FEBRUARY 2022, ISSUE 2 VOL. 12

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

I love snow. I grew up in the Snowbelt, so for me, big snow storms bring memories of waking up to school being cancelled, playing outside for hours, and hot chocolate and homemade chicken noodle soup when we came inside. And the whole community was united, if just for a moment, with our collective inability to go anywhere. We helped one another shovel and plow... so we could make it down to the bluffs to sled.

A big snow also brings a quiet and calm that we don't get any other time of year: no birds chirping, no rustling of leaves, no traffic flying by. Just a hushed stillness as we all hibernate in our own way. I just love it.

I say all this now... writing in January... knowing that if this snow was dumped on us in late March, I would have a very different story to tell!

And it reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

This is the season for snow. And in the natural rhythms of life, winter is also a season of slowing down, of darkness, and of retreating. But we don't allow ourselves that kind of winter anymore. Instead, we continue to live life as if nothing has changed—like the days are not shorter and the whole natural world around us isn't quiet and sleeping.

If there was ever a year in which we need to give ourselves permission embrace the natural rhythms of winter, this is it. It's been almost two years since (stupid) COVID shattered our normal. And as if that wasn't enough, we endured the most tumultuous presidential election in recent history, and *everything* seems like a "hot button topic."

We're exhausted, weary, and grieving. As I talk with people and listen to their stories, I can hear it: we have become unraveled.

So in February, we're going to acknowledge this unraveling and remember that God is in the midst of it. That all throughout human history, people's lives have fallen apart and somehow they survived.

Let us take this season of winter and retreat; slow down and embrace the darkness, knowing that this is not forever—this is only a season.

Take care of yourself,

Star Stein

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Connect with us!



Senior Pastor—Rev. Heidi Welch pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Pastor of Visitation— Rev. Barbara Bartholomew, associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Christian Education—Jenny Gee education@brecksvilleumc.com

Wiggle Room Coordinator— Matthew Botzman <u>matthew@brecksvilleumc.com</u>

Youth Ministry—Dana Schwendeman youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Music Ministry—Machala Comenschek machala@brecksvilleumc.com

> Worship Leader & Audio/Visual Coordinator Jamie Schwendeman, Jamie@brecksvilleumc.com

Organist/Accompanist—Sean Brown sean@brecksvilleumc.com

Communication & Connection— Melanie Smith <u>melanie@brecksvilleumc.com</u>

Office Manager—Your Name Here *Apply for this position today!*

Finance Manager—Becky Paroda finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Facilities Mgrs.—Jeff & Scott Hastings Facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

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

Worship: What's Working Well? What's Not?

When we came back to in-person worship last May, we came back to new worship times. We did this because we saw it as an opportunity to try something new. We had known for a while that our old worship schedule (8:45 & 11:15) wasn't working as well as it did when it was first set. The 11:15 service was dwindling in attendance and spirit, and families were struggling with the time options (one was too early to get kids to worship on time, and the other was too late to get kids to sports and other activities).

So, we put out a survey and asked people to share their thoughts and preferences. Out of that survey came our current worship schedule (8:30 & 10:00). 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 am in the process of creating a Task Force to consider these questions and discern the best worship schedule for Brecksville UMC. This Task Force will have people who regularly attend both types of worship service, those who are "seasoned" BUMC-ers, and those who are newer to our community. We will also be sending out another survey to hear from our whole congregation. Every voice matters!

We know that we're not going to find a schedule that suits the preferences of everyone—that's just not possible. But we do want to make sure that we're doing what is best for BUMC—both those who are currently with us and those for whom we are creating space.

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

- Blessings, Pastor Heidi

Join the Chancel Choir!

Rehearsals Thursdays 6:30 pm - 8 pm



We are always happy to welcome new members into our Chancel Choir! Join us on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm to rehearse for singing at our 8:30 am services on Sunday mornings. No music reading skills are necessary to join this group. Accompany us while using our voices to praise the Lord on Sunday mornings! Have questions? Reach out to Machala Comenschek at <u>music@brecksvilleumc.com</u>.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Hey BUMC Youth, you are so loved!

Check out what's happening in February for our

kids in 6-12th grade

February 6, 5-7 pm All Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Pizza and video games! February 13 No Youth Group ▶ ▶ Who will win the Super Bowl?

> February 20, 5-6 pm Youth Group in Fellowship Hall ▶ ▶ Holy Troublemakers and Pool Noodle games!

February 27, 4-7 pm Ecumenical Youth Group (EYG) ▶ ▶ ▶ at Berea UMC

Holy Troublemakers is back! For youth grades 6—12

Last spring we explored the lives and legacies of Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints during youth group. We are bringing it back with new people of faith to learn about and get to know. Poets, musicians, politicians, activists, artists, and much more, all who show us that there is no wrong way to be a person of faith. Join us during regular youth group as we learn more about their stories and how we can be holy troublemakers ourselves!

Introducing Spiritual Practices

For teens and Adults—Class begins February 6 in the Chapel.

Spiritual practices have always been at the heart and soul of the world's religions. They help us discover our deepest values, address our longing to connect with the divine, and propel us on the journey to wholeness.

Spiritual practices are specific activities you do to deepen your relationships with God and the world around you. They are usually very concrete and practical, but not difficult. They reward presence, not effort. Different types of practices speak to different people. What might be the practice that helps you connect and center most effectively?

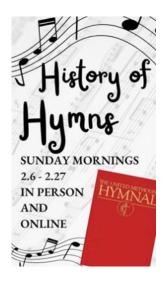
Join Jenny Gee Sunday morning, between the 8:30 and 10 am worship service (around 9:15). Each week we will explore a different practice and then have time during the week to try our hand at it.

3

spiritual practices



半 lifelong learning



Hymn History and Sing Along

Sundays after the 10 o'clock service in the Sanctuary

Some of our favorite hymns were written many generations ago. *Christ The Lord is Risen Today* was written in 1739, before the United States was founded. *Amazing Grace* in 1779, during the American Revolutionary War. And yet, these beloved hymns contain truths that still touch our hearts today. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to join Sue Ellenberger, Machala Comenschek and Sean Brown in the Sanctuary after second service on Sundays, February 6 through 27, 2022. Hear the stories behind the hymns and learn about the artists who wrote them. We'll sing them together, too! This is a class you will not want to miss—and it will be offered both in person and online. Sign up for updates!



Lectio Divina

Mondays at 10:30 am and Tuesdays at 7 pm in The Chapel

Lectio divina is Latin for "sacred reading." It's a way of praying through the Scriptures that has been around for millennia. Through *lectio divina* we slow ourselves down, engage with Scripture, and bring the Bible into our life in a deeply personal way. Lectio Divina is an incredibly intimate way to hear God speak through the scriptures. No materials are necessary. Bring a Bible and a journal if you'd like. There are two opportunities each week, and you can drop in anytime. Join Jenny Gee on Mondays at 10:30 am or Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel. As always, all are welcome, all the time! Please wear a mask.

Reach out to Jenny Gee, Dir. of Christian Education: jenny@brecksvilleumc.com

🕂 COURAGEOUS INCLUSION



Sensory Inclusion Training

Online Anytime!

Sensory sensitivity is an invisible disability which affects one in six people, including some with PTSD, autism, anxiety, strokes, dementia and others. Would you like to help build a world with greater understanding, acceptance, and empathy toward those who have sensory needs? Set aside some time to complete the Kulture City Online training. It is eye opening — and you'll even get a certificate that you're sensory certified.

This training is open to everyone, and is particularly helpful for ushers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, and anyone who interacts with others. Use this link: <u>https://training.kulturecity.org/venues/brecksville-united-methodist-church</u>

If you know someone who would be interested in the training, please share the link with them.

Changes to our Ministry Team

There's never a dull moment around BUMC! On behalf of myself and our Staff Parish Relations Committee, I have two announcements to make.

We are excited to welcome Matt Botzman as our Wiggle Room Coordinator! Matt has been a part of BUMC for three years and is an excellent fit for the position. VBS kids know and love him as their "favorite part of VBS!" Now, he'll be in our Wiggle Room each Sunday during worship services to welcome our littlest disciples and care for them while parents are in worship. Allie Kenney, who has been our Wiggle Room Coordinator for many years, resigned from her position at the end of 2021 so that she can commit more time to her job as a teacher in Lakewood. We're grateful for her time with us and overjoyed to have Matt as part of our BUMC Ministry Team!

Melissa Hinchman, our Office Manager, has made the difficult decision to step down from her position at the end of February. We are sad to see her go, but understand her need to commit more time to her family. Melissa shared with me how much she has loved getting to know the people of BUMC and is so grateful for the opportunity to work in such a wonderful and loving environment. Melissa will be working two days a week thru February. If you know someone who is interested and skilled at part-time office work, please let me know! I hear we're a great place to work!

- Take care, Pastor Heidi & The Staff Parish Relations Committee

Office Manager Wanted—Part Time

Do you like making people feel welcome and cared for? Do you enjoy being part of a team? Do you get a kick out of working with office equipment and troubleshooting day-to-day computer problems? Are you good at spotting mistakes in the written word? Do you have a knack for numbers and organization? Can you maintain high levels of confidentiality and care? Do you like to teach yourself new things? Do you enjoy managing your own work and making it happen? Are you looking for a part time position where you can do good in the world? Yes? Then you may be the missing piece to our ministry team!

Our church has an opening for a positive, caring office manager who will be the point person between the church family, the community, and the staff. This person serves as the building receptionist and financial secretary. Other responsibilities include maintaining office equipment and inventory, managing the church calendar (in person and online meetings), production of printed materials, and more. See the complete job description on our website. This is a part time position, Monday through Friday 9 am to 2 pm.

If you think you, or someone you know, would be a good fit, we would love to talk to you. Send your resume to <u>office@brecksvilleumc.com</u> or call 440-526-8938 with questions!

FELLOWSHIP PLAYERS MATINEE

Monday, Feb. 21 2 pm in Fellowship Hall

We'll joyfully gather for a screening of a BUMC Fellowship Players performance from the midnineties!

More details coming soon!

WANT TO HELP? CALL THE OFFICE! 440-526-8938

EOC Summer Camps

Every summer has a story!

East Ohio Camps want every kid to have a summer story full of fun, faith formation, adventure, and growth! When summer includes a week of camp, the question, "What did you do this summer?" might be answered "I connected with great friends and great counselors, had fun adventures, learned new things, experienced God in nature, and now my faith is soaring!" Learn what stories East Ohio Camps are planning for 2022 at www.eocsummercamps.org. Camp scholarships are available!



DETERMINED SERVICE



The best week of the summer, **Brecksville UMC's Vacation Bible School**, returns to the park again this year! We will meet at the Oak Grove Picnic shelter during the week of July 11- 15. Sign up at the link below!

If you can be part of the crew that makes this all happen, please reach out to Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education. There are LOTS of ways to help both in the weeks leading up to the big event or during VBS!

Jenny Gee 440-526-8938 ext. 230 jenny@brecksvilleumc.com

https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC





Missions & Outreach – Thank you for an IMPRESSIVE 2021! You came through as you always do, and it is very much appreciated by us and all those we helped.

THANK YOU FOR...

- ...your help writing 250 Christmas cards for Veterans at the Cleveland VA Hospital.
- ...your help on Bike Fixit Days to support the Bike Ministry coordinated by Jenny Gee, and for making 45 bows for the Yuletide Bicycle Give Away. What a fabulous outreach!
- ...Your Thanksgiving and Christmas Donations Thank you so much for your generosity! You are all a Blessing!
 - Thanksgiving offering \$600 was collected and went towards Brecksville UMC's Commitment of \$5000 for the 2021 Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity Faith Build House. This was added to the \$1,098 collected at Easter.
 \$3,302 from the 2021 operating budget of Missions & Outreach covered the balance.
 - Christmas offering was equally divided between Four local food banks: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Lend-a-Hand, North Royalton Food Pantry, The Emergency Assistance Center, and The Parma Heights Food Pantry. Additionally, M&O was able to add another \$500 from our 2021 Operating Budget to each food pantry. What a Blessing!!
- Annual **Hat & Mitten Tree** was nicely decorated with these donated items and delivered to Afghan Refugees through Nehemiah Mission.
- Annual **non-perishable food and cleaning supply tree** overflowed with your generous donations and absolutely thrilled the Parma Heights Food Pantry. After the holidays, their donations drop off a little and these items will benefit many families.
- The Giving Tree helped Brecksville UMC's Bike Ministry, B. Riley House, Cleveland APL, Nehemiah Mission, and Rahab Ministries. Many items were donated, and the recipients were very pleased and surprised.
- With gratitude, Missions & Outreach. Submitted by Mary Kotnik.

February Birthdays

- 1 Doris Cipolla
- 1 Grant Kardos
- 2 Douglas Hubert
- 2 Gail Meyer
- 3 Rowan Diem
- 3 Colin Johnson
- 3 Brooke Toman
- 4 Barbara Soltis
- 5 Faith McAllister
- 5 Lynn Spencer
- 6 Paul Olszko
- 7 Chloe Boldt
- 7 Greg Spencer
- 8 Becky Chen
- 8 Nancy Knowlton
- 9 Chad Boldt
- 9 Chloe Brubaker
- 9 Bob Williams
- 10 Pam Johnson
- 11 Doug Bender

- 12 Marla Hocutt12 Gladys Smith
- 13 Leslie Hoffman
- 13 Monica Kotnik
- 13 Andrew Kubek
 - 13 Mallory McCrodden
 - 14 Ellen Falko
- 14 Lucy Fesler
- 14 Dorothy Jordan
- 15 Olive Barnum
- 15 Nathaniel Robusto
- 15 Abby Smith
- 16 Matthew Miller
- 17 Stephanie Fisher
- 17 Christine Hudacek
- 17 Emma Piorkowski
- 18 Barbara Bartholomew
- 18 Scott Campbell
- 18 Jack Kenney
 - 19 Allie Kenney

20 Dahlia Schadler 21 Emily Gardner

20 Matthew Ling

- 22 Dan Rajkovich
- 22 Steve Warth
- 23 Erin Gee
- 23 Pastor Heidi Welch
- 24 Paul Botzman
- 24 Janet Kleckner
- 24 Eric Louttit
- 25 Ruth Hazlett
- 25 Patrick Hehr
- 25 Nancy Wygonski
- 26 Matthew Botzman
- 26 Leo Patterson
- 27 Angela Harper
- 27 Emily Hastings
- 27 Darcie Richardson
- 27 Taylor Whitton



We lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. When our new tables and chairs arrived at the church earlier than expected, Matt Auble, Matt Mellott, Jinho Lee, Scott Campbell, Bob Lundholm,

the Paroda and Hinchman families, and Jeff & Scott all jumped in and helped unload and unbox. It was no small feat! Nor is repairing a leak in the sanctuary ceiling. When the pews had to be moved to accommodate a lift for the painters, Jinho Lee, Mike Paroda and Doug Holmes made it happen. Ric Lesinski and the Gopher Team have been busy, organizing deliveries of communion elements, offering envelopes, and meals for those shut in by Covid and winter. And dear Linda Rollins, who is participating in worship every Sunday from her new home—in Texas! For all of the ways you are each part of our community of faith, we are thankful!



It's awful to trek through the cold to the mailbox only to find that the only thing inside are bills and advertisements. You can change that for this month's Care & Prayer Mail folks! Send a note of cheer and remind each person how much they are loved.

Week of February 6

Gretchen Mates 6828 Old Royalton Rd Apt 2 Brecksville, OH 44141-1880

Week of February 13

Janet James 3824 Faith Ln Richfield, OH 44286-9121

Week of February 20

Mary Reid 1830 Hampton Run Broadview Hts., OH 44147-3290

Week of February 27

Richard & Carol Sladky 7020 Windward Hills Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-2441

Know someone who would appreciate being on the list? Contact Pastor Barbara!

Check back next month for a new list!



A Call for Cookies

The Bob Hope USO Lounge at Cleveland Hopkins airport is a space for U.S. Military Service Men and Women and their families. The USO provides a place to grab a snack, email a loved one, read a book, watch a movie, or just find some quiet time on a travel day.

The BUMC Eve Circle wants to help love these families by providing them home baked cookies! During the first week of February, they will have a collection box in the church kitchen freezer (marked USO). Help them fill it with your home made treats, packaged 6 per baggie. Questions? Call the office and they'll put you in touch with Lynn Hobzek.

Stitch'n'Time

Do you knit or crochet? Come to Stitch'n'Time, our church's daytime knitting/crocheting group! We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome! Projects include prayer shawls and lap blankets, hats and mittens, and baby blankets. Contact Sandy Crist 440.526.1494 for more information.

Asbury Bremeth

This ladies' study group meets on the second Thursday of each month during the school year. Join them for friendship, learning and conversation. We begin to gather at 9:30 for conversation, and continue our study of Andy Stanley's *Follow* at 10 am.



tis okay io noi be okay is okay io noi be okay is okay io noi be okay is okay io noi be okay

Let's Talk about the "Winter Blues"

Winter is the darkest time of the year, especially here in the Cleveland area. We average 70% cloud cover during the months of January and February. That means most of our winter days are without a ton of sunlight. All that lack of sunlight can make us feel sluggish, distant, and downright depressed. On top of these seasonal emotional changes, we are still in the middle of a pandemic, grieving the loss of much in our lives. If you are feeling sad, lonely, or angry more often than usual during these dark winter days, know that you are not alone in these feelings. And it's okay to not be okay. Selfcare isn't always about feeling our best; much of the time selfcare means recognizing how we feel and giving ourselves the grace to sit in it until the feelings pass. If this topic seems to be hitting close to home, Pastor Heidi will be preaching on the subject of grief during this month and we invite you to join us Sundays online or in-person as we explore this meaningful topic. If you feel like you need someone to talk to during this time, please reach out to our grief support staff, Pastor Heidi or Pastor Barb, through our office email,

office@brecksvilleumc.com



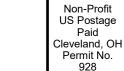
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio	2 6:30 DB Breakfast	3 9:30 UMW 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	4	5 Bread Ministry— Brown
 6 Communion Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 5 All Youth Dinner 7 Basic Beliefs 	7 10:30 Lectio 7 Gifts & Memorials	8 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Missions & Outreach 7 Inclusion Task Force	9 6:30 DB Breakfast	10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	11	12 Bread Ministry— Kotniks
13 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour <i>No Youth Group or Basic</i> <i>Beliefs Tonight</i>	14 10:30 Lectio	15 10 Stitch 'n' Time 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Trustees 7 SPRC	16 6:30 DB Breakfast	17 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	18	19 Bread Ministry— Hobzeks
 20 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 5 Youth Group 7 Basic Beliefs 	21 No School 10:30 Lectio 2 pm Fellowship Players Matinee	22 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Finance	23 6:30 DB Breakfast	24 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	25 10 UMW Board Mtg	26 Bread Ministry— TBD
 27 8:30 Worship 9:15 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 4 Ecumenical Youth Group 	28 10:30 Lectio	Paper Recycling for Hunger Ministry When you bring your unwanted paper to the green bins in our parking lot, you're raising money to feed the hungry— and you're caring for the planet! Bins are emptied on Thursday mornings.				

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8 am — 2 pm 440-526-8938 office@brecksvilleumc.com



Electronic Service Requested



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 Worship with Hymns 10:00 Worship with Live Band Attend in person or watch live online!

Masks Required In Person

WORSHIP SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE ALL WEEK! WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM/STREAMING



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.



YOUR GIFTS, OF ANY SIZE, HELP FUEL OUR MINISTRY

1. Give securely online: onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/Give

2. text GIVEBUMC to 73256, followed by your gift amount

3. Mail or bring your gift to the church office, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Call us for more information

+440-526-8938



www.brecksvilleumc.com



BRECKSVILLE united methodist church

SINCE 1814

MISSION

Creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

VALUES

Honest Worship

We invite everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically; heart, mind, soul and body.

Joyful Gathering

We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share in the life God offers us.

Lifelong Learning

We are unabashedly authentic in our lifelong quest to grow with God and learn with one another.

Courageous Inclusion

We whole-heartedly welcome all people to come as their perfectly imperfect selves.

Determined Service

We show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person.

MEASURES

I will create safe space to grow with God and one another by...

... sowing love and compassion.

- Am I seeing myself and others through God's eyes?
- Am I seeking and giving forgiveness?
- Am I recognizing the presence of God's kingdom around me?

... cultivating sanctuary.

- Am I listening for the voice of the marginalized?
- Am I nurturing someone else's healing?
- Am I accepting of those different than me?

... tending to life-long learning.

- Am I engaged in exploring my faith with others?
- Am I actively seeking to grow my personal relationship with God?
- Am I reflecting my spiritual growth in my daily life?

... bearing God's fruit in service.

- Am I giving back to God?
- Am I sharing God's blessings with others?
- Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?

STRATEGY

Rooted in worship. Nourished in groups. Branching out in service.

