

I want to be helping other people financially

Brunswick has an emergency fund that is used to help people in our church or neighborhood who have special needs not easily addressed by government help or other charities. Through UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) you can make donations to special needs in the United States or around the world. These donations can be made by check or online through the Realm system. UMCOR donations will be sent to the most urgent need unless you specify a different category by note or email.

- Brunswick Emergency Fund
- UMCOR - Most Urgent Need
- UMCOR Options: US Disaster, International Disaster, Global Health



I want to know when my group can meet again

Brunswick is not hosting outside groups or parties at this time. We are offering limited space to our own groups and our ministry partners. Before you start meeting at Brunswick, you need to schedule with Lynn Holmen and develop your safety plan with Pastor Ruth Ann.

In Memoriam



Carmen Shirley (Bielen) Van Dusen

July 17, 1928 - August 20, 2020

Carmen lived to the great age of 92, experiencing memory loss in the last several years of her life. She was preceded in death by husband, Ted; son, Mark; and eight brothers and sisters. She is survived by her daughter, Ann DeBruyckere (Chad); her sons, David (Carolyn), Ted Jr. and Scott; grandchildren, Matthew, Judson, Troy, Amy, Andrew, Kimberly, Melanie, Mark and Charles; seven great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends. Carmen was a loving mother and friend who loved a good book.

She was a wonderful cook with many of her recipes included in Brunswick UMW cookbooks over the years. She remembered which treat each person loved best, making date bread, ginger cookies, and banana cream pies to order. Carmen's husband Ted was a musician and drummer who performed as Big Daddy throughout the region. She was also a music lover, singing with the Trebletones and the Brunswick choir for many decades. Members of the Trebletones gathered outside the funeral home during Carmen's visitation to share songs in remembrance. Carmen's granddaughter Kimberly Van Dusen sang *You Raise Me Up* at her funeral, and a beautiful tribute was given by her son, David, who recalled his mother's tender care when he suffered severe asthma in childhood. Following her funeral on August 25, Carmen was laid to rest in the Glen Haven Cemetery.

We were also sorry to hear of the passing of Pat Petrie and Marge Kojola recently:

Pat Petrie passed away on July 15, 2020 at the age of 96. She had been residing at Heritage of Edina. Cards and or letters may be sent to ...

Alan Husby
5645 19th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Marge Kojola passed on August 2, 2020 at the age of 101. She had been residing at Colonia Acres in Minneapolis. Cards and letters may be sent to ...

James Kojola
5100 Wayzata Blvd., #130
Golden Valley, MN 55417



THE BRUNSWICK ANECDOTE

Important information for our Members, Friends, and Contributors



ERIC PONE

OUR NEW CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION

Welcome, Eric Pone!

It was just about a year ago when the Pone family visited Brunswick for worship the first time. Many of you were excited to hear Eric preach in August. He and I have been meeting regularly since June, planning youth and children's ministries post-Covid. After the September Leadership Team meeting, Eric will be an official member of our staff, albeit unpaid at this time. His involvement with younger people will allow me to work more on adult discipleship. God has a ministry for Brunswick in raising up new clergy, and I am thrilled for all of us to be starting that journey again with Eric.

—Pastor Ruth Ann

Grace and peace from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am so excited to start my ministry with Brunswick United Methodist Church in Children and Youth Ministry. I have met many of you during our time as members of the congregation and have also had the pleasure of ministering to many of the kids and youth at Brunswick.

For those who may not have met me, my name is Eric Pone. My spouse Brenda and I reside in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota with our two youngest kids, Lenny and Daisy, who many of you have met. They are balls of energy who exude the joy of creation in their living. We are a blended family and as such, I have six other adult children you may see around from time to time and three (soon to be four) grandchildren and three hunting dogs!

I think I sum up my faith journey as one of being in a boat and trying to pull the shore to it. I have spent many years praying and seeking God through the trials and tribulations of life. I relate to Jacob. I find that I have wrestled with God over the years and have been broken by Him. But praise God for the brokenness because it is there that we find salvation through Christ Jesus and trust in his grace through his sacrifice on the cross for all our sins.

I am drawn to the Youth and Family ministry because the Church was there for me during this critical time. People

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IN MEMORIAM

picked my siblings and me up for Sunday School, encouraged us in Acolyte and Youth Ministry, and nudged us to lead over time. For that, I am truly grateful, and I see my ministry as a yes to all that the elders at my home church of Oakland UMC taught me.

I have been engaged in children’s and youth ministry in four United Methodist Church congregations: Hennepin Avenue, Brooklyn, Oakland, Living Spirit, and at the Church of the Open Door. I have also been a camp counselor and dean with what was the Multicultural Camp at the former Camp Kingswood site. My most recent appointment was as a Student Local Pastor with Grace on Penn in Minneapolis in 2002.

My approach to ministry is to maintain an open door with kids and their families — to do practical ministry that both prepares children for life and for leadership within the congregation; and ultimately, to support their families through the inevitable trials and joys of raising children.

My first year here is to learn the congregation, establish a program, and work with the District Council on Ministries to restart my process for ordination as Deacon. I will restart Seminary in Fall 2021. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as I begin a new journey! I am so excited to be here!

In Christ,
Eric Pone

Congregational Letter from Pastor Ruth Ann

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.
James 4:13-14 ESV

Dear Brunswick Beloved,

In early March, when we were first starting to adjust our lives to protect one another from the pandemic, I remember hearing the phrases “long-term” and “at least a year until a vaccine.” There were always comments from experts indicating that it would be many months before we would be “back to normal.” I heard those words but I had a hard time believing them. I just could not have imagined what life would look like as school was starting up again. I had no idea how awful it would be not to see members of my congregation for months at a time, not to be able to see them in the hospital, and not to be able to gather with families when life ends.

I am grateful that your faithfulness has brought some good out of this awful situation. I am thankful for masks made and shared. I am grateful for a significant investment in AV technology that will serve us for years to come. I am grateful for volunteers who have helped us to produce worship, and grateful to parishioners who are supportive of our far-from-perfect efforts as we learn so many new things. I am grateful that neighbors can join us for worship online, even if they are too nervous to come through the door (yes, that has really happened!). I am even grateful to have been pushed (hard) into taking online communications more seriously and for the impetus to think strategically about the long-term financial stability of the church. I am thankful for volunteers currently helping us to get the church set up for the few ministries we are able to have in the building, and grateful to Leadership Team members who have spent time developing safety plans and protocols. With all that gratitude, how can I still feel so overwhelmed?

This edition of the *Anecdote* marks a transition for Brunswick. Until now, we have known that COVID might last a long time, but we have acted as though it would be over soon. It is time for our congregation to make the adjustments that will allow us to be loving to our community, close in our fellowship, and faithful in worship — even if, especially if, COVID restrictions go on for many more months. To that end, we are making

arrangements to have some meetings in the church, even if risks remain high. REFIT® is about to move indoors; Who’s Next? Recovery ministry and AA will be back in the building; church groups under 20 people will be able to schedule meetings in the facility; small numbers of people will be able to attend Sunday morning worship. We have a step by step plan so that, as infection rates go up or down, we can always have an appropriate and safe response at Brunswick.

Highlights of some of these changes are provided below in this edition of the *Anecdote*. Remember that your questions, comments, ideas, and concerns are always welcome. You can contact me by cell phone, text, or email. Lynn Holmen answers the office phone remotely during office hours, Monday through Thursday.

Highlights from Brunswick’s Covid-19 Plan

I am anxious to attend worship

Because the 14-day infection rate for Hennepin County has remained under 20 for the past three weeks, we will be able to welcome a small number of people to attend worship in person starting September 20. We will manage attendance by ticket at this early stage: please contact office@brunswicklife.org or call the church office to be included. Keep an eye on your email in coming weeks for information about reserving your spot online. Masks and a physical distance of six feet from others will be required at all times. As we finish up the last of the installation and wiring for cameras in the sanctuary, we will gradually increase the number who may attend. Please don’t hesitate to let us know if you are interested — many people will not consider coming, so there is no need to presume you might be taking someone else’s spot.

I want to receive Holy Communion

This fall, we will return to the schedule of having Communion on the first Sunday of each month. If you attend worship in person, you will be given Communion elements to be consumed outside after worship or at home. If you would like to have a supply of Holy Communion elements at your home, we are happy to arrange delivery to your door — just call or email the office. You are also welcome to provide your own bread and juice (or wine) to receive Holy Communion at home as we worship online. Some Christians might argue whether this is valid or not, but we trust the Holy Spirit to meet our needs in every circumstance, and Jesus wants us all to be fed by his love. We are considering whether to offer separate small group services, where 6-10 people would gather for a short service including Holy Communion. If this interests you, please let Pastor Ruth Ann know. Pastor Ruth Ann and other volunteers are also available to bring Holy Communion to homes or residences where visitation is allowed.

I want to connect with worship, but I don’t have a computer

We have a toll-free number that allows you to call from anywhere in the United States and hear the worship service as it happens.

Dial (844) 857-5555, then enter code 2507961 followed by the # key. The call is in “lecture” mode, so you can hear the service but not be heard by others. If you or someone you love has a programmable phone, set up a speed dial so worship is just one touch away. Enter 2-3 pauses (symbolized by commas) between the number and the code, like this: 844 857 5555,,, 2507961#.

I want to connect with worship, but I don’t use Facebook

Brunswick is not in love with Facebook or Zoom! These were just easy resources to turn to as we started moving ministries online. An email link is sent out every week for worship, typically on Sunday mornings. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact Pastor Ruth Ann. The message always includes a worship bulletin so you have song lyrics, prayers, announcements, and other information available. The message also includes a link to whatever online sources are available for worship. The Facebook link works for anyone, so you do not need a Facebook account or log in.