

Brunswick United Methodist Church

# The STORY

February/March  
2020

## Seven Words of Grace Lent 2020

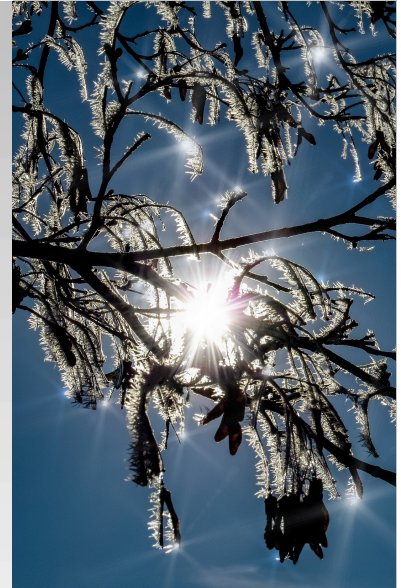


*The words that Jesus spoke from the cross have been the inspiration for countless works of music and church liturgies across the centuries. First taken on face value, they appear to be words of despair. Examined more closely, they are words of grace that portray the great gift of God's love working among us.*

Join us for worship on Lenten Sundays as we explore these words one by one. If you would like a deeper experience, **Pastor Yolanda will be offering a Lenten Bible study (just a half hour long) on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm.**

Special services will be offered during Holy Week on Thursday evening and Friday afternoon. Easter Sunday worship is at the usual time, but come early and enjoy a fabulous breakfast.

<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Worship with imposition of ashes	February 26	12:30 pm and 6:30 pm
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Major Holy Week Worship with Choir	April 9	7pm
<b>Good Friday</b>	Worship	April 10	Noon
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Breakfast and Easter Worship	April 12	Breakfast—8:30 am Worship—10am



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United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## FEBRUARY

### Elizabeth Circle

On Wednesday, February 26 the Elizabeth Circle will meet for a book discussion. Books will be given to members.

### Martha Circle

The Martha Circle will not meet in February.

## MARCH

### Elizabeth Circle

On Wednesday, March 25, the Elizabeth Circle will be helping at Second Harvest (7101 Winnetka Ave N in Brooklyn Park from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

### Martha Circle

On Wednesday, March 25, the Martha Circle will meet for lunch at Pub 42 at 12:15 pm.

# 2020 State of the Church Report

As we begin a new year, there is much to give thanks for at Brunswick!

## Facility

Our building is one of our greatest blessings, and we continue to be able to keep it in top condition. The new air conditioning system needed for



the sanctuary, atrium, and social hall is being installed now. This will be a highly efficient system that will not only keep us cool, but help us to be good stewards of our finances and the environment. **The air conditioning system has been completely paid for through generous donations (\$70,000 for this project) received already or pledged to the building fund in 2020.**

Director of Operations Lynn Holmen has also been getting previous bids on the Terrace Room kitchen renovation refreshed and looking into scheduling with two different companies. **The Terrace Room has become one of our most important outreach spaces.** It is easy for newcomers to find and easy for everyone to access via the elevator. It has a kitchen that does not require special expertise or certification for its use. It is large enough to accommodate groups up to 40 people, but cozy enough for smaller meetings or social events.

Boyle Architects have provided us with a wonderful kitchen plan that utilizes equipment already purchased from another church through Bill Wolff's memorials. The space will be enlarged by removing unnecessary doorways and removing the corner closet. New storage will be provided by enclosing the alcoves on either side of the glass doors. **Although we are still seeking some additional grant support, we have enough support through our recent capital campaign to move forward with this important project, which is expected to cost just under \$50,000.**

## Finance

We ended the year with a significant financial deficit which was covered by reserve funds. This deficit was anticipated in our budget, although we had hoped to reduce it through generous stewardship. There are a couple of factors which contributed to this imbalance.

1. **Our staffing costs are high in comparison to other congregations of our size.** We have a full-time administrator as well as a part-time secretary. This is not an immediate problem, but it is something we need to be aware of when we face future staff transitions. Staffing costs also increased significantly this year when we increased the compensation in order for Pastor Yolanda to move into her new role. No one questions that this was the right thing to do and a blessing for the church, but it is not typical for a church of our size to have more than one person in a pastoral role.
2. **We paid significantly more to the Minnesota Annual Conference in apportionments this year.** For the previous three years we had paid just over 25% of our apportioned amount. This year we approached 50% (\$20,000). We continue to value our relationship with the Annual Conference and intend to fully pay our share in future. When he met with the Leadership Team in January, Superintendent Dan Johnson commended us for our incremental approach to increasing our giving to the Annual Conference. Although it does not count toward our apportionments, the estate of Carol Mae Sandstrom also left a significant bequest that was directed to the Minnesota Annual Conference rather than to our local church.



cont'd on page 6

### **Come as you are— you'll be welcomed**

*Our Mission is a question Jesus asked: How can we help?  
(Luke 18:41)*

We strive to reflect God's love to all.

### **Be who you are— you'll be celebrated**

*The Apostle Peter exclaimed,  
"I truly understand that God shows no partiality."  
(Acts 10:34)*

We honor the sacred worth and dignity of persons of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental capacity, experience, education, occupation, legal history, citizenship, economic and marital status. (And if we left something out, let us know!)

### **Explore where you are—we'll walk alongside you**

*Without hesitation, Jesus walked with people who were despised because of occupation (Luke 19:5); medical status (Mark 5:25-34); ethnicity (John 4:9); and sexual history (John 8:10-11), to name a few.*

As Jesus walks with us, we trust Jesus is also walking with you, and we have much to learn from one another, especially in our differences. Faith is a journey of trust and transformation, where beliefs are formed and reformed in

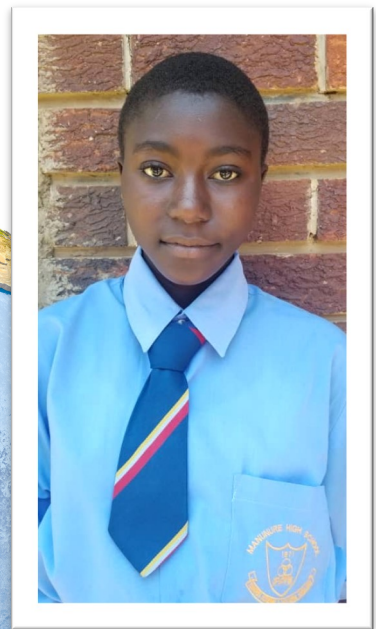
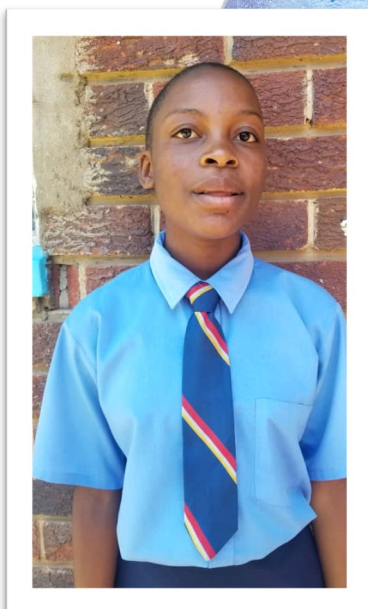


## UMW Sunday - KweKwe, Zimbabwe

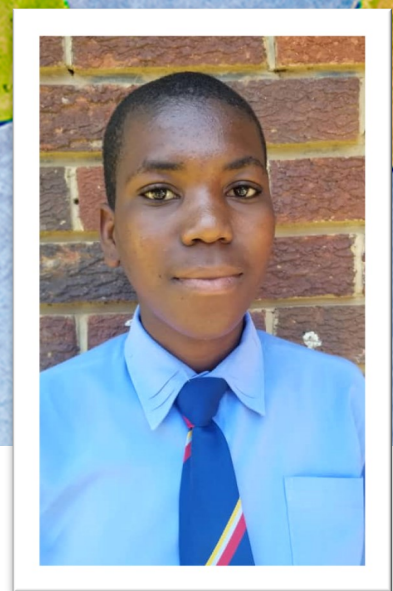
On UMW Sunday (January 26), Dave Nielsen and Neil Robinson spoke about KweKwe, Zimbabwe. Nancy Robinson, Shirley Hallstrom, Bev Cooper, and Joy Bueltel all helped with leading worship. Many others provided fellowship, greeted, and ushered.

**Brunswick is connected by friendship to Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowships in the USA and Methodist Churches near KweKwe, Zimbabwe to keep 24 orphaned children in primary and secondary school.**

Several of the students are pictured here.







# FEBRUARY



## **Saturday, February 1**

8:00 am Men's Grp  
8:00 am Women's Grp  
9:00 am Leadership Team  
9:00 am REFIT® at Brunswick  
9:45 am Who's Next?

## **Sunday, February 2**

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Brunswick Worship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 pm COGIC Worship

## **Monday, February 3**

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
7:00 pm Prayer Group

## **Tuesday, February 4**

7:00 am Breakfast Club  
9:30 am Brunswick Bible Study  
12:00 pm Staff Mtg  
12:45 pm Happy Notes  
6:30 pm Instrumental Ensemble  
6:45 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal

## **Wednesday, February 5**

1:00 pm Wed Therapy Group  
5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes  
6:30 pm COGIC Bible Study  
6:30 Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

## **Thursday, February 6**

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts  
6:00 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, February 7**

Office Closed  
6:30 pm COGIC Prayer Time

## **Saturday, February 8**

8:00 am Men's Grp  
8:00 am Women's Grp  
9:00 am REFIT® at Brunswick  
9:45 am Who's Next?  
11:00 am Sewing Class

## **Sunday, February 9**

1:00 pm Youth Grp  
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Brunswick Worship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 pm COGIC Worship

## **Monday, February 10**

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
6:00 pm UMW Board Mtg  
7:00 pm Prayer Group

## **Tuesday, February 11**

7:00 am Breakfast Club  
9:30 am Brunswick Bible Study  
12:00 pm Staff Mtg  
12:45 pm Happy Notes  
6:30 pm Instrumental Ensemble  
6:45 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal

## **Wednesday, February 12**

1:00 pm Wed Therapy Group  
5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes  
6:30 pm COGIC Bible Study  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

## **Thursday, February 13**

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts  
6:00 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, February 14**

Office Closed  
6:30 pm COGIC Prayer Time  
6:30 pm UEC Ultreya

## **Saturday, February 15**

8:00 am Men's Grp  
8:00 am Women's Grp  
9:00 am REFIT® at Brunswick  
9:45 am Who's Next?  
11:00 am Sewing Class  
1:00 pm Youth Grp



### Sunday, February 16

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Brunswick Worship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 pm COGIC Worship  
2:00 pm Joint Christian  
Choir Association

### Monday, February 17

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
7:00 pm Prayer Group

### Tuesday, February 18

7:00 am Breakfast Club  
9:30 am Brunswick Bible Study  
12:00 pm Staff Mtg  
12:45 pm Happy Notes  
6:30 pm Instrumental Ensemble  
6:45 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, February 19

1:00 pm NEAR Board Mtg  
1:00 pm Wed Therapy Group  
5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes  
6:30 pm COGIC Bible Study  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday, February 20

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts  
6:00 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, February 21

Office Closed  
6:30 pm COGIC Prayer Time

### Saturday, February 22

8:00 am Men's Grp  
8:00 am Women's Grp  
9:00 am REFIT® at Brunswick  
9:45 am Who's Next?  
11:00 am Sewing Class  
1:00 pm Youth Grp

### Sunday, February 23

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Brunswick Worship:  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
11:30 pm Girl Scout Cookies  
12:00 pm COGIC Worship  
5:30 pm Fearless Support Grp

### Monday, February 24

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
7:00 pm Prayer Group

### Tuesday, February 25

7:00 am Breakfast Club  
9:30 am Brunswick Bible Study  
12:00 pm Staff Mtg  
12:45 pm Happy Notes  
6:30 pm Instrumental Ensemble  
6:45 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, February 26

1:00 pm Wed Therapy Group  
5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes  
6:30 pm COGIC Bible Study  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm AA Mtg

### Thursday, February 27

5:45 pm REFIT® at Brunswick  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts  
6:00 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, February 28

Office Closed  
6:30 pm COGIC Prayer Time

### Saturday, February 22

8:00 am Men's Grp  
8:00 am Women's Grp  
9:00 am REFIT® at Brunswick  
9:45 am Who's Next?  
11:00 am Sewing Class  
1:00 pm Youth Grp

CORRECTION: The phone numbers for Louise Martinson and her daughter Donna published in a previous issue of *The Story* were incorrect. Here are the correct phone numbers: Louise Martinson: 651-370-0578. Donna Martinson: 651-402-2161.



Join United Methodists  
from all over the world to

## **VOLUNTEER**

at

**General Conference 2020**

**Minneapolis, MN**

**May 5-15, 2020**

**Mpls Convention Center**

Learn more and sign up  
to volunteer at

[gc2020welcome.org](http://gc2020welcome.org)

**The next issue of  
THE STORY  
will be mailed out  
near the end of  
March**

*Up-to-date monthly and  
weekly calendars may be  
viewed anytime at*  
[www.brunswicklife.org](http://www.brunswicklife.org).



## Leadership and Membership *cont'd from page 3*

Our average worship attendance increased again in 2019; we have seen significant growth in the Sunday School and have recently celebrated two baptisms. **A class of 15 new members was received in July.** They represented a wide range of ages, several different countries of origin, and a wide diversity of gifts. There is another membership class now forming that will bring similar gifts to our community. The Leadership Team has incorporated four new members this year: Liliosa Msimbe, Clinton Vulu, Winnie Newton, and Lori Hubin. This represents a lot of fresh thinking from people who have experienced church very differently across cultures. Because of this new diversity, a significant portion of our monthly meetings has been devoted to leadership development and spiritual growth. These sessions have been capably lead by Pastor Yolanda. Each winter the Leadership Team takes one full day of retreat for more in-depth development of our relationships and strategic plans. That event is scheduled this year on February 1.

## Pending Denominational Changes

United Methodists have been in the news a great deal recently. The important story is that The General Conference will be held in Minnesota this April, and a split of The United Methodist Church into separate denominations is considered very likely. **Brunswick is fortunate that the Minnesota Annual Conference strongly supports an inclusive church; there is no fear of our losing the broader denominational care and leadership that has been so important to our congregation over the years.** Nevertheless, it will be a chaotic time and prayer is essential.

## A Note from Pastor Yolanda

I love the seasons of the Church. The changing of liturgical colors in the paraments, additions of trees, candles, and even the changing types of music provide me with the warm feelings of belonging to a tradition that make up the Church throughout the world. We might worship differently or not follow conventions that embrace liturgical colors but elements like the Lord's Prayer, songs of praise or lament, join us together as followers of love made human, in the person of Jesus Christ.

In just a few weeks, we will move from Epiphany and into Lent. While Lent is usually expressed as somber, I invite you to continue to look for the ways God is revealed through the promises, the promises fulfilled, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As you look, may your hearts be filled with gratitude for the gift.

**On Wednesday afternoons at 12:30, beginning March 4, I will be hosting a Lenten bible study on the topic of gratitude.** Come join me.

Pastor Yolanda

## Transitions

### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Pastor Yolanda requests your prayers as she completes her MDIV degree at United Theological Seminary. She is also being interviewed in February for approval to move from Licensed Local Pastor to Provisional Elder. These transitions will likely mean Yolanda will be appointed to another church. The congregation will be kept informed.

## Welcome Avery Lalmour

Caroline Winget became a grandmother a month early with Avery David Lamour being born January 20. Andrea and Jeremy Lamour are the proud new parents.

## Welcome Walker Mueller

Marcia Martinson is a great-grandmother for the second time on January 19, with the birth of Walker Scott Mueller. Tyler and Jackie Mueller of St. Joseph are the proud parents. Every child, grandchild, and great-grandchild is special ... but Marcia said this one was extra special because Walker was born on his great-grandfather Harold's birthday.



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## In Memoriam: Jo Ann “Jody” Nelson

We pray the Lord may bless and comfort Jeff Nelson and his family during this time of grief. His mother, Jody Nelson, of Delano passed away Wednesday, January 8, at the age of 83. Celebration of Life services were held Tuesday, January 14 at Delano UMC.

## In Memoriam: Linda Nordgaard

December 21, 1954 - December 15, 2019



Linda Nordgaard was a small woman with a very large heart. She is the mother of Heidi Dixon, who is mother to Issiah Amla, Marissa Dixon, Oxford Dixon, Elijah Dixon, and An'Marie Dixon. Linda's son is Andrew (Ann) Nordgaard. Linda's youngest grandchild Indi Nordgaard, is five years old. Linda's siblings include Lorrie (Tim) Jacobson, Larry Lubbers, Bryan Lubbers of California, and Rane Sulfridge. Brunswick friends would recognize Linda as a very outgoing greeter who arrived very early each week to worship together with her long-time friends, Leonard and Cindy Norum.

At the age of 14, Linda started living with Evadell and John McAuley on 33rd and Girard in Minneapolis. After their retirement and move outstate, Linda was cared for by Joanne (Evadell's sister) and Reuben Anderson. Toward the end of their lives, Linda lived with the Andersons in a relationship of mutual care and love. The Anderson daughters: Linda (Howard) Helser, Patti (John) Harding and Darlene (Dennis) Severin have all continued this caring relationship, as have their children and grandchildren.

Linda loved working with children in the Anderson family day cares. She also enjoyed her work in a Target store and later cleaning after events at Target Center. She loved music, especially Kevin Chesney (country); New Kids on the Block (pop); and Mandisa (Gospel). Overcomer was a particular favorite Linda played on repeat; it expresses how she lived her life.

Linda would have been amazed to see a hundred people at her memorial service, which was held at Brunswick on her 65th birthday, December 21.

## In Memoriam: Joy Robb

June 8, 1934 - January 13, 2020



It is with great sadness we announce the death of Joy J. Robb, former mayor of Robbinsdale, affectionately known as “Mother Robin”. Joy was born to George Lawrence Johnson and Lillian Alice Lewis Johnson in Minneapolis on June 8, 1934 on her older brother Dean’s fifth birthday. Joy grew up on Regent Avenue in Robbinsdale

graduating from Robbinsdale High in 1952 and Hamline University in 1956. She worked at Merrill Lynch for five years where she met her husband. She married John Robb of Winona in 1961 and they raised five children Glen, Susan, Holly, Heather and Bruce at their home on Crystal Lake Boulevard.

Joy’s interests grew with her family. She was president of the local Twins Club. Her community involvement continued in the schools and included many positions of leadership; Room Mother for each kid, Playground Supervisor, the PTA at every level, as a management aid for several years working within the school system, introducing the Recreational Reading Program in the Junior High, membership on many school district committees, and working to prevent the multiple school closures that affected the community. This led to her first election to the Robbinsdale school board in 1984. She was elected Chairperson of the Board in 1986. She was elected to her first term as Mayor of Robbinsdale in 1988 and her second term in 1992. As Mayor she was a member of the North Metro Development Association, and the League of Minnesota Cities. One of her many accomplishments was the “Open Mike” period before every meeting when members of the public could address the school board and then the city council. “People always say if you don’t like it, do something about it. That’s

what I’m here for, I’m doing something about it. That’s the basic reason I got in, I’m not a politician, I’m one of you.” Joy belonged to many civic organizations including the Minnesota Citizens League, PRISM, Minnesota Center for Women in Government, the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce, Robbinsdale Community Council of Citizens Independent Bank and the Crystal Lake Good Samaritan Center. She was a member of the Robbinsdale Charter Commission and the Robbinsdale Historical Society for many years and was also a founding member of the Brunswick UMC. She put her whole self into everything she did.

After her retirement she and John enjoyed traveling extensively. One of their favorite destinations was always St. Augustine Beach, Florida. They enjoyed spending time with their eight grandchildren while cheering on their accomplishments.

After losing John in 2014, Joy moved to Parkshore Senior Apartments where she made many treasured friends. She was especially known for playing bridge, mahjong and doing puzzles. She was a devoted fan of Minnesota sports teams especially the Vikings. This summer she celebrated her 85th birthday and she enjoyed a family reunion with her children, grandchildren and her brother’s family.

Joy is predeceased by her parents, her beloved husband of 54 years John Robb, brother Dean Johnson and many treasured pets. Survived by cherished children Glen Robb, Susan Robb, Holly McCoy, Heather (Tim) McCollor & Bruce (Jennifer) Robb; grandchildren Alyson, Peyton, Eryn, Adam, Mark, Bailey, Jeremy & John; sister-in-law Patricia Johnson and niece Kathleen Feigelman.

Memorial service was held January 20 at Brunswick UMC. Memorials preferred to Animal Humane Society of Hennepin County or the Salvation Army.

## In Memoriam: Carol Mae Sandstrom

February 9 1924 - January 13, 2020



World traveler, lover of the arts, Spanish teacher, and stubborn Swede, passed away one month shy of her 96th birthday. Born February 9, 1924 in Minneapolis, Carol Mae graduated from Patrick Henry High School, the University of Minnesota, and the University of California at Berkeley. She taught Spanish in the Robbinsdale school district. Carol’s love for adventure included taking a freighter to Africa, extensive travel throughout Latin America, Europe, and the United States, collecting many friends and colleagues along the way. Carol was the genealogist of the family, tracing roots and visiting her great grandfather’s house in Sweden. She loved the arts, good coffee, her swim class, the cabin at Big Lake, her friends, neighbor, and family. Carol was a long-time member of Brunswick UMC and an advocate for social justice. She was generous with her time and gifts, especially to her nieces and nephews. Carol Mae lived independently and in good health and a strong opinion until dementia recently took its toll. She will be missed and remembered by all those privileged to share her journey.



## A Note from Del Van Batavia

Teresa and I have been blessed to be part of the Brunswick UMC family. Thank you all for your love and support thru the years! And, thanks be to God, for calling us—using us—and allowing us to serve Him while worshiping with and serving with others here in Crystal.

We have mixed feelings about our life change and move to Pennsylvania as we are putting many miles between family and great friends that we have come to love. At the same time, we are so very excited to be going to something that we both feel is a call from God and part of HIS plan for our lives. We are confident that He will bless us richly at Milton Hershey School, and will use us as needed in our new home and surroundings. We ask for and thank you for your continued prayers and want you all to know we will continue to pray for Brunswick as well.

God's continued guidance, peace, and blessings to all. God loves you and so do we!

Your Brother In Christ,  
Del Van Batavia

# Happy Birthday



## February Birthdays

3	Carolyn Roesler	14	Peg Seiler	22	Lea Beckey
10	Debra Simon	15	Everett Pedersen		Robert Simon Jr.
11	Laurie Wilkowski		Kelly Waskey	24	Rod Gove
12	Lorraine Asplund	16	Andy Wiechman	25	William Johnson
	Theo Williams	19	Gordon Mommsen	27	Pat Petrie
13	Fred Chapman	20	Lisa Browning		Molly Boyle

## March Birthdays

1	Craig Kindle	20	Renee Barnett	22	Rebecca Yurik-Fitzhenry
8	Caroline Winget		Kayla Van Batavia	24	Barbara Kindle
9	Lauren Griffin	21	Thomas Elwell	27	Jeri Thorne
10	Shirley Hansen		Eleanor Mommsen	28	Denise Barnett
13	Steven Scott				



[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a part of Samaritan's Purse. Shoe boxes are packed with school supplies, toys, clothes, and gifts for needy children from two years old to early teens, all over the world.

They also receive the message of Jesus and the gift of salvation. My daughter and I pack 300 or more shoeboxes each year and would love your help.

Some of the things we collect we collect for the shoe boxes: school supplies, bar soap, toothbrushes, small toys, and stuffed animals. I will place a shoebox outside the sanctuary for donated items.

Thank you.  
Betty Lunemann

*THE STORY is edited by Denise Berrington. Submissions for the next newsletter should be sent to [dberrington@brunswicklife.org](mailto:dberrington@brunswicklife.org) by Wednesday, March 18.*



Change Service Requested

Rev. Ruth Ann Ramstad  
Cell/Text: 651-368-5196

Phone: 763-533-1661  
E-mail: [office@brunswicklife.org](mailto:office@brunswicklife.org)  
[www.brunswicklife.org](http://www.brunswicklife.org)

**Brunswick**  
United Methodist Church  
6122 42nd Avenue North  
Crystal, MN 55422

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