

# The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Don Krolikomski captured these two images when he addressed the congregation on Sunday, October 24.*

## PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Late one evening I was sitting on our couch, exhausted from the day's events and overwhelmed with all that was yet to be done. I leaned my head back against the couch, and said a simple prayer: "God, I'm tired." Then I noticed the sign sitting on our fireplace mantle, with the old hymn title/phrase "It is well with my soul." The first verse ran through my mind:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou hast taught me to know  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Curious, I dug into the history of this hymn. I discovered that Horatio Spafford wrote it after several traumatic events in his life. His four-year-old son died, he was financially

ruined by 1871's Great Chicago Fire, and then while his family was on a trip across the Atlantic (he was to join them later) their ship sank and his four daughters drowned. Then, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, his ship passed near where his daughters had died and he was inspired to pen this hymn.

2021 has not been an easy year. Many of us thought (or hoped) that things would be "back to normal" by now. And yet, in many ways, COVID is still keeping us on our toes, with waves of uncertainty, exhaustion, and change still hitting us, and knocking us off-balance. It's easy to lament, wondering why things still have to be so hard.

And yet, even in the midst of the hard, it's good to remember:

*No pang shall be mine,  
for in death as in life,  
Thou wilt whisper  
Thy peace to my soul.*

No matter what, God will whisper God's peace into our souls.

May you go into these last two months of 2021 feeling God's whisper of peace; knowing that whatever difficult thing you are experiencing, it is well with your soul.

You are not alone. God is with you, loving you beyond measure. And your community of faith is here waiting to wrap its arms around you like a loving parent.

*Pastor Heidi*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



## HONEST WORSHIP

*Save the dates for these special services and events:*

### **All Saints Sunday—November 7**

We pause to remember those who have passed away over the past twelve months. We toll the church bell in remembrance, light candles, and call the names of those who have passed as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us. If you lost a loved one in the last year, submit their name to be read by contacting the church office by Tuesday, November 2.

### **Veterans Sunday—November 14**

We set aside a time to honor our veterans, the sacrifices they made, and to lift up prayers for peace. There will be a cupcake reception following the 10 o'clock service for all to enjoy. Veterans, the Fellowship Committee would like to recognize you. Please contact the church office!

### **Hanging of the Greens—November 21**

In preparation for the season of Advent, we will stay after our church services to decorate the building with Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands. It's a wonderful time of fellowship. We hope you'll be part of it!

### **Advent Worship Series—Begins Sunday November 28**

*Close to Home.* This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found, to live fully with joy, hope, peace, love and courage.

### **Advent Worship Service—Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm**

A reflective service to prepare our hearts for Advent. In person & online.

### **Outdoor Nativity Pageant—Friday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm**

Join us for a retelling of the best story ever told, live, in-person and under the stars on the lawn. If your kids would like to participate, let Jenny know!

### **Christmas Cantata—Sunday, December 19**

The choir will be performing "Love Came Down at Christmas," a 30 minute work that walks through the journey of the four main themes in Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. If you are interested in having a **speaking** role in the cantata, please reach out to Machala Comenshek.

### **Christmas Extravaganza—Sunday, December 19**

During the **11:00 Sunday school hour** kids and their families will join together in Fellowship Hall for some Yuletide FUN!

### **Christmas Eve Services—Friday, December 24**

*Services at 3, 5, 8 and 10 pm. More information to come!*

Families: We are looking for shepherds, sheep, angels and wise folk for our 5 o'clock service. Older kids might like to be readers of scripture and prayers at 5, 8 or 10. Let Jenny know if your child or children are interested in participating.

## Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

**Senior Pastor**—Rev. Heidi Welch

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

**Pastor of Visitation**—

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew,  
[associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com)

**Christian Education**—Jenny Gee

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

**Youth Ministry**—Dana Schwendeman

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

**Child Care Coordinator**—Allie Kenney

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

**Music Ministry**—Machala Comenshek

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

**Worship Leader &  
Audio/Visual Coordinator**

Jamie Schwendeman,  
[jamie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:jamie@brecksvilleumc.com)

**Organist/Accompanist**—Sean Brown

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

**Communications & Connections**—

Melanie Smith

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

**Office Manager**—Melissa Hinchman

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

**Finance Manager**—Becky Paroda

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

**Facilities Mgrs.**—Jeff & Scott Hastings

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

Published monthly by  
Brecksville United Methodist Church  
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141  
*Article deadline 3rd Thursday monthly*

Editor, Melanie Smith  
[melanie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:melanie@brecksvilleumc.com)

Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send us your news!

## **Unexpected Christmas**

*Now through November 21.* The Christmas story is far too big to explore for only the four weeks of Advent. Join Jenny and George Gee to learn about the characters that show up in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew's Gospel. You will not believe who's in there!

Knowing their backstories adds so richly to our understanding of who Jesus is, who God is and how we are so beloved by our Creator. Bring a Bible and join us in Room 301 at 11 am on Sunday. This series will add depth and richness to the Christmas story for you this season.

## **The 21 Day Wesley Challenge**

*Online. Begins November 7 at 7pm.* Are you in a place in your life where you would like to be more attentive to daily devotion, study and meditation? **The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith** will help you to look introspectively and notice how you connect with God, yourself and the outside world. This is a fabulous way to prepare your mind and your heart for the season of Advent. Purchase of the book is necessary. The book is available on Amazon Smile for just under \$11.

## **Indigenous People and Thanksgiving**

*November 22 at 11 am or 7 pm online.* Rev. Kathy Dickriede leads a new conversation about Native Americans and the Thanksgiving tradition. Let's look at this holiday through the eyes of indigenous people and tell some truths. You don't need to have been a part of the October indigenous people day conversation to participate in this new conversation. Sign up online or contact the church office!

- ***Need help? We can order books for you!***

If you do not do online purchases and you would like to participate in a class that uses a book, please reach out to Jenny, who can place a group order. [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

***Prefer to order yourself?*** The Link to our Amazon Reading List can be found here: <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>

- ***Budget Crunch? Friends have you covered!***

Don't let your budget keep you from participating in our studies. Our Corinthian Fund is available to offset the cost of reading materials. Reach out to Jenny and she'll make sure you have the books you need! *Gifts to the Corinthian Fund make this ministry possible!*

## **For the Season of Advent**

### **The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding the True Meaning of Christmas in the Grinch**

*Sundays 11/28-12/19 at 11 am, Room 301*

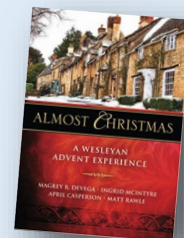


We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas, but we know he did! Join Jenny Gee to explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* How did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

### **Almost Christmas**

*A Wesleyan Advent Experience*

*Online, Sundays 11/28—12/19 at 7 pm*



Do you find yourself experiencing "almost" love, hope, joy and peace in the Advent season? In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon titled "The Almost Christian" telling us that we should not be satisfied with being almost Christian but rather strive towards being altogether a Christian. Join us online as we connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. In this class we will work to uncover the barriers that prevent us from experiencing an "altogether" love, hope, joy, and peace in Christ, in our lives and in the world around us. Purchase of the book for this class is optional. (Available on Amazon Smile for under \$12.)





## DETERMINED SERVICE

### Giving Spokes to Folks!

Join us for our next **Bike-Fix-It Day** from 9 to noon on Saturday, November 13. Help ready the inventory for Yuletide Bike Night, December 20. *You don't need to be a skilled bike mechanic to help!* There are so many ways your hands can help clean and make small repairs to bikes. You will definitely learn a few things from our helpful and skilled mechanics. *Come be part of the fun!*

# REFUGEE 101



*I was a stranger and you welcomed me...*

SATURDAY 11/13

## Fall Yard Clean Up Day

*Come help!*

About 8:30 to noon.

Bring your yard cleanup tools and we will work on leaves, light trimming and general fall cleanup.

Rain date - 11/20.

### Mission Accomplished!

On Saturday 10/23, Leslie, Tim, Bryan and Olivia Miller distributed the hygiene kits we assembled to patients at the Cole Eye Clinic sponsored by MedWorks, a non-profit dedicated to supplying healthcare to the un and underinsured. More than 200 people attended. In addition to eye care and hygiene kits, they received a beautiful bag of fresh produce from the FoodBank and a 10# bag of potatoes. Here's a big **THANK YOU** to all who helped make this possible!

**Come hear Liv Randall, Development Director for US Together, as she presents 'Refugee 101' - Wednesday, November 4 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.**

Cleveland has been welcoming refugees into our community for generations, and we are about to see the most refugees coming to the city since the 1990's - over 1,200 people! The best way to welcome our new neighbors is by educating ourselves. What is a refugee? What did they go through to get here?

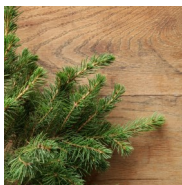
Refugee 101 will teach us about refugee resettlement in Cleveland. Learn about US Together's work, different immigration statuses, the process of how refugees come to the United States, where Cleveland refugees are from, the crises Cleveland refugees have fled (Afghanistan, DRC, Myanmar, Ukraine), the resettlement process, and how to get involved in local refugee resettlement. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A. Bring your questions!

Presenter Liv Randall was born and raised in Brecksville and graduated from Ohio State University where she studied International Relations and Middle East Studies with a minor in Arabic. Her passion as an undergrad was conducting international research in Rwanda on the reconciliation process between women after genocide. After graduation, Liv was hired to be an Americorps VISTA for a year at US Together in Cleveland. In July of this year, Liv was hired as a full-time employee of US Together, as Development Specialist of all three offices, with a focus on Cleveland. Her main roles include developing the interpreter services department, building community partnerships, and fundraising.

Refugee 101 is brought to you by the Missions and Outreach Committee. If you would like to get involved in the work of this committee, please reach out to committee chair, Mary Kotnik. (See her contact information on the next page!)



*The Missions & Outreach Committee continues find ways we can show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person.*



**Fellowship Hall** will be a winter-wonderland of love in late November, as we create a number of *Giving Trees* for the season of giving! Do you have an artificial Christmas tree you could donate to the church? It would be put to good use!



**Adult Clothing Drive** *Through November 7.* Bring your gently used (or new) clean adult clothing for those served by B. Riley House, an LGBTQ+ sober living facility in Cleveland. On **November 7**, starting at 9:30 will organize the donations. (If we get too many, we will find other recipients!)



**Christmas Cards for Veterans** *November 14 – December 5.* Starting Veterans Sunday, bring your old Christmas cards and donations of new cards. On **December 5** we will make and sign Christmas cards for the veterans, make bows for Yuletide Bikes and possibly make cookies for the USO (stay tuned for that one!)



**The Hat & Mitten Tree Returns** *November 28 – January 2.* Bring your donations of winter warmers (scarfs and gloves, too) to Fellowship Hall . Purchased or handmade items for all ages wanted! Do you work with an organization in need of these items? Please reach out! (See contact information below.)



**Non-perishable food and cleaning supply tree** *November 28 – January 2.* Help our hungry neighbors by filling the shelves of this special wooden tree with canned foods, other non-perishable foods, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items.



**We're Bringing back the Giving Tree!** Look for a tree in Fellowship Hall decorated with paper ornaments listing items needed by the missions we support. Pick an ornament and shop item, gifting it to people in need. It's an old tradition at BUMC that the Missions & Outreach Committee is reviving this year.

Thank you all for your help through donations of items, money, time and prayers! If you have an idea Missions & Outreach should research for a future project, please contact Mary Kotnik [mekotnik@yahoo.com](mailto:mekotnik@yahoo.com) or 330-256-3262

— Blessings, Missions & Outreach



This year's **Thanksgiving Offering** will go to fulfill the \$5,000 commitment our church made to the 2021 Habitat for Humanity **Faith Build**. We are one of 13 area churches coming together to provide the financing and labor for one new home. We had three work days, with volunteers lending a hand on the home's construction during the summer and fall. The home is complete and was dedicated in September! New owner Kassy and her family have moved in and are making the house a home.

*Please clearly mark your donations "Thanksgiving Offering" or "Faith Build" when you give by cash, check or online.*

*We will show mercy to the poor and not miss an opportunity to do acts of kindness for others, for these are the true sacrifices that delight God's heart.*

- Hebrews 13:16



## NOVEMBER

*Show your care with prayer!*

Sending a caring thought, and a prayer, to a person's mailbox is a small gift that brings great joy.

*Week of November 7*

### **Dorothy Pliske**

1770 Tanhollow Trl  
Broadview Hts, OH 44147-3610

*Week of November 14*

### **Nancy Kroenke**

*Nancy has moved! Let's fill her new mailbox with housewarming notes!*  
487 Auston Drive  
Barberton Ohio 44203

*Week of November 21*

### **Ruth Hazlett**

997 W Aurora Rd Apt 207  
Northfield, OH 44067-1605

*Week of November 28*

### **Bob & Carol Kubicek**

2345 Crocker Rd Apt 312  
Devon Oaks  
Westlake, OH 44145-6799

*Know someone who would appreciate being on the list? Contact Pastor Barbara! Check back next month for a new list!*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                     |                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Nan Einheit       | 9 Al Filips         | 19 Brandon Klipfell   |
| 1 Karl Riccardi     | 10 Michele Mihalich | 19 Donald Raybuck     |
| 1 Joyce Wuerth      | 10 Bryan Miller     | 19 Diana Wise         |
| 2 Chia-Tien Chen    | 10 Logan Vastartis  | 20 Kyle Holmok        |
| 2 Burke Engelhardt  | 11 Terry Bennett    | 21 Ellie Batcheller   |
| 2 Jim McBride       | 11 Jan Kaminski     | 21 Rich Ling          |
| 2 Hayden Vincent    | 11 Judy McBride     | 21 Ian Roberts        |
| 3 Tony Cipolla      | 12 Willy Baker      | 21 Doug Robie         |
| 3 Alyssa Whitton    | 12 Ryan Hulten      | 22 Kimberly Campbell  |
| 4 Jamie Schwendeman | 12 Kevin Vastartis  | 22 Becky Paroda       |
| 5 Elaine Geringer   | 14 Jim Mueller      | 22 Jennifer Sendrey   |
| 5 Melissa Schillo   | 14 Gregory Warth    | 25 Debbi Scheufler    |
| 6 Brandon Calovini  | 14 Brian Wygonski   | 25 Ryleigh Wischmeier |
| 6 Karl Robie        | 16 Ryan Burrows     | 26 Douglas Farling    |
| 7 Sean Lundholm     | 16 Sandy Crist      | 26 Natalie Teare      |
| 7 Ardyn Olszko      | 16 Edison Davis     | 27 Sean Brown         |
| 8 Cathy Drescher    | 17 Mike Gezze       | 27 Evan Davis         |
| 8 Tom Ellis         | 17 Zachary Johnson  | 28 Kim Ling           |
| 8 Charlotte Hocutt  | 17 Carol Snyderwine | 28 Nick Rajkovich     |
| 8 Linda Moore       | 18 Jim Berry        | 29 Kaitlyn Hazelton   |
|                     |                     | 29 Harper Vastartis   |



Hudson Schneider is among ten students in the Brecksville Broadview Heights School District recognized as National Merit Commended Students. Hudson scored in the top four percent on the PSAT exam - one of the approximately 35,000 students to do so nationwide. Well done, Hudson!

Walt Walburn, a BUMC member since 1978, passed away after a brief illness last month. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 20 at Nosek-McCreery Funeral Home. Please keep Karen and family in prayer.



At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. Serving on the funeral reception team is a special way to demonstrate our care for one another. Thank you Nancy Knowlton, Lynn Hobzek, Sylvia Fowler, Marianne Nolan and others for showing love for the Long Family in this way! Many hands made our hygiene kit assembly day successful. Special shout out to the Botzman family, Kim Campbell, Jennifer Schneider and the Millers. Paul Calovini's steady presence in the tech booth is a gift from God. Thank you, Paul for making sure worship services are heard! Sean and Bob Lundholm donated and planted hostas at the church. Thank you both!



## Four Gratitude Rituals To Try With Your Teen

### GRATITUDE RITUALS TO TRY WITH YOUR TEEN



As we welcome November, we dive into a season of spending more time with family, caring for our loved ones, and talking about what it means to show gratitude. Making gratitude a habit, and not just something we think about around Thanksgiving, is beneficial for the whole family. It becomes increasingly important in the lives of teenagers. Social media can be a place where teens compare their lives to those of their peers and celebrities, making them feel left out and left behind. They can feel that they need more and more, missing out on the blessings they already have in their lives. Cultivating gratitude can reduce stress, increase happiness, and help us to live in the moment. Teens learn from the actions of those around them. Parents who model gratitude and make it a priority in their own lives leave a lasting imprint. This season of the year is a great time to try weekly and daily rituals which help make gratitude a way of life. Here are four ideas to try with your teen this month:

- **Gratitude Journal** At the end of the day, before bed, write down five things you are grateful for in your journal. This could even be a list on your phone. Revisit your lists on tough days and remind yourself of all the wonderful things in your life.
- **Thank a Teacher** It may seem simple, but a thank you card to a teacher is a gift that goes two ways. The teacher and the student both smile! It has been a challenging year for our educators and showing our appreciation means more now than ever before. Have your teen write a card and give it to their teacher.
- **Embrace Quiet** We seem to want to fill every second of our day with noise, but silence can be a retreat from our everyday. Embrace quiet moments as a time to reflect on what you are thankful for. Breathe in for five seconds, hold for three, then breathe out for six seconds. When you breathe in think “I am grateful” and when you breathe out think “For this moment.” It is a simple meditation that could change your day.
- **Nature Hike** Go for a hike at a park with your teen and name out loud the things you see that you are grateful for. Research has revealed that exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to our physical wellbeing - reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones. Nature is a healing and wonderful place to connect with your teen. And that’s something to be thankful for!

**Dana Schwendeman,  
Director of Youth Ministry**

E-mail [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237

**November**

**7: All Youth Dinner at The Meadows Picnic Area 5-7pm**  
Chili at the Park with The Petros!

**14: Youth Group on the Front Lawn 5-6pm**  
Extreme Spoons & Gratitude Craft

**21: Youth Group on the Front Lawn 5-6pm**  
Service Project

**28: Ecumenical Youth Group at Berea UMC 5pm**  
\*subject to change due to holiday weekend



## UMW Presents Author Mary Reynolds Powell

Thursday, November 4 in The Parlor

In 1970, twenty three year old Army nurse Mary Reynolds boarded a plane bound for Viet Nam. Mary had no idea what lay ahead and tells the story of that year in her life in her book *A World of Hurt: Between and Arrogance in Vietnam*. The meeting

begins at 9:30 in the Parlor with refreshments and casual conversation.

Presentation starts at 10 am.



**SAVE YOUR  
ACME RECEIPTS!**  
Dated August 5 - December 25, 2021

**BRING THEM TO CHURCH  
FOR THE UNITED METHODIST  
WOMEN'S MISSION FUND!**

Asbury Bremeth Circle  United Methodist Women



*Follow*

**Asbury Bremeth** meets on the second Thursday of each month. Join the women of the church for fellowship and learning. From 9:30 to 10 am we will socialize and catch up on some UMW business, then from 10-11 we are exploring a new study called *Follow* by Andy Stanley. Is our faith based on a set of arbitrary rules or a big to-do list? In fact, our faith is extraordinarily relational. If we listen to Jesus' call to follow... we will understand better what it means to be a child of God. No registration required. Bring a friend!

## Evening Circle

*Fun, Friendship and Service*

### College Care Packages

Our tradition of sending a package of care to our college students from Brecksville UMW Evening Circle continues this year with gift cards! On Wednesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor, we will be assembling gift cards to a LONG list of students. Come help! If you would like to support this effort with a monetary gift, we would welcome your help! Thank you for helping us recognize and care for our college students.

### Supporting RAHAB Ministries

Women making the transition from a life on the streets to lives of health and wholeness need our support. Help us fulfill a tangible need by adding some of these items to your shopping list. Look for our collection bin by the main church entrance downstairs.

- Full size body wash
- Full size bottles of lotion
- Women's deodorant
- Paper towels
- Wash cloths
- New or gently used coats
- New blankets - used by advocates who accompany police to help victims
- Gift cards to Target or Amazon
- Monetary donations are always welcome too and can be used for Recovery Bibles.

**UMW Board Meeting  
Friday, Nov. 19  
10 am  
The Parlor**



# NOVEMBER 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:00</b> <b>In person and Online</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 10:30 Lectio Divina 7 Church Council 9 Enneagram Small Group</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina 7 SPRC</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 pm Evening Circle 7 Bible Study 7 Refugees 101</p>	<p><b>4</b>  9:30 FB Live 9:30 UMW 6:30 Choir</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Bread Ministry— TBD</i></p>
<p><b>7 All Saints</b> 9:45—1:45 Blood Drive 11 Classes for all ages 11 Unexpected Christmas 5 All Youth Dinner 7 Wesley Challenge Begins</p>	<p><b>8</b> 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina 7 Inclusion Task Force</p>	<p><b>10 Special Session of NC Jurisdictional Conference</b> 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 pm Choir 7 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>11</b>  9:30 FB Live 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 7 Missions &amp; Outreach</p>	<p><b>12 Paper recycling Bonus Week Begins!</b></p>	<p><b>13 Bread—Hastings</b> 8:30 Yard Clean Up 9 Bike Fix It 9 Charge Conference</p>
<p><b>14 Veterans</b> 11 Classes for all ages 11 Unexpected Christmas 11 Celebrating our Veterans Reception 5 Youth Group 7 Wesley Challenge</p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10 Staff Mtg Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio 7 Trustees</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>18</b>  9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 7 Multi-Ethnic Brainstorm Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Bread Ministry— TBD</i> Walt Walburn's Memorial at Noseks</p>
<p>Bring it to the bin! Recycle paper for hunger ministry!</p>						
<p><b>21</b> 11 Classes for all ages 11 Unexpected Christmas 12 Hanging of the Greens &amp; Pizza! 5 Youth Group 7 Wesley Challenge</p>	<p><b>22</b> 10:30 Lectio Divina 11 and 7 Indigenous People Online</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:30 Breakfast <i>December Newsletter is mailed!</i></p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Bread Ministry— TBD</i></p>
<p>BBH Schools Thanksgiving Break</p>						
<p><b>28 Advent Begins</b> 11 Classes for all ages 11 Unexpected Christmas 5 Ecumenical Youth Group 7 Almost Christmas</p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p><b>30</b> #Giving Tuesday 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio</p>	<p><b>Men's Chorus Forming!</b> Gentlemen, if you'd like to sing in the choir, but can't commit to rehearsals every week, consider the Men's Chorus. Join us for rehearsal on November 10 and 18 to learn a piece we will share on November 28 at the 8:30 am service. Learn more: <a href="mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com">music@brecksvilleumc.com</a></p>			

VISIT [WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM](http://WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM) FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
Paid  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit No.  
928

## Church Office Hours

**Monday**

8 am — 2 pm

**Tuesday—Friday**

8 am—4:30 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com



## vitalant<sup>®</sup> BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7

**8:45 am to 1:45 pm**

**Brecksville United Methodist Church**



[VITALANT.ORG/OhioDonorPortal](https://VITALANT.ORG/OhioDonorPortal)



**Open Doors.**  
*Welcoming all  
of God's children.*

Brecksville United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace diversity as a gift. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.

## Year End Giving Options

### *A Reminder from the Finance Committee*

With the end of the year fast approaching and anticipated postal delays, it is highly recommended you plan your year end giving early and process any Donor Advised Funds, IRAs, QCDs, Stocks or financial institution gifts soon. **To be credited to your 2021 giving, gifts must be received in the church office by Friday, December 31 at noon.**

**QCDs/IRA Charitable Rollover: A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older**—You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Brecksville United Methodist Church without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference through our church. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

**Donor Advised Fund Gifts**—(DAF), which is like a charitable savings account, gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to Brecksville United Methodist Church and other qualified charities. You can recommend a grant or recurring grants now to make an immediate impact or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts.

**Donate Stock/Securities**—The most popular and efficient way to transfer securities to Brecksville UMC is by electronic transfer to the church's bank account. This is done through a free delivery, which means the church gets 100% of the value of the transfer. Please notify your broker of your intent to make a gift of securities to Brecksville United Methodist Church. The broker will need the name of the stock, number of shares and other information.

**Company Matching Gifts**—If your company provides matching gifts for your charitable giving, our church may qualify! Talk to your Human Resources Team, then reach out to the church office.

**Online Gifts through our Secure Giving Platform, Realm**—Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give, and easy for our accounting. If you would like help getting started, please reach out to the office!

Becky Paroda, our Finance Manager, can provide you with additional information about these and other ways to give. Please reach out to Becky at [Finance@Brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Finance@Brecksvilleumc.com).

*The information provided on this article is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*



It was a gloomy Sunday morning, and the Sanctuary was quiet. The choir was just starting to gather for a brief rehearsal before the worship service began. Sitting in the tech booth in the balcony, I felt the light shift. Glancing out the window, I saw a vibrant double rainbow against the dark grey sky—a beautiful gift from God.

“I’ve gotta get a picture!” Grabbing my camera, I ran down the stairs to the front yard hoping to capture an image of the church with a Technicolor halo. It was going to be awesome! The best picture ever. I just knew it!

When I reached the sidewalk, the sun was shining through the rain drops and the light was beautiful. But the only thing I could see above the roof of the church was...vultures. They were everywhere. Vultures, vultures and more vultures. I quickly counted 23!

Don’t get me wrong, I think our flock of giant birds is amazing. After all, they’re God’s creation, too. They’re not the photogenic miracle I was hoping to capture with my camera at that moment. I climbed back up the stairs, disappointed.

That rainbow was still beaming when I got back to my balcony seat. The choir began to sing, the sunshine streamed through the windows as the rain softly fell, and I was at peace.

Do the people who pass the church on Sunday morning, know what comfort they could find inside? How many see the vultures, but not the rainbows?

- Melanie Smith





## Every Picture Tells a Story

*Don Krolikowski's Reflection on Giving*

"I always wanted to get a picture from that point of view!" That's what I thought when Eric Louttit asked me to speak to the congregation about why I give to the church. Get up there and get that shot from the pulpit. So I did (those shots are on the front page of this newsletter) and then I said to the congregation, "I'm going to speak about what giving means to me in the context of my relationship with the church, which really means my relationship with all of you."

The Wall Street Journal Best Seller "*Barking Up The Wrong Tree*," by Eric Barker, is a book about what actually determines success. In one section the book contains ten things you should do every day to improve your life. Number four on the list is to express gratitude. One powerful effect of gratitude is that it can boost serotonin, the key hormone that stabilizes our mood and imparts feelings of well-being and happiness. Thinking about things you are grateful for forces you to focus on the positive aspects of your life. Like being able to enjoy a good meal!

Being a member of this congregation guarantees a pretty good meal now and then. Consider this year's Sunday Kickoff with food prepared by Rus Welch, or any one of the Music With a Mission events, or the 2020 Chili Cookoff. Craig Kotnick took the grand prize! Enjoying a meal together is satisfying. I always find myself saying "thanks for dinner!" Being someone who likes to cook, I find it an extra reward and so thankful to have food prepared for me.

The events at our church, which are not nearly all food related, are made possible by a number of people giving their time, talents, and support through giving. Here are a few serotonin boosters that I have experienced through my photography at BUMC: 1999—21 Vacation Bible School, 2000 Power of God Puppet Show. Confirmation in 2000 and every year after. The 2001 Cantata. The 2002 new members photos - Michael & Elizabeth Jaszczak joined BUMC that year. .Mardi Gras, Hanging of the Greens, Ice Cream Socials, Flute Recitals with Becky Chen, Hayrides, The Sanctuary Renovation. So many Christmas Eve Services. Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build, Music With a Mission (kudos to Paul Calovini for his audio expertise and service.) Palm Sunday and Easter Services. The Bird House Build. The Bicycle Repair Team. Malik's Khalfani's fine arrangement of music for our Christmas Eve Services...I could go on. I have a list of over 150 events which I have experienced and captured through photography here at BUMC!

None of these events could have happened without all of you. Through giving of one means or another, the programming, staff, and our physical building continue to provide outreach to members in our congregation, the community and the world. Today might be your first experience here at BUMC, but for most of you it is another Sunday to again feel that emotional experience that keeps you coming back for more. It's through the act of giving that we are able to do this.

I'm well aware of what giving means. I look back at all the photos I have accumulated and see that God is working through all of you! - Don Krolikowski



## An Unexpected Blessing

In the uncertainty of recent times, and the stresses the pandemic has placed on our church financially, trying to maintain our church and our blessed church family, **we have prayed**. An answer came when we received an unexpected estate gift from Judith Spraggins, who joined our church in 1953 and passed away in 2012. You may remember Judith as the director of several Fellowship Players performances here in the early 1990s.

In her professional life, she worked as a secretary at Forbes Chocolate. Upon her death, she donated \$20,767.90 to the church, to be used wherever it was needed. This blessing will help us to pay our bills as we continue to move forward in teaching and sharing with others about the glory of our Lord. Let us remember to pray a prayer of thanks.

- Shelly Meek for the Finance Committee