

The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation
July 2015, Issue Published July 25



VBS!

July 13 through July 17
9 am until Noon

The excitement for Vacation Bible School is building at Brecksville United Methodist Church!

BRECKSVILLE UMC will COME ALIVE this summer with MOVEMENT and ACTION as close to 100 kids (and their teen and adult leaders) STEP OUT in FAITH. Be ready to see our church TRANSFORMED into a kid friendly skate park. Kids will EXPLORE how to put their FAITH into ACTION. In this mission-focused VBS, kids EXPERIENCE God's unstoppable love and DISCOVER how to fuel up and EXPERIENCE life with God!

What does a typical day at Vacation Bible School look like? We start each morning with a funny and fast paced skit that explains our theme for the day. This is also a time when the children get to stretch and get pumped up by singing and dancing to the awesome VBS music.

After our assembly time the children will move on to their sessions, one such session is Scripture Zone.

Throughout the week children will hear five different interactive Bible stories which help them discover God at work in their lives and experience the love of Jesus. The Bible stories told during this G-Force VBS explores how a life with God is an active one. We will learn about people from the Bible who followed God with their hearts, minds and bodies.



Throughout the rest of the morning the kids attend other sessions including The Science Zone, Craft Zone and Recreation Zone. Children will take the Bible lesson for the day and hear about it in interesting and unique ways as they enjoy these activities. In addition to these exciting and engaging sessions kids will enjoy a snack and a time of learning about the week's mission. We wrap up each day with a closing ceremony, more singing and dancing and sharing what they learned throughout the day.

Want to get involved? We still need a few more volunteers! Call Jenny if you are available. We will also need snack items donated. Details regarding that will be announced between services on June 28 and July 5.

Register On Line at:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/youth/vbs



Sunday Mornings
Through August 31
8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary

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



Joined Persons

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

"This was the summer when for a long time she had not been a member. She belonged to no club and was a member of nothing in the world. Frankie had become an unjoined person who hung around in the doorways, and she was afraid." - Carson McCullers, A Member of the Wedding chapter one.

Over the last month, we have welcomed 26 new members into our fellowship at Brecksville UMC. 12 Confirmands stood before us and made vows for themselves, echoing vows made for them in their baptism. 12 adults stood before us and pledged to support our fellowship by their prayers, their presence, their gifts and their service. What a pleasure to participate in welcoming all of these wonderful people into full and complete participation in our fellowship. We are all enriched by the gifts represented in each life of our diverse band of Jesus followers.

I pray that as you participated with us, pledging to surround these unique individuals with caring community, perhaps your heart was strangely warmed? We didn't just pledge to surround new folks with our love and support, providing a caring community in which they can fully participate. We also were heartily reminded of the vows we each made as we became members of this same body. For most of us, years have passed since we made those pledges, and much life has transpired within this place: people have come and gone, leaders have moved through, and made their way to new communities or positions of responsibility or just plain retired, loads of mission trips, and "Home Days", and Christmases and Easters and chili cook offs, and trips to the Abby... I think you get what I am trying to say here. Much of life together has happened in this place, beyond the walls of this place, with the people of Brecksville United Methodist Church.

All of this is simply to say how grateful I am for each and every one of you. For the stories that you represent and live out away from this place, and for the larger story we live out together. I stand amazed at how powerful it is to be a part of something so much bigger than any one of us. I believe Jesus calls us to be people of that kind of greater involvement. It doesn't end with membership vows. In fact, that is really just a good starting place. I hope you are reminded of the privilege of being a part of this particular faith community. I hope you can pair faces with stories. I pray you continue to work your story into the weave of this community in creative ways. I pray we remember there are others hanging around our doorways who long to be a larger part of who we are. Please help me to invite them to join us. I appreciate you, and am proud to be one of your pastors.

Peace enough for today,

Pastor Clark

Welcome Our New Member Class, Spring 2015

David Brown, Beverly Gooding, Deanne Kloss,
Harry and Ruth Koberna, Walter Kudlaty, Barbara Ramundo,
Megan Rohrer, Carl and Joyce Rossborough, Lori Rusterholz,
and Linda Schmidt

Farewell, Chris Toth



As the month of July begins, Chris Toth will end his tenure with us as organist and move to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Chris joined our staff in November of 2009, and our worship has been enriched by his musical ability and creativity. Our organ underwent considerable renovation under his care and supervision, and he has contributed in innumerable ways to the music and worship here at BUMC.

Chris says, "One of my mottos is 'Always leave a place better than you found it.' I hope I have achieved that at BUMC by building sincere relationships with you; by fostering appreciation for traditional organ music; by bringing the organ 'into our time' through playing it as a keyboard instrument with the band; and by completing the organ project to make the organ more colorful and usable for years to come. I will miss you!"

Chris's final Sunday with was June 28, and we enjoyed special music at the 10:00 worship service from Chris and guest trumpet player, Josh Rzepka. Afterward, we enjoyed an ice cream social in his honor. His new address in Florida will be 4150 NE 26th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308.

We are collecting a love offering for Chris. If you are moved to give, please mark your check or envelope "Love Offering" when you place it in the collection plate or mail it in to the office by June 30. - Joy Parker, Director of Music

Missions Update

Mission "Work in Kind Continues" here and world wide:

Another group of BUMC volunteers working at the Cleveland Food Bank, 13 volunteers in all, added another 50 hours of service to a great mission of feeding the hungry. The food bank serves over 200 distribution centers throughout the county. An unbelievable amount of hunger exists in our communities. We will have another opportunity in September to again have a group of 10-12 volunteers help out in this very rewarding effort through the Food Bank. Thank you for your help and service!

Mission work and our budget continues to search out missions in need and serving the needs of hunger and shelter on local, national and international efforts. Bruce McCrodden returned from the Russian mission with some wonderful and encouraging observation on the Church's work with the Russian people. Bruce always has encouraging observations about the people of Russia. Ask him about it sometime!

The Brecksville United Methodist church, and our greater mission initiatives supported by the congregation, gives in excess of \$100,000 a year to missions work. Thank you for the generous and giving nature of our community. - The Missions Committee



BUMC at the Cleveland Food Bank—Standing: Karen Thielman, Deanne Kloss, Jessica Agostine, Alan Scheufler, Kathy Goebel, Darren Calovini, Debi Scheufler, Michael Lee, Brenda Calovini, Bridget Gee, Gail Meyer. Photo taken by Bridget's friend, Halle Kotchman.



Evening Circle's Summer News

UMW evening circle is continually supporting the Rahab safe house, a secure environment for Ohio women who are victims of sex trafficking. There are still many needs within the house which is now home to five women, a house mother and an in-house counsellor. Please contact Lynn Hobzek (e-mail below) if you would like to help either by donating a gift card or purchasing an item from their ongoing "[ministry needs](#)" list. Our deadline is July 15. Any items may be dropped off at the church office or in the bin marked "Rahab" in the coat room on the first floor. As always, your support and generosity is appreciated.

Second, we are asking the congregation for suggestions for speakers for our future meetings. Is there a topic of particular interest to you? With your input, we can put together a schedule of meaningful meetings for the 2015/16 program year. Send your ideas to Lynn Hobzek at kezboh@aol.com or call or mail the church office: 440-526-8938.

Evening Circle Meetings will resume on September 2, and will occur on the first Wednesday of each month for the 2015-16 Program Year.

Education Hour

Sunday school and adult education has ended for the 2014-15 school year. Thank you to all the members and volunteers of the education staff and for all the support of the congregation! Classes will resume on Sept. 20.



On May 31, we welcomed Vivian Rose Bielinski into God's kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism. Vivian is the daughter of Carrie and Justin, who were married here in 2011. Carrie (nee Zakarowsky) was confirmed here in 1999.

"A huge and belated thank you to Donna Sibits and everyone else involved in the 2014 Veterans Day celebration and DVD. I enjoyed viewing the DVD while visiting my father in May. Dad was unable to attend the Veterans Day service in November but he greatly enjoys watching the DVD and seeing many people he knows and remembers from the church. Your thoughtfulness is very appreciated." - Nancy (Hines) Marsh

Diana Warth, a member of our church family since 1984, died on May 26 after a brief illness. On May 30, our sanctuary was filled by family and loved ones for a memorial service conducted by Rev. Barbara Bartholomew. We extend our deepest sympathies to her husband, Stephen, and to her daughters Stephanie and Tiffany and their families.

Bob & Lue Andree asked that we share their new address with the church family. Please update your directory with this information: 26376 John Road, Apartment 333, Olmsted Township, OH 44138.

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



Jerry Bartholomew	1	Ruth Herman	23
Brett Bender	2	Nathan Olszko	23
J.J. Hotaling	2	Elizabeth Jaszczak	24
Elizabeth Hoffman	3	Carl Opatrny	24
Kathleen Koteles	3	Allison Toensing	24
Sarah Ford	4	Addison Cave	25
Jim Lee	4	Cyndi Guell	25
Betty Marsh	5	Larry Kaminski	25
Pat Prominski	5	Matthew Manocchio	25
Ryan Hensley	6	Carl Rossborough	26
Erin Merhar	6	Laurie Riccardi	27
Janet Beck	7	Judy Suazo	27
Wendy Chenney	7	Mary Cay Derry	28
Emily Telischak	7	Ruby Ludwig	28
Kevan Fisher	8	Patricia Frank	29
Jon Wygonski	8	Al Loughner	29
Kate Falko	9	Janet Patterson	29
Kevin Machesky	9	Paul Dadas	30
Tracy Scott	9	Rachel Machesky	30
Matt Hof	10	Laurie Robusto	30
Karen Memmer	10	Beth Smith	30
Katie Scheff	10	Bryan Smith	30
Joan Bloch	11	Pastor Clark Stein	30
Dave Lienert	12		
Jeanne Quade	13		
Betsy Urso	14		
Jane Whitehead	14		
Debbie Falko	15		
Robert Kubicek	15		
Bill Neidinger	15		
Matthew Nurre	16		
Jim Fredrick	17		
Cameron Lechner	17		
Stephanie Ling	17		
Taylor Heisler	19		
Tim Kenney	19		
Kay Mendlik	19		
Adriana Sottosanti	19		
Amy Hazelton	21		
Zachary Kardos	21		
Miles Paroda	21		
Nick Rajkovich	21		
Stefan Wygonski	21		
Paul Frank	22		
Anthony Robusto	22		



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 Don Krolkowski, whose talents enhance our church communications and records church milestones for prosperity; Matt Johnson, whose vintage red pick up truck helped us spread the word about

Vacation Bible School in the Memorial Day parade; Al and Barb Harper, who so ably step in when there is a need, most recently with a funeral reception, with such willing hearts; and the Wednesday Men's Small Group, who are devoting time during the first Saturday of each month to help with custodial needs around the church. If you noticed some gleaming windows in June, that was their handiwork! We are thankful for each and every one of you, named and unnamed!



Pictured Above Left: Rick Dean mans the grill. Above: Dan and Matt Auble, a fully loaded golf cart and the Drescher's Foursome. See more photos on our church Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC

THIRD ANNUAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING

Prizes Donated By...

- ◆ Bella Toccarre
- ◆ Brecksville Florists
- ◆ Creekside Restaurant
- ◆ Framer's Gallery
- ◆ GolfTec
- ◆ Simon's

Hole Sponsors

Hole 1

- ▶ Allan & Joan Filips
- ▶ Mark & Lynn Hobzek
- ▶ The Davis Family
- ▶ The Gezze Family
- ▶ The Krolkowski Family

Hole 2

- ▶ Gretchen Mates, in memory of Gary Mates

Hole 3

- ▶ Shelly Meek
- ▶ Tim & Ruth McDonel
- ▶ Linda & Jim Rollins
- ▶ The Phillips Family
- ▶ The Stein Family

Hole 4

- ▶ Becky Chen Flute Studio

Hole 7

- ▶ Sponsored by the Kuban Family

Hole 9

- ▶ The Auble Family
- ▶ The Hudacek Family
- ▶ The Kerr Family
- ▶ John Galik

Hole 12

- ▶ The Miller Family

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, golfed, baked, and grilled to make our golf outing such a wonderful success! A few folks deserve a special shout out: Kathy Stein organized the dinner this year, assisted by Megan Rohrer and Kathy Auble. Rick and Heather Dean worked the grills, and many delicious steaks (and chicken and veggie burgers) were had by all. Marianne Nolan staffed the registration table, and Ric Lesinski coordinated all the golfers. Craig Czarnota and Dave Schroedel solicited donations from area businesses to provide all the prizes. PLUS, we had a tremendous number of hole sponsors this year and several individuals kindly contributed baked goods. What an awesome team effort!

In total, 40 people golfed, with over 20 additional folks joining up for dinner. Over \$2500 was raised for our Music/Worship Scholarship Fund. Allison Loughner – one of our 2015 scholarship winners – was actually out on the golf course, and Bridget Gee – another 2015 winner – joined us for dinner. A scholarship was also awarded to Michael Lee.

Thanks again, church family, for all your hard work, great golf swings, and support!

Hole 13

- ▶ The Eberhardt Family
- ▶ The Hastings Family

Hole 14

- ▶ Linda Schmidt, in memory of Mel & Elaine

Hole 16

- ▶ Doug Huth

Hole 17

- ▶ Bill Webb

Hole 18

- ▶ Cathy Monnin, in memory of Jack Monnin

Staff Question
of the Month

**What Was Your
FIRST JOB?**

How well do you know our church staff? This week, SPRC asks “What was your first job?”

- A. Frying chicken.
- B. Delivering “Grit” newspaper on my bike. I was tormented by a territorial goose weekly!
- C. McDonald’s.
- D. De-tasseling corn. (Crazy story!)
- E. I had a paper route delivering our local weekly paper in Jr. High.
- F. Dairy Queen.
- G. My own lawn mowing business.
- H. Working the counter at DePaul Pharmacy.
- I. Training at Heinen’s.

Answers

- A. Pastor Clark. B. Melanie.
- C. Courtney. D. Joy. E. Pastor Barb.
- F. Jenny. G. Jeff H. Leslie. I. Scott

ministries
OF *Caring*

The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit those 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.



Youth Annual Conference Recap – The second weekend of June, we took a group of 7 middle and high school girls up to Lakeside for YAC. This year’s theme was “Shine,” and we talked a lot about what it means to shine our own stories into the world and to those around us. We enjoyed a rock concert by the Christian band, Everfound, voted to pass a resolution that will encourage churches to offer interfaith learning opportunities, and broke off into small groups to discuss our personal stories. Overall, we had a great time at the lake, and are already looking forward to next year’s trip! Thanks again for all of your support and prayers for this awesome weekend. See more photos from the trip on the church Facebook page.



YSP 2015 – This month, five of our youth and four adults will travel to Pocahontas, Virginia, for Group Workcamp! The amount of support our BUMC family shows this mission trip each year continues to amaze us, and we are so grateful for that. Please continue to offer your support through prayer as we set off on this adventure – prayers for safe travels, amazing and lasting impacts, and opportunities to grow closer to Jesus and one another.

Summer Bible Study – Join us for our all-girls, summer Bible study, as we continue throughout the month of July! We meet each Monday, from 7-8 pm in the Youth Room, and cover real-life topics, like gossip, image, value, and more!

VBS: Redefined - Last call! Don't forget to register for Middle School VBS, July 13-17! This week is all about serving as the hands and feet of Jesus, and getting out in our community to do some service. Sign up online at www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/youth/vbs/ today!

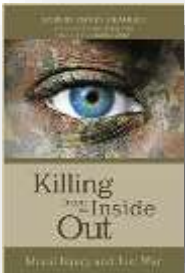


2015 SUMMER BOOK SERIES

Wednesday Evenings 7 pm: July 1, July 29 & August 26

You are invited to be a part of open and honest conversation on the theme of violence as it manifests itself, both in war and in times of supposed peace. Discussion will be led by Joy Parker, Director of Worship, and the conversation is open to all. Whether you are a person of faith or not, regardless of your political affiliation (or lack thereof), and whatever your background, you are welcome. The only requirement is a genuine desire to be in open, honest conversation with others in a respectful and edifying environment. There is no charge for book discussion (other than the cost of the books); dessert and beverages will be provided.

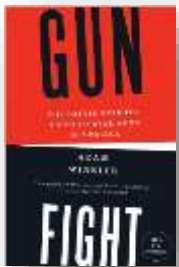
Wednesday, July 1 at 7 pm



Killing from the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War
by Robert Emmett Meagher (2014)
This conversation will take place in the church parlor (2nd floor)

Armies know all about killing. It is what they do, and ours does it more effectively than most. We are coming to realize, however, that we are also especially good at killing our own “from the inside out,” silently, invisibly. In every major war since Korea, more of our veterans have taken their lives than have lost them in combat. Robert Meagher asks how veterans can be suffering under the weight of “moral injury” even in conflicts that are viewed as “just” or justified, examining the “Just War Theory” that has grown up over the centuries in our churches and political institutions alike. Ultimately, *Killing from the Inside Out* radically questions the notion of just war, examines its legacy, and challenges readers to look beyond it for wisdom that is, at once, both ancient and new. [This text is available in Paperback and Kindle (digital) format.]

Wednesday, July 29 at 7 pm



Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America
by Adam Winkler (2013)

In *Gunfight*, Adam Winkler takes an objective look at the evolution of constitutional law and public opinion around the issue of gun possession. Winkler defends both sides of the argument on their merits and is equally willing to level critique where it is deserved. Readers will learn a great deal about the formation of the NRA, the history of interpretation of the Second Amendment, and landmark litigation that has shaped the debate over gun rights/gun control. [This text is available in Paperback, Kindle, or Audible (“book on tape”) format.]

- August 26 at 7 pm. **In August, we'll discuss**

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (2014)

Learn more about these titles on our website!

For more information, visit www.brecksvilleumc.com
or contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com.



Opening Your
Heart without
Opening Your
Check Book

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions without the need to write checks, carry cash, or prepare envelopes. Electronic Giving is offered through our website, www.brecksvilleumc.com. Click the ‘Giving’ link at the top right side of our home page to get started. Electronic Giving offers convenience for you and stability in income for our church.

Offering options:

Your giving can be a one-time gift or a recurring offering, and you can choose if your donation will go toward the general operating expenses (weekly giving) or for something specific (such as the Hope Fund, Flowers, VBS, etc.)

Payment options:

You can choose to have your offering or gift automatically deducted from your bank account (Electronic Funds Transfer), or you can use your debit or credit card for payment.

Your gifts make the ministry of this church possible!



We Need
Summer
Ushers!

Would you be willing to serve as an usher during the summer? This is a great opportunity for an individual or family to serve! If you have never ushered before, Karen Thielman will help you get to know exactly what to do. If you can help with this important ministry of hospitality, please contact Karen at 330-467-1014 or by email at kthielman1015@roadrunner.com

JULY 2015

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast 5 Men's Group 7 Book Discussion Group, Parlor	2 <i>Gee & Gee Mowing</i>	3	4 
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary with <i>Summer Choir</i>	6 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 7 "Girl Talk" High School Bible Study	7 10 Staff Mtg 7 Evangelism	8 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast 5 Men's Group 7:30 Men's Ensemble Rehearsal	9 <i>Auble & Kuban Mowing</i> <i>Broadview Heights Home Days</i> 	10 <i>Broadview Heights Home Days</i>	11 8:30 Women's Small Group 10 Caring Committee <i>Broadview Heights Home Days</i>
12 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary <i>Broadview Heights Home Days</i>	13 7 "Girl Talk" High School Bible Study	14 1 Staff Mtg 7 Ad Board 8 Music & Worship Board	15 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast 5 Men's Group 7:30 Men's Ensemble	16 <i>Bloch & Campbell Mowing</i>	17  <i>Brookside Food Delivery</i>	18 8:30 Women's Small Group
Vacation Bible School—9 am until Noon each day.						
19 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary Wesleyan Visit from Epworth UMC	20	21 10 Staff Mtg 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees	22 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast 5 Men's Group	23 7 Caregiver Support Group <i>Lundholm & Herzing Mowing</i> 	24	25 8:30 Women's Small Group
Youth Service Project Trip to Pocahontas, Virginia						
26 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary	27 7 "Girl Talk" High School Bible Study	28 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	29 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast 5 Men's Group 7 Book Discussion Group, Parlor	30 <i>Parker & Spencer Mowing</i>	31	

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...

- Pray for a neighbor or coworker with whom you would like a more authentic relationship. Give thanks for their presence in your life, and ask God to show you how you might serve them in Christ's name. *Hebrews 13:1*
- Pray for someone with whom you disagree. This might be friend, family or a public figure. Give thanks to God for the diversity of the Kingdom. *Matthew 5:43-47*
- Ask God to open your heart and mind to a fresh understanding of another's point of view. Give thanks for a loving, creative God. *Isaiah 55:8-12*

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
May 24	134	80	86	-80
May 31	80	NA	146	-74
June 7	97	NA	114	-89
June 14	100	NA	68	-132

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
May 24	\$10,131
May 31	\$4,066
June 7	\$10,378
June 14	\$6,000

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!*)

- ▶ Serve as an usher during 10 o'clock worship service this summer. Help welcome everyone to church!
- ▶ Donate to the UMW Evening Circle's Drive for the Rahab Ministries safe house. A variety of new and used items are needed, including toothpaste, Bibles, and socks. See the article inside for details!
- ▶ Be part of the Bike Round up this summer! Donate a used bike or bike parts, or help spruce up the donated bikes for kids in need.
- ▶ Join the VBS team. There are so many ways to help!
- ▶ Be a part of the Fall Fun Day festivities. Planning starts now! Join the team! Call the office to sign up.

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.

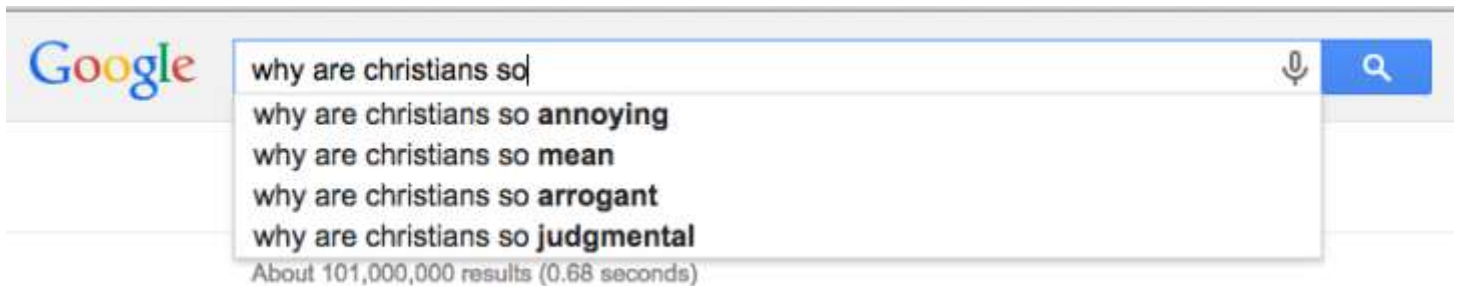
United Methodist News

Search Engine

Shared by the UMC Development Center

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4-6

If one searches via google with the words, "Why are Christians so ..." this is what shows up as the most likely searches:



This predictive search algorithm is based on popular searches to predict a user's search query as it is typed.

There seems to be a disconnect. A tradition based in love of God, neighbor, and self is perceived by many as arrogant, judgmental and mean. This perception does not seem to be warranted for most Christians, yet it exists. Could this modern perception of Christianity be a leading cause of many young people turning away from religion all together? Some may argue Christians shouldn't care what others think of us however as Christians we represent the face of God in this world.

Consider this story. A the driver did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman behind him went ballistic, pounding on her horn and screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to drive through the intersection with him. Still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm awfully sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping the guy off in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the "What Would Jesus Do?" bumper sticker, the "Follow me to Sunday School" bumper sticker and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk.

"Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."



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



twitter.com/BrecksvilleUMC



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

THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter.

Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings, Announcements, Upcoming Events and

More. To subscribe, e-mail

office@brecksvilleumc.com