

The Good Word



The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

September 2015, Issue ~ Published August 28



Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

You're invited! Bring your friends!

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Fall Kickoff
Sunday, September 13

10:00 - One Worship Service. 11:00 - Potluck on the Square

12:00 - Live Music with Brent Kirby

Ride the Euclid Beach Rocket Car. Get your picture taken in the photo booth.

Visit the vintage ice cream truck. Play Corn Hole with new friends.



We have so much to celebrate: the blessing of another year, the fellowship of our church family, and the many gifts we share together in this community. We are excited to kick off a new program year with great food, fellowship, and wonderful music!

Sunday, September 13
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 **Worship**

11 Potluck on the Square

12 Brent Kirby Concert

11:00: *Bounce House Opens*

11:30 to 1: *Take a ride in the
Euclid Beach Rocket Car*

11:30 to 1:30 *Mr. iSee Ice Cream Truck*
Visit the photo booth, enjoy lawn games!

About Brent Kirby: When Brent Kirby is not playing solo or with his band, the Lost Fortunes, he writes tunes for—and fronts—the Jack Fords (2007, 2009 Best Rock Band Cleveland Scene) and plays drums for the Cleveland holiday band, the Ohio City Singers. He is the founder and leader of The New Soft Shoe, a band put together specifically to perform the material of Gram Parsons. Despite being such a busy guy, Brent brings a calm insightfulness and sensitivity to his lyrics that make his music both funny and poignant. The careful listener will often find him or herself chuckling at how closely his lyrics capture the truth of our messy and delightful humanity. During the day, Brent can be found teaching songwriting to kids of all ages in the Cleveland Municipal School District or playing his songs for folks in retirement homes.

Starting September 20
WORSHIP TIMES

8:45 **Contemporary Worship**

10 Classes for All Ages

11:15 **Traditional Worship**

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TIMES

Sept. 6, Last Summer Worship
8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
September 13
One Service at 10
Beginning September 20
8:45 Contemporary Worship
10 Education Hour
11:15 Traditional Worship

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music & Worship:

Joy E. Parker

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Christian Education:

Jenny Gee

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Youth Ministry:

Courtney Drescher

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Business Manager: Mike Memmer

finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Assistant Office Manager:

Leslie Miller

leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

Church School Registrar:

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

Published monthly by
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square,
Brecksville, OH 44141
Article deadline: 3rd Friday monthly
Editor, Melanie Smith
office@brecksvilleumc.com



Don't Forget!

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

"As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God." Psalm 40:17

An elderly husband and wife noticed that they were beginning to forget many little things around the house. They were afraid that this could be dangerous, as one of them may accidentally forget to turn off the stove and thus cause a fire.

So, they decided to go to their doctor and get some help. Their doctor told them that many people their age find it helpful to write themselves little notes as reminders. The elderly couple thought that this sounded wonderful, and left the doctor's office very pleased with the advice.

When they got home, the wife said, "Dear, will you please go to the kitchen and get me a dish of ice cream? And why don't you write that down so you won't forget?"

"Nonsense," said the husband, "I can remember a dish of ice cream!"

"Well," said the wife, "I'd also like some strawberries on it. You better write that down, because I know you'll forget."

"Don't be silly," replied the husband. "A dish of ice cream and some strawberries. I can remember that!"

"OK dear, but I'd like you to put some whipped cream on top. Now you'd really better write it down. You'll forget," said the wife.

"Come now, my memory's not all that bad," said the husband. "No problem, a dish of ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream."

And with that, the husband shut the kitchen door behind him. The wife could hear him getting out pots and pans, and making some noise inconsistent with his preparing a dish of ice cream, strawberries and whipped cream. He emerged from the kitchen about 15 minutes later. Walking over to his wife, he presented her with a plate of bacon and eggs.

His wife took one look at the plate, glanced up at her husband and said, "Hey, where's the toast?"

As you read this newsletter, I know you will notice that our schedule is ramping up. I also know that this is true not just at church but in your everyday world as well. Perhaps we just need a healthy reminder that despite our memory lapses, the Lord takes thought for us. Pray your "start-up" is healthy, exciting, and filled with memories of good things...

Toasting you,

Pastor Clark

You can help unlock a world of opportunity for the students at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. All you need is a pair of scissors. Our UMW collects Campbell's Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education. Clip the symbols from products and bring them to the collection bin in the coat room. Learn more at www.labelsforeducation.com or www.bboxtopsforeducation.info.



Coffee Hour returns
September 20!
Our hosts will be
Music & Worship Board



Brecksville United Methodist Women

Prevent Teen Suicide: Special Presentation, September 2 at 7 pm
Did you know that one in five high school students seriously consider suicide? Or that it's the second leading cause of death for Ohio teens? UMW is changing the day and time for our September program, as we want everyone to learn about this important topic. The date is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Elaine Myers from Suicide Prevention Education Alliance. "Into the Light" focuses on recognizing teen depression and preventing teen suicides. The Life Act program is part of the Brecksville/Broadview Heights School curriculum. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Cleaning your closets? Help UMW "fill the truck" for Easter Seals on September 19 and 20! The collection is for your unwanted clothes, comforters, towels, shoes and purses (anything that is cloth—even stained items are OK!) Your donations will be re-used, resold, or recycled and proceeds will benefit both the UMW missions programs and children and adults with disabilities served by Easter Seals Northern Ohio. Start filling plastic bags with your donations now, and bring them to the Fellowship Hall stage starting August 14. Use your own bag or pick up an Easter Seals bag from the church office or parlor. The Easter Seals bags include tags explaining the drive and are a great way to tell your friends and family about the collection!



Soul Keeping with the ladies of Asbury Bremeth. Come enjoy a time of fellowship, faith building and lots of laughs. This fall we will explore the care and keeping of our souls with John Ortberg's video study *Soul Keeping*. Ortberg takes us to a very deep and personal place as he shares the story of his struggle to care for his own soul. Asbury Bremeth meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am beginning September 10.

Help Our Organization
EARN 5% CASH BACK!

IT'S EASY!

1. Buy store brands at your local and save your register receipts from August 20, 2015 – January 6, 2016. Invite your friends and family to save receipts!
2. Place your receipts in our collection box by January 12th.

Support the UMW Missions Fund by saving your receipts from ACME.

Receipts dated August 20 through January 6 will earn 5% cash back for the fund.

Start collecting now and bring your receipts to the bin in the first floor coat room.

Thank you!



Evening Circle wants your suggestions for speakers for future meetings. Is there a topic of interest to you? Help put together a schedule of meaningful meetings for the 2015-16 program year. Send your ideas to Lynn Hobzek at kezbob@aol.com or call or mail the church office: 440-526-8938. Evening Circle Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.



“The annual Brookside school supply drive was a huge success! Many thanks to those who contributed! Your support provided 230 local children with school supplies. We prepared book bags full of supplies for kids according to their grade. We had such a great response with donations that we were able to provide supplies to kids from Kindergarten thru 12th grade. Thank you again for supporting the Brookside community. I would especially like to acknowledge Brecksville United Methodist Church, The Centers Finance Department, The Centers Talent Management Department, Fields United Methodist Church, St. Matthias, and St. Paul United Church of Christ for their very generous supply donations! Your help is making a difference! We look forward to a great school year!”

- Nicole Novinec, The Centers for Families and Children



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

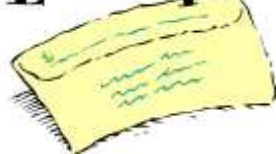
Welcome new babies!

Congratulations to Joan and Paul Olszko, who welcomed their first grandson to the world on July 26. William "Will" Nathan Olszko's proud parents are Nathan and Meghan.

On August 3, Alex and Jessica Vastartis welcomed a son, Gabriel Mark. Congratulations to the new parents and to grandparents, Catherine and Mark!

*Children's children are
a crown to the aged,
and parents are
the pride of their children.*
—Proverbs 17:6

Offering Envelopes



It's time to order offering envelopes for 2016! If you would like a set of weekly offering envelopes, please contact the church office before October 1. Order forms will be available at church, or simply call or e-mail the church office: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com



Greg Eberhardt	Sept.	1	Barbara Diver	Sept.	15
Alan Jones	Sept.	1	Loren Guell	Sept.	15
Mary Kate Kaminski	Sept.	1	Claire Hayes	Sept.	16
David Hurder	Sept.	2	Kathy Bartholomew	Sept.	17
Ann Rittman	Sept.	3	Charles Wilson	Sept.	18
Luke Dorman	Sept.	4	Emily Vastartis	Sept.	19
Marilyn Huber	Sept.	4	Becky Gezze	Sept.	20
Tim Miller	Sept.	4	Claire Kenney	Sept.	20
Matthew Scheff	Sept.	4	James Patrick	Sept.	20
Harry Wilson	Sept.	5	Fred Priest	Sept.	20
Mariella Siemer	Sept.	6	Jon Wise	Sept.	20
Matt Georgevich	Sept.	7	Audrey Fowler	Sept.	21
Quinn Slifcak	Sept.	8	Joog Soo Kim	Sept.	22
Megan Burns	Sept.	9	Kara Storey	Sept.	22
Joe Hurst	Sept.	9	Les Buttolph	Sept.	23
Jennifer Mathewson	Sept.	9	Emma Sak	Sept.	23
Sandy Whitton	Sept.	9	Anne Rosenthal	Sept.	24
Tonya Boldt	Sept.	10	Brett Hubert	Sept.	26
Mona Carlisle	Sept.	10	Owen Paroda	Sept.	26
Jackie Daugherty	Sept.	10	Jeff Schillo	Sept.	26
Travis Papesh	Sept.	10	Hannah Buttolph	Sept.	27
Matthew Robusto	Sept.	10	John Hlay	Sept.	27
Jinho Lee	Sept.	11	Kathy Holmes	Sept.	27
Madeline Hamilton	Sept.	12	Annie Madaus	Sept.	27
Abigail Jaite	Sept.	12	Jeannie McBride	Sept.	27
Leslie Phillips	Sept.	12	Matt Harper	Sept.	28
Ruth Georgevich	Sept.	13	Mary Jane Matts Slifcak	Sept.	28
Giovanna Figer	Sept.	14	Matt Harper	Sept.	29
Doug Huth	Sept.	14	Amy Magee	Sept.	29
			Kaiya Crouch	Sept.	30
			Ella Davis	Sept.	30
			Craig Kotnik	Sept.	30



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. People like Leanne and Evan Davis and Deanne Kloss, who stepped in to help with VBS decorating; Bill Webb, who pressure washed the bricks in the celebration garden, and who helps keep our church grounds looking good; Tom Holmok, part of our faithful closer team, who makes sure the church building is safe and secure every evening; and Megan Rohrer, who's commitment to music ministry helps enliven our worship services. We're thankful for each of you, named and unnamed, who help with the ministries of this church!



Brecksville United Methodist Church

Arts & Education Series

2015—2016 SEASON



September 13

Brent Kirby

Community Picnic & Concert on the Square

Brent Kirby brings a calm insightfulness and sensitivity to his lyrics that make his music both funny and poignant. The careful listener will find him or herself chuckling at how closely his lyrics capture the truth of our messy and delightful humanity. This event features food and fun activities for the whole family! Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 and live music with Brent starts at noon.

November 1

Michelle Abraham & Shuai Wang

Lunch and Listen Concert at 1 pm

Violinist, Michelle Abraham, and pianist, Shuai Wang, present a special afternoon chamber music performance featuring classic duet works by familiar composers. Enjoy a casual, brown-bag/potluck lunch before the concert. Bring your own lunch, or consider bringing a dish to share. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of your fellow concert-goers!

December 13

Brecksville Community Chorus & Youth Chorus

Christmas Concert

There's no better way to get in the holiday spirit than to experience the music of the season performed by these exceptional choruses. Both choruses will offer a blend of sacred and secular music that includes some of your favorites paired with new music you are sure to love just as much! The concert takes place at 4 pm in the Sanctuary

Spring Concert, April 17

This year, the Brecksville Community Chorus joins Brecksville United Church of Christ in celebrating their bicentennial. This special concert will take place at the United Church of Christ (across the square) at 4 pm.

January (date TBD), 2016

Josh Rzepka and Friends: *An Evening of Jazz*
Trumpeter and composer Josh Rzepka has been heralded not only for his jazz playing and composing, but for his classical trumpet playing as well. Josh, a native of Akron, Ohio, will be performing with his quartet (drum set, keyboard, and bass). Don't miss this perennial favorite!

March 4

Music with a Mission: *On the Silver Screen*

This annual event is a whole lot of fun. This year's show will feature your favorite tunes from classic films. Come enjoy dinner, a show and silent auction. Proceeds from ticket sales and silent auction benefit the church youth service project.

March 11 – 13

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

Guest Artist and Retreat Leader

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan is a nationally known musician, theologian, worship leader, and composer. His music strives to bring fresh and challenging lyrics to the emerging church.

- Evening Worship, Friday, March 11 at 7 pm
- Psalm Retreat, Saturday, March 12
- Concert Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 pm

April 9

Student Recital and Concert

This recital is open to any youth instrumentalist or vocalist in (K-12th grade) and is an opportunity for the students to share their talents! This year's student recital will be headlined by the BBHHS Jazz Band. We are excited to welcome this awesome ensemble to our arts series for the first time!



Chancel Choir

This energetic group gathers on Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the Choir Room (304). The ensemble leads our 11:15 worship service on most Sunday mornings. Occasionally, the group sings at both services for holidays and special events. Our primary goal in Chancel Choir is to grow as a community and to provide worship leadership. You do NOT need to be an experienced singer, nor do you need to be able to read music. Many of our current singers would be quick to tell you that they are still learning as well! If you have a love of music and recognize the importance of music in our worship of God, consider getting involved in Chancel Choir!

Handbell Choir

Handbell ringing is a unique musical activity, in that each ringer is responsible for only 2 or 3 notes! A basic ability to read music is helpful, but lots of coaching and support is provided. This ensemble is an upbeat and encouraging group, and every single ringer works together to learn from one another and develop ringing skills. The group meets on Thursday evenings from 6:15 - 7:15 pm behind the screen in the Sanctuary (near the organ). They ring at both worship services roughly once per month, and performances are scheduled to accommodate group members.

- ▶ Both Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir will resume on Thursday, September 3.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir offers a relaxed but meaningful time for children to explore **their faith through music**. Children's Choir is **more than "just singing,"** although singing is definitely an important part of what we do! We also work on rhythm, develop our music-reading ability, and play a variety of instruments. The group also takes on collaborative composition projects, and often the songs we sing in worship are songs we have written together. This not only reinforces music skills but builds teamwork and encourages children to think personally about their own faith. For the 2015-16 school year, Children's Choir will meet on Tuesdays from 5:00 – 5:45 pm, beginning on Tuesday, September 22!

Youth Choir

We also have a youth ensemble (6th-12th grade) that also includes a few college students who live nearby. This ensemble has an absolute blast at rehearsals and learns a great deal from one another. Over the course of the year, they do everything from preparing special music and singing on the worship team to choreographing crazy songs and dances for our annual "Music With a Mission" (review-style) show. Youth Choir tailors its rehearsal times around the needs of the young people, but we have often gathered on Friday afternoons after school.

Men's Ensemble

This group of dedicated guys rehearses every other week, working on two pieces of music at a time. We always welcome new singers! The group shares in worship at both services about once per month.



Get involved!

Contact Joy Parker

440-526-8938

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Celebrate Third Grade Bible Sunday



Third Graders Receive their Bibles in 2014

Sunday, September 20

A rite of passage in many United Methodist churches is awarding Bibles to third-graders. Every year, in congregations across the United States, third-graders receive Bibles with their names inscribed inside.

The books smell of fresh ink and have that delicious creak when the children open them. Then what?

At Brecksville United Methodist Church, the presentation of Bibles becomes an important part of a child's faith journey. On Bible presentation Sunday (September 20 this year) we'll enjoy an informal reception in fellowship hall. Over cake and punch, we'll share stories about first Bibles. If you still have yours, bring it along to show the kids!

Last year, people shared how they read the Bible, why they write in their Bible and what special papers they tuck between the pages. A well-worn Bible was shared, and the kids saw where the pastor had signed it, and the small photograph of the childhood church tucked inside. Another Bible was opened to reveal all of the notes written on its pages over the years. The children learned that the most precious Bibles are well used.

We know that kids of all ages are always watching adults; they see what we do, hear what we say and notice how we spend our time. Our actions, above all else, demonstrate what is important to us.

Bible Presentation Sunday is just the beginning. Throughout the Sunday School year, our third graders will learn how to use their Bibles. They will learn what citations like John 3:16 mean and how to search first for the book, then the chapter and then the verse. They will learn memory games to learn the books of the Bible. Families are encouraged to find time to share famous stories and parables and to read together. (Third-graders often love to be asked to read.) Students are encouraged to highlight verses or stories they read in their Bibles and to write notes or questions in the margins. These markings will stand as precious reminders of their childhood thoughts as they age.

Do you have a third grader interested in participating in Sunday School this year? Third Grade Bible Sunday will be celebrated at 8:45 Worship Service on Sunday, September 20, followed by a reception at 10:00 am. Sunday School classes (for all ages) begin on September 27 at 10 am. To register, call Jenny Gee, 440-526-8938 or e-mail educa-

Fall Retreat: The Abbey of Genesee is a Roman Catholic community of monks living a life of solitude and silence, prayer and penance in a joyful spirit of faith. Come to the Abbey where you are encouraged to worship six times daily with the monks. When not in worship, you are open to pray, meditate, conference with a monk, hike, eat, and sleep. You will live from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon in total silence. Daunting? It is in silence that we can hear the still, small voice of God. Talk to Craig Czarnota to learn more. The Abbey's website is www.geneseeabbey.org. The dates are November 13-15. Cost is \$65 per person per night, which includes your private room and all meals. We will car pool the 4 hour trip to the abbey, which is just south of Rochester, NY. To reserve your spot, please submit a \$65 deposit to the church (checks made payable to BUMC, "Abbey" in the memo line.) Your deposit is refundable until October 25. The trip will fill up fast!



That is the question! As you ponder the answer, consider this:

- There's nothing that can help you understand your own beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child.
- Kids don't need someone who knows everything about The Bible. They need someone who cares, learns their names, encourages them, makes them feel important. Above all, someone who has a desire to share with them about God!
- The time commitment is finite. You can give it a try this session and see how it fulfills you.
- You promised! Every time we baptize a child we are asked to do all in our power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.
- Teaching Sunday School is deeply satisfying. Think of the old saying - When we tend a campfire to help others, the warmth and glow is reflected back on us as well.
- We have classes for all ages and stages, not just little people - grown people, too! Maybe there is a topic of particular interest to you that you'd like to explore with other adults. We'd love to hear about it!

Is Sunday School teaching right for you? Want to learn more? Call Jenny Gee, 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

New BUMC Publications



Education Hour—Kids

Nursery and Toddler Room
 Babies and children. Our nursery and toddler room are in care for your child. We provide child care, and children's Bible stories on Sunday mornings during services and during the education hour.

Lectionary

Children's Ministry
 We placed a story between our two services. You have just heard the story so you will hear it following that. Sunday school lessons are for all children and youth get a Bible as they finish explore the story of the worship hour.

After the Children's Ministry
 Spontaneous incorporation, crafts, visual aids, and experiences for children develop the skills to give and give their faith by learning Jesus' clear message to our neighbors.

Sunday

Confirmation
 Confirmation in our church is for those third graders each year on September 20. We invite you to join together in the confirmation class to share your faith with the third graders.

Education Hour—Youth

Eight Grade Confirmation Year

Eight graders will spend the year asking and being asked questions about their faith. Working with their parents, teachers, and mentors, the students learn about Methodism and continue their faith journey toward confirmation.

High School

Can I Ask That?
 Looking for answers to some of your toughest faith questions? Wondering if you can trust the Bible, if God condones violence through the Old Testament, or if Jesus really is the only way to God? Join in as we tackle some of your stickiest and most unsettling questions about God, Jesus, and Christian life. Let's get into some deep conversations, because it's not doubt or questioning that is toxic to faith, but silence.

Financial Peace U.

Sunday or Monday Evening
Sunday at 6:30 pm, Monday at 7:30 pm
 Financial Peace University teaches God's ways of handling money with biblical, practical steps. Learn how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks beginning September 21.

Education Hour—Adults

Why's THAT in The Bible?

Joy Parker
 Have you ever heard a story from the Bible that left you shocked, uncomfortable, or confused? Often, we gloss over such passages or leave them out of our reading entirely. This 9-week session will bravely explore some of these stories, seeking to understand *why* and *why* they were written. Most important, we will ask ourselves what the writers intended to communicate about their understanding of God and the way God works in the world. Does their understanding still hold true for us today?

The Jesus I Never Knew

Jenny Cox
 Join in on a journey that will expand—and very likely redefine—your understanding of the person, teachings, and life of Jesus Christ. We will move beyond the familiar images of Christ that we have come to know through art and the movies and explore Jesus in the radical, compelling, compassionate, bold and sincere man that he was.

Methodism 101/New Member Class

Pastor Clark Stein
 This class is for new United Methodists and anyone wanting to know more about the denomination. Are you a lifelong or long-term Methodist? You may be surprised at what you can learn about our denomination.

Continue on back panel.

Click [this link](#) to download!



Telling Others About BUMC!

We recently produced a short newsletter highlighting our Christian Education Program, which was mailed to 600 homes in our community along with brochures featuring fall classes and our concert series. Copies are available on the table outside the church office. Do you know someone looking for a church home? Why not pick up an envelope to share with a friend or neighbor?

Click [this link](#) to download!



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Parents of College Students - Research shows that the college years are the most influential and potentially detrimental to a young person's faith commitment. If you just sent a student to college for the year, and would like for them to receive a care package specifically catered to enriching both their body AND their soul, here's your opportunity! We'll be ordering SoulFeed boxes to send to our college students this fall.

SoulFeed boxes have it all: healthy snacks, weekly devotionals, fun surprises, and practical/wellness items. If you're interested in purchasing a SoulFeed box for your student, please submit mailing information and your \$20 payment to Courtney by September 20!

For more information on SoulFeed boxes, check out their website at www.lifetreefamily.com/soulfeed

FAST FACT

Do you know that our church family currently has 42 students in college? Keep them in your prayers as the new school year begins!



Youth Faith in Action

BUMC youth Dan Auble and Monica Kotnik are hosting a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center on October 15 and 16. They hope to raise \$29,000 to make 100,000 meals. Each meal costs only 29 cents! Help save a life today! Make a donation by visiting gofundme.com/stop-hunger-now. Please contact Dan or Monica for more information about the event or other ways to make a donation.

High School News

Youth Group – Weekly youth group meetings start back up September 13! Join us from 7-9 pm in the Youth Room (rm. 406) as we reconnect after a busy summer, enjoy pizza and snacks, and get to know our newest ninth grade members. This group is open to all students in grades 9-12 and their friends!

YSP 2015 – Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had an amazing time on our Youth Service Project this past July, and were able to change the lives of so many residents in Pocahontas, Virginia, and the surrounding communities. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our church family, and we are so grateful for your donations, prayers, and encouragement!

YSP 2016 – Mark your calendars now for YSP 2016! We'll be traveling south, to Somerville, TN! Trip dates are June 25-July 2, so be sure to plan your family vacations around this awesome week of service!

Middle School News

Youth Group – Middle school youth group will begin on Wednesday, September 16, from 3-4:30 pm in the Youth Room, where we'll be talking about Scary, Gross & Weird Stories from the Bible. Join us for a fun time of Bible study, plenty of snacks, and good laughs. This group is open to all students in grades 6-8 and their friends!

Confirmation Class of 2016 – Eighth grade students and parents who plan on participating in this year's Confirmation class, please mark your calendars for September 27 for our mandatory Confirmation meeting! We'll be meeting in the Parlor, immediately following 11:15 am service, to discuss this year's Confirmation program and requirements and to meet our mentors.

Important Save the Dates!

- September 27 – Confirmation Meeting, immediately following 11:15 am service (Parlor)
- October 11 – YSP 2016 Interest Meeting, immediately following 11:15 am service (Youth Room)
- June 25-July 2, 2016 – YSP 2016

Boycott Suggested at Annual Conference

At the 2015 East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, a resolution was brought forward encouraging all United Methodists to boycott products manufactured by Israeli corporations situated on illegally occupied Palestinian land. Intended to make a statement regarding our stance on social injustice and oppression and promote a just and sustainable peace for Jews, Muslims and Christians in Israel and Palestine, the boycott was not against people or the state of Israel. It was written to stand up against specific Israeli government policies and practices that destroy hope for a just end to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The resolution did not pass.

I have been asked by many of you to provide a list of these companies. This suggested boycott is very limited and targeted. It is not a boycott of all Israeli products or a boycott of all companies doing business with Israel. Boycotting settlement products makes an important statement and is a non-violent way to press for change. It is also a vehicle to educate ourselves and others about the facts on the ground in Palestine. Ultimately, it is that education process that will have the most profound effect on U.S. and world public opinion.

Consider a boycott of these products made in illegal Israeli settlements:

- ▶ **HAVA COSMETICS:** Moisturizers, creams, bath salts, etc. made using Dead Sea minerals. The company factory and visitors' center are in an illegal Israeli settlement, Mitzpe Shalem, in the occupied West Bank.
- ▶ **SODASTREAM:** home carbonated beverage machines and syrups. The main plant of the company is in the industrial zone of Mishor Edomim (also spelled Adumim, Adomim, or Edummim), an illegal settlement in the West Bank.
- ▶ **INTERSTAR, TIP TOP, AND EDUSHAPE TOYS:** modular plastic toys, building pieces. These products are made in the Barkan Industrial Zone, part of an illegal settlement in the West Bank. Attached to the residential settlement of Ariel, Barkan was established in 1982 on the land of the Palestinian villages of Haris, Bruqin and Sarta. The industrial zone hosts a disproportionate number of factories that pollute the environment. For example, waste from Barkan runs down the hillside of the Al-Matwi Valley, damaging Palestinian farmland. Palestinian laborers are employed in the industrial zone and are paid, as documented in several sources, below the minimum wage and denied the right to unionize.
- ▶ **KETER PLASTIC PRODUCTS:** Garden furniture, outdoor storage solutions and sheds, shelving systems and utility cabinets, tool boxes and storage products for the do-it-yourself market, as well as household, baby and toddler products. Both Keter and its full subsidiary, Lipski, have factories in the Barkan Industrial Zone. Keter is licensed to use the name Black & Decker and sells under that name the following products: Black & Decker Storage Building, SpaceRite Cabinets, and the Workmate series of storage containers.
- ▶ **WINERIES LOCATED IN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS** in the Palestinian Territories or the Golan Heights. For a list: www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=232

As United Methodists, we are committed to the achievement of "a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another." In order to create such a world, we believe that there should be justice and peace in every nation and respect for all people living within a nation's borders.

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference



Finance Committee asks you to consider participating in Financial Peace University, by Dave Ramsey.

Are you fed-up being controlled by your money and want to learn to take control of it? Do you need to know how to get out of debt? Are you worried about money? This course is for you! The average family who participates pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days!

During each 90 minute session, we will review a video lesson on how to take control of our finances, followed by small group discussions. The sessions are biblically based, teaching us what God says about money and how we should treat it.

The 9 week course will be offered Sunday or Monday evenings (choose which evening works best for your schedule) and will begin September 20 and 21.

The Sunday evening class, with child care available, starts September 20th at 6:30 pm. The Monday nights class, without child care, starting September 21st at 7:00 pm.

Sign up through our church office (440-526-8938) or online at www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classfinder. The cost is \$100.

Curious? A special video preview will be offered Sunday mornings, August 30 and September 6.

Everyone, from young adults through senior citizens, can benefit from this class. Be prepared to be challenged to do things differently. Be prepared to learn God's lessons on how to manage money.

- Finance Committee, Alan Scheufler, Chair

SEPTEMBER 2015

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>Communion Stewards</i> Chuck & Becky Gezze</p>		<p>1 10 Staff Mtg. 7 Evangelism</p>	<p>2 6:30 Dawnbrkers 7 UMW Presentation, Suicide Prevention</p>	<p>3  5 Men's Group 6:15 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir <i>Lundholm & Herzing Mow</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 1 Wedding</p>
<p>6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary <i>Sunday School Registration Day 2</i></p>	<p>7  <i>Offices Closed</i></p>	<p>8 11 Staff Mtg. 7 COM 7:30 Zumba 8 Music & Worship Board</p>	<p>9 <i>Horizon's Pre-School Opens</i> 6:30 Dawnbrkers</p>	<p>10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir <i>Parker & Spencer Mow</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 1 Wedding</p>
<p>13 <i>Fall Kick Off</i> 10 Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 Potluck 12:00 Brent Kirby Concert 7:00 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10 Staff Mtg. 10 <i>Stitch'n'Time</i> 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>16 6:30 Dawnbrkers 3 MS Youth Group</p>	<p>17  5 Men's Group <i>Brown & Sendrey Mow</i></p>	<p>18  <i>UMW's Food Delivery to Brookside</i></p>	<p>19  9 am—5 pm Saturday and Sunday</p>
<p>20 <i>Worship Time Change 3rd Grade Bibles</i> 8:45 <i>Contemporary Worship</i> 10 Education Hour 11:15 <i>Traditional Worship</i> 6:30 Financial Peace 7:00 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>21 7 Staff Parish Relations Committee 7 Financial Peace University 7 Community Chorus</p>	<p>22 10 Staff Mtg. 5 Children's Choir 7 Finance 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>23 6:30 Dawnbrkers 3 MS Youth Group</p>	<p>24 5 Men's Group 7:30 Chancel Choir <i>Gee & Gee Mow</i></p>	<p>25 9:30 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p>26 8 Cleveland Food Bank 10 Caring Committee 2:30 Wedding</p>
<p>27 8:45 <i>Contemporary Worship</i> 10 Education Hour 11:15 <i>Traditional Worship</i> 12:30 Confirmation Kick Off Meeting 6:30 Financial Peace 7:00 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>28 7 Financial Peace University 7 Community Chorus</p>	<p>29 10 Staff Mtg. 5 Children's Choir 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>30 6:30 Dawnbrkers 3 MS Youth Group</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

Consider adding the following to your prayer list...

- Students and teachers beginning a new school year.
- Those who are struggling or worried about finances, and the participants of Financial Peace University.
- Those receiving “like new” bikes from our bike round up, and the bike mechanics working so hard to get them ready.
- Prayers of thanks for the sunshine and the rain.
- Our caring committee, who volunteer to spread love among those who are home bound, and those they serve.
- Say a prayer of thanks for a stranger’s smile, and share a smile with a stranger tomorrow!

Do you know that Brecksville United Methodist Church has an active e-mail Prayer Chain? To be added to the e-mail list, or to submit a prayer request, please contact Elrowan33@aol.com.

PRESENCE

Date	First Service	Education Hour	Second Service	Goal of 300
July 26	60	N/A	95	-145
Aug. 2	82	N/A	94	-124
Aug. 9	74	N/A	79	-147
Aug 16	123	N/A	111	-66
Aug. 23	79	N/A	75	-146

We’ve set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. Don’t take a vacation from church this summer! Are you making meaningful worship a priority in your life?

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.

Date	Offering
July 26	\$4,919
Aug. 2	\$9,072
Aug. 9	\$10,985
Aug 16	\$7,124
Aug. 23	\$5,308

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

SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month (look for details in this issue of *The Good Word!*)

- ▶ Help with our fall kick-off celebration! Set up tables and chairs, help with games, help with clean up. Call the church office to volunteer!
- ▶ Clean out your closets and cupboards and donate those old clothes, sheets, towels and bedding that you’re no longer using. They’re just taking up space! Fill the truck with them on September 19 and 20. The UMW and Easter Seals will put them to good use. Proceeds of their reusing and recycling your items will benefit UMW Missions and people with disabilities in North-east Ohio!
- ▶ Lend a hand to our bike mechanic team. They have so many bikes that they estimate they’ll finish fixing them all in November! Contact Jenny Gee if you can help.

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!

The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is our church’s mission. Through the power of our connection, we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.

United Methodist News

Odds and Ends

More news from Brecksville United Methodist Church. We had so much, we couldn't fit it all in this issue!



A Car for Liberia

Churches of the East Ohio Conference were asked to contribute funds towards the purchase of a vehicle Helen Roberts Evans, Director of Education for the Liberian Annual Conference, could use to travel around Liberia to visit Methodist schools. The car had been delivered! Brecksville United Methodist Church helped make this possible, contributing \$1,000 to the fund.

In the Hospital?

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and in need of a church visit, please let us know! Because privacy laws have changed in recent years, becoming more stringent, few hospitals will release information about where you are to the church.

The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit those who can't make it to church regularly or anyone who may be lonely and looking for support or someone to lend an ear. Contact Pastor Barbara, 440-799-3126, to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one.



[facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC](https://www.facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC)



twitter.com/BrecksvilleUMC



[pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc](https://www.pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc)

com

Daily Devotionals

Do you know that copies of *The Upper Room* are available at the church? They're located on the radiator in the lobby, near the literature display by the stairs.

The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, accessible in varied formats, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence to:

- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story;
- commune with God in prayer;
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work;
- realize our connection through Christ as a universal family of believers;
- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness.

In addition to print copies, the devotional is available electronically. Download a digital copy of the magazine, sign up for a daily e-mail, or download their app to your smartphone. Visit:

devotional.upperroom.org/emaildevotional

Recycling Update!

Thank you for continuing to recycle your newspaper, magazines, books, wrapping paper, cereal boxes and cardboard in our recycling bins. In July, we recycled 7,050 pounds of paper! We saved the equivalent of:

- 59.93 Trees
- 881.25 Pounds of CO₂
- 11.63 Cubic Yards of Landfill Space
- 24,675 Gallons of Water
- 14,452.50 Kilowatts of Electricity
- 3.53 Homes Heated for SIX months
- 211.50 Pounds of Air Pollutants

Remember, we recycle anything made of paper—even bound books and spiral bound notebooks. Because we earn money for how much each bin weighs, please break down your cardboard before adding it. It frees up a lot of space for other paper!