



THE BRUNSWICK ANECDOTE

Important information for our Members, Friends, and Contributors



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Your Church is Thriving --Thank You!

If you have contributed to the church this quarter, your giving statement is enclosed. Thank you for your faithfulness. Because of consistent contributions and additional funds from the federal government's PIP loan program, our financial condition is sound. We had an ambitious budget heading in to 2020, anticipating a deficit of nearly \$50,000 year-to-date. Your generous support has narrowed that gap to \$30,000, and the PIP funds of \$34,000 have closed it. Keep in mind that we are contributing significantly more to the Annual Conference this year (\$20,000 instead of \$12,000) and our second half expenses will be dramatically lower because we are not paying Pastor Yolanda's salary and benefits. Staff and volunteers also do their best not to waste church funds and keep spending under budget to the extent we can.

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If you have not contributed to the church recently, please consider making a one-time or regularly scheduled gift through our secure online church management system:



onrealm.org/CrystalBrunswick. Using any email address already on file with the church, you can set up an account, make contributions, review your financial statement, and always have an up-to-date directory of church members.

Secure Mail-In Offerings Counted Twice a Month

We are grateful to Bev Cooper and Sue Schendel for their ongoing service in counting our weekly offerings. In these weeks when we have not been having public worship, our Director of Operations, Lynn Holmen has been making deposits weekly as they have arrived by mail. Best practice, however, is that two unrelated laity continue to manage contributions while another volunteer, Jeanne Ullmer, acts as financial secretary. Because most mail contributions arrive at the beginning of each month; our volunteer counters will count and deposit funds on (approximately) the 10th of the month. Because we also want to be sure that deposits are made in the same calendar month as they are given, a second deposit will be made on or just after the last business day of the month. **Your mail-in contributions continue to be secure: our mail is delivered by hand to the office or held at the Post Office for pick-up. Once they arrive at church, contributions are immediately placed in the safe until they can be counted.**



When Will We Worship Together Again?

The Leadership Team has previously announced that we plan to hold worship online only at least through September 6. In the meantime, staff and volunteers have been procuring



supplies and setting up safety equipment. The Leadership Team has been preparing protocols to protect everyone's health when we do gather again. These preparations will be completed by September 6, but that does not necessarily mean we will re-open for large group gatherings after Labor Day. **We will have public worship again when community health conditions will allow us to do so safely.** This includes the safety of our members, but also the health of our community. We also require the approval of our District Superintendent, Dan Johnson, before resuming public worship.

A few meetings are being held at church now; they are all for high priority ministries pertaining to physical and mental health. Pastor Ruth Ann schedules a few individual meetings in the building or in other locations. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis by your pastor with support from our staff and Leadership Team.

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We have heard feedback from many members and friends that they will not be returning to large public events until they can be assured of their safety, for example, when vaccines have become available. From others there is a real urgency to gather again in the sanctuary. We are taking all of this into prayerful consideration as we make decisions on behalf of the community. One of several signals we are watching for would be two consecutive weeks of decreasing Covid-19 diagnoses. Unfortunately, our trends have been moving in the other direction for the past month. **We will not make any further announcements about worship in our sanctuary until after August 30, which is the last day of the delayed Minnesota Annual Conference session.**

Please keep in mind that our church office remains closed for the safety of our staff members. Given our age and other vulnerabilities, this restriction is likely to continue until a vaccine or other protection is available.

In Our Church Family

- Eloise Moser's sister, Noreen Wieczorek passed away on July 24 in Mitchell, South Dakota. She is survived by her husband, Wally, and just two remaining sisters: Eloise and Emily in Crystal.
- Ethel Wolff has moved back into her family home at 5300 Kentucky Avenue N, where she is receiving hospice care and can have frequent visits from family. Ethel's phone number is (612) 441-0954.
- Marlene Sprunk is recovering from an infection related to her knee replacement. She is staying with Nick and Joy.
- Ann Morris has made a good transition to her new residence in Maple Grove. Cards, notes and letters are very much appreciated:

Ann Morris
Bee Hive Homes, Suite 19
14901 Weaver Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Cell Phone: (763) 354-9794
Room Phone: (763) 710-9008



Listen to Worship by Telephone

Brunswick now has a dedicated phone service so that you can hear worship from any telephone in the United States. On Sundays, your phone is automatically muted, so you can hear worship, but no one can hear you. At other times, we can allow all callers to be heard and use this same service for small meetings or visits. **There are several different phone numbers to use for worship, depending on your situation:**

I have free long distance as part of my phone service.

Dial (727) 731-4020

That's it! No access codes or secret handshakes are needed.

I have to pay for long-distance minutes.

Dial toll free: (844) 857-5555 Access Code: 2507961#

Enter the access code anytime after the recorded message begins.



I want to listen at a different time.

Dial (720) 740-9895 Access Code: 2507961#

You can hear the most recent worship service at any time. There is no toll-free option for recorded worship services.

Your Generosity—Special Gifts

Brunswick has been receiving faithful contributions to the general fund and the building fund over these past few months. Many have been accomplished through the sale of appreciated stock. We are grateful that building fund pledges are allowing us to complete the Terrace Room kitchen renovation.



Special contributions have been made to complete the system needed to effectively share worship by telephone and online. "New Initiative" funds (\$5,000) from endowment fund distributions were used for most of the purchases. We received an additional \$1,000 grant from the Minnesota Annual Conference that provided remote-control capability for our cameras; \$1500 in member-designated gifts have allowed us to purchase a new computer to monitor the system and the last camera we had been hoping for. We are now working on permanent installation of equipment and volunteer training.

The Sheba Studio (sewing room) has received \$2,200 in special contributions toward the purchase of four matching Pfaff sewing machines. These are durable machines that are ideal for shared use and teaching. Although they are currently backordered from Europe, we hope they will arrive in the next month.