

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CLOSE TO HOME

We get to move all our belongings out of the parsonage by the first Sunday of December. No, we're not moving. Thanks to the Planned Expense Fund, all our floors are being redone: the carpeting is being removed and the hardwood underneath is being refinished.

Last weekend, I was talking with a friend about our preparations, and they asked, "So when do you need to move out?" One of my kids overheard, and with tears in their eyes, in a panicked voice they exclaimed, "We're moving?!"

Thanks to their pastor-mom, my kids have moved quite a few times in their short lives. Through all those moves we've learned that home is not a place, but a feeling. You can live somewhere and it doesn't "feel like home." In the same right, you can arrive at a place and immediately feel at home.

I've shared before how it didn't take long for us to feel at home in

Brecksville. So it's no surprise that my child would be upset with the prospect of us moving. Because home is a very sacred place. It's a place where we can let our guard down, take a deep breath, rest, and recuperate from the day's events. It's a place of comfort and peace and hope.

At least it should be.

For some, home is not like that, but rather it's a place of anxiety and pain. It's a place where the guard goes up and you never feel welcome as you are. Or it's a place where you feel isolated and alone.

This year for Advent, our theme is Close to Home. It recognizes the "now but not yet" of this world; that although this world is often beautiful and comforting, it is also a place of hurt and heartache.

In this world, we are close to home, but not quite there. Because our true home is with God in God's kin-dom.

And as a church—as followers of Christ—our task is to bring glimpses of God's kin-dom "on earth as it is in heaven;" to create a safe space where we can let our guard down, take a deep breath, rest, and recuperate from life's events.

Our task is to help people feel at home in this world—to feel "at God" in this world.

This newsletter is filled with opportunities for you to feel at home with God this Advent, and to help create spaces for others to feel at home, too.

So as we move into this Advent season, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home, wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

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

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

Christian Education—Jenny Gee
education@brecksvilleumc.com

Youth Ministry—Dana Schwendeman
youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Child Care Coordinator—Allie Kenney
allie@brecksvilleumc.com

Music Ministry—Machala Comenshek
machala@brecksvilleumc.com

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

Organist/Accompanist—Sean Brown
sean@brecksvilleumc.com

Communications & Connections—
Melanie Smith
melanie@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager—Melissa Hinchman
melissa@brecksvilleumc.com

Finance Manager—Becky Paroda
finance@brecksvilleumc.com

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

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

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



When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our Advent Close to Home theme from A Sanctified Art acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

Join us in worship as we journey through the themes: Homesick, Seeking Sanctuary, Laying the Foundation, A Home For All, Invited Home and Home By Another Way.

Extend your Advent Practice into your week days:

- Participate in the Advent Worship Service, Wednesday 12/1 at 7 pm
- Visit the Advent Prayer Stations in the Chapel, beginning 11/28
- Download our [Advent Devotional](#) for daily inspiration (or ask the office for a printed copy.)
- Pick up or download a copy of our [Family Advent Calendar](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for daily inspiration.





Outdoor Nativity Pageant Plan to join us for a retelling of the best story ever, live, in-person and under the stars. **December 17 at 7pm** on the BUMC front lawn. If your child(ren) would like to participate, email Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com.



Christmas Extravaganza During the 11:00 Sunday school hour on December 19 kids and their families will join together in Fellowship Hall for some Yuletide FUN! Don't miss this awesome holiday tradition.



Family Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm on December 24 We are so excited to be back together to celebrate and retell the story of Jesus' birth. We are looking for shepherds, sheep, angels and wise folk. Older kids might like to be readers of scripture and prayers. Let Jenny know if your child(ren) are interested in participating. We will be recording video on a few dates prior to Christmas!

For the Season of Advent

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding the True Meaning of Christmas in the Grinch

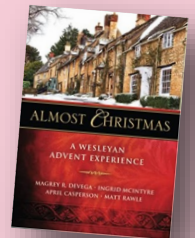
Sundays 11/28-12/19 at 11 am, Room 301



We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas, but we know he did! Join Jenny Gee to explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* How did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Almost Christmas A Wesleyan Advent Experience

Online, Sundays 11/28—12/19 at 7 pm



Do you find yourself experiencing "almost" love, hope, joy and peace in the Advent season? In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon titled "The Almost Christian" telling us that we should not be satisfied with being almost Christian but rather strive towards being altogether a Christian. Join us online as we connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. In this class we will work to uncover the barriers that prevent us from experiencing an "altogether" love, hope, joy, and peace in Christ, in our lives and in the world around us. Purchase of the book for this class is optional. (Available on Amazon Smile for under \$12.)

Poinsettia Dedications Fight Hunger

Complete this order form online: <https://forms.gle/372tv8wXe43XoxZU7>

Dedicate a poinsettia to help beautify the sanctuary for worship **and** help feed the hungry! Large pots of flowers will fill the Sanctuary for Christmas. We will order only enough small plants to deliver to the home bound. If we collect donations above the cost of the flowers, that money will go to our hunger fund. **Would you like a card to let a loved one know about their dedication?** Let us know and we'll print them for pick up. **Dedication deadline is Sunday, December 12.** Names will be in the bulletin on Sunday December 19 and on Christmas Eve. Please include cash or check (made payable to BUMC) with this form or indicate that you have paid online (<https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Poinsettias>).

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ (Suggested donation of \$10 for each dedication.)

IN
MEMORY

IN
HONOR

FOR

FROM

Return this form in the offering plate, deliver to the church office, or mail to
Brecksville United Methodist Church, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141.

Love Came Down at Christmas

by Joel Raney

A Cantata Presented by the
Brecksville United
Methodist Church Choir

Sunday,
December 19, 2021
at 8:30 am and 10 am



December Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Allen McCrodden | 10 Scott Schneider | 20 Hudson Schneider |
| 2 Jack Burrows | 10 David Schroedel | 21 Carol Dambaugh |
| 2 Dave Dobos | 10 Joseph Welch | 21 Megan Louttit |
| 2 Sue Ellenberger | 11 Thomas Aldridge | 23 Amanda Bianchi |
| 3 Ronnie Rajkovich | 11 Barb Berry | 23 Theodore Samblanet |
| 4 Ed Crist | 11 Amy Piorkowski | 25 Logan Hricko |
| 4 Malik Khalfani | 12 Mitchell Bell | 26 Elliott Thorson |
| 4 Nick Mihalich | 12 Penny Burns | 28 David Brown |
| 5 Carter Barnum | 12 Steve Piorkowski | 29 Christine Drescher |
| 5 Diane Ellis | 12 Doug Ritterbusch | 29 Sylvia Fowler |
| 5 Kate Krause | 13 Trinity Crouch | 29 Brandon Schroedel |
| 6 Bruce McCrodden | 13 Kiira Olszko | 30 Mary Lou Bennett |
| 6 Mike Memmer | 14 Shirley Harper | 30 Darell Fisher |
| 6 Katie Pasek | 15 Sydney Hazelton | 30 Todd Fowler |
| 6 Joyce Rossborough | 16 Everly Donathan | 30 Bob Jaite |
| 8 Steve Harper | 16 Dale Meyer | 31 John Scott |
| 9 Vivian Bielinski | 17 John Jatsek | 31 Hadley Spencer |
| 9 Rita Brown | 17 Elinor Rowan | 98 Connor Hulten |
| 9 Dick Gordon | 18 Carol Wilson | |
| 9 Charles Helm | 19 Jeff Fesler | |
| 9 Joyce Johnson | 19 Nathan Petznick | |
| 9 Daniel Soltis | | |



DECEMBER

Show your care with prayer!

Say a prayer as you seal the envelope and affix a stamp, and send some cheer along to our friends. It is a small gift that brings great joy.

Week of December 5

Betty Monnin

6611 Timberlane Dr
Independence, OH 44131-6564

Week of December 12

Faith McAllister

21 Poppy Ln
Granville, OH 43023-3200

Week of December 19

Ruth Holmes

4036 Brookside Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346-1168

Week of December 26

Don & Beryl Burkle

3464 Logwood Trl
Richfield, OH 44286-9359

Know someone who would appreciate being on the list?

Contact Pastor Barbara!

Check back next month for a new list!



On November 21, Clifford Diemer was baptized. We welcome Clifford and his family as they begin their journey of faith with Brecksville United Methodist Church!



At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. Folks like Doug Holmes, who serves the church in so many ways—as a closer, an usher and a trustee, among other things! The Fellowship

Committee makes our salute to veterans a meaningful celebration every year. Thank you for caring for those who served. Mary Kotnik and the Missions & Outreach Committee spearheaded a wonderful clothing donation drive, and you all were so generous in your donations. Thank you! When Allie couldn't be in the Wiggle Room one Sunday morning, Catherine Vastartis cheerfully filled in. Thanks, Catherine!

Welcome Home!

Whether your plans for the Christmas season include returning to your traditions or building new ones, we are thrilled to welcome you home to Brecksville United Methodist Church! December is filled with opportunities for worship, music and gathering. We hope you'll join us—whether you are near or far, online or in person, seeking a quiet moment of holiday solitude or gathering with your family and friends. Learn more at www.brecksvilleumc.com/Christmas



Advent Service 12.1

Seeking Sanctuary is the theme of this reflective evening service, a gift from the church staff to you! 7 pm in the Sanctuary and online.
No reservations required.



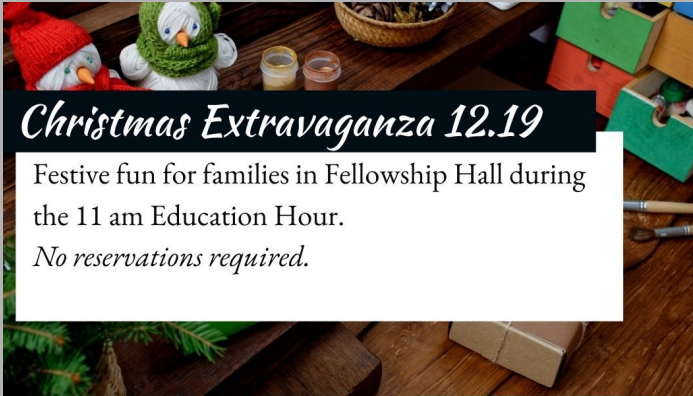
Cantata 12.19

The BUMC Choir presents "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Joel Raney at both worship services, 8:30 and 10 am, in the Sanctuary and online.
No reservations required.



Christmas Caroling 12.12

Meet in Fellowship Hall, get your songbook, and spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear.
Email music@brecksvilleumc.com to sign up!



Christmas Extravaganza 12.19

Festive fun for families in Fellowship Hall during the 11 am Education Hour.
No reservations required.



Outdoor Nativity 12.17

A retelling of the Christmas Story in the church yard! Bundle up and join the kids as they portray the greatest story ever told. 7 pm
No reservations required.



Longest Night Service 12.22

A sacred space for the grief, longing, and heartache that feels close to home—especially during the holiday season. 7 pm in the Sanctuary and online.
No reservations required.



One Worship Service on December 26

Worship with us at 10 am
in person or online!

Christmas Eve at Brecksville United Methodist Church



As cozy as a cup of hot cocoa, or singing carols around the tree, our Acoustic Christmas service is at a family friendly time at 3 pm. For those attending in person, no reservations are required.



We act out the Christmas Story with scripture and song! This service always draws a big crowd, so we're spreading out! (Read about Fellowship Hall below.) To safely accommodate all, [reservations are required.](#)

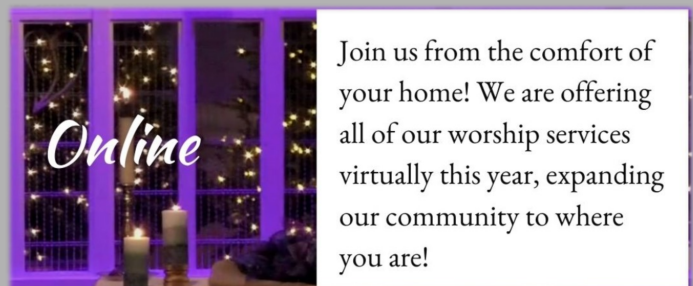
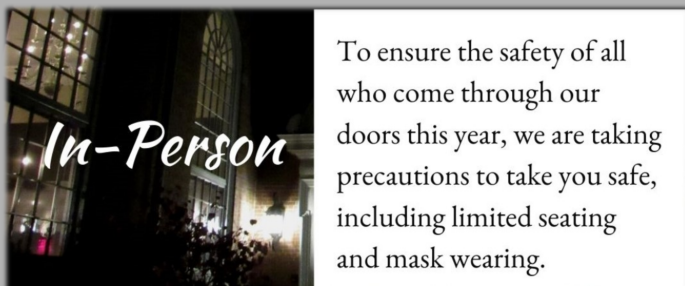


Our Carols and Candlelight services welcome the newborn king with scripture and song. The 10 o'clock service will include Holy Communion. To safely accommodate all, [reservations are required.](#)

Fellowship Hall becomes a worship space

We're transforming Fellowship Hall into a worship space for Christmas Eve! This second worship space will offer a unique experience for the 5:00 & 8:00 services. Service will be simulcast on the big screen, and a song leader will lead you in the carols. There will be space for kids to wiggle (at 5:00) and adults to sit in rows of seating or at tables. We will also provide activities to help keep the kids engaged in worship. Our prayer is that this added worship space will enable us to welcome all to worship safely and in their own way on this special night!

We ask for you to reserve your space in the Fellowship Hall or sanctuary at the 5:00 & 8:00 services. You can make reservations [by clicking this link](#) or by calling the church office.



Learn more, get updates and register at brecksvilleumc.com/Christmas



Missions and Outreach Update



Our Thanksgiving

Offering will help satisfy our church's Faith Build Commitment of \$5,000 for 2021. The work is complete and the new homeowners have moved in! Our work days and money combine with that of other area churches to make this possible!

Our Christmas Offering

will be equally divided between four local food banks: Brecksville-Braodview Hts. Lend-a-Hand; North Royalton Food Pantry; The Emergency Assistance Center and Parma Hts. Food Pantry.

Give securely **online** at onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give

Text "GIVEBUMC Thanksgiving" or "GIVEBUMC Christmas" to 73256

Or mark your **check or envelope** "Thanksgiving" or "Christmas" Offering.

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- Hebrews 13:16*

We offer prayers of thanks for...

- Your generosity of clothing which we were able to share with 3 agencies: B. Riley House; City Mission; Laura's Home. Many thanks to those who folded and prayed over the clothing.
- Your help on Bike Fix-It Days to support the Bike Ministry coordinated by Jenny Gee – what a fabulous outreach!!

Christmas Cards for Veterans & Bows for Bikes!

Donate new Christmas cards **or recycle the front of Christmas cards** you received in years past. (There's a collection basket outside the church office.) On **December 5**, beginning at 9:30 am, come to Fellowship Hall and make and sign Christmas cards for the veterans, and make bows for the bikes to be given out for Christmas.

Help Fill the Giving Trees in Fellowship Hall



Hat & Mitten Tree (scarfs and gloves too). Purchased or handmade items for all ages accepted from November 28 through January 2. Items will be donated to Afghan Refugees.

Non-perishable food and cleaning supply Tree is ready for your donations now. These items will help those served by the Parma Heights Food Pantry.



We're Bringing back the Giving Tree from years ago. Select a tag from the tree and shop for a gift to help one of the agencies our church supports (Rahab Ministries, Cleveland APL, Nehemiah Mission, etc.) No need to wrap the donations—just bring them to church by **January 2**.

Day of Service at Camp Wanake, an East Ohio Camp January 29

Winter repairs make summer camp possible! Let's organize a team to check some things off of the camp's winter "to-do" list. Things like building Adirondack chairs, installing carpet, remodeling a shower house, office work, trail clearing, firewood, general construction projects, and more. Something for all abilities.

This mission event is for all ages. Families and kids are highly recommended. They can add more projects as needed to accommodate for these. No cost! Lunch is provided and is Camp Wanake's way to show their appreciation for your help in the ministry. Make sure to bring your appetite!

Questions? reach out to Rev. Kathy Dickriede (kdickriede@gmail.com). Sign up for this opportunity, and learn more, online.

Thank you for your support of these projects! Missions & Outreach wishes each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!!



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



SAVE YOUR ACME RECEIPTS!

Dated August 5 - December 25, 2021

BRING THEM TO CHURCH
FOR THE UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN'S MISSION FUND!

Donating receipts from Acme is an easy way to support the United Methodist Women's Mission Fund! When you're doing your holiday grocery shopping, consider stopping at Acme (they even offer curbside), selecting qualifying brands and bringing your register tape to church! There's a collection bin in the coat room. Receipts dated through December 25 are eligible!

Asbury Bremeth Circle



United Methodist Women



Asbury Bremeth meets 12/9 (the second Thursday of each month). Join a group of women in friendship and learning. From 9:30 to 10 am we socialize and catch up on some UMW business, then from 10-11 we are exploring a study called *Follow* by Andy Stanley, which asks "Is our faith is based on a set of arbitrary rules or a big to-do list?" If we listen to Jesus' call to follow... we will understand better what it means to be a child of God. No registration required. Bring a friend! Questions? Call Gretchen 440-526-6481.

NOTE: There is no regular UMW Meeting, Board Meeting or Evening Circle Meeting in December. Save the date for January 5, when the Evening Circle will be making cookies for the USO Canteen at the Cleveland Airport!



ALL YOUTH

Christmas Party

Grades 6 - 12

December 5
in Fellowship Hall 5-7:30pm

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to don their holiday apparel and join us for our annual Youth Christmas Party, a fun, festive gathering for youth. Our popular bingo extravaganza returns. You can win a year of free Wendy's Frostys. Then we will transform the Fellowship Hall into a movie theater as we watch a Christmas classic together. Fresh popcorn and other snacks provided! It is always a fun time! **RSVP to Dana by December 3.**

youth@breckavilleumc.com



TACOS!

Christmas Eve at 6 pm
Fellowship Hall

If you find yourself wondering what to eat on Christmas Eve or wanting to start a new tradition, join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 5 pm service.

[Sign up here!](#)



HONEST WORSHIP

Honest Worship is integral to who we are at BUMC.

In fact, it's one of our values! *We invite everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically: heart, mind, soul, and body. This means...*

- Coming as you are, in the messiness of life to wrestle with the questions of faith.
- Encountering God through different forms of worship opportunities.
- Encouraging everyone to contribute in our worship.

Worship is where we meet God, together. It's a safe space where we can come just as we are, whether that's joyful and full of hope and excitement, or exhausted and broken and weeping. It's a safe space—a sanctuary—where we do not have to conform to the expectations of this world, but simply *be*—be God's beloved child. And *breathe*—breathe out the hurt and doubt and fear, and breathe in God's healing Spirit of hope and wisdom and grace.

Worship is sanctuary; a chrysalis; it's coming home to God.

It's where we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice: singing God's praises; listening to ancient scriptures and marveling at how thousands of years later God can speak to us through them; moving to the Spirit's leading—dancing (swaying like good Methodists), bowing our heads, and reaching out our hands, offering our gifts to God; opening our eyes to the wonders God has placed right in front of us; and tasting the unconditional love of God in holy communion.

In worship, we practice giving God our whole selves so that when we go from our time together, we can give God our whole selves each and every day.

Worship at BUMC looks a little different than it did before the pandemic. At least the Sunday morning schedule does. We've kept the times consistent (8:30 &

10:00) year-round so we are more welcoming to first-time guests and those who are newer to our community (we don't have to worry about someone not getting the memo!).

These new times came out of the survey we took last spring. People said worship *time* was most important, so we did our best to come as close as possible to peoples' preferred worship times—moving the Education Hour to the end of the morning to make it all fit!



We scheduled the service with the worship band at 10:00 so that kids could go directly from Sprouts to the Education Hour, which seems to have worked very well! Jenny has seen a marked increase in attendance during Kids' Education Hour, and they're having a blast in their new space on the 4th floor!

The first service, too, with the choir singing and organ playing, seems to have gained new energy. And now that both services are indoors, we

are able to live stream both services. We have at least one third of our people joining online each week! (So if you don't see a familiar face or two, that doesn't mean they've disappeared—they might be joining from their couch!)

Worship at BUMC looks a little different than before the pandemic, and yet in the most important ways it has stayed the same. We come together in the messiness of life to wrestle with the questions of faith; we encounter God through different forms of worship opportunities; and we encourage everyone to contribute in our worship.

Each week I see proof of God's Spirit impacting people's lives as they encounter God's love and hope through worship. And each time, I'm grateful for this community, which has used the holy disturbance of the pandemic to embrace new opportunities.

- Rev. Heidi Welch



DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship Services 8:30 & 10 am In person AND Online	Visit the church office Monday through Friday 8 am—2 pm		1 6:30 Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship Service	2 9:30 Facebook Check In 6:30 Choir 8:30 Band	3	4
	JOY					
5 - 2nd Advent 11 Education Hour 11 Hymn Sing Class 4 Community Chorus Christmas Concert 5 Youth Christmas Party 7 Almost Christmas online study	6 10:30 Lectio Divina 9 Enneagram Small Group	7 10:30 Staff Mtg 3 Worship Planning 7 Lectio Divina	8 6:30 Breakfast	9 9:30 Facebook Check In 10 Asbury Bremeth Circle 6:30 Choir 8:30 Band	10	11
PEACE						
12 - 3rd Advent 11 Education Hour 11 Hymn Sing Class 5 Youth Group 6 Christmas Caroling 7 Almost Christmas online study	13 10:30 Lectio Divina	14 10:30 Staff Mtg 3 Worship Plng 7 Lectio Divina 7 Inclusion Task Force	15 6:30 Breakfast	16 9:30 Facebook Check In 6:30 Choir 8:30 Band	17 7 Outdoor Nativity Pageant	18
HOPE						
19 - 4th Advent Christmas Cantata - both services 11 Christmas Extravaganza 7 Almost Christmas online study	20 10:30 Lectio Divina 6 Yuletide Bike Night	21 10:30 Staff Mtg 3 Worship Planning 7 Longest Night Service	22 6:30 Breakfast	23 9:30 Facebook Check In 6:30 Choir 8:30 Band	24 Christmas Eve 3 Acoustic Christmas 5 Family Service 6 Christmas Tacos 8 & 10 Carols & Candlelight	25
LOVE						
BBH Schools Winter Break (Through December 31)						
26 ONE WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY AT 10 AM	27	28	29	30	31 9—Noon Church Office Open	
BUMC Church Staff Break						





Because My Wife Said So

Jeff Hastings' Reflection on Giving

When Pastor Heidi asked me to do a testimonial about why I give to the church I thought, "That will be simple. It's because my wife said so!"

To be honest, talking about giving is a bit awkward. I don't want to give anyone the impression that I have this "giving thing" figured out. Through my life I've matured in my faith and my thoughts about giving, but I still think I'm a work in progress and am very thankful that God has been patient with me.

The reason my wife, Sue, and I give is really quite simple. We recognize that we have been blessed and giving is our way of giving back.

I grew up in a small Methodist church and my parents were excellent role models. We went to church every Sunday. My sister and I had a goal of getting perfect attendance in Sunday school each year. Because the church was small, my parents were usually serving on more than one committee every year. They taught Sunday school and youth group and our family was active in all aspects of church life. Every Sunday I watched my parents put an envelope in the offering plate. Or to be more accurate, my sister and I would argue about who got to put the offering in the plate.

Even with my upbringing, in the years after I graduated from college, giving money to the church was not something that was on my list of priorities. At first, it seemed like the bills were always more than the money coming in. As time passed and our income increased, the bills seemed to increase at the same pace, if not faster.

Then, there was that part of me that thought I was working so very hard that I deserved to have more and more. I just felt like I earned it. I'd really lost sight of my roots and the many blessing in my life.

The truth is, the time of year when the church talked about stewardship made me uncomfortable. I didn't like it at all. But it was also during this time, shortly after we joined this church, that I started to turn things around. The church had a guest speaker who asked us to look at where we spend our money and how that spending fit our priorities. We were asked to consider areas where we could make some changes. When I looked where our money was being spent, I could identify areas we could change. Those changes really didn't hurt. In fact, the giving felt good.

But like I said, I'm a work in progress. This is a materialistic world. I continue to ask God for guidance. I no longer dread this time of year when we talk about stewardship, but look at it as an opportunity for reflection. I'm reminded of my grandma saying "count your blessings, not your burdens." And I still hear my dad's voice reminding me to know the difference between needs and wants. When there is so much need in the world, my focus can't be on what I want, especially because I have been blessed with plenty. And when I still might lose track of what's important, I have another blessing that helps me stay on track. In those times when I may start to stray, I'll do the right thing - because my wife said so. - *Jeff Hastings*



Let's give ourselves a round of applause for a successful Stewardship campaign! The numbers speak for themselves as we have received 124 pledges for \$433,305 for the 2022 budget compared to 120 received last year for \$412,593. That's close to a 5% increase! In addition, we received 53 pledges to the Planned Expense Fund for \$27,260, which is an 11% increase over last year. Even more extraordinary news is that 22 of these are NEW pledges! Our goal is to receive at least 17 more for an additional \$38,790. Haven't sent your pledge in yet? We are still accepting them!

brecksvilleumc.com/giving

And 2021 isn't over yet! With your continued commitment, we can end the year on budget! We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. Stop by the Finance Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall during Advent to see some of the projects you have helped fund this year!

Questions about year end giving or pledging? Give me a call at the church office and let's chat. 440-526-8938. (I love to talk about numbers!)

I am in Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 2 pm and Thursdays from 9 am to noon.

-Becky Paroda, Finance Manager



COURAGEOUS INCLUSION—CLOSE TO HOME!

Our church proudly supports and celebrates the things that make us different and call this value "courageous inclusion." This holiday season, the Inclusion Task Force has gathered a list of some of our favorite, small, locally-owned businesses in Northeast Ohio which are owned and operated by a diverse group of people. We encourage you to check out these places as you look for gifts, a new place to eat, or just want to support small as you celebrate the season. From our Inclusion Task Force to your family, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Place of Business	Type of Business	Inclusion Type	Address	City
<u>Habesha Ethiopian and Eritrean Restaurant</u>	Restaurant	Refugee-owned	16860 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111	Cleveland
<u>Algebra Tea House</u>	Restaurant	Refugee-owned	2136 Murray Hill Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106	Cleveland
<u>ButterPear</u>	Gifts/Wares	Refugee-owned	Nehemiah Mission 6515 Bridge Ave, Cleveland	Cleveland
<u>Sabor Miami Cafe and Gallery</u>	Restaurant/Art Gallery	Refugee-owned	4848 Broadview Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109	Cleveland
<u>La Crepe Bakery and Café</u>	Bakery/Coffee Shop	Refugee-owned	14785 Pearl Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136	Strongsville
<u>Tasty Space</u>	Bakery	Refugee-owned	Order online or by phone (440) 650-8430	Cleveland
<u>Elizabeth's Bookshop</u>	Bookshop	BIPOC- owned	647 E. Market Street, Akron, OH 44304	Akron
<u>Batuqui Brazilian Restaurant</u>	Restaurant	BIPOC- owned	12706 Larchmere Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44120	Cleveland
<u>Irie Jamaican Kitchen</u>	Restaurant	BIPOC- owned	837 W Market St, Akron & 4162 Pearl Rd, Cleveland OH	Akron and Old Brooklyn
<u>Cathy's Gourmet Icecream Sandwiches</u>	Bakery	BIPOC- owned	401 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114	Cleveland
<u>Sugarberry Gifting Co.</u>	Gifts/Wares	BIPOC- owned	Online ordering	Cleveland
<u>Brittany's Record Shop</u>	Music Shop	BIPOC- owned	1464 E 105th St. Cleveland, Ohio 44106	Cleveland
<u>Brewella's</u>	Coffee Shop	LGBT- owned	16806 Madison Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107	Lakewood
<u>The Side Quest</u>	Restaurant/Bar	LGBT- owned	17900 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107	Lakewood
<u>Soothing Sloth Soap Co.</u>	Gifts/Wares	LGBT-owned	Order online	Cleveland
<u>The Urban Orchid</u>	Flower Shop	LGBT-owned	3154 west 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44109	Tremont
<u>Just A Buck: A "Dollar Store"</u>	Gifts/Wares	Disabilities Ally	Midtown Plaza; 1844 Snow Road Parma, OH	Parma
<u>Sangomas Closet</u>	Thrift Store	Disabilities Ally	9255 Broadview Rd Broadview Hts, OH 44147	Broadview Heights

Do you have a business to recommend? Share it in the Brecksville United Methodist Church Group on Facebook!

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Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8 am — 2 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com

A vertical poster with a dark blue background featuring light blue bokeh and rays of light. At the top center is a gold-colored line-art icon of two hands cupping a heart. Below the icon, the text "CLOSE to HOME" is written in a gold serif font, with "CLOSE" in all caps and "to" in lowercase. Underneath that, "Christmas Eve" is written in a gold serif font. Further down, "at Brecksville United Methodist Church" is written in a white sans-serif font. Below that, "Services at 3, 5, 8 and 10" is written in a gold sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM" is written in a gold sans-serif font.

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.