

BUMC Lay Leader Report 2022

Our church has been blessed through all of the crazy ups and downs during the pandemic. It has changed almost everything we do, and it has made planning activities and events difficult. We are blessed and we are *Living faith, sharing love, voicing hope* as we reach others in our community.

As we were given new opportunities to reach out to and serve in our community we are helping, talking and praying for many new people. The food pantry we started two years ago has become an ongoing mission of our church and is supported by many in the community as well as our members and friends. As the food pantry grows, we are serving 70–80 families each month. We have continued to use our outdoor “Blessing Pantry.”. These pantry cabinets are a key role in the community's need, it is open daily for those in need at any time. And are filled e with new paper products and canned goods every Thursday.

Worship is live-streamed, and we are reaching a larger audience than we had before the pandemic due to the new camera lady Christy Johnson she is recording and live streaming the service every Sunday. Pastor is also doing a weekly night prayer meeting live on Facebook, on Wednesday!

Our youth ministry has remained active during the pandemic and provided the youth with safe and fun activities with month-by-month planning. Our Youth program continues to operate under the leadership of (me - Youth Director) and our teachers. The youth team is working on a “kick off “event at the end of September. We have continued to work with the members of the church to have a “trunk or treat” event in October located in the church parking lot to help the community. I have also been interacting with the preschool teachers and students and will continue to do a monthly bible study with the students two times a month teaching songs and stories of the bible.

A fruitful experience has been being a member of “Reaching New People”, a small church cohort led by an experienced coach that is teaching us about relationships, and new ways that we can start building with those in the community that are not a part of a church or have become inactive. During this training and coaching class, we have become closer as a church. Also, During the class, we have adopted a new statement about who we are: “*Living faith, sharing love, voicing hope.*” which we utilize often on flyers, on Facebook posts, and on our website and church t-shirts (made by our local high school computer lab) . This new statement and the new logo helps identify us and give our message at the same time! We have developed a very good relationship with our local school and have been able to provide help for families in emergency situations. Our simple message is “we are the church of Jesus Christ for our community – you are welcome here.”

We have lost valued members and new folks are attending services on Facebook. We have begun to see new people coming into church for service as we gradually open up to gathering for worship and other activities. Our focus is reaching out to those that have strayed away during the pandemic and those who are searching for hope.

In his name,

Andrea Kreutzer

BUMC Lay Leader

Brookfield United Methodist Church