But what does that really mean? Last year, GCORR offered a Charlottesville toolkit with written and video resources to help your church increase awareness, catalyze motivation, and provide skills for standing up against racialized hate and terror. No longer do we accept that "some folks just aren't ready yet" for this work. Rather, we recognize the Christlikeness in every Christian, in every United Methodist, which is always ready to fight injustice. The toolkit [here](#) provides places to start, to learn, and to act on it.

No end in sight for church wildfire response

REDDING, Calif. (UMNS) — United Methodists in California are again responding to deadly wildfires — on top of ongoing recovery efforts from fires in previous years. Mary Jacobs reports



The Walk to Emmaus - A Journey with Christ

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15

September 27-30, 2018

Women's Walk #135, UMC,
227 Main St, Hudson Falls, NY
6 pm Thurs - 6 pm Sun

October 11-14, 2018

Men's Walk #136, UMC
227 Main St, Hudson Falls, NY
6 pm Thurs - 6pm Sun

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God's time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.



Support the Youth Program

A garbage bucket is located in the entrance way for redemption cans, and plastic and glass bottles. This is for the youth program and will save you a trip.

Thanks for your generosity!

Updated Contact Information

Barbara Carr will be doing an annual update to the contact & email lists during the month of September. Please let Barbara know if you have any changes. Watch for further information in the October newsletter.





Happy Belated Birthday & Anniversary

July Birthdays

- 01 - Ryan Foust
- 03 - John Pagano
- 03 - Lydia Johnson
- 10 - Amelia Morton
- 20 - Bentley Lewis
- 22 - Irene Cushman
- 25 - Sarah Bourgault

July Anniversaries

- 17- David & Lynne Little
- 10 - Salvatore & Stacey Fallova



August Birthdays

- 03 - Samuel Burden
- 08 - Carolyn Boehm
- 10 - Steven Burdick
- 10 - Janet Clarkson
- 12 - Lorraine Looney
- 17 - Jean Rebhun
- 22 - Michael Ouimet
- 24 - Adam Berger
- 27 - Kylee Marie Lewis
- 28 - Milo Hyde

August Anniversaries

- 07- Sheila Hyde & Mike Flynn
- 07 - Charles & Carolyn Boehm
- 24 - Robert & Marcia Smith



Happy Birthday & Anniversary

September Birthdays

- 01 - Emma Scavo
- 06 - Kelly Conn
- 07 - Bill Freelove
- 11 - Ruth Fredericks
- 13 - Elijah Foust
- 14 - Ron Hayner
- 16 - Nancy Bell
- 19 - Mike Flynn
- 19 - Sarah Walton
- 20 - Judy Riston
- 20 - Carly Schott
- 24 - Luke Bourgault
- 28 - Jerry Hamel
- 29 - William Foust
- 29 - Ingrid Morton

September Anniversaries

- 04- Jim & Judy McGuirk
- 10 - Larry & Donna Bonesteel



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 *	3	4 *	5 *	6	7	8 ♦
9 *	10	11 *	12 *	13 ♦	14	15
16 *	17	18 ♦ / *	19 *	20 ♦	21	22 ♦
23 *	24	25 *	26 *	27	28 ♦	29 ♦
30 *						



SWISS STEAK SUPPER

Saturday, September 22, 2018 ~

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

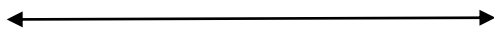
Adults \$15.00 ~ Children (5-10) \$6.00

4:00 PM ~ 6:00 PM

Seating & Takeout Reservations Available

Contact Number ~ 518.528.6725

Meal Includes: Juice, Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Roll, Cottage Cheese, Beverage & Pie for Dessert



Take Steps to Support the Troy Damien Center 2018 AIDS Walk - Sunday, September 23rd

12 noon – Light Lunch / 12:30 pm – Registration

1 pm – AIDS Walk Kick-off

at Troy Area United Ministries

392 – 2nd Street, Troy NY

There will also be a 50/50 Raffle and prizes for the top Walker and top Team.

Register / Donate at taum.org

all proceeds to support the **Troy Damien Center**

If you plan on eating lunch, please RSVP to:

Katy Culhane at 518-272-5920 or kculhane@taum.org

* Weekly Activities

Tuesday - 7:00 pm - Choir

* 4th - 11th - 18th - 25th

Wednesday - 7:00—9:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe

* 5th - 12th - 19th - 26th

Sunday - 9:30 am - Worship

* 2nd - Communion Sunday/Welcome Gilead

* 9th - DS Rev. Rich Wehing will be joining us for worship/Registration for Jubilation Station 10:45 - 11:45 am

* 16th - Food Pantry. Please bring food.

* 23rd - Troy Damien Center - 2018 AIDS Walk

* 30th

Sunday - 2:00 - 5:00 pm - Highlight Acting Troupe

* 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

♦ Meetings & Programs

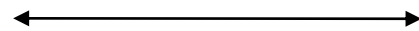
♦ **8th - Saturday - 12 noon - 2:00 pm - Wedding**

♦ **18th - Thursday - 2-4 pm - Imagine No Racism - at Newtonville UMC**

♦ **20th - Thursday - 7:00 pm - SPPRC - Parsonage**

♦ **22nd - Saturday - All Day - Swiss Steak Supper**

♦ **23rd - Sunday - 12 noon - 2018 AIDS Walk - Troy Damien Center**

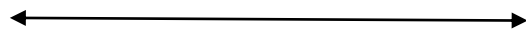


Jubilation Station - Calling All Pizza Lovers Ages 4-18

Come and learn the right ingredients for being a good friend as we create a variety of delicious pizzas each week. The first 4 Sundays, beginning September 16th, will be combined classes as we gather together and share prayers, praise and a slice of heaven. Join us and be a PIZZA PAL!

Registration- September 9th from 10:45-11:15am

Registration for the new Sunday school year will be in the Jubilation Station building, September 9th from 10:45-11:15am.



Bell Choir to Resume in October

Calling all ding-a-lings. Bell choir rehearsals will resume on Monday October 15th. You will receive music sometime before this date. Please let Kathy know if you have any questions or concerns.

Men's Breakfast to Resume in October

Tom Riston will be starting the Men's Breakfast the second Saturday in October, October 13th! All men welcome! More information coming!

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church
990 Hoosick Road
Troy, New York 12180



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

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

Pastor Joy Lowenthal - 990 Hoosick Road - Troy, New York 12180
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<http://www.centerbrunswickumc.com> / www.centerbrunswickumc.com