



Center Brunswick United Methodist Church

Latest news and bulletin updates

Winter 2025

Choosing Faith

Hello CBUMC community!
Currently we provide a quarterly publication. We welcome any additional columns, notes, or news of upcoming events. Submit them here cbumc990@outlook.com. We hope our project grows and we hope you enjoy it. Happy reading!



We have now moved from the “between times” to a very active time on the Christian calendar. Advent began on November 30th, followed, of course, by Christmas – the celebration of Jesus’ birth. The light of Epiphany shines on January 4th with Jesus’ baptism the following week. The end of January and beginning of February provides a time for reflection

on God’s call to live with justice, mercy, and humility – where do we stand as an individual, congregation, community, society, and citizen of the world regarding that call?

February moves us right into Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent in quick succession. Palm Sunday and Easter are soon to follow.

Make sure, in this busy sequence of

church seasons, that you take the time to reflect on what Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection mean for us in this modern world. Remember the challenges, hardships, and persecutions he faced and how, in spite of – or because of these – the lasting changes he made to the world. Look around and find ways to do your part to make a difference!

Meetings and Events

Sunday Service 9:00am.
990 Hoosick Rd, Troy, NY 12180

Sunday School
Sundays 10:15 am.

Topic: Bible Study
Time: Thursday 10:00 am
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92077854707>

Choir Practice
Thursdays at 7:00pm.
990 Hoosick Rd, Troy, NY 12180

Administration Meeting
Second Monday of Month
6:30 p.m.

See full calendar
[Click Here...](#)

2026 Mabel & Harold Keyes Education Award – Applications Now Open!

By Sheryl Burke

Center Brunswick United Methodist Church is proud to sponsor the Mabel and Harold Keyes Education Award, a one-time \$500 stipend available to a graduating member of the Tamarac High School Class of 2026.

This award supports students heading off to college, trade school, or a licensed training program—helping with those first-year expenses that add up quickly.

Membership in CBUMC or any faith tradition is not required.

How to Apply:

Applications are available through the Tamarac High School Guidance Office or on the CBUMC website. Completed applications should be mailed to:

CBUMC – Keyes Education Award, 990 Hoosick Road, Troy, NY 12180

Deadline to Apply: March 1, 2026

This scholarship honors Harold and Mabel Keyes, long-time church members known for their dedication, generosity, and commitment to education in our community. We look forward to supporting a student who reflects those same values.

Old-Fashioned Holiday Bake Sale

Get ready to step back into the warmth and sweetness of an old-fashioned Christmas! Our annual Holiday Bake Sale is just around the corner, and this year promises to be one of our most delicious yet. Whether you're stocking up for holiday gatherings, looking for gifts from the heart, or simply craving a homemade treat (we see you!), this event has something for everyone.

You'll find tables filled with lovingly baked cookies,

cakes, pies, breads, and our ever-popular cookie trays — perfect for parties, gifting, or “taste-testing” on the ride home. Every item is handmade by our talented church bakers who pour joy, tradition, and plenty of holiday spirit into each recipe.

This bake sale is more than a fundraiser — it's a chance to gather, smile, chat, and kick off the season in true community style. Bring a friend, bring your sweet tooth, and come enjoy the nostalgic

charm of homemade holiday favorites.

Proceeds support the ministries and missions of Center

Brunswick UMC. Thank you for helping spread the spirit of Christmas through your support!



A Record-Breaking Year of Giving: Thank You, Community!

This year's food collection for the Grafton Seniors Center was nothing short of extraordinary — in fact, it was our largest collection yet! The sanctuary was filled to the brim with canned goods, pantry staples, and heartfelt generosity, creating a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with purpose.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who played a part in making this mission possible. Whether you helped hang bags, filled one, picked up donations from doorsteps, sorted and organized items, packed boxes, loaded the truck, or unloaded everything at the Grafton Seniors Center — your hands and hearts made the difference.

Our tradition is simple but mighty:

On Sunday, we distribute empty bags throughout the community. By the following Saturday, those bags are overflowing with kindness. All donations are brought into the church, displayed during worship, and then packed immediately afterward for Sunday delivery to Grafton, where they will go directly to neighbors in need.

This ministry is a beautiful reflection of what it means to serve, to give, and to shine Christ's light into the world. Thank you to our church family and our local community for showing — once again — that compassion grows strongest when we grow it together.

Together, we are making a real difference. Together, we are living our faith.



Thinking About a New Computer This Holiday?

By April Snow

If you've been eyeing a new computer this holiday season, you may want to act sooner rather than later. With import tariffs and supply-chain pressures over the last year, tech prices — including laptops and PCs — have begun creeping up, particularly on models heavily reliant on globally sourced components. K-12 Tech+2Windows Central+2

That means if you wait too long, today's "good deal" could become tomorrow's "budget squeeze." On the

flip side, buying ahead of further tariff-driven price increases can help you beat inflation, especially if you're shopping for work, school, or everyday home use.

What to Look for When Buying a Laptop Now

When selecting a new laptop, consider these factors based on how you'll use it:

Performance – Processor, RAM, and storage matter, especially if you multitask, run software, or manage many documents.

Battery life & portability

– Ideal if you travel, attend classes, or move around with your laptop.

Durability and build quality – A solid chassis and quality long-term build add value over time.

Display and functionality – A full-HD or better screen, stable Windows support (or ChromeOS), and good support/portability count for a lot.

That's part of why Lenovo stands out this year. Their

laptops balance performance, portability, and design — often at better prices than some premium-brand alternatives.



Advent: A Season of Waiting, Wonder, and Renewal

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, we step once again into a time shaped by hope, expectation, and the quiet work of preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. Advent reminds us that God often meets us in the stillness, not in the noise; in the gentle stirrings of grace, not in the rush of the world around us. Each week, as we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we remember that these are not simply themes of worship—they are promises from God that speak into our everyday lives with strength and comfort.

This season encourages us to slow our pace and look for

Christ's presence breaking into even ordinary moments. Advent challenges us to make room: room for prayer, room for compassion, room for listening, and room for God to shape our hearts in new ways. We are reminded that the miracle of Christ's birth did not arrive with grandeur, but through humility, courage, and a will-

ingness to welcome God's promise with open arms.

As a church family, we walk this journey together. We support one another in our joys and struggles, we lift up our community in prayer, and we open our doors to all who seek hope in a weary world. Advent reminds us that God is not far away—God is drawing near, offering

light in every shadow and peace in every anxious heart.

May this season be one of spiritual renewal and holy anticipation for each of us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, may we rediscover the wonder of God's love made real in Jesus Christ. Let us welcome this season with gratitude,

expectation, and open hearts, trusting that the light of Christ will guide our steps, strengthen our spirits, and lead us into a new year filled with grace and purpose.



Just For the Health of It

By Jeanine Santelli, PhD, RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN Faith Community Nurse



I don't receive Medicare or Medicaid benefits, so it doesn't affect me, right? Wrong!

Wrong! You might not receive these payments, but your local hospital, community health center, and health care practitioners do, particularly in rural and other underserved areas. Once the full array of approved changes is implemented in January 2027, your local healthcare facilities and providers will have to adjust, which will lead to facility closures, diminished services, and loss of providers and services. This will mean you may have to find another location or provider to receive your health care, likely causing you to travel a greater distance and costing you more money.

Will the marketplace still be available to purchase insurance? Yes, but with significant changes and limitations. If you purchase your insurance from the NYS Marketplace (Essential Plan), you may no longer be able to afford your insurance. HR #1 removed the federal subsidies for many who received them. When these funding subsidies are

removed, there will no longer be a sliding scale for premiums. It is anticipated that over 730,000 individuals will lose their marketplace coverage. Of those, 506,000 will need to move to Medicaid and 224,000 will become uninsured, falling through the insurance donut hole of making too much to qualify for Medicaid but not making enough to afford the standard insurance premiums.

How will the implementation of this law affect my insurance premiums? Even if you have insurance through your employer, the implementation of HR#1 will cause everyone's premiums to increase. This is because many people will be losing their insurance subsidies and coverage, so those who will still have coverage will see higher premiums to account for those who will lose their insurance. In addition, the people who fall off the insurance rolls will still need health care. Licensed health care professionals cannot refuse to provide care. The patients without insurance

coverage will still need to be treated, and they will receive that treatment when they are their sickest and in the most expensive way possible – at the emergency room. We can't stop treating these patients, but

someone will have to pay for the uninsured – and that will fall to those who have still have insurance. We don't yet know the increase, but it is anticipated that our premiums will need to go up significantly, to help cover the expenses of those who will lose their insurance coverage.

How will my care be affected? If your local hospital is able to continue to conduct business, you can expect much longer waiting times in the Emergency Department because that will be the sole location for the anticipated 1,464,740 newly uninsured in NY to seek any health care. In order to meet the increased financial pressures, staffing levels may be curtailed to help balance the budget.

Other things to consider:

These changes will also affect Child Health Plus.

Healthcare debt for individuals will mount at an ever-increasing rate as more and more people fall through the insurance donut-hole. This

will likely increase the numbers of the unhoused in the workforce.

While the main focus of the cuts in HR1 were in the area of healthcare, the bill also included one of the broadest overhauls of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) since the establishment of the program, as we have already seen with the government shut-down. HR1 shifted most of the costs of the SNAP program from the federal government to the states and made deep cuts to SNAP funding by cutting benefits, expanding work requirements, eliminating benefits for humanitarian immigrants, capping future benefit increases, and shifting significant costs of the program to the states to fund going forward. These cuts and costs shifts will eliminate SNAP benefits for 1 million current recipients and will increase hunger, push more families into poverty, and add additional strain to the State and county budgets.

The fiscal impact in NY will be \$13,452,740,795. Our health insurance premiums will not be the only funding source tapped to offset these losses of funding for our state. It is impossible to pretend that taxes won't go up and services won't be cut in order to help mitigate this shortfall.

Children's Celebration Service – Celebrating the Nativity

Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Celebration Service – Celebrating the Nativity Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.

There's something truly magical about experiencing the Christmas story through the eyes and voices of children. This year's Children's Celebration Service promises to be a heart-warming highlight of the season as our CBUMC kids share the wonder of the Nativity in their own special way.

During this joyful service, the children will lead us in song, lifting familiar carols that remind us of the hope

and beauty of Christ's birth. Through their enthusiastic voices and bright spirits, these beloved hymns take on new life and meaning.

The morning will also feature a charming reenactment of the Nativity — a treasured tradition that always brings smiles, laughter, and a few happy tears. From shepherds and angels to wise men and the Holy Family, the children help us relive the sacred story that anchors our faith and inspires our celebrations.

This service is a wonderful

opportunity for families, friends, and the entire congregation to gather in support of our youngest members as they share their gifts and remind us all of the simple, powerful message of Christmas: love came down, hope was born, and light entered the world.

Come join us for a morning filled with joy, music, storytelling, and the unmistakable warmth that only children can bring. All are welcome — and we promise you'll leave with a full heart and a refreshed spirit.



Christmas Bells & Choir

Join Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Come and experience the joyful sound of the season as our Christmas Bells Chimes and Vocal Choir lead the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 21. This special musical celebration has become a cherished tradition, filling the sanctuary

with the bright ring of handbells, the harmonies of beloved carols, and the spirit of Christmas hope.

Our musicians have been preparing for weeks to bring you an uplifting morning of worship that captures the

wonder of the season. Whether you love timeless Christmas music or simply want to feel renewed during this busy time of year, this service is a beautiful opportunity to pause, reflect, and celebrate the good news of Christ's birth.

Bring family and friends—this is a joyful service you won't want to miss!



Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.



While Christmas is often described as a season of joy, many among us carry grief, loneliness, stress, or memories that make this time of year especially difficult. For anyone who finds the holidays heavy rather than merry, our Blue Christmas Service offers a gentle, comforting space of hope.

Held on Monday, December

22 at 7:00 p.m., this reflective service acknowledges that not every heart feels bright during the season—and that's okay. Through quiet music, prayer, candlelight, and words of compassion, we honor the struggles that many face and remind one another that God meets us exactly where we are.

Whether you are grieving a loss, walking through a chal-

lenging time, missing someone special, or simply needing a peaceful place to breathe, you are welcome here.

All are invited to come as they are and receive comfort, understanding, and the promise of God's healing love.

Annual Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiest night of the year with us as we gather in the glow of candlelight to honor the birth of our Savior. This cherished Christmas Eve tradition brings together Scripture, prayer, and timeless carols that tell the story of God's love breaking into the world.

The Center Brunswick UMC Vocal Choir will lift our spirits with beautiful music that

fills the sanctuary with warmth and wonder. As the candles are lit and "Silent Night" is sung, you'll feel the peace and joy that make this evening so meaningful.

Bring your loved ones, invite a neighbor, and join us for a night of reflection, celebration, and hope as we welcome Christ's light into our hearts and community. All are welcome.



Save the Date!

Brook's BBQ Fundraiser – Saturday, January 3, 2026

Mark your calendars and bring your appetite — Brook's BBQ is coming to Center Brunswick UMC on Saturday, January 3, 2026! This is one of our most popular fundraisers of the year, and it's a delicious way to support the ministries and mission work of our church.

Brook's BBQ, known across the Northeast for their mouthwatering chicken and

ribs (learn more at brooks-bbq.com), will be serving up their famous meals right here at CBUMC. Whether you're a long-time fan or trying it for the first time, you won't want to miss it!

Stay tuned for serving times, meal options, and ticket information.

Spread the word — invite your neighbors, friends, and family! Every meal pur-

chased helps strengthen our outreach and supports the good work happening in our community.

Take out only. Come hungry. Leave happy. Support CBUMC.

