



## Choose Peace. Choose Generosity. Choose Worship!

We all know what the Christmas season looks and feels like... gifts and decorations, food and family, parties and celebration. And while these are all wonderful parts of the season, they also come with their share of stress and expectations. For those who lack financial resources, Christmas can bring feelings of disappointment and inadequacy. And for many, the season brings up feelings of loneliness and separation from loved ones.

This year, we invite you to see your Advent journey differently. Take time to step outside the frenetic goal of a perfect holiday. Take time for people. Take time for relationships. Take time for worship.



### December 1 – HOPE

We are the bearers of hope to the world. As you begin your Advent journey, make choices that inspire hope in others.

*Ideas... Make a commitment to attend worship each Sunday in Advent. Take time for your daily Advent devotion. Buy American-made and Fair Trade products. Give as much to a family in need as you spend on your family.*

In worship... sing favorite Advent carols, and hear special music from the organ at 11:15.



### December 8 – LOVE

God expressed the extent of God's love for us in the gift of Jesus. As you continue through Advent, make choices that express God's love to those around you.

*Ideas... Visit someone in a hospital or nursing home. Reach out to an estranged friend or relative. Include some new faces at a holiday meal or party. Volunteer your time. Take time for conversation with those who may be feeling lonely or overlooked.*

In worship... sing favorite Advent carols, and hear special music from Chancel Choir at 11:15.

### December 15 – JOY

A joyful spirit recognizes the many blessings inherent in life. Choose to acknowledge the many ways in which you are blessed beyond measure and call forth joy in those around you.

*Ideas... Take a few minutes each day to count your blessings and thank God for them. As a family, take a moment for thankfulness every day. When you feel overwhelmed by seasonal demands, take a breath and remember the deeper meaning and purpose of Christmas.*

In worship... hear Men's Ensemble at both services this week.



### December 22 – PEACE/Christmas Music Sunday

It is easier to think of peace as a metaphorical concept or as a personal state of calm, but we believe that God truly desires the absence of violence in our world.

*Ideas... Take time each day to pray for peace in war-torn countries. If you are purchasing jewelry this year, make sure gemstones are conflict-free. Consider participating in a Mission Trip or Project in 2014-2015 that endeavors to create an environment in which peace can thrive.*

In worship... come hear our Christmas Orchestra, Handbells, and Chancel Choir at both services!



Sunday Mornings  
8:45 Contemporary  
Worship  
10 Education Hour  
11:15 Traditional Worship



# God Goes With You

Luke 2:1-20

The children were putting on the Christmas play. To show the radiance of the newborn Savior an electric light bulb was hidden in the manger. All the stage lights were to be turned off so that only the brightness of the manger could be seen, but the boy who controlled the light got confused - all the lights went out!



It was a tense moment, broken only when one of the shepherds said in a loud stage whisper, "Hey! You switched off Jesus!"

We enter into yet another magical time of year. The wonder of the Christmas story will be ours to "get" once again. No matter where you roam, no matter the roads you wander, no matter the company you keep or don't keep, the feasts you prepare, consume and recover from, or not, no matter the degree of good health you enjoy, the blessings you count as yours, whether wallowing in despair or loneliness or anger or in love or peace or joy, the truth is once again brought home on a quiet starlit night: God lovingly reaches out to us, and fully commits to journeying with us through all this life has to offer, even through death to new life. There is nowhere you can go that God doesn't go with you. Even in our perceived loneliness, we have company. You are ever destined to live in relationship.

In all of our sometimes busy and crowded observances, may we not "switch off Jesus." In the glory of a simple birth, something that still happens millions of times a day, God has affirmed the wonder and magic and goodness of life. I pray that this light dawns on you and yours and remains with you, wherever life leads, always.

Peace on earth,

*Pastor Clark*

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### New Life for Old Glasses



Bring them to the coat room collection bin. Our UMW delivers them to eye doctors who recycle them for those in need!



Fellowship Hour  
Hosts for December:  
Council on  
Education  
*Thank you!*

# During this Christmas season, *how can we reach out to others?*



## Spread Christmas Cheer!

Help deliver poinsettias to those who are home bound or unable to come to services. Delivery after December 24. Contact Gretchen Mates to volunteer: 440-526-6481.

*(Don't forget to order your plants. See the order form flyer in this issue, or online at [www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/poinsettia2013.pdf](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/poinsettia2013.pdf))*



## Warm Heads, Hands and Hearts

The Hat and Mitten Tree will be set up in the Parlor again this year beginning November 24. As is our tradition, we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for those in need this winter. Can you help? There will also be a box under the tree where you can drop off toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste) and socks. Please bring these items to church anytime before December 15th. Thank you for your generosity!

## UMC #GivingTuesday

The perfect antidote to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. United Methodists are invited to a special Giving Tuesday! On December 3, gifts made online through The Advance will be matched dollar for dollar by the Global Ministries Board. UMC #GivingTuesday offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season by giving instead of getting through supporting organizations that are transforming the world.

The Advance regularly monitors more than 850 mission projects, and sponsors hundreds of missionaries. 100% of your online gift gets to the purpose intended! Visit [www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give). Use the search boxes to find your favorite project. Need suggestions? Try these:

- Camphor United Methodist Mission – Liberia, Advance No. 12548A
- Imagine No Malaria, Advance #3021190
- Society of St. Andrew (the Potato Project), Advance #801600
- Red Bird Mission School Advance #773728

An Advance Number is basically a project number. The only Global Ministries matching gift limits are \$10,000 per household, \$50,000 per project, up to a total of the first \$500,000 in gifts.

Advent Worship  
Service &  
Soup  
Supper  
Dec. 11

Join us for a worship service crafted around the statement, *This I Believe*. The popular radio show of the same name invites people to describe core values that guide their daily lives. During this special time of worship, we will consider the core beliefs related to Jesus' birth that still provide us with guidance and hope today. Please join us for an informal soup supper at 6:00, followed by worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm.

*Join us!*  
Wednesday, December 11  
at 7:30pm

A community meal of soup and bread (lovingly prepared by church staff) will be served at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall.

*All are welcome! Bring a friend!*



**DOUBLE YOUR  
IMPACT!  
TUESDAY  
DEC 3RD**

YOUR GIFT TO  
MISSION THAT IS MADE  
ONLINE THROUGH  
THE ADVANCE ON  
UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY

**WILL BE MATCHED  
DOLLAR  
FOR  
DOLLAR!**

[umcmmission.org/give](http://umcmmission.org/give)

\*Up to \$250,000. Some restrictions apply.

# Commit to Serve

Contact Missions to volunteer!

Pearl Road Soup Kitchen  
February 16 & March 30, 2014  
Food service begins at 5 pm, leaving  
BUMC around 3pm. Contact Missions  
Committee if you would like to become  
involved in this community outreach.

Cleveland Food Bank  
Dates of service for 2014  
8:00 am until noon  
January 25, March 29, May 31, July 26,  
September 27, and November 22

Cornerstone of Hope  
Dinner volunteer times:

Winter Session  
Mondays January 13 – March 3  
(Off January 20)

Spring Session  
Mondays March 31 – May 19  
(off on April 21)

Summer Session  
Mondays, July 21 – September 8  
(off on September 1)

Fall Session  
Mondays, Sept. 22 – November 10



## Christmas Offering

Missions Commission selected the following Local, National and International recipients for the 2013 Special Christmas Offering:

### Local:

The Cleveland FoodBank  
Provides food to hunger centers and food pantries for an 8 County area, serving 30,000 people per month. The Cleveland Foodbank supplies a majority of the food used in local hot meal sites, shelters, and food pantries. In addition, they provide food to child care centers, group homes, and programs for the elderly.

### National:

McCurdy Ministries – a UMC Mission in Espanola, NM  
Provides education and mission in Northern New Mexico. They provide counseling, technology training, early childhood education, breakfast and lunch programs, before/after school programs, mental health counseling, and Christian studies to children, youth and to support families

### International:

Church World Service Blankets+ Project  
Sponsor of CROP Hunger Walk, CWS Emergency Relief Kits, and CWS Blankets. A cooperative of 37 Christian denominations, including the UMC. Provides sustainable development, disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world.

## Help Yuletide Fight Hunger



2013 marks the 31st year that Yuletide will provide food for needy neighbors in Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Seven Hills and Independence during the holiday season. The program serves more than 125 families each year, including 150 children and seniors struggling to make ends meet.

Here's how you can help:

- *Contribute food or monetary donations.* There will be a bin in the coatroom marked "YULETIDE."
- *Volunteer.* Contact Jenny Gee to join the BUMC team of volunteers lending a hand on Wednesday, December 11 from 4 pm—6 pm. And then come back to the church for the soup supper!

Want to help on a different day? Contact the Brecksville Human Services Department to volunteer: 440-526-2499



The Brecksville UMC Advent Devotional has become an annual tradition. Written by church members and friends, the devotional is a gift of love to our church family. Devotionals are delivered to the homebound, shared with our congregation, and available for visitors. Pick up your copy at church! They will be available on December 1 (the first Sunday in Advent) and online at:

[www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

# 1st and 3rd Sunday Equal Exchange Sale

Equal Exchange products are available after both services on the first and third Sunday of each month. Do you have a special product you would like us to carry? Mention it to Jenny and she will order it for you. Stop past the table in the Parlor on Sunday and buy some dark roast coffee to use in making this wonderful fall treat.

Have you been loving the Pumpkin Spice Latte from Starbucks this fall? Try making your own version at home and be sure to use Equal Exchange Coffee!! Fairly traded coffee just feels better to drink!

Pumpkin Spice Latte  
Makes: 6 to 8 servings

## Ingredients:

¼ - 1/3 cup Pumpkin Spice Sauce (see recipes below)  
½ cup brewed Equal Exchange dark roast coffee or espresso  
2 cups of steamed or heated milk  
Whipped cream  
Pinch ground cinnamon

## Preparation:

Brew the espresso or coffee according to the preparation and strength of your desire (brewed in your coffee maker, French press, or espresso machine). In a large coffee mug, add enough Pumpkin Spice Sauce to fill 1/4 of your mug (depending on your preference of sweetness - add more or less), coffee or espresso, and then fill the rest of the mug with hot milk. Stir well and then garnish the top with whipped cream and sprinkle with ground cinnamon.

## Pumpkin Spice Sauce:

2/3 cup pumpkin puree (canned or fresh)  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1 cup water  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves



In medium sized pot over medium-low heat, stir together pumpkin puree, sugar, sweetened condensed milk, vanilla extract, water, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and cloves.

Stir constantly until pumpkin spice sauce is combined and has a smooth texture. Sauce is done when sauce clings to spoon in a syrup-like consistency.

Storage: Let pumpkin spice sauce cool completely and pour mixture into a freezer-safe container and cover with a lid. Can refrigerate for up to 1 week to enjoy as a daily drink.

Enjoy!



*Need a great stocking stuffer that supports ministry at BUMC? Give the gift of music!* On Thursday, February 6, we welcome The Steel Wheels to our concert series! Tickets are already on sale online:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/the-steel-wheels-tickets-8388284585](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-steel-wheels-tickets-8388284585)

or you can skip the fees by purchasing your \$10 tickets directly through the office. All proceeds from ticket sales support our ongoing concert series!



Usher Coordinator Needed! Your job would be to find and schedule ushers for Sunday Services. Interested? Call Cec for details 440-526-8938 x 222



Pick up your 2014 Offering Envelopes beginning Sunday, Dec. 8.

If you'd like a set of offering envelopes, contact the church office!

## VeggieTales Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas

Kick off the Advent season with your friends during Sunday School on December 1 with a viewing of the brand new VeggieTales movie *Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas*. Bob and Larry are going all out this year to make it the best Christmas ever! But their idea of a great Christmas is to try to outshine the competition with music, decorations and a great light show. But everything changes when a little girl helps them understand what Christmas is all about.



*Brecksville Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting*

The holidays officially begin with the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1. Come to the band stand on the square for Yuletide songs, Christmas carols, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. The parade steps off at 4pm. BUMC and the Evangelism Committee will host a reception following the parade in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to assist in providing this welcoming hospitality, please contact Catherine Vastartis at 440.526.9406.



## Children's Worship

On October 27 the first through fifth graders of our church led us in all aspects of worship. Their love for God showed clearly as they focused on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. From their young perspective we were able to see that this Psalm not only offers us comfort in good and peaceful

times when we feel certain of God's presence; but also in difficult times. Through this Psalm we are reassured of God's protection and loving care extended to us as we walk through our darkest valleys and when we stand in the presence of our enemies. These young worship leaders led us in prayer, storytelling and music. The response of this wonderful church family was, as always, positive and encouraging. To view more pictures from Children's Worship Sunday (and more!) visit our online gallery. Go to [www.brecksvillumc.com](http://www.brecksvillumc.com), "About Us", "Photo Galleries."

## Brecksville Community Chorus & Youth Chorus Annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 8 at 4:00pm

At Brecksville UMC, our concert series is one of the ways in which we open our doors to the community and seek to glorify God through music. This traditional concert offers a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family, or neighbors to experience the welcoming and joyful atmosphere at our church! The program will feature a variety of music including Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, which features brass quartet and organ. Don't miss this wonderful afternoon of music! A reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.

*Christmas*  
In Brecksville

# Transforming People, Changing the World

On Tuesday, November 5, many of you had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Shaffa Seward, Director of United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) for the Liberia Annual Conference. He spoke eloquently about the ongoing development taking place in the nation of Liberia. The United Methodist Church is working hard at Camphor Mission and throughout Liberia to provide the resources and support needed to improve living conditions, revitalize agriculture, establish food security, and improve education.



Our own Janet Kleckner has been to Liberia four different times and has also spearheaded our church wide campaign to improve teacher housing at Camphor Mission. With only \$6,000 left to be raised, you are urged to consider contributing to this critically important project.

In June, 2015, Janet will return to Liberia, accompanied by Joy Parker and a team of youth and adults. Are you called to be a part of this vital mission to Liberia? Begin to pray and search your heart. There is ample time for planning and raising funds; this may be an opportunity to step outside your comfort zone and be a part of realizing God's vision for our world!

## Computer Lab Completed



A Sunday school dream has come true!! Back in 2002, our church adopted a method of teaching Bible lessons to our elementary aged children called Rotation Sunday School. We choose a Bible story and the children learn that story for 5 or 6 weeks in a row. They don't hear the same old telling over and over again. They hear it in fresh, fun and engaging ways. The idea behind rotation is twofold: one is to understand that children have different styles of learning and secondly, to remember that children learn best through repetition. Over the past eleven years we have taught Bible stories while cooking, making art projects, playing music, storytelling, doing science experiments, playing games and watching movies. This year we were fortunate enough to

add our 8<sup>th</sup> rotation classroom- computers! Through the generosity of members of our congregation who donated computers and the incredibly generous donation of time and talent from Jinho Lee, we now have 6 working computers equipped to help the children explore Bible stories by playing onscreen games. The software that has been developed for churches is outstanding and really helps young people understand the meaning behind events and stories from the Bible. The computer lab (aptly named the Church Mouse) is located in room 301D. Stop by one Sunday at 10:00 to see our kids click their way to better Biblical understanding!!

## Sacred Spaces

The season of Advent, which begins Dec. 1 and ends at sunset on Christmas Eve, includes the opportunity to begin or resume setting apart time for intentional focused prayer. Begin with 10 or 15 minutes at a time of day that regularly works for you and in a space you have set apart. Use the space in your home where you have an Advent wreath or can listen to quiet music or contemplate an image or symbol of Christ's coming or birth that brings you into God's presence.

In your sacred space, simply pray, communing in whatever ways draw you into an awareness of God's presence, whatever ways let you offer yourself to God and open you to receiving God's blessing.

If you wish, use one of the resources to help you focus during this time. Read your "This I Believe" Advent Devotional, or the daily online reflections at [alivenow.upperroom.org](http://alivenow.upperroom.org). See other suggested resources for Advent in "Anticipating Advent" in the September-October issue of *Interpreter* or at [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org).

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Good Shepherd UMC of Parma (5930 State Road, Parma) invites all to *The Birth of Jesus Interactive, Walk-Through Play* on November 30, 6:30—8:00pm! The play is a reenactment of Luke 2:1-21. Guests will encounter angels who bring them the good news, and go on a journey to Bethlehem where they will find the holy family. This is a FREE event. All are welcome! For more information visit [www.gsumparma.com](http://www.gsumparma.com) or contact Julie at (440) 884-9090. Celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with this family fun activity.



To ensure the safety of our staff and visitors,

our church offices will close when the roads get too bad this winter.

When Brecksville Broadview Heights City Schools are closed *due to inclement weather*, our church offices will close.

Any church events scheduled for that day will be cancelled unless otherwise notified. Tune into the local newscasts for closing information when the weather threatens. Thank you!



# News from the Brecksville United Methodist Women

## You're Invited!

The UMW's Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be held Thursday, December 5 at noon in the church parlor. As in previous years, Asbury Bremeth Circle will be hosting. Christmas music by Joy Parker will help get everyone in the holiday mood. Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share. A donation of non-perishable food items will be collected for Brookside. The need is great! If you are unable to attend, please bring your donation to the bin in the coat room. Thank you!

## Give to West Side Community House "Sisterhood" Program

The Brecksville UMW are partnering with the WestSide Community House again this year to provide Christmas for young ladies in the sisterhood program, which assists at youth young. Gretchen Mates has wish lists from each girl, which include requests for gifts for others in each girl's family. Would you like to help? Contact Gretchen for more information (440.526.6481) or talk to her during Fellowship Hour on Sunday.

Asbury Bremeth Circle, Dec. 12, 9:30 am

**Angels Among Us...** This year we will be having an angel exchange to keep us blessed over the holidays. Please bring any type of angel, wrapped in an appealing way. Please keep the price of your angel under \$5. The exchange of angels will be part of the surprise! In addition, we will be having a Crazy Christmas Continental Brunch. Bring 4 napkins and 4 paper plates (not related to Christmas) and 8 -10 pieces of bakery, candy, etc. to share for brunch. Need more information? Contact Nancy Knowlton!

## New Adult Sunday School Class for Advent



Join Pastor Clark in the sanctuary at 10:00 on Sunday mornings as he focuses on the Biblical tellings of Jesus' birth story. Did you know that the story of Jesus' birth appears in only two of the four Gospels? There are some distinct similarities in these two tellings that may seem obvious to you - such as the main characters (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) and a few of the supporting characters (the angels and the Holy Spirit), the places mentioned (Bethlehem in Judea and Nazareth in Galilee) and time in history (during the reign of King Herod). But differences abound! The two Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke were writing for different audiences and therefore had different theological emphasis in their accounts. The driving force in Matthew was to show that the Hebrew scripture had been fulfilled with Jesus' birth. Luke focused on the Holy Spirit being at work. It is fascinating to study these stories at this time of year as we ready ourselves for the celebration of the greatest gift of all—Jesus born unto us!



# Did You Know...

Individuals here at BUMC step up to the plate every day to support its ministries. Those in leadership are especially committed to our growth and transformation. Members of our church leadership set an example by submitting their pledges early.



## As of this mailing...

We have received 38 early pledges from people in leadership at our church. Those 38 pledges total over \$154,000, which averages a little over \$4,000/yr per pledging unit

## Something to think about...

Last year, we received 156 total pledges, totaling about \$428,000.

*If all 156 families who pledged last year gave at an average rate equal to our leadership, 2014 pledges would total \$635,000.*

*That represents a 48% increase over last year!!*

## Or dream bigger...

We actually have 300 families or "pledging units" in our congregation.

*If everyone gave at an average rate equal to our leadership,*

*2014 pledges would total 1.2 million dollars.*

*That represents a 285% increase over last year!!*

What kind of difference could *that* make?

Have you seen the colored bricks on the altar?

These represent hopes and dreams of our congregation, many of which could be realized with these additional financial resources.

## We could...

Do the "stop hunger now" (work-ship) project quarterly or more often

Have a satellite campus downtown

Connect to and support an urban church

Training classes to encourage laity to minister to others

Support for young people in seminary

Build a deck over the creek for outdoor worship

Create a better, more open space for coffee and fellowship

Financially support additional teams in mission locally and globally

Build an open field for athletics; start sports programs for underprivileged youth

Buy a church van; provide transportation options for seniors and others

Develop neighborhood work teams

These are just a few of our dreams and goals, and we believe they can be realized!

Sunday, November 24, is Commitment Sunday.

If you have already pledged, your pledge card will be brought forward and laid on the altar. Everyone present will be invited to symbolically bring their pledge forward and join together in committing to another year of ministry together.

Thank you for your support of ministry and mission at BUMC! Need a pledge card? Pick one up in The Parlor on Sunday, or contact the church office!



## December 8: Middle School

**Whirly Ball Event 11AM-2PM** at Whirly Ball Cleveland (5055 Richmond Rd.

Bedford Heights, OH). We will leave from BUMC as a group after Sunday School. Pizza lunch provided. Parents who can serve as drivers and chaperones are encouraged to contact Kyle.

PLEASE RSVP:

[youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

by Nov. 27. Price \$12.



## December 15: High School

**SKYZONE Event 11AM-2PM** at 31500 Viking Parkway Westlake, OH 44145.

This is an awesome indoor park where youth can have fun bouncing around on a sea of trampolines. Cost is \$14 and Skyzone's medical release form is needed in addition to the BUMC form. Their form is here:

[westlakestore.skyzone.com/waiver](http://westlakestore.skyzone.com/waiver).

PLEASE RSVP:

[youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

by Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Do you have news to share? Contact  
Melanie! office@brecksvilleumc.com or  
440-526-8938

**We've got new babies!**

Congratulations to Diane Pidwell on the birth of her grandson, Kai Oliver Brown, who arrived on October 25 in Houston Texas. Proud parents are Diane's son & daughter-in-law, Eric and Courtney Brown.

And on November 4, Joan and Al Filips welcomed their first grandchild, too! Austin Alan, son of Suzanne & Matt Kocin, was welcomed to the world here in Northeast Ohio.

Wedding bells rang here on October 19, as Grant Palmer and Tanya Garstek became "Mr. and Mrs." Congratulations are also in order for Ryan Burrows and Kate White, who were wed here on November 8. We wish you a lifetime of happiness together!

A hearty THANK YOU goes out to everyone who pitched in for our fall church yard clean up on November 9. We are so thankful for you! Special kudos to Boy Scout Troop 175 for coming out to lend a hand.

Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!

Melanie Smith  
office@brecksvilleumc.com  
440-528-8938

# Happy Birthday!

Allen	McCrodden	1-Dec	Trinity	Crouch	13-Dec
Susan	Ellenberger	2-Dec	Kiira	Olszko	13-Dec
Chris	Toth	2-Dec	Shirley	Harper	14-Dec
Marisol	Wylie	2-Dec	Sydney	Hazelton	15-Dec
Ronelle	Rajkovich	3-Dec	Ruth	Moorhead	15-Dec
Edward	Crist	4-Dec	Hannah	Stein	15-Dec
Diane	Ellis	4-Dec	Dale	Meyer	16-Dec
Nicholas	Mihalich	4-Dec	Elinor	Rowan	17-Dec
Kendall	Lancaster	5-Dec	Carol	Wilson	18-Dec
Bruce	McCrodden	6-Dec	Jeffrey	Fesler	19-Dec
Michael	Memmer	6-Dec	J. Donald	Moorhead	19-Dec
Kaitlynn	Pasek	6-Dec	Nathan	Petznick	19-Dec
Karen	Schroedel	6-Dec	John	Zupanc	19-Dec
Brenda	Calovini	7-Dec	Hudson	Schneider	20-Dec
Katherine	Tyler	7-Dec	Carol	Dambaugh	21-Dec
Rachel	Dubin	8-Dec	Megan	Louttit	21-Dec
Steve	Harper	8-Dec	Adam	Derry	22-Dec
Allison	Loughner	8-Dec	Anna	Derry	22-Dec
Daniel	Biggs	9-Dec	Bryan	Derry	22-Dec
Richard	Gordon	9-Dec	Amanda	Auble	23-Dec
Charles	Helm	9-Dec	Pam	Papp	24-Dec
Joyce	Johnson	9-Dec	David	Urdzik	24-Dec
Daniel	Soltis	9-Dec	Kayla	Kosla	26-Dec
Josh	Kesling	10-Dec	Anastasia	Brachna	28-Dec
Joan	Quade	10-Dec	David	Brown	28-Dec
Scott	Schneider	10-Dec	Christine	Drescher	29-Dec
David	Schroedel	10-Dec	Sylvia	Fowler	29-Dec
Barbara	Berry	11-Dec	Brandon	Schroedel	29-Dec
Amy	Piorkowski	11-Dec	Mary Lou	Bennett	30-Dec
Gregory	Urso	11-Dec	Darell	Fisher	30-Dec
Frank	Bambic	12-Dec	Sharon	Hotaling	30-Dec
Mitchell	Bell	12-Dec	Robert	Jaite	30-Dec
Penelope	Burns	12-Dec	Zachary	Johnson	30-Dec
Steve	Piorkowski	12-Dec	Connor	Hulten	31-Dec
			John	Scott	31-Dec



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Folks like Jeff Fesler, who arrives at the church, paintbrush in hand, and makes things beautiful. And Tom Holmok, for stepping up to take on a much needed task—building closer. Ryan Burrows, recently wed, served as a new liturgist. And Donna Sibits and Catherine Vastartis, who may have started a new BUMC tradition, with a beautiful Veterans Day Sunday recognition of service members. And Bob Lundholm, who faithfully opens the church each Saturday morning so people can meet here. Thank you all!

# Advent photo-a-day

From *RethinkChurch.org*

Deck those halls, warm up that cocoa and wrap those gifts. Sound familiar?

Every year you promise that this Christmas will be different. You'll slow down and enjoy quality time with your friends and family, you say. You won't drag yourself to the Black Friday sales before sunrise when you should be sleeping in from a great Thanksgiving celebration, nor will you do your Christmas shopping in your pajamas on Cyber Monday.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to buy the latest gadgets or checking off that wish list. But somehow Christmas Eve is here before we know it and we wonder why we don't feel renewed after this joyous season. As we did with Lent last February, we're inviting you once again to enter this season of Advent with intention and awareness. As we prepare, watch and wait for that wonderful something God is sending our way not just at Christmas, but every single day.

Whatever your practices this season, will you join this photo-a-day practice and share with the community how you perceive each word or phrase for the day? No explanation needed, unless you want to. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words. Tag us on your instagram photos with @rethinkchurch or on twitter (@umrethinkchurch) with #rethinkchurch and #rethinkchristmas and #BrecksvilleUMC. We'd also love for you to share your photos on our [Pinterest](#) board!

You don't have to be a great photographer. This project is hopefully more about the practice of paying attention and being intentional, than it is being the best photographer (though we encourage you to get creative!) If you don't have instagram or twitter, we'd still love for you to share your photos. Just share them on your facebook page and tag us.

So, will you join us by opening your eyes (and your cameras) to witness the hope that is already springing up around you? Will you open your hearts for *Immanuel*, God with us?



The Hanging of the Greens for Advent will start at 2 pm on Friday, December 6. You're invited to help with decorating the sanctuary and building for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Come to the church and lend a hand!



The Community Awareness and Prevention Association (CAPA) is working with researchers at Case Western Reserve University to evaluate local substance abuse prevention efforts, and they need your input. Will you take the survey? It is completely anonymous and confidential, and begins on November 22. You will not be asked to put your name anywhere in the survey.

To participate, go online to:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/BBHCommunityPerceptionSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BBHCommunityPerceptionSurvey)

CAPA is dedicated to mobilizing individuals at the local level to make the communities of Brecksville and Broadview Heights safer, healthier and drug-free for all residents.

To learn more about C.A.P.A. please visit [www.bbhcapa.org](http://www.bbhcapa.org) or call 440-740-4751.



“Caroling, caroling, now we go  
Christmas bells are ringing  
Caroling, caroling thru the snow  
Christmas bells are ringing

Joyous voices sweet and clear  
Sing the sad of heart to cheer  
Ding dong, ding dong  
Christmas bells are ringing”

Monday, Dec. 23

Do you know someone who would enjoy a visit from the BUMC carolers? Would you like to join the singing?  
Contact Craig Czarnota: 330-838-1331

# DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>First Sunday in Advent, Communion Sunday</i>  <i>Equal Exchange Sale</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>                      10 Ed. Hour  <b>11:15 Worship</b>                      12:15 Youth Board                      4 Brecksville                      Christmas Parade—                      Reception Here!</p>	<p>2                      7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>3                      10 Staff Mtg  <b>5 Children's</b>                      Choir                      7 Evangelism                      7 Gifts &amp; Memorials                        UMC                      #GivingTuesday</p>	<p>4                      6:30am Dawnbreakers  <b>5:30 Youth</b>                      Worship</p>	<p>5                      9 Leadership Academy Mtg                      12 UMW Luncheon                      4 WoEmmaus                      6:15 Bells  <b>7:20 Men's Ensm</b>                      8 Choir</p>	<p>6 7a Emmaus Reunion                      3 HS Ensemble                      5 pm Wedding Rehearsal    </p>	<p>7                      2 Wedding</p>
<p>8 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>                      10 Ed. Hour                      11 MS Whirly Ball Event  <b>11:15 Worship</b>                      4 Community Chorus                      Christmas Concert</p>	<p>9                      7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10                      11 Staff Mtg  <b>5 Children's</b>                      Choir                      7 COM                      8 Missions                      8 Music &amp; Worship Board</p>	<p>11                      6:30am Dawnbreakers                      4 Yuletide Hunger                      6 Soup Supper  <b>7:30 Advent</b>                      Worship  <i>Don't miss this special worship service!</i></p>	<p>12                      9:30 Asbury Bremeth                      4 WoEmmaus                      6:15 Bells  <b>7:20 Men's Ensm</b>                      8 Choir                        Paper is picked up! </p>	<p>13                      7a Emmaus Reunion                      3 HS Ensemble                      6:30 Staff Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange</p>	<p>14                      6:15 Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Place</p>
<p>15  <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>  <i>Equal Exchange Sale</i>  <i>Sisterhood Gifts Due!</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>                      10 Ed. Hour                      11 HS Skyzone   <b>11:15 Worship</b>                      12:15 Pizza w/Pastor</p>	<p>16                      7 pm Bible Study                      7 Staff Parish Relations</p>	<p>17                      10 Staff Mtg  <b>10 Stitch'n'Time</b>  <b>5 Children's Choir</b>                      7 Finance                      7 Trustees                      7 Church &amp; Soc.                      8 Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal</p>	<p>18                      6:30am Dawnbreakers  <b>5:30 Youth</b>                      Worship</p>	<p>19                      10 History Club                      4 WoEmmaus                      6:15 Bells                      7:30 Choir</p>	<p>20                      7a Emmaus Reunion                      3 HS Ensemble  <i>Poinsettias Arrive!</i>    </p>	<p>21                      10 Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal    </p>
<p>22  <i>Christmas Music Sunday</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>                      10 Ed. Hour  <b>11:15 Worship</b>    </p>	<p>23                      7 pm Bible Study    </p>	<p>24  <i>Christmas Eve Services</i>                        5 pm Family Service                        8pm &amp; 10pm Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25    <i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p>26                        Paper is picked up! </p>	<p>27                      7a Emmaus Reunion</p>	<p>28</p>
Church Offices Closed for Holiday						
<p>29  <b>One Worship Service this Week—at 10 am!</b></p>	<p>30                      7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>31  <i>Administrative Offices close at noon.</i></p>	<p> <i>Reminder: To qualify for the 2013 tax year, all contributions must be received by 11 am on December 31, or postmarked December 31.</i></p>			

When we join The United Methodist Church, we vow to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But sometimes, our good intentions get lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life. As a church, how are we doing with our promises? Can you help fill in the blanks?

# PRAYERS

For prayer resources from the United Methodist Church, visit <http://tinyurl.com/aqrsa8e>

- Prayers for the people of the Philippines and for relief workers as they recover from Typhoon Haiyan.
- Prayers for those affected by tornados in the Midwest.
- Prayers for those traveling this holiday season.
- Prayers for those feeling the pressures of the holiday season, those who are alone, those who are missing loved ones.
- Prayers of thanks for new babies, for weddings, and for new beginnings!
- Prayers for the BUMC Carolers who will spread glad tidings through the community on December 23, and for the people they will visit.

*To request prayers or share an uplifting moment,*

*Contact the BUMC Prayer Chain*

*elrowan33@aol.com*

# GIFTS

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the publication of the last *Good Word*.

Date	Offering
Oct 27	\$7,944
Nov 3	\$11,476
Nov 10	\$7,345
Nov 17	\$9,431

# PRESENCE

**We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together** for worship on Sunday mornings. We met this goal **once** in the past four weeks (Children's Worship Sunday.) What's keeping you from church on Sunday?

Date	8:30	Sunday School	11:15	<i>Did we meet our goal?</i>
Oct 27	149	115	153	+2!
Nov 3	171	101	66	-63
Nov 10	157	154	92	-51
Nov 17	139	128	86	-75

*What are some other ways you can be present in the life of the church this month?*

# SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month:

- Participate in the United Methodist Women's gift drive for the Westside Community House "Sisterhood" program.
- Spread the word about UMC#GivingTuesday, a day when all donations (up to \$500,000!) to the Advance will be matched dollar for dollar.
- Visit with an elderly or homebound neighbor, and let them know that they are remembered this holiday season.
- Bring a friend to the Soup Supper and Advent Worship on Wednesday, December 11.
- Sign up to help with one of the many ongoing outreach projects organized by our Missions Commission. Details inside this newsletter!
- Recycle your paper at BUMC. In October, we earned \$79.51 for our hunger fund—just by recycling paper!

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website, under the "Missions & Service" tab!

# United Methodist News

*“News in the Pews” From the United Methodist News Service*

Survey of online communion opinions  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — As part of a recent discussion of the possibility of online Eucharist, church leaders endorsed surveying United Methodists to get their thoughts on the practice. If you have not yet participated in the survey, go to [umc.org/communion-survey](http://umc.org/communion-survey)

U.S. Filipinos ready to aid typhoon survivors  
CHICAGO (UMNS) — The stark television images of people who lost family and homes to Typhoon Haiyan are moving U.S. Filipinos to promote relief efforts for the Philippines. The lack of communication from the affected areas has heightened the anxiety for those worried about relatives, friends and church members. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is mobilizing resources to respond. Haiyan was the latest and largest in a series of disasters to hit the Philippines in the last 12 months. Although an accurate casualty toll is yet to be determined, it is clear the destruction and disruption of lives is massive. For complete information, go to [umc.org/philippines-typhoon](http://umc.org/philippines-typhoon)

Bishop Brown to lead Council of Bishops  
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.(UMNS) — Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr., who leads the California-Nevada Annual (regional) Conference, will be the next president of the Council of Bishops. The council’s active bishops at their annual meeting last week also elected Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce R. Ough as the president-designate and Louisiana Area Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey as secretary. They also elected Ohio West Area Bishop Gregory V. Palmer — a former Council of Bishops president — to deliver the episcopal address during the next General Conference.

124 fewer delegates for 2016 GC  
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS) — The Rev. L. Fitzgerald “Gere” Reist II, top executive of the commission on the 2016 General Conference, told the Council of Bishops that there will be 864 delegates to the lawmaking assembly, which will convene May 10-20 in Portland, Ore. The 2012 General Conference had 988 delegates.

Bishops celebrate malaria-fight milestone  
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS) — Bishop Thomas E. Bickerton told the Council of Bishops Nov. 14 that the Imagine No Malaria campaign is nearing \$60 million of its \$75 million goal to eradicate the disease in Africa by 2015. Bickerton recognized the efforts throughout the connection. For more about what you can do to be part of this effort, go to [imaginenomalaria.org](http://imaginenomalaria.org)

Bishops visit Cherokee as part of repentance  
CHEROKEE, N.C. (UMNS) — This year marks the 175th anniversary of the start of the Trail of Tears, the forced removal of the Cherokee people and other tribes from their homelands in the Southeast to what is today Oklahoma. The United Methodist Council of Bishops visited Cherokee for church leaders to have an “immersion experience” during the annual meeting of the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Bulletin insert to remember Newtown  
WASHINGTON (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has prepared a bulletin insert to assist congregations in conducting a worship observance of the anniversary of the Newtown, Conn., gun-violence tragedy that occurred Dec. 14, 2012. For more information, go to [umc-gbcs.org](http://umc-gbcs.org) and look under Church and Society Events

Grants for local churches, conferences  
NEW YORK (UMNS) — Grant applications are being accepted for funding of up to \$10,000 for strengthening and developing racial-ethnic local churches. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries provides the grants to assist local congregations and annual conferences for projects and programs in four specific areas: congregational development, health ministry, leadership development and ministry with the poor. For applications and more information, contact Sonia Brum at [sbrum@umcmmission.org](mailto:sbrum@umcmmission.org). The application deadline is Monday, Dec. 2, 2013.



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