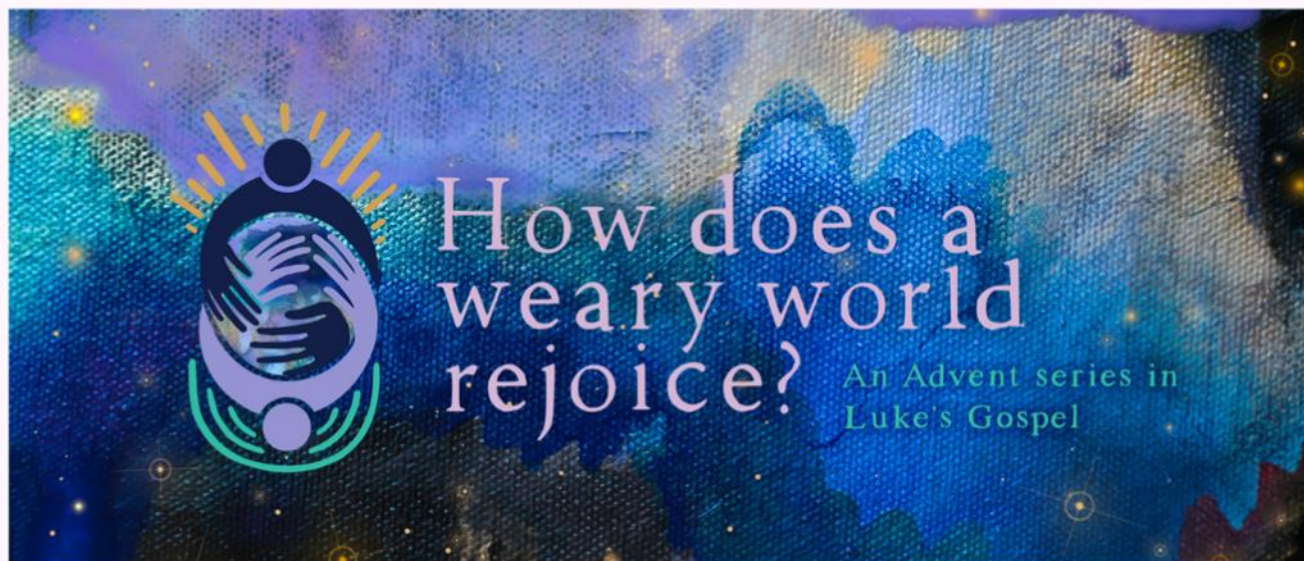


The Good Word

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



"When we trust in our belovedness, we have endless reasons to rejoice."

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Details inside!

1st Sunday in Advent - 11/26

We acknowledge our weariness

2nd Sunday in Advent - 12/3

We find joy in connection

Advent Dinner Church - 12/6

We sing stories of hope

3rd Sunday in Advent - 12/10

We allow ourselves to be amazed

Christmas Cantata - 12/17

Christmas Extravaganza at 9:30

Longest Night - 12/21

Liturgy for the Weary

Christmas Eve Services - 12/24

We make room

- 10:30 - Kids & Carols
- 3 pm - Organ & Candlelight
- 5 pm - Family Service
- 8 pm - Strings, Choir & Carols

Brecksville UMC

☎ 440-526-8938

✉ office@brecksvilleumc.com

📍 65 Public Square, 44141

🌐 www.brecksvilleumc.com

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+ both/and

This past June, I had the honor of laying one of our BUMC saints to rest. At the funeral, I said words that I had said many times at memorial services:

“Today is a day for both/and. It’s a day to cry and weep and mourn our loss... *and it’s a day to celebrate and be glad.*”

But as I said those words at Deanne’s service, I clung to their truth like I never had before. I was so sad and mad that she was gone from this world, *and* I was completely filled with joy that she was no longer in pain and in the shining presence of our Savior. As I led the service, tears of sorrow streaming down my face, I was overwhelmed with gratitude that I had the blessing of knowing Deanne and being impacted by God’s love through her.

So often we think of emotions as either/or—we can be either happy or sad; grateful or annoyed; excited or exhausted. But the truth is, most of the time emotions are all jumbled together. At any one moment, you can feel joy, anticipation, excitement, grief, exhaustion, and disappointment.

Particularly at this time of year.

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, anticipating the coming of the Christ Child, while also living in the grief, anxiety, and exhaustion of personal loss, war, political division, etc.

So this Advent, we will acknowledge the weariness of our world while also seeking real and daily moments of joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world, welcoming joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1).

And we will do this in community, because our joy is better when it’s shared, and our weariness is eased when we hold it with one another.

I invite you to our Advent Dinner Church (Dec. 6), where we will focus on the hope we feel in the midst of our weariness, and our Longest Night service (Dec. 21), when we will hold space for a special “Worship for the Weary.” Also, each Sunday we will remind ourselves that joy is relational, rooted in the fact that we belong to God.

I pray that this Advent and Christmas season, we will find many ways to rejoice, in the midst of our weary world.

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



Christmas Eve 6 pm Fellowship Hall

Wondering what to eat on Christmas Eve? Looking for a new tradition? Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 5 pm service for TACOS! Help ensure that there’s enough to go around—please RSVP at BUMCLinks, at church on Sunday or by calling 440-526-8938.



Advent Dinner Church

Wednesday, December 6

Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. Center yourself in the Spirit this season by taking time for community and conversation with Dinner Church. Come enjoy a simple meal, prepared by the church staff, and an

informal worship experience that includes communion, prayer, song and conversation around a shared table. As always, all are welcome. Bring your friends! Please RSVP at BUMCLinks.com so we can plan a plentiful menu!

Liturgy for the Weary

A Longest Night Service—Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm

For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. On the longest night of the year, we create space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. Friends, this service is for you. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God. We hope that this service is a gift to you, providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing. May you find peace in your journey. *Join us in person or online.*

Christmas Extravaganza & Cantata—Sun, Dec 17

It's a great Sunday to invite a friend to church! There will be no 8:30 service, but there will be Yuletide FUN in Fellowship Hall at 9:30—our family friendly Christmas Extravaganza. Our SNOW GLOBE photo booth will be set up in The Lobby, and Don Krolikowski will be here with his trusty camera taking holiday photos. At 10:30, we will gather in the Sanctuary for Cantata Sunday as The Chancel Choir presents *A Weary World Rejoices (A Chamber Cantata for Christmas)* by Joseph M. Martin, which begins...

“In the weary days of winter, when peace seems like a distant dream, as wounded songs shiver in the night and shadows fall heavy upon the heart, unexpectedly, at just the perfect time, the hope of Christmas begins to glow.

Like a golden ember of promise burning in the soul, our frozen hearts start to warm. Our fragile faith begins to stir and we reach past the snowy silence and remember the ancient star songs. We search the treasured words of the prophets, and we gather to our sacred spaces to reflect and remember.

There, in the serenity of worship, faint music begins to fall like a gentle snow upon our longing. Softly at first, a mysterious whisper, a mother's sigh, a baby's cry, and then a crescendo of wonders on angels' wings. ‘Gloria in excelsis Deo.’ Redeemed, restored and renewed, we join the music. Awakened by grace, we rejoice, and our world is changed forever.”

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

As this special day falls on a Sunday this year, our worship times are a little different than usual.

All services include candle lighting and Silent Night!

10:30 am — Carols & Kids

Traveling in the afternoon? Celebrate early with this service, which includes a mini Christmas pageant.

3 pm — Carols & Organ

Music from our pipe organ will fill the Sanctuary during this beautiful afternoon service.

5 pm—Family Service

Traditionally our most popular service, the pews will be filled with families as our kids present a living nativity.

8 pm—Choir & String Quartet

Special music at a special time on this Holy Night.

Devotionals & Advent Calendars

Pick up printed copies at church (large print available) or email us for a digital link!

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @BrecksvilleUMC for daily Advent prompts!





Christmas Extravaganza

*Sing this invite to the tune of
"Up On the Housetop"*

Down in the big Hall

We invite you

Bring the whole family

There's so much to do

Making ornaments

Games with friends

Painting a mural

The fun never ends!

Ho ho ho, who wouldn't go?

Ho ho ho, who wouldn't go?

To the 'stravaganza...

year after year.

It's a great time filled

with lots of cheer!

**Be sure to mark your
calendars for**

**Christmas Extravaganza
2023!**

***Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 in
the Fellowship Hall.***

Bring a cousin, bring a friend...
don't miss this wonderful
Brecksville UMC tradition.

Kids Sunday School & Sprouts in December

Sunday School and Sprouts continue through December 10. Join your teacher at 9:30 for our Movie Matinee Sunday school with *Meet the Robinsons*. See how this movie teaches us about stick-to-itiveness, problem solving and forgiveness. We also learn what Jesus had to say about these life lessons! Plan to join us.

Sprouts still follows the Children's Moment at the 10:30 am service as we learn the story of Jesus' birth through December 10. Both hours of classes will be canceled on December 17 for the Extravaganza and the Cantata. Sunday school (9:30) will be canceled on December 31 but we will have Sprouts (10:30)!

Christmas Eve and Kids

Christmas Eve Family Worship at 5pm is a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas together. The service is full of beautiful music, meaningful Christmas scripture readings and our live nativity... complete with baby Jesus! Young people lead us through this service - if your son or daughter would like to read and/or be part of the live nativity, contact Jenny Gee, Director of Education, at education@brecksvilleumc.com or by calling 440-526-8938 ext. 230.

This year we will also have the opportunity for young people to participate in the 10:30 service with a skit and scripture readings. If your family plans to attend the 10:30 service on Christmas Eve and your son or daughter would like to participate, please let Jenny know!



BALM FOR BLUE HOLIDAYS

*exploring the journey of grief
when there is an empty seat at the table*

Saturday, December 9, 2023

10-11:30 am eastern | 9-10:30 central
8-9:30 mountain | 7-8:30 pacific

*live via zoom or later via recording
pay-what-you-can*



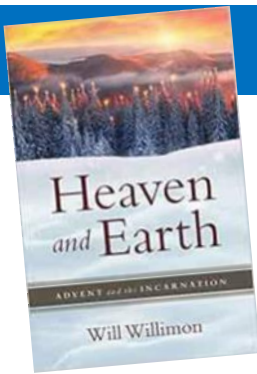
LED BY KIM LANGLEY

hosted by belly of the whale spiritual direction & retreat ministries.



Learn more and register at bellyofthewhaleministries.net





New Adult Education Class for Advent

Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

this will be a perfect follow-up to our Dynamite Prayer series and will keep us on track to continue this Spirit led prayer practice. We already know that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus. But we have to remember it's not just Jesus' birth that we are waiting for... it's what comes after... the earth-shaking and life transforming Good News that God is among us! In this study Will Willimon (a former UMC Bishop) leads us into reflecting on God's presence and power in our lives and challenges us to open our hearts and eyes to the way God's love can transform the world. Join Jenny and friends in the Chapel.



Podcast Class *Sundays at 9:30. Room 301*

Join the conversation! Listen to a podcast on the theme of the upcoming Sunday's sermon and then get together to talk about it. What can we learn as people of faith? In person or via Zoom! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or



CHICKEN TENDERS & FRIES FOR DINNER
*GLUTEN FREE AND VEGGIE OPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE

FRESHLY POPPED POPCORN

BINGO TO WIN A YEAR OF FREE FROSTYS

CHRISTMAS MOVIE ON THE BIG SCREEN

MAKE & TAKE ORNAMENT CRAFTS

**For students
in grades
6—12!**

The wait is nearly over...our Annual Youth Christmas Party is BACK!

Invite your friends for the fun!

**RSVP Today and take
our Christmas Movie
Poll**

Email Dana Schwendeman

Youth Director

DANA@brecksvilleUMC.com

to RSVP today!

Ministry Teams Form

In January 2024, we will begin our new church governance structure. While much emphasis has been on the Leadership Board (which combines Church Council, SPR, Trustees, and Finance, and focuses on the governing work of the church), the success of this new structure—and the ministry of Brecksville United Methodist Church—lies in our Ministry Teams.

Ministry Teams focus on either long-term or short-term projects, such as Building Maintenance (long-term) and Fall Kick-Off planning team (short-term).

Teams are great ways to use your God-given strengths and gifts to serve God through Brecksville UMC and help us fulfill our mission of *creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another*.

Any individual is able to join a team at any point throughout the year. When you find a Team you're interested in joining, contact the Ministry Team Leader for more information, such as the next meeting time and location. You are able to join a Team for as long as you would like; we simply ask that you communicate with the Team Leader when you would like to be taken off the roster.

As the Leadership Board begins its work in the new year, more details will become available. Contacts for Ministry Team Leaders will be available on BUMCLinks.com, as well as a Ministry Teams FAQ sheet. If you already feel a call to be part of a team, please reach out — either through the interest form at BUMCLinks or by contacting the office.

More information will continue to be available as we grow into this governance model and discern the where God is leading BUMC. If you have immediate questions, contact Pastor Heidi.

Read more about ministry teams on the next page...

Thank You, Church Leaders

It takes a lot of people to lead Brecksville United Methodist Church! As we transition to a new model of governance, I want to acknowledge all those who served this year:

Bob Bloch, Finance Committee
Dave Brown, Co-Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Craig Czarnota, Nominating Committee
Kristi Eberhardt, Chair, Gifts & Memorials Committee & Nominating Committee
Sue Ellenberger, Church Council Member-at-Large
Becky Gezze, Gifts & Memorials Committee
David Gardner, Board of Trustees
Sue Hastings, Church Council Chairperson
Doug Holmes, Board of Trustees
Elizabeth Jaszczak, Church Council Member-at-Large
Craig Kotnik, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Mary Kotnik, Board of Trustees
Julie Kubek, Co-Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Jinho Lee, Board of Trustees
Eric Louttit, Chair, Finance Committee
Kathy Louttit, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Bob Lundholm, Chair, Board of Trustees
Shelly Meek, Finance Committee
Matt Mellott, Church Council Member-at-Large
Leslie Miller, Nominating Committee
Tim Miller, Church Council Member-at-Large
Linda Moore, Board of Trustees
Paul Olszko, Board of Trustees
Michelle Orr, Finance Committee
Alan Scheufler, Staff Parish Relations Committee
John Scott, Finance Committee
Leisa Scott, Finance Committee
Tracy Scott, Nominating Committee
Beth Smith, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Melanie Smith, Church Council Secretary
Deb Watkins, Staff Parish Relations Committee

To say I am grateful for these individuals is a vast understatement. Many have served on a variety of committees over many terms, and even decades. They have committed hundreds of hours to committee meetings, responding to emails, prayer, and hands-on service. Brecksville United Methodist Church would not be what it is today without their caring leadership. **Thank you!** May God bless you as you discover new ways to serve God in the future! - *Pastor Heidi*



2023 Finance Update— As I sit at my desk on November 8th, I can hardly believe that there are only 7 more weeks left in 2023! I am heart happy and full of hope as we wrap up our 2023 financial year. Your fulfilled pledge dollars will help the Operating Budget finish better than where we originally planned. If we all stay the course, we should finish within 3% of our projected budget, albeit at a deficit. Any additional amount you can give will help us balance our budget and put BUMC in a great position to kick off the New Year. Give by mail, in the offering plate, or by using the QR Code or web address below. *Thank you!*

2024 Pledge Update—We still need your help! We currently have 100 pledges in for \$412,000. The goal is to receive \$502,000 to pay for our expenses next year. That is only \$88,000 more for us to be able to fulfill our mission at BUMC. Why are your pledges so important? The reason is simply so we can proceed into the next year with a firm budget that will provide financial security for our staff, programming, mission work, church building and Parsonage. As the Finance Manager, I am pleased to report that our operating expense has finished within 3% of our planned goal for the past 5 years. You can lean on this figure because I want you to make a pledge to BUMC with the utmost confidence. Pick up a pledge card at church or download a copy at BUMCLinks.com.—*Sincerely, Becky Paroda, Finance Manager*



ELECTRONIC GIVING
is secure, quick
and easy.

Year End Giving

Don't miss your window to make a tax deductible gift to Brecksville United Methodist Church. Gifts to the offering plate will be deposited quickly—but gifts sent through the mail may be delayed. Mail your gifts **early** to ensure they're on your year-end statement—or give securely with online giving!

...Continued from previous page.

Some of the long-term Ministry Teams:

Building Maintenance Team works with our Facility Managers to maintain the church building and the parsonage. Like fixing things around the house or yard work? This Team could use your expertise to care for our church home!

Missions & Community Engagement Team brainstorms ideas for connecting with our local communities and serving individuals in need locally, nationally, and internationally. They have the honor and responsibility of prayerfully spending the annual Missions budget.

Fellowship Team gathers a few times throughout the year to plan different opportunities for community building and fun for our church family. There will also be opportunities to participate in short-term teams specific to large events (such as our Fall Kick-Off).

Stewardship Team works with the Leadership Board to help communicate how we are being stewards of the money we have been given. They also help ensure Stewardship isn't just a "season" in the church, but something we think about all year long.

Worship Arts Team will work with Pastor Heidi and staff members to help enhance the visual aesthetics of our worship spaces in order to help people both in-person and online connect with our worship series.

Where are you feeling a call to serve? What gifts and graces will you share through the church? Let's talk about it!

2024 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN
PROGRESS AS OF 11/17
101 pledges = \$415,088
83% of our goal!

Congratulations, Betty Monnin! You won a pie from the Pastor!

Thank you all for your pledges!



United Women in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

You are welcome to come! Most meetings are in the church parlor on the second floor.

Asbury Bremeth

Exploring World Religions

Thursday, 12/14

We continue our study of world religions as Peg Welch joins us to share more about her time in India. In October our look at Hinduism left us with more questions than answers about the faith practices of Hindus. Peg will join us to answer some of our questions, tell us more about the caste system in India and show us how to celebrate a traditional Indian Christmas. Yes, she will be bringing treats as well as her highly entertaining stories as only Peg can tell!

All are welcome to learn together and share insights. Bring a friend! Bring your own coffee for conversation at 9:30. Program begins at 10 am.



You are cordially invited to the Annual United Women in Faith (UWF) Christmas Potluck Luncheon, Thursday, December 7 at noon. You are welcome to bring a friend. All church staff is invited! Please bring a potluck dish to share. The event is in & around the church parlor. Questions? Please email UWF@BrecksvilleUMC.com or call the office.

There is no UWF meeting in January. Enjoy the holidays!

Save the date for our first meeting of 2024: Learn how to de-clutter with (a long-time member of United Methodist Women, Debbie Bryant and friends on Thursday, February 1. Fellowship and refreshments begins at 9:30 am. The program starts at 10 am. General UWF meeting follows after a short break.



JOYFUL GATHERING

We're Going Caroling! Sunday, December 10 after 10:30 worship The Choir and Fellowship Committee invite you to help spread Christmas Cheer by singing loud for all to hear! Fill up with some soup & bread in Fellowship Hall and then we'll split up into groups, go caroling to people in our church who need some extra love and to family and friends that we pass by. Sign up at BUMCLinks.com

Family Photos Sunday, December 17

Gather your friends and family and have your picture taken at our Snow Globe Photo Backdrop in the lobby. Don Krolkowski will be there with his camera on the 17th, and the backdrop will stay up for Christmas Eve Sunday, too.





December

Giving Trees***Giving Trees Return***

Each season, we designate three Christmas Trees to help people in need. Add some items to your shopping list in December!

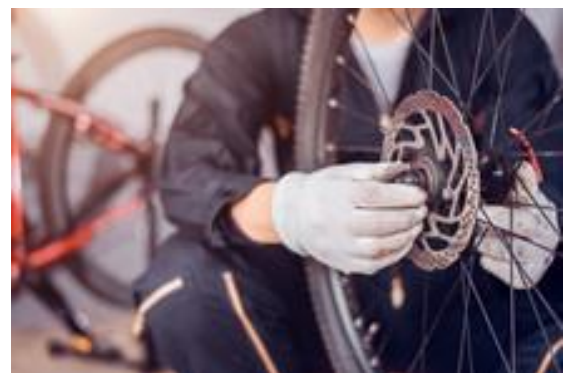
- **The Hat & Mitten Tree** (scarfs and gloves too). Purchased or handmade items to help the people served by West Side Community House. Thank you, Betty Monnin, for our first donation of beautiful handmade scarves & hats!
- **The Pantry Tree** non-perishable food, hygiene items and cleaning supplies for those served by an area food bank and for the unhoused served by Trial for Hope.
- **The Angel Tree.** Select a tag from the tree and shop for needed items for the women served by Rahab Ministries and the people served by our Bike Ministry.

Collecting through December 24!

**Bike Fix It Day**

Here's a big THANK YOU to everyone who came out on Saturday, November 18 as we repaired donated bikes.

Because of you, we are able to deliver 34 bikes in time for Christmas! Stay tuned for the date of our next Bike Fix-it Day. All skill levels welcomed!

**Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army!** *Saturday, Dec.*

23. The funds you raise as a Salvation Army bell ringer will make a year-round impact in our community through social services assistance, homeless shelters, disaster relief, children's programs, rehabilitation services, anti-human trafficking, and more. Donations in the red kettle stay local – directly impacting the lives of your neighbors by helping them in their time of need. When you ring the bell, you're making change happen! Our church has made a commitment to Brecksville Human Services to ringing the bell for one whole day -- in one hour shifts from 10 am to 6 pm. Can you help us live into that promise by signing up for a one hour shift? The gift of your time is a gift of meaning and a gift of hope! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or at church on Sunday!

#BeUMC

Other opportunities to practice Determined Service in December!

- Sew4Good** Monday, Dec. 11, drop in anytime 5 pm—9 pm, room 301 as we complete comforters, walker bags and more. Sewists of all abilities welcome...and needed!
- Stitch'n'Time** Tuesday, Dec. 19 in the Parlor 10 am. Come help knit & crochet prayer shawls, lap blankets and more.
- Serve on the Welcome Team** for Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24. Lots of folks come home for Christmas. Help give them the gift of the warmest welcome!
- Vitalant Blood Drive** Sunday, Dec. 31. End the year with the life saving gift of a blood donation. The Blood Mobile will be here from 10 am to 3 pm. Schedule your appointment at BUMCLinks.com



November

Care and Prayer!

The gift of a prayer and a kind note is a priceless kindness. Take a moment to say a prayer and send a note to each of these people this month!

Week of December 3

Bev Huber

8555 Hillside Rd

Independence, OH 44131-5427

Week of December 10

Don & Beryl Burkle

3464 Logwood Trl

Richfield, OH 44286-9359

Week of December 17

Janet Biggs

119 Laurie Ln

Northfield, OH 44067-2758

Week of December 24

Jane Petrie

6814 Rosemont Dr

Brecksville, OH 44141-2613

Week of December 31

Ruth Hazlett

915 W Aurora Rd

Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

Nominate someone who could use a reminder that they are loved for next month's list!

Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



1 Allen McCrodden

2 Dave Dobos

2 Sue Ellenberger

3 Ronnie Rajkovich

4 Nick Mihalich

5 Diane Ellis

5 Kate Krause

6 Bruce McCrodden

6 Mike Memmer

6 Katie Pasek

6 Joyce Rossborough

8 Steve Harper

10 Scott Schneider

10 David Schroedel

11 Barb Berry

11 Amy Piorkowski

12 Penny Burns

12 Steve Piorkowski

13 Kiira Olszko

14 Shirley Harper

16 Dale Meyer

17 Elinor Rowan

18 Carol Wilson

19 Jeff Fesler

19 Nathan Petznick

20 Hudson Schneider

21 Carol Dambaugh

21 Megan Louttit

23 Amanda Bianchi

24 Pam Papp

28 David Brown

29 Sylvia Fowler

30 Darell Fisher

30 Todd Fowler

31 John Scott



Brecksville UMC is a thriving community of faith because of people like you—who care for one another and reach out in service to those who are in need. We lift of prayers of thanks for Brandon Houff, who has stepped in to help clean up after coffee hour on Sundays. Brandon, your help is important! The automatic door opener installation was shepherded through completion by Jinho Lee. Thank you, Jinho, for helping make the church a more accessible building for all! If you received the November Good Word in the mail, it made its way to you thanks to the helping hands of Barb Sindyla, Joan Bloch, Gretchen Mates, Catherine Vastartis, and Linda Crouch. Some folks just see a need and quietly fill it, like Doug Holmes, who brought his leaf blower to church and cleared a bunch of leaves from the parking lot before fall yard clean up day. Speaking of which, thank you to all who spent a Saturday morning cleaning up the church yard in November! On November 18, we had a bike fix it day and twenty-six volunteers came out to fix thirty bikes. Many of the volunteers were from our community. We are so thankful for all of you, and all of the ways that you make our world better!



The Brecksville UMC (Grand) Baby Boom

continues! Congratulations to Donna & Dave Sibits, whose daughter Lisa, welcomed a baby, Palmer, in November; and to Beth Smith, whose daughter, Melanie, welcomed a baby, Peter, in October!

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>OPEN SUNDAY MORNINGS 8 AM - NOON</p>						
<p>3 2nd Advent 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship 2:30 Comm Chorus Concert 5 Youth Party!</p>						
<p>10 3rd Advent 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship 11:30 Christmas Caroling</p> 						
<p>17 No 8:30 service today 9:30 Christmas Extravaganza 10:30 Worship—Christmas Cantata</p>						
<p>24 Christmas Eve Services 10:30 Worship 3:00 Worship 5 Worship 6 Christmas Taco 8 Worship</p>						
<p>31 8:30 Worship No Sunday School Today 10:30 Worship 11-3 pm Vitalant Blood Drive</p>						
	<p>Invite your neighbors to church with a Christmas Eve Yard sign! We have 30 signs to share. Get one before they're gone!</p> 					
	<p>4 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>5 10:30 Staff 2:30 Comm at Chippewa 7 Lectio 7 SPRC</p>	<p>6 6:30 Brkfast 7 Advent Dinner Church</p> 	<p>7 9:30 FB Live 12 UWF Christmas Tea 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>8 12 God in Nature</p>	<p>9 10–11:30 Balm for Blue Holidays Webinar</p>
	<p>11 10:30 Lectio Divina 5–9 Sewing Group</p>	<p>12 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio</p>	<p>13 6:30 Brkfast</p>	<p>14 Newsletter Deadline—early for the holiday! 9:30 Asbury 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>15 12 God in Nature</p>	<p>16 9 Cantata Rehearsal</p>
	<p>18 10:30 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>19 10 Stitch'n'time 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Trustees</p>	<p>20 6:30 Brkfast</p>	<p>21 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 7 Longest Night Service</p>	<p>22 9:30 UWF Board Mtg 12 God in Nature</p>	<p>23 10-6 Ring the Bell for Salvation Army</p> 
	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> 
	<p>Church Staff Christmas Break We will be monitoring messages at 440-526-8938. In a Pastoral Emergency call 440-290-6671 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.</p>					
	<p>1</p> 	<p>2 10:30 Staff 2:30 Comm at Chippewa 7 Lectio</p>	<p>3 6:30 Brkfast</p>	<p>4 9:30 FB Live</p>	<p>5 12 God in Nature</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>BBH Schools Winter Break 12/22—1/5</p>						

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



BRECKSVILLE
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 65 PUBLIC SQUARE
 BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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 Cleveland, OH
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 928

Church Office Hours

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



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.

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, 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

2023 Christmas Offering Benefits Trials 4 Hope

“(Poverty) isn’t just about not having enough to eat or living outside. Poverty encompasses many aspects and perspectives: physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological. Hunger isn’t a class issue; it’s a hunger issue. One of the biggest gifts has been to not only watch our family who live inside or outside have hope; it’s also watching the people who help as they see and experience the gift of hope as well.” Jonathan Gray, CEO & Founder of Trials 4 Hope, an urban mission based on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland in the UMC’s Harbor & Bridge. 100% of gifts marked “Christmas Offering” will help our neighbors in need.

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

Text “GIVEBUMC Christmas” to 73256

Or mark your **check or envelope** “Thanksgiving” or “Christmas” Offering.



2023

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 10.

Dedications will be included in the bulletin on Cantata Sunday (12/17) and Christmas Eve.

- 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.



Random Acts of Kindness

“Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” Desmond Tutu. Stop by the west end of the third floor hallway this Advent season to grab an envelope containing some suggestions for Random Acts of Kindness you can do as a family or as an individual. There is no greater time than this season of preparation for the coming of Jesus to find new and fun ways to brighten up the lives of those around us.



The Many Moods of CHRISTMAS

A Holiday Concert presented by
Brecksville-Broadview Heights Community Chorus

Sunday 3 December 2023
4:00pm

Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square Brecksville, Ohio

- PROGRAM -
Vivaldi Gloria
Christmas Favorites
Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Free will offering will be taken

Nancy L. Stokes, Conductor



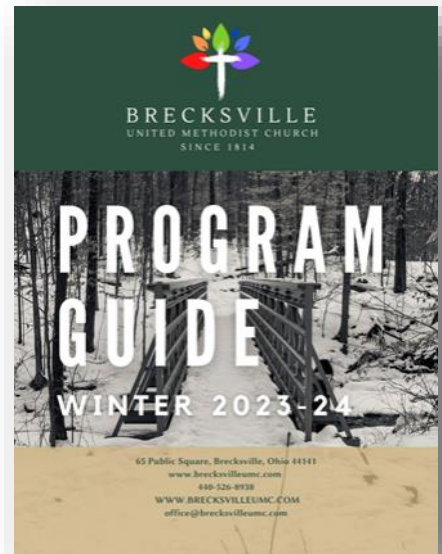
bbhcommchorus.org

Church of the Saviour

SAT. 12/2/23 • **ADVENT FESTIVAL** • 9AM – 12PM

2537 LEE ROAD • FREE ADMISSION

FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY SHOPPING
COOKIE WALK
FAMILY CRAFTS
MUSIC PERFORMANCES



Winter Program Guide Published

Looking for information about the many ways we are rooted in worship, nourished in groups and branching out in service? Pick up a copy of our Winter Program Guide.

Printed copies are available at church. Can't make it here? We're happy to mail a copy at your request. View or download an electronic copy at [BUMClinks.com!](http://BUMClinks.com)

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!