



# The Good Word



Brecksville United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

**January 2018 Issue**

Published December 29, 2017

[www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)



## **Yuletide Bikes 2017**

Twenty-one kids had a better Christmas, thanks to Santa's bike workshop! After months of bike repair and refurbishment, our bike ministry team was thrilled to pair bikes with folks who needed them. Working with the Yuletide Hunger program and the City of Brecksville, our bike ministry invited families to come to our bike showroom (in Fellowship Hall) to select bikes for Christmas. Ruth Georgevich fashioned more than 30 big, beautiful, bows for the bikes; Jenny Gee attached tags to each bike; Wally Kudlaty and Jinho Lee prepared the bikes and arranged them just so; Gretchen Mates, Ann Rittman, George Smith and Kathy Sopka served hot chocolate and cookies; and Christmas spirit filled the air! Thank you all for your support of this ministry throughout the year! Want to get involved? Contact Jenny: 440-526-8938.

## **FOCUS ON THE FUTURE**

*A Series of Small Group Discussions  
With Rev. Dave Martin*

In October, Brecksville United Methodist Church hosted Dr. Heather Lear, Director of Evangelism Ministries for the United Methodist Church. Dr. Lear guided us in a lively discussion of many things—including an initial discussion of what Outreach and Missions means to Brecksville UMC.

As we start the new year and a new church season, we will continue those discussions. On January 22 and 24, we will be hosting small focus groups lead by Rev. Dave Martin, a retired United Methodist pastor who served most recently with Rocky River UMC.

We welcome everyone to attend! Together, we will look at the future of our church and we need your input. Please choose a session that best fits your schedule. Sign up in the Parlor or by contacting the church office.

Available times include  
1:30, 3:00, 6:30 and 8:00  
on January 22 and 24.



**8:45 Contemporary Worship**

10:00 Classes for All Ages

**11:15 Traditional Worship**

*Nursery care available all morning!*

### Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

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Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!



### Deep Breath

*Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor*

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

A comic strip created by Charles Schulz helps us to see the need for each of us to just make the most of the immediate present in our lives:

Charlie Brown is up to bat. Strike three! He has struck out again and slumps down on the player’s bench. He says, “Rats! I’ll never be a big league ballplayer. I just don’t have it! All my life I’ve dreamed of playing in the big leagues, but I know I’ll never make it.”

Lucy turns to try and console him. “Charlie Brown,” she says, “you’re thinking too far ahead. What you need to do is set yourself more immediate goals.”

Charlie Brown looks up and asks, “Immediate goals?”

Lucy responds, “Yes. Start with this next inning when you go out to pitch. See if you can walk out to the mound without falling down.”

The first step toward walking into any future is the first step that you take today. Make it a positive, well aimed, light, springy, energetic and purposeful step. The steps that you take today become the well-worn path of tomorrow.

Wishing all of us a healthy and happy 2018!

Pray for peace,

*Pastor Clark*



**Everyone’s welcome!**

Come enjoy **breakfast for lunch**

with the Church Staff

Tuesday, January 9 at

**12 noon in Fellowship Hall**

**Please RSVP!**

Sign up on Sunday or contact us:

440-526-8938 or

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



**COFFEE HOUR**

Sunday Mornings  
at 10 am in the Parlor

**January hosts:**

Finance Committee

Stop in and visit!

### OLD CELL PHONES WANTED

Have an old cell phone collecting dust and using up space in your junk drawer? Why not recycle it? Bring your old phone to the coat room collection bin for safe recycling and earn money for our church Missions Fund!



# CHURCH COUNCIL



## 2018 Committee Rosters Announced

Our Nominating Committee has been hard at work assembling committee rosters for the new year. Below is a list of the members of our Church Council, which consists of all committee chairs, six at large members, all members of the church program staff, and a recording secretary. We are thankful for all of those who devote their time and talents to the work of this church.

### Church Council

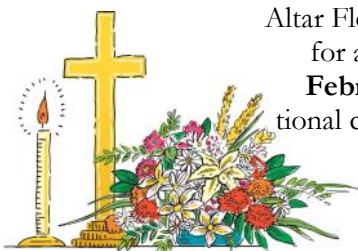
- Chair, Kristi Eberhardt
- Senior Pastor, Rev. Clark Stein
- Lay Member to Annual Conference, George Gee
- Annual Conference Member at Large, Jenny Gee
- President of the United Methodist Women, Ruth Herman,
- Church Historian, Marianne Nolan
- Church Treasurer, Becky Paroda
- 2018 Members at Large, John Brachna and Marianne Nolan
- 2019 Members at Large, Tim Miller and Helen Lee
- 2020 Members at Large, *to be named*
- Secretary, *to be named*

### Committee Chairs

- Church and Society, *vacant*
- Education, Jenny Gee
- Fellowship Committee, *vacant*
- Finance, Craig Kotnik
- Gifts & Memorials, Dave Brown
- Missions and Outreach, Co-chairs Lynn Spencer and Janet Kleckner
- Music & Worship Board, Co-chairs Liz Fredrick and Claire Hayes
- Staff Parish Relations, Ric Lesinski
- Trustees, Bob Lundholm
- Youth Board, Dana Schwendeman

If you would like a complete list of the membership of all committees, please contact the church office or attend the February Church Council meeting. Interested in serving? Please contact Pastor Clark!

### Bless the Congregation with Flowers!



Share a special occasion with the congregation—order Altar Flowers! Order by January 31 for 2017 pricing of \$40 for a standard arrangement. **The price goes up to \$45 February 1.** Special arrangements are available at additional cost. Flowers are provided by florist Vince DiCillo. Take your arrangement home to enjoy after second service! Reserve your special date. Contact Leslie to order: 440-526-8938



Year end giving statements will be mailed to you the week of January 15. The outside of the envelope will be marked “Important Tax Documents Enclosed.” Don’t miss it!

Can’t wait for the mail? You can quickly print your own statement anytime online. It’s easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Log in to [www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist](http://www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist).
2. Click your name in the upper right corner, and select **My Profile**.
3. Look for the **2017 Contribution Statement** button and click it!



If you have any trouble, call the church office.

440-526-8938



*A new all church study for adults. We are people who love to hear a good story. How are you at telling a story? Can you tell the story of your faith? Of your encounters with God in your day to day living? Who are the key players in your faith development story? Does any of it matter all that much?*

Join us for this engaging, interactive time of looking introspectively our own faith journey. Drop in anytime! We will work as a large class and in small groups. Teachers include Kathy Dickriede, Jamie Schwendeman, Chuck and Becky Gezze, Alan Schuefler and Kendall Lancaster.

Class will run from  
January 14 through February 11



**Cookies for the USO** //Wed. Jan. 3 at 6:30 pm  
Join the ladies of the UMW Evening Circle in the church kitchen to bake and package cookies for the USO Canteen at the CLE Airport. Bring unbaked cookie dough for 2 dozen cookies. All are welcome!

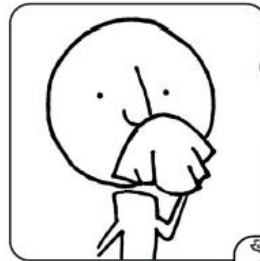
**Thank you!** Here's a huge thank you to all who fulfilled a "Wish List" Christmas Gift for a girl in the sisterhood at the Westside Community Center. Look for photos of their Christmas Party on the UMW bulletin board this winter!

## Veterans Christmas Card Thank You

You made Christmas brighter with all your beautiful sentiments and words in the Christmas cards you wrote to our veterans at Louis B. Stokes Medical Center. Together, we achieved our goal of having a Christmas card for every Veteran! I stopped counting at 550 and there were more to count! The volunteer services workers at the hospital were so very grateful and moved that our Veterans would each get a Christmas card from you. They said that we must be a very special group of people at Brecksville United Methodist, and I told them you definitely are! Thank you to each person who signed a card (or several cards) and also a BIG thank you to Jeanette Dumot and Kathy Auble, whose classrooms each made Christmas cards for the Veterans. They were so heartfelt and so cutely written. One of the veterans sent the church a Christmas card. She wrote, in part, "I received a Christmas Card and it meant a lot to me...It touched my heart that you would think of us at this time of year. Merry Christmas!" - Donna Sibits, *The Fellowship Committee*

**Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!**

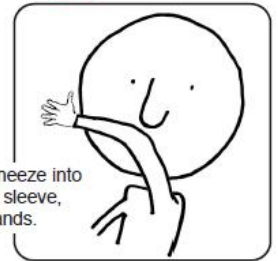
# Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze

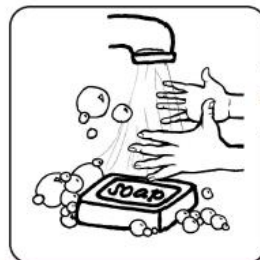
or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



# Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash hands with soap and warm water

or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.



# YOUTH NEWS

## All Youth Dinner // January 7, 5—7 pm // Fellowship Hall

Let's kick off 2018! This month's dinner is being sponsored by the Kotnik Family. Join us for a fun night full of yummy food and a large group game. Students in grades six through twelve are invited -- and encouraged to bring friends! We hope to see you there!

## Flat Rock Homes Overnight // January 12 through 13

Confirmation students and high school students will take a trip to Flat Rock, OH (near Sandusky) for a fun overnight experience that combines helping others and making awesome memories with friends, old and new!

Flat Rock Homes is a very special place. Here, people with developmental disabilities and those who are differently-abled are cared for by a wonderful staff, learn important skills, and enjoy an important sense of community with one another. Flat Rock Homes is passionate about supporting each and every human being in their journey toward wholeness and fulfillment.

We are excited to once again visit these remarkable individuals, help with their Christian Education, and lend a helping hand to the facility manager. After our daily activities we will have a lock-in at the facility with a movie, snacks, and access to a full gym! We hope you will join us.

- ▶ **RSVP is REQUIRED** for attendance.
- ▶ Email Dana at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) *before* January 8th to hold your place for this amazing opportunity!

## Youth Service Project Meeting // January 21 at Noon // Room 301

Interested in going on YSP with us this summer? Our trip is scheduled for June 17—21. Come to this first informative meeting and we will kick-off an exciting 2018 season! We hope to see you there. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Let's Talk About It: The Addiction Epidemic // Jan 28 at 7 pm

We are excited to start a new discussion series titled "Let's Talk About It." Come to the youth room on the fourth Sunday of every month at 7 pm for open, honest, and informed discussion on topics that impact students and the people they love. These discussions will be led by guest speakers. While they are youth focused, all are invited to join us! Our first Let's Talk About It topic will be *The Addiction Epidemic* and will be led by Brenda Calovini. We would love to know how many people to expect so please email Dana with your RSVP and with any questions you may have.



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin

@BrecksvilleumcYouth

Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237  
or [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

# Big Thank You!

We had a record turnout for Church Grounds clean-up on Saturday, December 2. With help from the congregation, Boy Scout Troop 175, their leaders and parents, we were able to clean-up everything and be finished by 10 am. You were all amazing! Blessings

—The Board of Trustees



## Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 7  
10 am in Fellowship Hall

Let's celebrate the people who serve our church and our community— with pancakes!

ALL are welcome.  
Hope you'll join us!







# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

Congratulations to the Scheufler family, who welcomed baby Brooke Elizabeth Backes to their family on December 27. Proud parents, are Elizabeth and Aaron! Brooke arrived a little early, but both she and her mother are doing well. Praise God!

### *We Give Thanks and Praise!*

This year, we had 54 poinsettia dedications, raising a little over \$600 for Brookside Food Center.

Our hat and mitten tree was filled to overflowing (with scarves, gloves, and socks, too). Your gifts will warm our neighbors in need through the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

## Baptism ANNIVERSARIES

Becky Gezze	1/24/1982
Caitlin Drescher	1/29/1995
Christine Drescher	1/29/1995
Jeff Drescher	1/29/1995
Courtney McDonough	1/29/1995
Lee Derry	1/1/1998
James Berry	1/27/2002
Quinn Slifcak	1/27/2002
Evan Davis	1/23/2005
Bennett Eberhardt	1/14/2007
Giovanna Figer	1/13/2008
Olivia Klipfell	1/29/2012
Evan Jatsek	1/11/2015
Owen Paroda	1/25/2015

*May the light of Jesus guide us on our paths as we share his love with the world. Amen!*







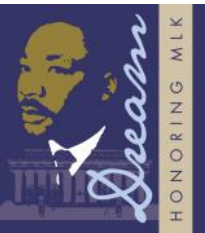



Joni Robinson	1	Ellen Martin	18
Kevin Schultz	1	Jennifer Schneider	18
Katie Cline	2	Jessica Zawada	18
Betsy Bellingham	3	Kaitlyn Ellis	20
Penny Lienert	3	Brian Meek	20
Michael Patrick	3	Dan Auble	21
Michelle Shively	3	Pat Gordon	21
Emily Vincent	3	Nate Bender	22
Kaya Roberts	5	Bob Nelson	22
Nate Machesky	6	Bob Lundholm	24
Claudia Monnett	6	Colin Crouch	25
Margie Benedict	7	Katie Hurder	25
Lucas Juniper	7	Sue Hastings	26
Autumn Lasich	7	Kimmer Cave	28
Lois Hahn	8	Donna Culley	28
Cole Mihalich	9	Lona Seifert	29
David Vastartis	9	Rick Dean	30
James Vastartis	9	Jill Magistro	30
Nathan Hulten	10	Don Salsbury	30
Gerry McMaster	11	Kathy Goebel	31
Marc Vincent	11	DJ Magee	31
Bob Carson	12		
Jennifer Hoffman	13		
Jim Smith	13		
Steven Chen	14		
Maddy McBride	14		
Donna Sibits	14		
Scott Ford	15		
Donna Houston	15		
Marianne Nolan	15		
Sam Papp	15		
Joy Parker	15		
Adalaide Spitzer	15		
Lois Moston	16		
Aundrea Dumot	17		
Eliot Slifcak	17		
Kim Johnson	18		
Fred Loeffler	18		



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings over the last four weeks, the following people were lifted in prayer with thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like our wonderful United Methodist Women, who fulfill an important ministry of caring. They recently hosted a funeral reception for a local family who had suffered a tragic loss, and helped surround a grieving family with love. Did you see the beautiful wreaths on our doors this Christmas season? They were placed there by Jane Petrie, who has continued this tradition for many years. Thank you, Jane! In Pastor Clark's absence, certified lay speaker, John Brachna, delivered a wonderful sermon on Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you for stepping in and allowing Pastor Clark and Kathy to spend the holiday with their children, John. We have searched high and low for fair trade decaffeinated coffee. When you have a professional barista on the case, that job's not so hard! Thank you, Jamie Schwendeman, for helping fill this need for coffee hour. Mitchell Bell did such a wonderful job with the liturgy for Advent and Christmas Eve. We're so thankful for each of you who are part of each worship service! And did you see the video that Jenny, Dana and our Sunday School kids put together to tell the Christmas story? It's wonderful! (You can see it on our Facebook page.) We thank God for all of you!

# January

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Offices Closed</b> 	<b>2</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5 Middle School Youth Group	<b>3</b> 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 (pm) Evening Circle	<b>4</b>  6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ens.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Liberia Sunday</b> Epiphany Volunteer Appreciation Sunday <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Pancakes! <b>11:15 Worship</b> 12:15 Music Bd 5 All Youth Dinner	<b>8</b> 6 Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Class	<b>9</b> 10 Staff Meeting 12 Lunch Bunch 5 Middle School Youth Group 7 Church Council	<b>10</b> 6:30 Breakfast	<b>11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b>  9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble	<b>12</b> Youth Overnight at Flat Rock Home  <b>Flat Rock</b> <small>Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives. Living Faith.</small>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Communion</b> Human Relations Day <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes for All Ages <b>11:15 Worship</b> 7 HS Youth Grp	<b>15 Offices Closed</b> 	<b>16</b> 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time Knitting Group 5 Middle School Youth Group	<b>17</b> 6:30 Breakfast	<b>18</b>  6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble	<b>19</b> UMW Food Delivery to Brookside	<b>20</b>
<b>PAPER RECYCLING BONUS WEEK!</b>						
<b>21 Ecumenical Sunday</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes for All Ages <b>11:15 Worship</b> 7 HS Youth Grp	<b>22</b> Small Group Meetings with Rev. Dave Martin  6 Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Class	<b>23</b> 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance 5 Middle School Youth Group	<b>24</b> Small Group Meetings with Rev. Dave Martin  6:30 Breakfast	<b>25</b>  6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes for All <b>11:15 Worship</b> 7 Let's Talk About It: Addiction Epidemic	<b>29</b> 6 Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Class	<b>30</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5 Middle School Youth Group	<b>31</b> 6:30 Breakfast   Kristi Eberhardt and Mary Kotnik			



# Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Socialize with us!*

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CHILI COOK OFF

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
6 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

**SAVE THE DATE~HELP WANTED!**

COME SHARE YOUR CHILI OR  
WARM UP WITH TASTY CHILI.  
SIGN UP ON SUNDAY!



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Open Doors.

*Welcoming all of God's children.*

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