

MARCH 2022, ISSUE 3 VOL. 12

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



With March, we begin the season of Lent: a time before Easter that is often filled with restraint, confession, and piety in an attempt to prepare ourselves for the gift of grace on Easter morning.

I have been practicing Lent in this way... forever. This is what we do in the 6-ish weeks leading up to Easter—*it's what we've always done*. We have to prepare ourselves to receive God's resurrection hope on Easter.

And yet nothing can prepare us for the surprising grace of Easter. There's nothing we can do to *earn* the gift of Easter morning.

As Christian Ethics professor Mark Douglas writes, "Easter is a shock of divine goodness that reveals not the evidence of our worth or the magnitude of our efforts, but God's astounding power, to which we can but whisper 'Thank you,' not 'Okay: now I'm ready.'"

In this year's Lenten worship series, *Full to the Brim*, we're going to practice Lent a little bit differently. We're going to emphasize the promise of our baptisms—that God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that.

That doesn't mean we're going to ignore or deny sin and suffering. But instead of focusing on our unworthiness, we're going to put the spotlight on God's redemption.

You could say that this Lenten theme is very resurrection-inspired. We can't prepare ourselves for the love found on Easter morning, but during this season we can try to unearth the areas of unworthiness and scarcity in our lives. We can practice receiving and extending God's grace. We can focus on the truth that love is our beginning—our relationship with God is rooted in an unwarranted, undeserved, unconditional love called *grace*.

We can strive for a life that is full to the brim—full of hope, courage, joy, honesty, and grace.

Isn't that what the resurrection is really about, anyway?

I'm so excited to journey through Lent in this way with you!

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

LEARN MORE AT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM

Connect with us!

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

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



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 2 at 7 pm - in the Sanctuary and Online

As we begin our Lenten journey, we're invited to come fully as we are. The prophet Joel proclaims, "return to God with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning" (Joel 2:12). Your brokenness, joy, gifts, and doubts all belong to God. Brokenness is a beginning. We have to break our faith open to go deeper. Expansive faith is possible when we break open old faith. Digging deeper requires broken ground.

Ash Wednesday Kits will be available for those worshipping online. Contact the church office to request one!



Think Summer! Registration is open for VBS In the Park. Sign up to experience the best five days of the summer! Kids from pre-school through grade five are invited to experience a week of faith, learning and fun in nature. Registration is open until we reach capacity, and early bird pricing (\$25 per child/\$50 per family) is in effect through May 15. So don't delay! Sign up today! <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>

How about Camp? East Ohio Camps Aldersgate, Asbury and Wanake, and the Youth Off-Site events: CYF, Reach Out and Institute, all provide excellent camping experiences, and a variety of programs for kids and families. Reach out to Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education, for more information and resources (including scholarships!) Or visit the East Ohio Camps website: <http://www.eocsummercamps.org/>



LIFELONG LEARNING in LENT



◀ ◀ Open your smart phone camera, point it at the square and you'll be directed to our Link Tree, where you'll find sign up forms! Or visit <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>

Introducing Spiritual Practices

Sundays at 9:15 in the Chapel (between the two services)

We are all wired in different ways. Some of us respond best to the written word, some to the spoken word, some to music, some to art, some to movement. We can connect to God in prayer through each of these ways. Join us each week to learn about a different Spiritual Practice. Which ones will help you draw closer to God?

24 Hours that Changed the World

Sundays at 11 am in the Chapel

Make this Lent extra meaningful as we dig deeper into the story of the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Start with the Last Supper then move into the Garden, experience the trial and betrayal, meet Pilate and Barabbas. Visit the places, meet the players, and experience the emotions of this single day that changed everything! Make a plan to spend time on this journey with us.

Lectio Divina

Monday mornings at 10:30 am or Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the Chapel

Walk through the story of the last days of Jesus' life, starting with the Triumphal Entry during the week of March 7 and each week after we will explore more of the story surrounding the last days of Jesus' time on earth.

Sacred Rhythms

Sundays nights from 6:30—7:45 pm (March 6-April 10) online via Zoom

Do you long for a deep, fundamental change in your life with God? Do you desire a greater intimacy with the divine? Do you wonder how you might truly live your life as God created you to live it? In this video-based study, Ruth Haley Barton, host of the *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* podcast, provides guidance for the group in a way that links the practices of the Christian faith to the most compelling desires of the human soul. Join Rev. Kathy Dickriede and friends online. Because this class is online, anyone with an internet connection can join. Invite your friends!

Membership Class

Sundays at 11 am, Room 301 and Online. March 6, 13 and 20.

This final step in the Membership Journey focuses on what it means to be a discipling, active member of Brecksville UMC: using your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to love God and love others. Discover your "Jesus story," learn about your God-given gifts and talents, and how you can use those gifts to glorify God through BUMC. If you are brand new, or have been a member for many years and would like to learn again or reaffirm your membership, you are welcome to participate!

Sunday Labyrinth

March 6—April 17

Center yourself in quiet meditation as you journey to the center of our beautiful Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall every Sunday during Lent. Resources will be available for your walk the Labyrinth and for learning. Want to know more? Check with Jenny Gee, Dir. Of Christian Education:

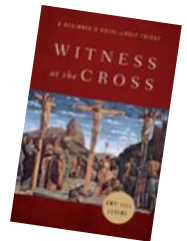
education@brecksvilleumc.com

Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Online via Zoom

Join Pastor Heidi and friends as we learn about those who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion. Each Gospel presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. They portray different individuals and groups of people at the cross, and offer different images and dialogues. Each perspective has something to teach us. Books to go along with this study are available to purchase at the church, on our Amazon Smile, or from your favorite book seller. However, books are not necessary to participate!



Witness At The Cross: A Beginners Guide to Holy Friday By Amy-Jill Levine



Our friends at Sparkhouse have once again created an awesome, digital devotional for youth to engage with during the season of Lent! This devotional aims to nourish the faith lives of teenagers while giving them the freedom to fit some time with God into their schedules. Written with teens in mind, this devotional is easy to read, relatable in content, and seeks to help them ask the big questions that Lent can bring up. Plus it is as easy as clicking a link to check out the digital devotion on a daily basis. Our online *Good Word* readers can [click the link here](#) to check out the devotional starting on March 2. Or email Dana to gain access to the link. youth@breckvilleumc.com We hope this devotional can create a spiritual space for the teens in your life this season of Lent!



You are so loved!

Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

E-mail youth@breckvilleumc.com Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237
www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin



We are so excited to welcome 5th grade into our monthly Ecumenical Youth Group (EYG)! Our hope with this addition is that we can make new connections with our 5th graders and create a monthly opportunity for them to develop community with friends from all over Northeast Ohio. In March, EYG will be having an extreme Easter egg hunt at Berea UMC on March 27th from 4-7 pm. You can email Dana at youth@breckvilleumc.com to RSVP and with any questions you may have. Get excited!

BLESS US FATHER...

Bless me Father for I have been a *goat*, most certainly not like Tom Brady, the greatest of all time. Let me explain. Growing up Catholic, I have uttered the words “Bless me father” thousands of times during my weekly confessionals and this article is a confession of sorts. When I see a statistic I automatically figure *most* and *least*. For example, 2,634,000 people in Ohio (22%) have contracted COVID. Conversely, 9,093,000 (78%) have not. 35,000 (3%) Ohioans have unfortunately died from the disease, the vast majority with comorbidities. Doing the math allows me to feel a bit less fearful for most will not contract the disease nor die from it. However...

As a member of the BUMC Inclusion Task Force, I took the KultureCity Sensory Inclusion Training course. Early in the training I learned that 1 in 6 people in the U.S. have sensory needs and, as explained above, I automatically did the *most* and *least* math, i.e. 16.7% have sensory needs and 83.3% do not. Old habits die hard. However, as I was completing this incredible training, I became aware that my old habit was in fact marginalizing, unintentionally separating the most and least, the exact opposite of inclusion.

The KultureCity program teaches us about invisible disabilities and what we can do to help those with these disabilities be accepted and included in what we do. Examples of invisible disabilities are hearing and vision impairment, ADHD, ADD, PTSD, and anxiety. We also learn that there are three additional senses beyond the five basics of sight, smell, touch, taste and sound. There are long names for these three but basically they are body awareness (feedback we receive from the body which, for example, allow us to touch our nose with our eyes closed), body movements (allow us to be able to put one foot in front of the other), and body knowledge (allows us to know when to go to the bathroom, for example). Those with sensory needs do not have full use of one or more of these eight senses. This is an incredible 27 minute course and I encourage all to take it. Here's the link:

<https://training.kulturecity.org/venues/brecksville-united-methodist-church>

Which brings me back to *most*, *least*, and being a *goat*. In Matthew 25:31-40 we learn that Christ will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will inherit the Kingdom for “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Being a member of the BUMC Inclusion Task Force has helped me to shift my focus from the *most* to the *least*. The task force is a wonderful group of church members dedicated to helping BUMC obtain the ideal of Courageous Inclusion. Come join us.

Bless us Father...

Father, thank you for loving us, forgiving us, and giving us the opportunities to share your truth as we love you by loving others. (Xochitl Dixon, Our Daily Bread)

- Submitted by Ric Lesinki, Inclusion Task Force



Parents Reconciling Network

PRN is a group of parents and loved ones of LGBTQ+ children. If you're looking for a community of celebration and support, find us online!

We every 2nd Tuesday on Zoom @ 12pm ET | 9am PT.

Email us: prn@rmnetwork.org



Website:

rmnetwork.org/prn
or use this QR code





DETERMINED SERVICE



Have a green thumb?

Love to dig in the dirt? Nehemiah Mission is looking for volunteers to help prepare and plant their community garden! This garden helps supply produce for neighborhood families, contributes to weekly community dinners, and provides an educational space for the Nehemiah Mission Youth Group kids to learn about gardening techniques and healthy eating habits. For more information about volunteering this spring email nehmission@gmail.com. Nehemiah Mission says, "We are excited to plant some literal seeds with you this spring!"

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland serves the fiscally and physically challenged by providing community enhancement, home maintenance & targeted programming for refugees, the elderly, disabled & those without shelter, food and clothing. It is a program of the North Coast District of the United Methodist Church East Ohio Conference.

What in the World is Going On Here?

Saturday, March 12 or Wednesday, March 16 at 9:30 am

You are invited to join the Mission Committee for breakfast! We will be traveling to the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland to enjoy a presentation over breakfast and discover, **What in the world is going on here?!** Hear Executive Director, Alison Klocker's "State of the Mission" and learn how Nehemiah is emerging from the global pandemic. They have big plans and need our support, now more than ever. Nehemiah Mission is a UMC mission site on the near west side.

- Register here: www.nehemiahmission.org/register-for-breakfast
- Kathy Auble (mattkathyauble@gmail.com) is leading a group to Nehemiah on March 12 and Kathy Dickriede (kdickriede@eocumc.com) is leading a group on March 16. Let us know if you would like to carpool!
- Nehemiah Mission 6515 Bridge Ave. Cleveland, OH 44102
- A donation of \$25 is appreciated for attending.

Matching Gift Challenge Nehemiah Mission needs help funding their ministry to refugees, sewing classes, feeding the neighborhood, hosting Girls on The Run and dreaming about 4H and community gardens. ***If we as a congregation can come together and raise \$1000, our Mission Committee will double it with a matching gift of \$1000!*** Can we do it? Wouldn't it be great to present a check for \$2000 or more when we go there in March? Please mark your gift "Nehemiah Mission" or choose the fund code "Nehemiah" online. onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Nehemiah or Text "GIVEBUMC Nehemiah" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.



Day of Service at Camp Wanake

Rescheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022. Meet at church at 7:45 am.

Camp Wanake, in Beach City, Ohio, is one of our East Ohio Camps in need of some repairs and help during the winter months. This mission event is for all ages. Families and kids are highly encouraged to come! Camp Wanake is hosting an Easter Egg hunt the following weekend, and we may help prepare for that. We may build Adirondack chairs, install carpet, and help with the remodel of a shower house. Office work, trail clearing, and firewood need attention as well. It's totally up to our group! There's no cost and lunch is provided by Camp Wanake as a thank you! Have tools to bring? Chop saws, circular saws, power drills, etc. would be helpful. Interested in a specific project, or have a special skill? Let us know! Register by April 1 so the camp can plan for lunch! <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>

March BIRTH DAYS

1 Brianna Diver	11 Alison Bellone	15 Lindsay Dorman
1 Jack Falko	11 Bob Bloch	16 Lee Derry
2 Hannah Burgstahler	12 Kathy Dickriede	16 Samuel Eberhardt
2 Mary Kotnik	12 Janet James	16 Jennifer Miller
2 Eileen Yates	13 Tyler Hulten	16 Zoey Telischak
5 Tiffany Jacob	13 Kaden Juniper	17 Joann Fox
5 Phyllis Phillips	14 Sydney Hudacek	17 Carly Johnson
6 Harper Adanich	14 Lisa Sibits	17 Corrie Welch
6 Caitlin Drescher	26 Reese Hoffman	18 Matthew Gardner
7 Jake Archacki	26 Mallory Krolikowski	18 Bob Hudacek
7 Donald Burkle	26 Elizabeth Sparks	18 Dave Sibits
8 Ruth Ann Bilek	26 Robin Wilson	20 Kristen Kubek
8 Kaleb Dumot	27 Carol Kubicek	20 Stosh Skoczen
9 Matthew Auble	30 Kim Rybak	21 Joseph Botzman
9 Cliff Thielman	30 Celeste Schadler	22 Sienna Petznick
10 George Gee	30 Hannah Shively	25 Liz Fredrick
10 Sharon Judson	31 Madeline Piorkowski	25 Nathan Gardner
10 Mike Kubek	31 David Slaby	
10 Barb Sindyla		



We lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. When a snowstorm dumped inches of snow during a Sunday morning worship service, Matt Botzman went to the church parking lot and started clearing snow from cars. What a blessing you are,

Matt! The silver lining of last month's bad weather was that an AWESOME group of kids, and one awesome teacher, were able to come help prepare the February *Good Word* for the mail. Thank you Corrie, Joseph, Miles, Owen, and "Mrs. Auble"! Do you know that we have a room set aside as a library on the 3rd floor? (It's inside room 301 and once served as our Youth Director's office.) It has been in need of some tender loving care for a while, and when Erin Weber learned about that, she rolled up her sleeves and started organizing things. It's a work in progress! Thank you, Erin! Kudos to everyone who made the "Bye Bye Birdie" matinee possible. Elaine Geringer brought the VHS tapes to us and Weldon PC converted them to digital thanks to an anonymous donation. Dave Brown and Jenny Gee made sure we had salty snacks and Kathy Auble and Marla Knight brought cake and cupcakes. Sue Ellenberger said, "It was amusing to see that the video quality made everyone appear twice as wide and half as tall as normal! Those of us who were around 25 years ago had a great time trying to identify the actors." If you'd like to see for yourself, head to our YouTube Channel!



MARCH

Show your care with prayer!

A pen. Some paper. A stamp. Put them together and you have a wonderful gift to share with this month's Care & Prayer Mail folks! Send a note of cheer and remind each person how much they are loved.

Week of March 6

Betty Monnin

6611 Timberlane Dr
Independence, OH 44131-6564

Week of March 13

Donna Eilbeck

Decatur House
PO Box 1070
Sandwich, MA 02563

Week of March 20

Doris & Tony Cipolla

6846 Hidden Lake Trl
Brecksville, OH 44141-3191

Week of March 27

Nancy Knowlton

7537 Hillbrook Oval
Brecksville, OH 44141-1935

Do you know someone who would appreciate being on the list? Contact Pastor Barbara!

Check back next month for a new list!



Journey Through Homelessness

Come hear about Clevelander Carl Cook's journey through homelessness at the next UMW meeting, Thursday, March 3. We begin to gather at 9:30 am. Program starts at 10 am. \$3 donation requested.

"In the battle against homelessness, Cook feeds bodies and nourishes minds as he works every day with people who are now where he was," says Cleveland.com.

All women of the church are invited. Come find out how he has become instrumental in helping other people in their quest to recover.

Asbury Bremeth Circle

March 10 (and the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Come gather in the Parlor for a time of community at 9:30 and for great discussion of the Andy Stanley video study, *Follow* at 10 am. All are welcome!

Dine & Dash

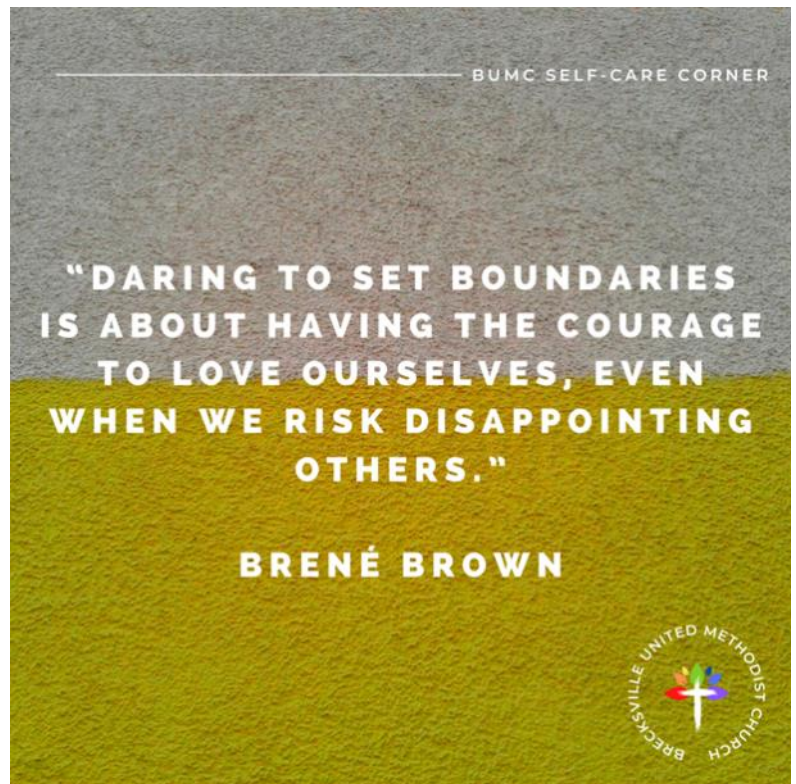
Set Tuesday, April 19 aside to Dine & Dash to Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Road in Brecksville. Enjoy delicious food while the restaurant donates 20% of the proceeds of your meal toward UMW missions. Look for details and coupons in the April issue of this newsletter.

UMW Lending Library

Do you know that there is a collection of books you can borrow in the church Parlor? From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone.

Evening Circle Delivers TLC

Want to help with home deliveries in April? Watch for details coming soon!



March brings us to a really interesting season in the church calendar. It is a season of reflection, a season of spending quiet time with God, and a season that often is connected with a more solemn attitude. This season is called Lent. Lent marks the 40 days leading up to Easter, a marvelous celebration of our faith and a risen Christ. But what do these 40 days have to do with self-care? To me, Lent is *the* season of self-care. Reflection, quiet moments, and diving deep into where the Holy Spirit is leading us individually and as a community. Lent is the perfect time to implement a necessary, though at times difficult, self-care practice... setting boundaries. Boundaries are all the ways we say "yes" and "no" to things in our lives. Boundaries help us restore our energy so we can care for ourselves and others. Most importantly, boundaries are the ways we intentionally choose ourselves on a daily basis. Have you ever heard "you can't pour from an empty cup?" Well, that's all about setting boundaries. When you were younger (or maybe even now) you may have "given up" things for Lent. Maybe it was chocolate, watching television, or casual spending. In a very basic way, this was a practice in setting boundaries. You said "no" to something so you could say "yes" to something else. The tough thing about setting a boundary is that sometimes saying "no" can feel uncomfortable, people may challenge you and your boundaries because they are inconvenient for them or disappointing. But sometimes saying "no" to others means saying "yes" to ourselves and that is the truest form of self-care. What will you say "no" and "yes" to this Lenten season? - Dana Schwendeman, Dir. of Youth Ministry

March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>There's something for all ages during the 11 o'clock Education Hour!</i></p> <p>6 1st Lent 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Membership Cls 5 All Youth Dinner 6:30 Sacred Rhythms</p>		<p>1 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina 7 Sun Morning Task Force</p>	<p>2 6:30 Breakfast 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>3 9:30 UMW 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 1st Lent 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Membership Cls 5 All Youth Dinner 6:30 Sacred Rhythms</p>	<p>7 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>8 10 Staff Meeting 12 Parents Reconciling Network, Online 7 Lectio Divina 7 Vision Team</p>	<p>9 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 pm Evening Circle 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30 Nehemiah Mission Breakfast</p>
<p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 13 2nd Lent 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 9:45 Blood Drive 10 Worship 11 Membership Cls 5 Youth Group 6:30 Sacred Rhythms</p>	<p>14 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>15 10 Stitch'n' Time 10 Staff Meeting 6 SPRC 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees</p>	<p>16 6:30 Breakfast 9:30 Nehemiah Mission Breakfast 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>17 12 <i>Good Word</i> submissions due! 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 <i>We want to hear from you! Have you completed the Sunday Survey?</i></p>
<p>20 3rd Lent 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship* 11 Membership Cls 5 Youth Group 6:30 Sacred Rhythms</p>	<p>21 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>22 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina 7 Finance 7 Cultivating Sanctuary—Multi-Ethnic Conversations</p>	<p>23 6:30 Breakfast 5 Empty Bowls Dinner 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>24 10 Newsletter Production Party in the Parlor 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>25 10 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 4th Lent <i>Membership Sunday</i> <i>UMCOR Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Prac. 10 Worship 5 Youth Group 6:30 Sacred Rhythms</p>	<p>28 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>29 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina 7 Missions & Outreach</p>	<p>30 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>31 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>		



VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES

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Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8 am — 2 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com



BLOOD DRIVE



Brecksville United Methodist Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
9:45 A.M. - 1:45 P.M.

VITALANT BLOODMOBILE
65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE

At this time masks are required.
Please make an appointment and earn
reward points at:
vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal
Group code: 4230

Please eat before you
donate.

Bring a photo ID and a
list of any medications
that you take.



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.



Bread Ministry Concludes

The phone rang here at the church one quiet afternoon three years ago. On the other end of the line was a lady with a proposition for us. Would our church be willing to take on a ministry that she and her brother had been doing for many years - collecting unwanted bread from bakeries in the toll plaza and delivering the food to area shelters? Her brother had passed away and she could no longer do it on her own, she said, and she hated to think of people going hungry and the food going to waste.

Mary Kotnik sprang into action, researching places in need of the donations and recruiting volunteers. Soon, the church had a schedule of teams, each volunteering to cover a Saturday a few times a year, filling their cars with bags and boxes of food and delivering them to people in need through St. Augustine's Kitchen, The Parma Heights Food Pantry, Ohio Guidestone, and other places. The Kotiks, The Millers, The Hobzeks, Dave Brown, Sherry Petkovsek, The Santoras, The Gees, The Gambones, Beth Smith, The Scheuflers, and the Brachnas were all part of this effort.

Unfortunately, both of the bakeries have permanently closed, one a few months ago and the other this week, so our Bread Ministry has come to an end. We want to thank everyone for their dedication and hours of service since March 2019, and thank you all for your prayers surrounding this work. Through this ministry, Mary said, "we were able to get good food into the mouths of thousands of people!"

5 ways to help the homeless

Cleveland has an estimated homeless population of more than 24,000 people, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. Together, we can change that! *Here are five ways we can help.*

1. Pray for those experiencing homelessness - and then put those prayers into action!
2. Donate to area homeless organizations. Most needed items, in addition to cash, are hygiene products, shoes, socks, underwear and warm clothing. The 31st Annual Homeless Stand Down will take place in Cleveland on April 23 at First Energy Stadium.
3. Volunteer your time with organizations serving the unhoused, including soup kitchens (like St. Augustine's) and homeless shelters (like The City Mission.)
4. Advocate for local anti-poverty groups by contacting your local officials.
5. Support organizations committed to safe, affordable housing, such as Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cleveland.

UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 27

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”

—ISAIAH 43:2, CEB

WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY? As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering understates UMCOR’s “cost of doing business,” allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn’t just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

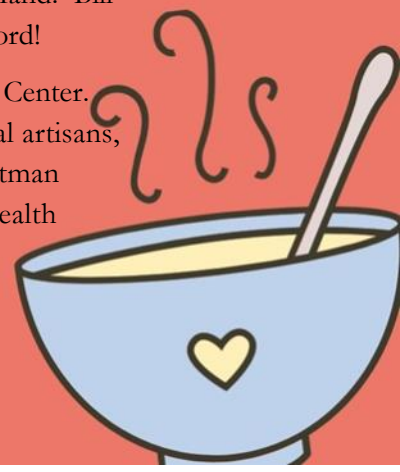
Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God’s love with communities everywhere.

EMPTY BOWLS

MARCH 23 FROM 5 - 7 PM

Your table may be full, but others have no more than an empty bowl. On March 23, the Empty Bowls fundraiser returns to Brecksville for the 10th consecutive year. Hosted by the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, the event raises money for the Brecksville Food Pantry and South Hills Lend-a-Hand. Bill Rittman, long time church member and Kiwanian, has asked us all to help spread the word!

The dinner will be a drive-thru event from 5 to 7 pm at the Brecksville Human Services Center. Guests will receive homemade soup, bread, cookie and an Empty Bowl crafted by local artisans, symbolic of hunger in the world. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Bill Rittman (440-725-4893) or any Kiwanis or Lions member, at the Broadview Chiropractic & Health Center, or Star Sports on Mill Road in Brecksville. Tickets will not be sold at the event—as it has been a sellout for nine consecutive years!





BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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February 24, 2022

Dear Church family,

We are a church that is ever forming and reforming. When we came back to in-person worship last May, we saw it as an opportunity to try something new. We had known for a while that our previous Sunday morning schedule wasn't working as well as it did when it was first set. So, we put out a survey and asked people to share their thoughts. Out of that survey came our current Sunday schedule. We've given it a solid try, and now it's time to assess: what's working well? What's not? How can it be tweaked?

I have created a Task Force to consider these questions and discern the best Sunday morning schedule for BUMC. There are many, many dynamics that go into creating a Sunday morning schedule, and I have worked hard to gather a team that is diverse, open-minded, honest, and focused on what is best for our whole church community.

To go along with their work, we would love your input with this survey. As you work through the survey, keep in mind our value of **honest worship**: *we invite everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically; heart, mind, and soul*. How can we best help you live into this value? How can we create space for those who are not yet part of BUMC to honestly worship?

We know that we're not going to find a schedule that's perfect for everyone—we're just too diverse! But we do want to make sure that we're doing what is best for BUMC—both now and into the future.

Please also pray for this process: for God's wisdom to shine through, guiding us to the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet!

I'm so excited to see what the future holds for us at Brecksville United Methodist Church!

Take care,

Pastor Heidi



The results of this unscientific survey will be used by our ministry team as we determine how to best meet the worship needs of our community. Your answers are confidential, but not anonymous. We ask that you include your name in your answers. If you would prefer to complete the survey online, open your smart phone camera to scan the QR code or visit this web address:

<https://tinyurl.com/yjh3ej9m>

1. How often do you attend worship services at Brecksville United Methodist Church
 - Nearly every week
 - A couple of times each month
 - A few times each year
 - Once or twice each year
 - Rarely

2. Which worship service do you attend? (Circle one) 8:30 10:00 Both

2. Do you worship with us online?
 - Sometimes
 - Often
 - Mostly
 - Exclusively

4. What would the ideal worship time be for you, if worship could be any time?

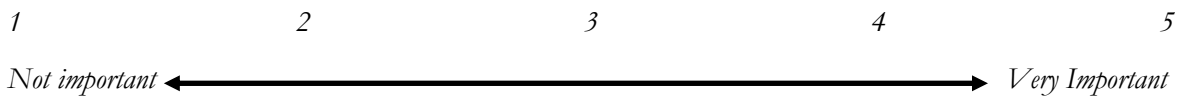
5. What factors influence your decisions about which services to attend? (Check all that apply.)
 - Style of worship (traditional; modern)
 - Time of day
 - What's on my schedule
 - Options for kids (Children's Moment, Sprouts, Sunday School)
 - Choir
 - Volunteering to usher, as liturgist, etc.
 - If the service is inside or outside
 - Other (please describe)

6. What obstacles keep you from participating in Sunday worship services? (Check all that apply.)
 - My schedule/my family's schedule
 - Services are too early in the day
 - Lack of transportation
 - Lack of technology or know-how to worship online
 - The Pandemic (avoiding crowds)
 - Accessibility
 - No one to sit with/go to church with
 - Not sure I'm welcome
 - Nothing keeps me from participating
 - Other (please describe)

7. What keeps people you know from attending church? (Check all that apply.)

- Too busy
- Hurt by the Church
- Indifference/Don't see the value
- Nothing for kids to do during worship
- Unsure if they're welcome
- No one to sit with/go to church with
- Times of the services/schedule of worship
- Other (please describe)

8. On a scale of 1-5, how important are Christian Education Classes to you? (Circle One.)



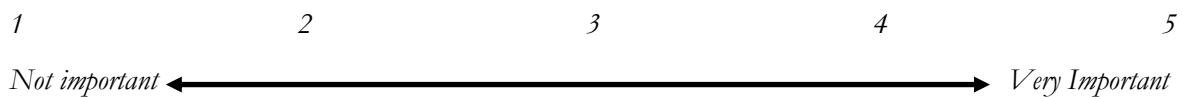
9. How often do you attend Christian Education Classes? (Circle One)

- Never
- Sometimes
- Often/Whenever I can
- I don't, but my children do
- I haven't attended a class yet

10. If you attend Christian Education Classes, when do you most often attend?

- Sunday morning
- Sunday evening
- Weekday evening
- Weekday day

11. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very important, how important is it to you to have a designated Sunday School hour on Sunday morning?



12. If you do not attend Christian Education Classes, what is the reason? (Check all that apply.)

- Time classes are offered
- Types of classes offered
- Lack of confidence in my biblical/faith knowledge
- Lack of time/not a current priority
- Not interested
- Other (please explain)

13. As the pandemic waxes and wanes, at what point would you feel comfortable worshipping inside the church building without masks? (Check all that apply)

- When hospitalizations and case counts are low
- When recommended by the CDC
- When I know that the people around me have been vaccinated
- I am comfortable worshipping without masks
- When we are not singing
- Never
- Other (please specify)

14: What is your name?

15. Is there anything you would like to add, anything you wish we had asked, or any clarification you would like to offer to your answers?

Please return this survey to the church office by March 13, 2022.

HONEST
WORSHIP