

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE GOOD WORD



### Lifelong Learning

#### From Generation to Generation

The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us.



### Honest Worship

#### Christmas Eve

Services at 3, 5, 8 and 10.  
Christmas Tacos at 6!  
Details inside.



### Determined Service

#### Giving Trees

Branch out in service  
in the season  
of giving.

## COMFORT AND HOPE

### Longest Night Service- Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm

The Christmas season is often presented as unending joy and peaceful family celebration from beginning to end. There isn't much room for grief, a sense of loneliness, or any other emotion considered to be negative. Except, emotions aren't negative or positive; they just are. At our Longest Night service, space is created to allow us to feel what we feel and remember that God meets us where we are. Of course, our worship is always directed toward the Christ who comes. And this Christ meets us in joy and in pain, in certainty and in doubt. Our prayer is that this service might be space of comfort and hope to all. Join us in person or online.

## Connect with us!

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com

65 Public Square, 44141

www.brecksvilleumc.com

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

## Gramma's Hard Tack Candy

I love holiday family traditions.

One of my favorite traditions growing up was when we would go over to my Gramma's house the Saturday after Thanksgiving and make hard tack candy. We gathered in Gramma's kitchen and would make a dozen different flavors, ranging from cinnamon (my favorite) and spearmint, to watermelon and peach. (We never made peppermint because Gramma said it made everything else taste like peppermint.) By the end of the day, we were all covered in powdered sugar and our fingers were sore from handling and cutting the hot candy.

It was a day I looked forward to every year.

But then, eight years ago, my Gramma suddenly got sick and passed away the week before Christmas. The last time we had seen her was when we made hard tack.

When Thanksgiving rolled around the next year, no one was ready to continue the tradition without Gramma—it just wouldn't be the same without her, in her farmhouse kitchen, with the red and white checkered tablecloth.

Then, people moved away, life got busy, and years went by. We still haven't made hard tack without Gramma.

But, this year, I finally said to my mom, "I want to do hard tack again. We can have it at my house. It won't be the same, but I think Gramma will be there with us in spirit." She agreed, so I told others, and everyone was excited to bring back this tradition. Then I told my son, and he excitedly said, "We are?!" and then, with tears in his eye, "Oh, I miss Gramma."

The last time we made hard tack he was 4 years old. And yet he still remembers.

That's what traditions do: they pass on joy and love, from generation to generation.

This Advent and Christmas season, we are going to remember the people and stories of the first Christmas, and celebrate how the good news that was birthed transcends time and space: it's for the whole world, *from generation to generation*. We'll continue traditions from the past, and create new ones, so that generations to come will know of the love and joy of that first Christmas.

As I write this, I'm mentally preparing for my house to be covered in powdered sugar in about a week. Then I think of Gramma's smile. And I know that the day will also be covered in love and joy and memories.

But don't worry, Gramma, we still won't make peppermint.

*Pastor Heidi*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor





FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...

LIFELONG LEARNING



## Adult Study: From Generation to Generation

Sundays, November 27 - December 18 at 9:30 in the Chapel

This is a time of the year filled with reminders of Christmases past and the wonderful people in our lives that added to the happy and heartfelt memories of the holidays. This year our sermon series and our Sunday morning gathering time will center around the theme: **From Generation to Generation**. We will explore the people within the Christmas story as well as our Christmas story. Join Jenny each Sunday as we make our way through the beautiful devotional booklet that goes along with our Advent sermon series. Each week we will have the opportunity to share with one another the elements that spoke to us most from the previous week's devotions and take a peek at the week ahead. The booklet includes visual arts, written reflections, poems, hymns and journaling prompts. And, because many of us connect with our ancestors through the foods and recipes that they have passed down to us - a recipe is included each week as an act of Sabbath rest.

## Christmas Extravaganza

Sunday, December 18 at 9:30

T'was the Sunday Before Christmas and all through the Church,  
Every family was stirring, up and down they did search  
For a way to be together that didn't cost a dime  
Yet helped them celebrate Jesus' birth AND have a great time  
When what to their wondering eyes did appear?  
That made mom and dad smile and caused children to cheer?  
Yes! Crafts, games and science projects for everyone to do  
With sequins and glitter, paints, shaving cream and glue  
(You have to experience it to know that it's true!)  
Mark your calendar for December 18 at 9:30 on-the-nose  
Make your way to the fourth floor... even if it snows  
There will be fun for the whole family to enjoy all as one  
As we celebrate the birth of Jesus... and have so much fun!!

### Have an idea for a class or small group?

Is there a book you've read, a movie you've watched, or an interest you'd like to explore with others from your church family? Maybe an evening class or weekday morning class would work better for your schedule? Reach out to our Director of Education, Jenny Gee, and share your idea! [Jenny@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Jenny@brecksvilleumc.com)

## God in Nature

Each Friday in the noon hour Jenny comes to you live from somewhere out in nature to talk about how big and beautiful our world is and what an amazing and creative God we have! For the first four Fridays of December Jenny will join you to share a special devotional called *The Dawn Chorus, An Advent Devotional on the Wonder of Birds* where week by week we take a look at our feathered friends and think of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that they represent. If you would like to receive a copy of *The Dawn Chorus* to do at home as part of your Advent devotions, pick one up on Sunday or reach out to the church office. We can send you a digital or a hard copy.



## Say Cheese!

Beginning Friday,  
December 16 a Christmas  
Photo Backdrop will be set  
up in the Parlor. Gather your  
family and friends and come  
snap a holiday photo!





November  
2022

Youth Ministry  
Memories



### Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4 from 5-8 pm in Fellowship Hall

Bingo, dinner, and a movie!  
This fun youth holiday tradition is back and we are so excited to invite all students in 6-12th grade to join us for a holly jolly good time! Reach out to Dana to RSVP today!

### Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

E-mail [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237

[www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin](http://www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin)



### Calling all shepherds, sheep, donkeys, angels, wise folk, and...

#### Outdoor Christmas Pageant

December 16 at 7 pm

We are so excited to bring back our beautiful outdoor nativity pageant, a delightful way to experience the story of Jesus' birth outside in the winter air. Children play all the characters that show up in the nativity story and will also do the readings and lead the prayers. Costumes are provided and there are no rehearsals.

#### Family Christmas Eve

December 24 at 5 pm

We have found the Holy Family but still need some angels to announce the Good News, shepherds to hear it, Maji to celebrate it and sheep to 'baa.' Are you interested in being part of our live nativity at the 5 pm Family Christmas Eve worship? All ages are welcome and costumes are provided. We will have one rehearsal the week before Christmas.

If you or your child would like to participate, please reach out to Jenny Gee!

Call (440) 526-8938 or emailing [jenny@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:jenny@brecksvilleumc.com)



## Godspeed, Pastor Barbara!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to wish Pastor Barbara Bartholomew well as she continues her faith journey! She is an ordained Presbyterian Pastor who has served our church community as Pastor of Visitation for seven years. She has been dedicated to visiting and caring for those who are unable to worship in person due to illness or being homebound, and those who have suffered loss. Her kind heart, compassion, and faith have been continuously evident as she visited those in need. She began the Care & Prayer card ministry which highlights members who need spirits lifted with a simple note or prayer. She also began a monthly Service of Holy Communion at Chippewa Creek. Most of all, though, Pastor Barbara exemplified the ministry of presence. Her faith and her heart for God were made visible as she cared for people in need of comfort, kindness, prayer, and sometimes simply through conversation or visit. Her warm, gentle spirit will be missed, and our prayers go with her!

Pastor Heidi looks forward to continuing our care for those who are shut-in or sick with the help of volunteers. Do you feel called to help with this ministry? Please reach out to her. - *The Staff Parish Relations Committee*



### A Message from Pastor Barbara

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 1:3-6)

Truly, I can think of no more tender words than these from the apostle Paul writing to his dear friends of the church in Philippi, to share with you as I take leave of you all at BUMC at the end of this month. It has been a true joy and a wonderful blessing to serve with and among you these past sevenish years. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, even though I wasn't able to be with you on Sundays. I will cherish all my memories and hold you all close in my heart and prayers as I enter a different phase in my life and as you create safe spaces for people to grow in the love of Christ our Lord and continue to serve God so faithfully in the world by living into your spiritual gifts. You all have inspired me, supported my work with and among you as I visited and cared for the sick, the home-bound and those in care facilities. Do not neglect these folks who are BUMC also, for they have been faithful to God and often served the church actively in their time. Being a part of BUMC is important to them.

Thank you for all of your love, care and the joy you have given to me. I hope you have felt the love, care and joy I have shared with you. Please know that I will truly miss you all! Continue to be the blessing you are and be that blessing in the world. The peace of Christ Jesus be with the whole community of BUMC. - *With love and blessings, Pastor Barbara*

thank  
★ you ★

It takes a lot of people to lead Brecksville United Methodist Church! Let's take a moment to thank those who have concluded their time of leadership. These individuals have served three-year terms in their positions: attending meetings and prayerfully discerning how we can use the resources God has given us to *create safe spaces to grow with God and one another*. Each committee has one or two people who "Chair". These individuals are in charge of setting and leading meetings and making sure all the things get done! **We thank each of you for your leadership!**

Bob Bloch, *Gifts & Memorials*  
Kim Campbell, *Mission & Outreach*  
Lynn Hobzek, *Co-Chair, Fellowship*  
Gail Huth, *Staff Parish Relations*  
Jinho Lee, *Chair, Board of Trustees*  
Gretchen Mates, *Gifts & Memorials*  
Fran McClean, *Fellowship Committee*  
Shelly Meek, *Finance Committee*  
Bryan Miller, *Mission & Outreach*  
Kim Meyer, *Staff Parish Relations*  
Mike Paroda, *Board of Trustees*  
Alan Scheufler, *Member-at-Large of Church Council & Finance Committee*  
Donna Sibits, *Co-Chair, Fellowship*  
Janine Telischak, *Co-Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee*

We are grateful for your commitment to God and to Brecksville United Methodist Church! Thank you!

*We will welcome new Chairpersons with an onboarding meeting December 6 at 7 pm. The 2023 Leadership List will be published in the January issue of this newsletter.*



## DETERMINED SERVICE

### Don't Throw It Away!

In October, the church did some “fall cleaning” exploring our storage spaces, doing inventory and clearing out the items that we no longer need to make space for the things that we do. We filled a dumpster to the rim with old ceiling tiles, deflated VBS decorations and long forgotten parts to things we no longer have. But we were careful to find homes for the things that people need or can use:

- We donated two boxes of Bibles to the women served by Rahab Ministries. Rahab told us “We want to share the Word with as many people as possible.”
- We sent sleeping bags, a couch, and some household items to Nehemiah Mission for refugee families.
- Some vases and candle holders were donated to our florist, who creates such beautiful arrangements for us.
- A young artist took a stack of old posters and poster, and a nativity painting, created by the children of the church, now hangs in a church member’s home.

### What’s your favorite place to donate items you no longer need?

We’re putting together a list for the 2023 Guidebook Directory. Contact Jaclyn Torres, our Office Manager, with your favorite organization—to update your directory listing or to make sure you’re on the mailing list to receive a copy!

jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com  
440-526-8938

### Gifts For Those In Need

Show your love for others in this season of giving by adding people in need to your Christmas list.

- **Christmas Offering** The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will be the recipient of this year’s Christmas Offering. 100% of your gift will go to disaster relief, here in the United States and abroad. Mark your gift “Christmas Offering.”
- **Dedicate a Poinsettia** When you purchase a poinsettia dedication, your gift supports hunger ministry. The order form in this newsletter has details! Gift cards available to share with those you honor.
- **Giving Trees** Each holiday season, we designate three Christmas Trees for the organizations and causes we support. Bring your gifts to Fellowship Hall by January 3.
  - \* The **Hat & Mitten Tree** (scarfs and gloves too). Purchased or handmade items to help warm those in need.
  - \* **Non-perishable food and cleaning supply donations** to help those served by area food banks.
  - \* **The Angel Tree.** 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.)



### Bike Fix-it Day Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to Noon

Want to help get spokes to folks? Come to Bike Fix It Day! All levels of ability are welcome to join us. Some bikes need mechanical work, but others just need a good cleaning, or to have usable parts removed. Many hands make for much lighter work! Questions? Reach out to [jenny@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:jenny@brecksvilleumc.com)

### Community Blood Drive Sunday, December 18 from 10 am—1 pm

The busy holiday season is a slow time for blood donations. Giving blood is safe and easy, and only takes about an hour to help save more than one life. Other added benefits of donating blood are a mini-physical and full panel of tests each donor receives. Sign up for our blood drive today at [Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal](http://Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal)





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.



**Outdoor Nativity Pageant** - *in person only*

Friday, 12/16 at 7 pm, church lawn (Fellowship Hall, weather backup)

Come gather 'round the manger on the church lawn, as wise folk, shepherds, and angels share the good news. Produced by the children of the church, this special service is a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas Story. Invite your friends! Refreshments & photos in the Parlor after the service!



**Longest Night** - *in person & online*

Wednesday, 12/21 at 7 pm

At a time when so many continue to experience grief, loss, and hardship, this service of prayer, music, and reflection invites us into hope and healing. Read more on the cover of this newsletter!



**Christmas Cantata** - *in person & online*

Sunday, 12/18 at 10:30 am

Our Choir presents "Love Came Down at Christmas" Another wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas story with friends and family!



**Christmas Eve Services** - *in person and online*

Saturday, 12/24 at 3, 5, 8 and 10 pm

**3pm Acoustic Christmas**—A quiet service reflecting on the peace, hope, joy and love of Christmas.

**5 pm Family Service**—The kids retell the Christmas story with scripture and song. Overflow seating available in the Parlor and Fellowship Hall.

**Carols & Candlelight**—The 8 pm service includes music from the choir and strings. The 10 pm service includes Holy Communion and pipe organ.



**Christmas Day**

Sunday, 12/25 at 10:30 am

Join us in person for **Brunch Church** in Fellowship Hall, an opportunity to share a meal and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas Jammies are acceptable attire! If you can't be here in person, join us online for a Christmas Special featuring some of your favorite Christmas Carols and more!

# Lectio Divina

...  
Mondays at 10:30 am  
or  
Tuesdays at 7 pm  
in the Chapel

...  
A slow, meditative  
reading and praying  
of a Scripture passage.

All are welcome.  
There is no homework.  
Drop in anytime!

## 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference

On November first, I traveled to Fort Wayne, Indiana to participate in the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. (Quick recap: in the United Methodist Church, local churches are gathered into Annual Conferences, and Conferences are gathered into Jurisdictions. Then, all Jurisdictions and Central Conferences—those outside the US—are gathered into the General Conference, which is the worldwide United Methodist Church.)

The primary work of Jurisdictional Conference is to elect bishops who will itinerate (move around) within the Jurisdiction. Jurisdictions also vote on resolutions, pass a budget, and do other such work.

This was my first time being a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference, elected by clergy in our Annual Conference to represent East Ohio in this larger context. I really didn't know what to expect, but became nervous as I heard about all the politicking that is typically done to elect bishops, and considered the current environment of division within the UMC.

However, what I encountered was something very different. As we gathered in the Convention Center, we were greeted by the Holy Spirit. Each day began with worship, setting the tone for business sessions filled with voting to elect three bishops, discussing and eventually passing three resolutions, and having holy conversation on the topics of White Supremacy and gun violence, and homophobia and transphobia in the Church. Especially on days when we were having these holy, yet difficult conversations, "business" and worship converged, as scripture and singing were woven throughout.

Yes, there were people who refused to participate in the hard conversations, and that is their right. And yes, there was the back-and-forth of speeches "for" and "against" resolutions. But even in the midst of these disagreements, the Holy Spirit was felt.

And when the week was over, I was left with an overwhelming sense of hope for The United Methodist Church, and most of all for God's Church universal.

Yes, churches have chosen to disaffiliate, and that will continue to happen for the next couple of years. However, let's not think too highly of ourselves—the church is *much bigger* than The United Methodist Church, and God is *much more powerful* than our fear or anger or frustration with one another.

These words from Bishop Julius Trimble have stuck with me: "We can press on – or be a footnote in the annals of history, so I stopped by to tell you that *Jesus is real!* You may consider yourself left-leaning or right-leaning, but we all better be leaning on the everlasting arms!"

If you'd like to learn more about the work we did at Jurisdictional Conference, contact me or head over to the East Ohio Conference website:

[ecumcnews.com/2022/11/05/north-central-jurisdictional-conference-2022-recap](https://ecumcnews.com/2022/11/05/north-central-jurisdictional-conference-2022-recap) - Take care, Pastor Heidi



**SPARK**  
ACTIVATE FAITH

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**  
OPTIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL  
THROUGH 8TH GRADE

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
AT 9:30 AM

EDUCATION@  
BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM



# December Birthdays



## DECEMBER

### *Notes & prayer!*

A wonderful gift? A card or note letting someone know you said a prayer for them!

*Week of December 4*

### **Faith McAllister**

21 Poppy Ln  
Granville, OH 43023-3200

*Week of December 11*

### **Dorothy Pliske**

8239 York Rd Apt 2002  
North Royalton, OH 44133-1254

*Week of December 18*

### **Shirley Galik**

7005 Stadium Dr Apt 210  
Brecksville, OH 44141-1895

*Week of December 25*

### **Rev. Barbara Bartholomew**

390 Meadowcreek Dr  
Wadsworth, OH 44281-8873  
Pastor Barbara started this project during the pandemic, and it has become a wonderful gift to so many! Let's let her know how much she's loved!

*Contact the office to nominate someone for next month's list!*

- |                     |                       |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Allen McCrodden   | 11 Barb Berry         | 21 Carol Dambaugh     |
| 2 Jack Burrows      | 11 Amy Piorkowski     | 21 Megan Louttit      |
| 2 Dave Dobos        | 12 Mitchell Bell      | 23 Amanda Bianchi     |
| 2 Sue Ellenberger   | 12 Penny Burns        | 23 Theodore Samblanet |
| 3 Ronnie Rajkovich  | 12 Steve Piorkowski   | 24 Pam Papp           |
| 4 Nick Mihalich     | 12 Doug Ritterbusch   | 25 Logan Hricko       |
| 4 Zachery Momchilov | 13 Trinity Crouch     | 26 Kayla Kosla        |
| 5 Carter Barnum     | 13 Kiira Olszko       | 26 Elliott Thorson    |
| 5 Diane Ellis       | 14 Shirley Harper     | 28 David Brown        |
| 5 Kate Krause       | 15 Sydney Hazelton    | 29 Christine Drescher |
| 6 Bruce McCrodden   | 15 Ruth Moorhead      | 29 Sylvia Fowler      |
| 6 Mike Memmer       | 16 Dale Meyer         | 29 Brandon Schroedel  |
| 6 Joyce Rossborough | 17 John Jatsek        | 30 Mary Lou Bennett   |
| 9 Vivian Bielinski  | 17 Elinor Rowan       | 30 Darell Fisher      |
| 9 Rita Brown        | 18 Carol Wilson       | 30 Todd Fowler        |
| 9 Dick Gordon       | 19 Jeff Fesler        | 30 Bob Jaite          |
| 9 Daniel Soltis     | 19 J. Donald Moorhead | 31 Connor Hulten      |
| 10 Scott Schneider  | 19 Nathan Petznick    | 31 John Scott         |
| 10 David Schroedel  | 20 Hudson Schneider   | 31 Hadley Spencer     |
| 10 Jordan Welch     |                       |                       |



Each week at Staff Meeting we celebrate "God Moments" and lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. We're thankful for people like The Fellowship Committee, who do such a wonderful job of expressing appreciation and love for our veterans each year. Lynn Hobzek carried a big load this year, as

Donna Sibits was recovering from knee surgery. Thank you all! Gretchen Mates spent part of her birthday helping us sort books in the church library. And, she volunteered, with Maggie Jones and Marla Knight, to come help at Trick-Or-Trot. Thank you, Gretchen, for all the ways you serve! We have been blessed by those who share their musical talents in worship. In addition to our wonderful worship band and choir, we recently heard special music from Michael Houff, Becky Chen, Deanne Kloss and Hawa Bouie. We're thankful for each of you! We asked, and Doug Holmes made it happen. Thank you, Doug, for your invaluable help with our church clean out project. We couldn't have done it without you! We're thankful for all the ways Don & Cathy Krolikowski serve, including being part of the welcome team and teaching Sunday School. If we listed all of the people we're thankful for and all the ways they serve, this column would fill the whole newsletter. Know that we thank God for all of you, every day!



## Christmas Eve 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. For planning purposes, please RSVP at BUMCLinks, at church on Sunday or by calling 440-526-8938.

## 2023 Guide Book

*Coming Soon!*

Our annual Guide Book & Directory contains good stuff: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of members & friends.

This book is provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, because it is subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office. 440-526-8938.

Make sure your contact information is complete! Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Have you added any family members? Do you want your record published? Email [Jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com)



United  
Women  
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

## Christmas Potluck and Tea

Thurs, Dec 1, 12 pm

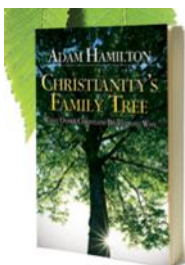
The women of Asbury Bremeth & UWF invite you to a joyful gathering in the Parlor. Bring a dish to share. Questions? Call Sharon Judson at 330-603-9264



## Looking Ahead

- In February, we welcome Suzanne Carle, Director, Philanthropic Engagement, Stepstone Academy who will share about the important work of the organization.
- Want to know why United Methodist Women changed their name to United Women in Faith (UWF)? Judy Kidder, President of UWF East Ohio Conference, will join us in March to talk to us about it. Bring your questions!
- We look forward to hearing from Sylvia Fowler President of the Brecksville Historical Association in April.

All are welcome in United Women in Faith. Want to learn more about the work of the organization? Want to stay up to date with coming events? Please reach out!



## Asbury Bremeth Circle

*A study group for women. Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Next meeting October 13.*

Have you ever wondered about other Christian denominations and what the differences in beliefs are? That will be the focus of this year's Asbury Bremeth Study. All women are invited to join us for a study of Adam Hamilton's *Christianity's Family Tree*. This month, we learn about the Lutheran denomination. Invite a friend and join us on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 in the Parlor.

## Pastoral Emergency Line: 440-290-6671

A pastoral emergency is something that *just can't wait*. A loved one is in critical care, there's been a death in the family, a pastor is needed. Call the church at 440-526-8938. What do you do if it's after hours or the office is closed? **Call our new Pastoral Emergency Line: 440-290-6671** and leave a message. The "pastor on call" will get back to you as soon as possible.



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The Wiggle Room is open Sundays from 8 to Noon (except Christmas Day.)</i></p> <p>* = online option</p>				<p>1 9:30 Facebook Live 12 UWF Christmas Tea &amp; Potluck 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>2 12 God In Nature—<i>Dawn Chorus</i> 6 Staff Christmas Party</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 <i>Communion Sunday</i> <b>8:30 Contemplative Worship</b> <b>8:30 Online Worship*</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering <b>10:30 Worship*</b> 12 Sunday Recap 5 Youth Group Christmas Party</p>	<p>5 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>6 10:30 Staff Mtg <b>2:30 Chippewa Communion Svc</b> 7 Chair Onboarding Mtg 7 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>7 6:30 Breakfast</p>	<p>8 9:30 Facebook Live 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>9 12 God In Nature—<i>Dawn Chorus</i></p>	<p>10 9 - 12 Bike Fix It Day </p>
<p>11 <b>8:30 Contemplative Worship</b> <b>8:30 Online Worship*</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering <b>10:30 Worship*</b> 11:30 Christmas Caroling 12 Sunday Recap</p>	<p>12 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>13 10:30 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>14 6:30 Breakfast</p>	<p>15 <i>Newsletter Deadline Today</i> 9:30 Facebook Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>16 12 God In Nature—<i>Dawn Chorus</i> <b>7 Outdoor Nativity Pageant</b></p>	<p>17  <i>Visit the photo backdrop in the Parlor!</i></p>
<p>18 <b>8:30 Contemplative Worship</b> <b>8:30 Online Worship*</b> 9:30 Christmas Extravaganza 10—1 Blood Drive <b>10:30 Christmas Cantata Service*</b> 12 Sunday Recap</p>	<p>19 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>20 10:30 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>21 6:30 Breakfast <b>7 pm Longest Night Worship Service</b></p>	<p>22 9:30 Facebook Live 10 Newsletter Production Party 6:30 Choir 8 Band</p>	<p>23 9:30 UWF Board Meeting 12 God In Nature—<i>Dawn Chorus</i></p>	<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve Services</i> <b>3 Acoustic</b> <b>5 Family</b> 6 Tacos <b>8 Candlelight, Choir &amp; Strings</b> <b>10 Candlelight Organ &amp; Communion</b></p>
<p>25 10:30 Special Online Christmas Service* 10:30 Brunch Church </p>	<p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b> <i>The Church Administrative Offices are closed this week but we will be checking the mail and depositing gifts. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call 440-290-6671.</i></p>				<p>30</p>	<p>31 </p>

**VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES**



**BRECKSVILLE**  
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## Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
 9:15 am — 2:15 pm  
 440-526-8938  
 info@brecksvilleumc.com



**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.



## Don't let the end of the year sneak up on you!

With the end of the year fast approaching, it is time to plan your year end giving and process any Donor Advised Funds, IRAs, QCDs, Stocks or financial institution gifts. **To be credited to your 2022 giving, gifts must be received in the church office by December 31.**

**Online Gifts through our Secure Giving Platform, Realm**—Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give and to keep track of your gifts, and makes our accounting seamless. If you would like help getting started, please reach out to the office!

Becky Paroda, our Finance Manager, can provide you with additional information about these and other ways to give. Please reach out to Becky at [Finance@Brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Finance@Brecksvilleumc.com).



The Church Offices are closed the week after Christmas, but we will be checking the mail!

## Poinsettia Dedications Raise Funds for Hunger Ministry

One tradition passed on from generation to generation at Brecksville United Methodist Church is the dedication of poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Order online at [BUMCLinks.com](http://BUMCLinks.com), or complete the form below and return it to the church office on Sunday or drop off to mail to:

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

2022  
**POINSETTIA  
FUNDRAISER FOR HUNGER**

Help beautify the sanctuary for worship and help feed the hungry with a poinsettia dedication! \$10 Each  
**LAST DAY TO SUBMIT IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.**  
Dedications will be included in the bulletin on  
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Payment Enclosed  
 I paid online  
<https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Poinsettias>

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your poinsettia dedication to read? (Limit 180 characters) Some examples: "Given by George & Mary Bailey in honor of Clarence Odbody." "In memory of Susan Wells with love from Buddy and Jovie." "Given to the glory of God by The McAllister Family."

I understand that a poinsettia is not guaranteed, but would like to pick one up on Christmas Day.  
 I would like to help deliver poinsettias after Christmas. Please contact me.

# Love Came Down at Christmas

by Joel Raney

Sunday,  
December 18, 2022  
at 10:30 am

A Cantata Presented by the  
Brecksville United  
Methodist Church Choir



Christina Rossetti's 1885 poem, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, was the inspiration for this beautiful cantata by Joel Raney. We invite you to experience the Christmas story and the themes of Joy, Hope, Peace and Love with us on Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. At Brecksville UMC we are all about creating safe space to grow with God and one another. All are welcome! The Cantata will also be livestreamed on Facebook Live, YouTube, our website and Boxcast!

—\$500,000

—\$403,863



## WE ARE SO CLOSE!

JOIN US IN  
REACHING OUR  
GOAL OF \$500,000  
IN PLEDGES FOR  
2023!

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

When you make a commitment to give in 2023, you are saying "yes" to the missions and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church.

Your gifts, in any amount, helps our church create safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

If you have not yet communicated your plans to give in the new year, visit BUMCLinks to pledge online or download a pledge card -- or pick up a copy at church.

#### Have questions about pledging?

Reach out to our Finance Manager,  
Becky Paroda  
Becky@brecksvilleumc.com

**PLEDGE  
TODAY!**

*Don't let December 31 sneak up on you!  
Get your year-end gifts in early!*

Give online: <https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/now> or Text "GIVEBUMC" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.