

BROOK UMC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2021

Pastor's Pen: Small Acts of Resistance



In a recent conversation at morning coffee, I learned that someone in the group had never bought anything from Amazon. Instead, this person preferred to purchase physical items at an actual storefront. To some, this refusal to buy from the world's largest retailer might seem like stubbornness or refusal to "get with the times." However, I believe that small acts like this one are admirable acts of resistance in a world that is constantly depersonalized and despoiled by many forces.

I think of my father-in-law who refuses to use self-checkout lanes because machines have taken jobs away from actual people. I think of a friend who has refused to use social media because of its impersonal nature. I think of the many people I know who buy directly from local farmers, butchers, and artisans instead of giving their money to big box stores and giant corporations. I think of everyone who plants a garden even though they could purchase cheaper food at the supermarket. These are all acts of resistance.

Throughout the scriptures, God's people have always been called to resist a world that tends to dehumanize, depersonalize, and destroy. In the Hebrew Scriptures, God's people were given the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a day when God's people remembered that they were not slaves. They were not slaves to work or to the constant pressure to achieve more. The Sabbath was also a day that reminded God's people that they were not to be cruel slavers like the Egyptians. Instead, they were to be a people who restored life to the land they lived on and the people that lived around them.

In the New Testament, Jesus gives his followers similar commands. In the Sermon on the Mount, he tells people to rid their lives of the small things that cause destruction. He tells people to break away from slavish commitment to building wealth and power by giving to everyone who asks and becoming servants. Jesus invites his followers to show mercy to those who will never repay the favor and to notice the birds of the air that the rest of the world are too busy to stop and see. These are all acts of resistance.

Few of us will stop buying from Amazon (I had one of those familiar brown packages arrive as I wrote this reflection), and none of us will ever be perfectly consistent in all our acts of resistance. Yet the goal of our resistance is not perfection. After all, it was Jesus himself who broke Sabbath laws to help and to heal. It was Jesus who preached, not slavish obedience to a set of principles but a life of love for God and neighbor. Love refuses to see others as economic burdens; it refuses to treat the earth as a goldmine and trash heap; and it refuses to create idols out of success and profit. In our world, love is the greatest of all our acts of resistance.

Will our small acts of loving resistance do anything to slow the forces of destruction and depersonalization? Probably not. Small acts of love and fidelity always look futile in the face of giants. Yet, these small acts help to keep our hearts and souls alive, and they may help enliven the hearts and souls of others. May God give us the strength to keep on resisting in the name of love.



CHURCH NIGHT AT THE FAIR

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 7PM IN THE GRANDSTAND

MUSIC BY LIVIN' FORGIVEN

BUMC RIBEYE SANDWICH DINNER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 5-7PM IN THE GREEN BUILDING



JULY 9—"RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON"
MOVIE BEGINS AT DUSK
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS TONIGHT!

AUGUST 7—"SING"
KARAOKE BEGINS AT 7PM
FREE POPCORN, SNOWCONES, AND
COTTON CANDY



August 15, 2021

Activities begin at 4:00

Pork burgers served at 5:00

Live music at 5:30

"Joe Baughman & The Righteous Few"

Bring a finger dessert to share!



**BRIAN FREE AND ASSURANCE will be with us
Sunday, September 12, at 9AM!!!!**

Group Bio: Brian Free is undeniably the most recognizable southern gospel tenor of our generation. Since 1982, he has been at the forefront of southern gospel music since first joining Gold City Quartet, then moving on to form his own group. Gospel music has always been Brian's first love, and fans have responded to his music by honoring him and the group at the Dove Awards for Southern Gospel Performance of the Year, "Say Amen," in 2014 as well as "Long As I Got King Jesus" in 2006. Brian Free and Assurance has also made a number of notable television appearances, including TBN, Gospel Music Channel, Prime Time Country (TNN), Hee Haw (CBS), The "Today Show" (NBC), 27 of the "Gaither Video" series. In the summer of 2014, BFA was chosen by BBC to represent Elvis Presley's love of Gospel Music on That's Alright Mama, a Tribute to Elvis Presley with his arrangement of Peace In The Valley. Brian Free and Assurance have recently won awards at the First Annual US Gospel News SGM Fanfair. They were, Favorite Quartet, Favorite Tenor (Brian Free) and Favorite Video - Live In New York City.





COMMUNITY MEAL EXPANDS!



In addition to serving a hot meal and giving away eggs and bakery goods, the Community Meal is now also giving away grocery items every Thursday. The food bank in Francesville donates 2 pallets of food the first Wednesday of each month. These items are then placed on a 'shopping list' from which families can select the items they need. They are then bagged and delivered to each family's car. 217 families have been served in the 8 weeks we have been offering this additional

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

3—KERRY STICHNOTH
4—ANITA EKSTROM
9—ANNA ROSS
10—KATHY STICHNOTH
12—ADEN OSOWSKI
15—LARRY LYONS
19—GARY COOPER
20—JUDY HANCOCK
25—SALLY BERGER
29—LINDA VAUGHAN
31—JUDY WASHBURN
31—CAROL SMITH

AUGUST

3—STEPHANIE MONTEMAYER
4—DANA LAWRENCE
6—STEVE SMITH
11—AVALYNNE COOPER
11—COOPER WIRTZ
13—ALIVIA DYE
23—ANN LARSON
25—GAY LAWRENCE
28—MEAGAN WIRTZ
28—MIKE OSOWSKI, JR
30—KAY MADISON
31—MOIRA BAUGHMAN



PRESCHOOL

BEGINS AUGUST 16!

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1—MARY WHALEY
7—JASON SANDERS
8—ED EKSTROM
8—LISA EKSTROM
11—MARILYN WATKINS
12—KATHY DANRUTHER
13—ANDREA WHALEY
14—BARBARA DAVIS
16—SETH LAWRENCE
19—KENTON SCHROEDER
21—STEVE MADISON
22—JACK LAWRENCE
24—LIAM DYE
25—JEFF LIGHT
26—BRITTANY BAUGHMAN
27—MATT BEASLEY
27—ELLEN GERBRACHT

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

6—TIM & ELLEN GERBRACHT
12—KERRY & KATHY STICHNOTH
19—GENE & TAMMY BEASLEY
23—MIKE & SARAH OSOWSKI

AUGUST

1—MIKE & JANELLE HARPER
8—MARVIN & BETTY WHALEY
11—CHUCK & KATHY DANRUTHER
11—HUGH & ANN LARSON
13—LARRY & BECKY LYONS
26—NORM & CAROL LIGHT
29—SETH & DANA LAWRENCE

Brook United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 214

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Pastor Matt Baughman

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit #23

Brook, Indiana

BUMC Prayer Requests

Carrie Olthof—lung cancer

Hal Zantop—chemo treatments

Will Doty, Beth Kindell's brother—Covid

Steven & Stephanie's Grandpa Montemayer—health concerns

Baby Baughman arriving end of August or first of September