



BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

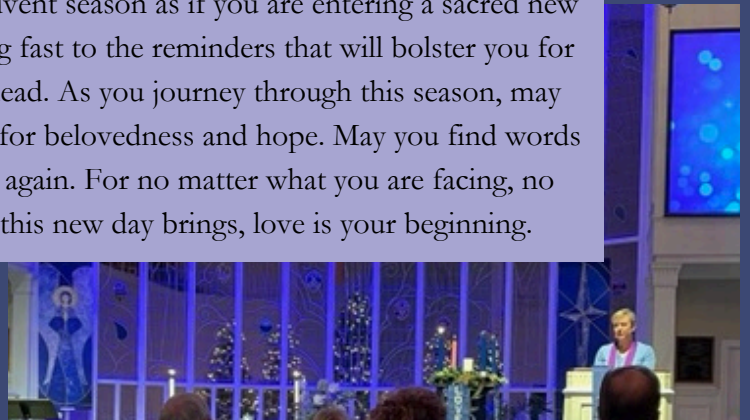
DECEMBER 2024

THE GOOD WORD



Words For the Beginning

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. And so, we invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead. As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.



Brecksville UMC

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Published monthly by
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH
44141

Submission deadline

3rd Thursday monthly
NOTE: January Deadline
is December 12

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FROM THE PASTOR



Sharing Life Transforming Love

Did you know that a person's zip code has a larger impact on their health than their genetics?

I learned this startling fact this past week at the CLEAR Conference. I was invited to be among 100 other clergy leaders across the United Methodist connection to gather and vision together the “now future” of The United Methodist Church.

We spent time in table and large-group discussions talking about pressing issues facing our congregations, the hopes we have for the future, and the challenges we must overcome to get to that preferred future.

Throughout the two days, one truth kept coming to the forefront: we need to get out of the business of preserving the institution, and into the business of serving and saving the world.

For decades, we've been deeply entrenched in an “attractional model” of church: if we build beautiful buildings, create exciting programs, craft thoughtful sermons, and hire talented musicians, people will just run through our doors. If we build it, they will come.

And recently, within the past several years, we've failed to recognize the hard truth that this model is no longer working. For many reasons—too many to name in this article—people are not willing to simply walk through our front doors (or the parking lot doors).

So, in order to “serve and save the world,” we need to go outside our walls and engage with our communities. We need to go to where our neighbors are already gathered in order to listen to and learn from them. We enter their spaces, observe their contexts, and see the world through their eyes.

Luke Edwards, of The Listening Church puts it like this:

“We put the discomfort on ourselves, not expecting others to enter an unfamiliar space. By going to our neighbors, we demonstrate our desire to learn from them and our willingness to walk alongside them in their everyday lives.”

Basically, we need to embrace incarnational ministry.

- **incarnational** *in-(.)kär-'nā-sh(ə-)nəl* adjective - to make something real or concrete, or to take on flesh.

Continues on page 4 - see “Incarnational Ministry”

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

HONEST WORSHIP



No matter what beginning you are facing, our December Worship series is meant to wrap blessings around you like a quilt: to comfort, encourage, challenge, transform, and uphold—with God's help at every step of the journey.

ADD THESE SPECIAL EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1

**First Sunday in Advent
YOU ARE A BLESSING**

Wednesday December 4

**Advent Dinner Church, 7 pm
HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK**

Center yourself for the season & break bread together with soup and bread lovingly prepared by the church staff.

Desserts welcome!

RSVP for the meal at BUMCLinks.com

Sunday, December 8

**Second Sunday in Advent
WE CAN'T GO ALONE**

Special music from the Bell Choir

Sunday, December 15

**Third Sunday in Advent
DO THE GOOD THAT'S YOURS TO DO
Christmas Caroling, 11:30 am**

Spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear

Saturday, December 21

Longest Night Worship Service 7 pm
A liturgy for endings and beginnings

Sunday, December 22

Christmas Extravaganza 9:30 Fun for the whole family!
Christmas Cantata 10:30 (one service this Sunday)

Sunday, December 29

DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH
One worship service at 10:30
A liturgy of joy and laughter

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

*All services include candlelight
and Silent Night.*

LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

**10:30 am - Joyful Morning
Carols & Candles**

Traveling or have other plans on Christmas Eve? Join us in the morning!

**3 pm - Traditional Service
with Organ**

Enjoy Christmas Carols and Candlelight accompanied by our pipe organ.

**5 pm - Christmas Pageant
with Worship Band**

Our popular family service includes a reenactment of the Christmas Story by the children of the church.

**8 pm - Carols & Candlelight,
Choir & String Quartet**

The Sanctuary will be aglow as we hear the Christmas Story and enjoy music from the Chancel Choir and a String Quartet



Christmas Tacos at 6 pm

*Details on the
Joyful Gathering Page!*



Incarnational Ministry - Continued from page two.

At Christmas, we remember that God came into the world through Jesus in order to experience first-hand what we experience.

At a time when people believed God to be set-apart from the world, in the “holy of holies” of the Temple, God chose to become incarnate—God-with-us—to spend time walking and talking with humans where they dwelled so that they would (hopefully) understand just how much God loves them.

As the Church, that is now our role—to be God’s representatives to the world, meeting people where they are, building lasting relationships.

It’s proven that where a person lives significantly impacts their health. So let us go and impact people with the life-transforming, unconditional love of God!



Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Advent Dinner Church

Wednesday, December 6 at 7 pm

Come share a simple meal of soup and bread lovingly prepared by the church staff as we have conversations, light candles, pray, and read scripture. Experience a celebration of Holy Communion integrated into the meal. Participate as much as you’re comfortable, confident that God will meet us during this special time set aside to stop and listen, wait, hope, pray, breathe and reflect. We will sit with the way things are and hope for the way things are meant to be. Advent is about recognizing the “not-yet-ness” of the world. Advent is about facing the truth of what is right now, and remembering what it takes to get to a Christmas kind of world - the kind of world some of us believe Jesus was born to usher in.

Want to contribute to the meal? Bring a dessert to share!

The Longest Night

Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm

On the longest night of the year, we make space for difficult emotions that can accompany the holiday season, particularly grief around endings and anxiety around new beginnings. Join us for a reminder that from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation, from the first day to the last, we are held by our God who knows our name. This service will take place in the Sanctuary at 7 pm or join us live [online or anytime](#).

Cantata Sunday - “O Holy Light”

Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 am - just one service on this date!

In anticipation of Christmas we plan, shop, decorate, and prepare. In the busyness of the Christmas season, celebrating advent provides us a time to focus our hearts and minds on Jesus, who offers a purpose in our waiting and longing for the celebration of His birth. The season of Advent causes us to reflect on both who Christ is and why He came to us, while the candles of Advent represent hope, peace, joy, love, and ultimately Christ, himself. "O Holy Light" seamlessly blends both music and narrative to convey the events leading up to Christ's birth. It's a particularly wonderful Sunday to invite a friend to join you at church!



Pick Up or [Download](#) a copy of our Advent Devotional



ADAM HAMILTON



THE JOURNEY
Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Advent Study Begins

The Journey

9:30 am in the Chapel. November 17– December 15

Join Jenny Gee and friends as we take a look at the Christmas story from the perspective of the locations in which they occurred. Through video we will travel from Nazareth, to Bethlehem, to Ein Karem (the village it is believed Elizabeth lived in). As we place ourselves into these stories, we will gain a deeper appreciation for these familiar stories.

Let's Talk - Podcasts

Sundays at 9:30 - Room 301

Do you enjoy listening to podcasts? Do you have a favorite? Are you looking for something to expand your thinking while you drive to or from work? Even if you aren't sure what a podcast is, but you enjoy having meaningful conversations with your faith friends, this class is definitely for you! Join Don & Cathy Krolikowski and Max & Matt Gabor as they open up dialog about some awesome and relevant podcasts that you can access for free throughout the week. The weekly podcast suggestion will even coincide with Pastor Heidi's sermons!! Once you listen, just pop into room 301 at 9:30 on Sunday morning to join in on the discussion.



Christmas EXTRAVAGANZA

(sing it to the tune of Up On the Housetop)

**Down in the Big Hall families flock
So much to do, it's quite a shock
Crafting & playing games - so much joy
Something for every little girl and boy
Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?!
Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go?!
To the 'Stravaganza, it's so much fun
for the whole family - don't miss this one!!**

Christmas Extravaganza is a jolly fun way for the whole family to be together celebrating the season.

Fellowship Hall at 9:30 on December 22!



Youth Christmas Party

December 8 from 5-7 pm in Fellowship Hall

It's that time again... Time to get excited for the Youth Christmas Party! This BUMC tradition is a highlight of the youth programming year and students in 6th-12th grade will not want to miss it. We will once again have a bingo extravaganza with the chance to win a year's worth of free Wendy's Frosties and lots of other prizes. There is also popcorn, candy, and other fun, festive food to dig into while students enjoy a Christmas movie on the big screen and partake in a Christmas craft. This is a great event to bring a friend and make some memories. You can register right now through our easy online form at BUMCLinks.com



United Women in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood



You are invited!

Please join Asbury Bremeth Circle and Brecksville United Women in Faith to welcome in the joyous Christmas season on

Thursday, December 5

at 12:00 in the Parlor

for our annual

Christmas Pot Luck Buffet Luncheon.

All church members are invited.

Please bring a dish to share.

ASBURY BREMETH CIRCLE

Second Thursday of the Month - December 12

Fellowship starts at 9:30 - conversation around our study begins at 10 am

Join us as we dig into our final Angels of Christmas story. From Luke's Gospel we will see the angels visiting the shepherds in the field on the night of Jesus' birth. Explore the deep meaning of God choosing shepherds to hear the Good News first. What a joy and celebration for us all!

Everyone is welcome at Asbury Bremeth Circle.



THANK YOU to all of the people who made our fall Bake Sale a success! If you baked, bought, or helped at the table, you helped raise almost \$750 which will be donated to causes improving the lives of women and children in our neighborhoods and beyond!

Join our mailing list! Email UWF@Brecksvilleumc.com

Your time & presence is the greatest gift!

How will you help in the season of Advent? Call the office or visit BUMCLinks.com

Welcome Team

for all services

Hospitality (Coffee Hour)

Candle Cleaning

Shopping

Christmas Extravaganza

CHRISTMAS EVE

Nativity Costumes

Tidy Up Teams

Between Christmas Eve Services

Bulletin Recycling

Christmas Taco Dinner Help

Audio Visual Helpers

Bulletin Insert Recycling

Leadership roles in worship

Poinsettia delivery

After Christmas

Photo Booth Set Up

Blow Up Balloons

for 12/29 service



In
Fellowship
Hall

Thru
12/25

Giving Trees

Food Tree

Peanut butter, jelly and canned fruit are on the top of the wish list for Open M, feeding hungry families in Akron.

Hat & Mitten Tree

Collecting hats, gloves, scarves, mittens and socks to warm our neighbors through Southstreet Ministries in Akron.

Angel Tree

Pick an ornament and fill a wish for RAHAB, Womankind or the BUMC Bike Ministry

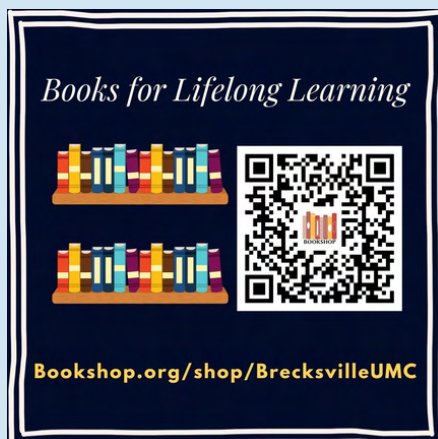
Help fill the trees in Fellowship Hall!

Christmas Cards for Vets

With your help, we can deliver a hand written Christmas wish to every patient at the Cleveland Veteran's Administration Hospital in December. Our Youth Group has created 75 hand crafted cards, but your card doesn't have to be handmade - just heartfelt! Bring your signed cards to the mailbox in the Parlor by Sunday, December 8.



Books make great gifts!



The online bookseller Bookshop.org, supports independent bookstores and your purchases through our shop on the website support the ministries of our church! If you're a reader, check out our bookshelves - which will be updated frequently! Here are our current lists:

- [Bibles](#)
- [What does it mean to be United Methodist?](#)
- [Lifelong Learning - Fall 2024](#)
- [Youth Ministry Book Shelf](#)
- [Creation Care](#)
- [Education for Mission](#)
- [All In God's Image](#)
- [For Those Who Mourn](#)
- [10 Books To Feed Your Faith](#)
- [Books We're Exploring](#)
- [Personal Growth](#)



Poinsettia Dedications 2024

Celebrate someone you love or who is now in God's hands with a poinsettia dedication this Christmas. The deadline for orders is **Monday, December 16, at 5 pm**. Poinsettias will beautify our church worship services beginning December 22

Payment Enclosed - suggested donation **\$10 per honorarium**

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 would like to pick one up after 8 pm Christmas Eve Service

I would like to help deliver poinsettias to the home bound after Christmas. Please contact me.



Sew4Good Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, 12/8 from 9 am - 11:30

Stop by the lobby to see the types of projects this special group of sewists has been working on this year, and pick up a handmade craft to gift this Christmas. Your purchase will help the Sew4Good team buy fabric and notions for projects in the new year!



Cookbooks Make Great Gifts!

Joyful Gatherings, the brand new Brecksville UMC Cookbook features over 300 favorite recipes, including appetizers & beverages, soups & salads, vegetables & side dishes, main dishes, breads & rolls, desserts, cookies & candies and more from over 200 cooks.

Cookbooks will be available on Sunday mornings throughout December!

Not in the area? Order online and we can ship to you!

Spiral Bound Cookbook, \$15
Durable, spill resistant, heavy cover. Heirloom quality.

Gift Wrapped Cookbooks
will be available at \$17

Hostess/Host Gift
will be available for \$22 and include a cookbook and accessories, a perfect to gift for holiday parties

HELP WANTED!

Are you interested in helping to staff the cookbook sale table, or in taking some books to sell at local community events or retailers?

Email info@brecksvilleumc.com



To order online, scan this QR Code or visit BUMCLinks.com





Brecksville Christmas Parade - Dec. 1

Join Pastor Heidi and friends as we sing and toss candy from our float in the Brecksville Christmas

Parade. Help decorate the truck!

Parade steps off at 4 pm

Cocoa and cookies at the end of the parade

Sign up at BUMCLinks.com



Caroling After Church - Dec. 15

Warm up with a light lunch of soup after the 10:30 worship service, then venture out into the community with a team of singers to spread Christmas cheer!

Do you know someone who would enjoy a visit?

Sign up and/or make suggestions at

BUMCLinks.com



Christmas Photo Booth - Dec. 22

Don Krolikowski will be taking photos Cantata Sunday in the church lobby. The photo backdrop will remain up through Christmas Eve!

Stop by to capture a memory!

Download pics at BUMCLinks.com



Christmas Tacos

Chef Rasul will be cooking up a festive buffet dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm Christmas Eve. Bring a dessert to share or a suggested donation of \$5. (If it's not in your budget, don't worry! We got you!) RSVP at BUMCLinks.com

"Close The Gap" Budget Update

"I drive by your church every day on the school bus and when I see *all those pumpkins, I get so happy!*" We heard lots of priceless comments like these from our October Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser, which raised \$3,848 to help close our budget gap. (We have great pumpkin patch stories and pictures [on our website!](#))

With the Pumpkin Patch, the Brecksville Flea and the Close the Gap campaign, we continue to make progress towards closing our budget gap for 2024. To date, over \$12,600 has been raised through these initiatives - and our cookbook will arrive in December. We are hopeful that additional year end gifts will help close much of our remaining budget gap. ***But, we still need a lot of help!*** Year end gifts received by December 31 will apply to your 2024 charitable giving statement.

Family Christmas Eve Pageant

Will you and your family be celebrating with us at the 5 Family Christmas Eve service? Would your child like to play a part in our traditional nativity pageant? Anyone interested in playing a shepherd, sheep, angel, wise one or donkey please reach out to Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com. Kids of all ages are needed— from the youngest that is comfortable being up front without mom or dad to our older kids, we need you to help lead the groups. There will be one rehearsal the week of December 16. (Date TBD.)



What will you choose to be part of this month?
Sign up at BUMCLinks.com



Sleeping Mats - December 8

Ongoing, Loom in the Parlor or work at home

Sleeping Mat Party in the Parlor! Have you been wanting to help with this project but need some instruction? Come to the Parlor after church on Sunday, December 8 and help make sleeping mats for the unhoused! We'll be flattening disposable grocery bags, cutting "PLARN" and weaving. There's something for people of all abilities to help with. And there will be lunch! Will you be there?

Bread on Bridge @ Nehemiah Mission

Tuesday, December 15 at noon

There are lots of ways to help with this feeding ministry. Plan the menu, shop for ingredients, prep the meal or help serve it at this UMC ministry on Bridge Avenue in Ohio City. Come share a meal with neighbors, many of whom are refugees from around the world. Learn more and sign up at BUMCLinks.com



Make Change Happen

Ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Broadview Heights Giant Eagle **Saturday, Dec. 14.** The funds raised will help people in need in our community! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com



Christmas Offering Benefits Trials 4 Hope

"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 Trials4Hope, 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. **Text "GIVEBUMC Christmas" to 73256 or mark your gift "Christmas Offering."**

Crafting with Chippewa Place Residents

Friday December, 13 from 11:30 - 1:30 pm

Have you ever wondered what that big building is in the corner of the church parking lot? It's a 55 and older apartment building called Chippewa Place! The Joyful Gathering committee is hosting a crafting event for the residents - a make-and-take mini rag wreath for Christmas. Want to be a part of it? Catherine Vastartis is leading the team. Sign up and learn more at BUMCLinks.com

Donation Match for Giving Tuesday Dec. 3

The East Ohio Conference Board of Missions is encouraging United Methodists to support #Giving Tuesday by matching online donations to conference Advances, up to \$500 per Advance. Donations must be made online on December 3 and through the conference fund to qualify for the match.

www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special.html

Trials4Hope, Nehemiah Mission, Flat Rock Homes and Royal Family KIDS Camp are all Advance ministries. In 2023, 13 Advances received about \$4,500 in matching donations. "We hope to see more of our mission partners benefit from the match this year!" Contact Melanie Thomas at the EOC office if you have any questions.

Stewardship Update

Your gifts to BUMC helped support 126 worship services in 2024 which reached over a 1000 people, numerous fellowship and lifelong learning opportunities, a vacation bible school program in which 175 kids and teachers participated, 15 donation drives for various local missions, and countless other opportunities to support each of our spiritual journeys.

We have already received over \$400,000 in pledges towards our 2025 ministries, including 14 pledges from individuals or families who did not pledge last year. Thank you!

As of Nov. 17, we have gratefully received 86 pledges towards our operating fund totaling \$383,028; 42 pledges towards our planned expense fund totaling \$36,760; and one pledge for missions (\$15,000). More pledges are coming in each week. So, if you haven't turned in your 2025 pledge yet, it's not too late!

You can turn in your pledge electronically at BUMClinks.com, or you can download a written pledge card, or you can call the church office (440-526-8938) for assistance. We ask you to prayerfully consider turning in your pledge, if you have not already done so, and making an additional year end gift.

Thanks to all who continue to financially support BUMC to help make our ministries possible.

LEADERSHIP BOARD REPORT



One year ago, after over two years of study and a congregational vote, BUMC changed our organizational structure and adopted the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS). *So, how is this working?* The short answer is that none of us want to go back!

As a life-long United Methodist, my prior experience was with the traditional governing structure which includes an Administrative Council or Board, a Finance Committee, and a Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Under SAS, the Leadership Board, which consists of nine church members, each of whom serves a three-year term, takes the place of these separate boards or committees. I have had the privilege of serving on BUMC's Leadership Board during this first year.

The role of Leadership Board is not to manage the operation of the church. Rather, the Leadership Board establishes goals for the church, monitors progress towards those goals, and sets policies or guiding principles to allow for the efficient operation of the church.

The day-to-day operation of the church is the responsibility of Pastor Heidi and our church staff. Our ministries are the responsibility of various ministry teams. Our guiding principles are designed to empower our pastor, staff, and ministry teams to move forward in various ministries without having to obtain further approval from the Leadership Board or other church committees. I have seen several advantages to SAS during my year on the Leadership Board.

- One body is responsible for looking at the big picture, which includes trends within BUMC, as well as the larger church. This allows us to better plan for the future, strategically adapt to future needs, and align our goals to meet those needs.
- Decisions can be made more quickly, without having to obtain approval from multiple boards or committees.
- More of our volunteer time can be spent in joyful ministry, rather than in committee meetings discussing mind-numbing administrative matters.
- Finally, there is accountability. Our Leadership Board has agreed to a Leadership Covenant outlining our commitments to BUMC. Every month, our church staff provides a report to the Leadership Board outlining their progress and plans, and Pastor Heidi reviews with the Board BUMC's progress on each of our short-term and long-term goals.

In January, we will start our second year under SAS. We will thank Eric Louttit, Zane Burgstahler, and Carolyn Jatsek for their service and welcome Kathy Louttit, Michael Houff, and Maria Shurik, as new members of our Leadership Board. - Submitted by Jim Slagle

December



Reach out with a prayer and a note, call or text each week this month!

Week of December 1

Judy & Bruce McCrodden

Celebrating 50 years of marriage!

9421 Sherwood Trl

Brecksville, OH 44141-2772

Week of December 8

Don & Beryl Burkle

3464 Logwood Trl

Richfield, OH 44286-9359

Week of December 15

Janet Biggs

119 Laurie Ln

Northfield, OH 44067-2758

Week of December 22

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 and prayed over!

Email Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

*From
Mary & Craig Kotnik*

Thank you for your support, prayers, kind words and cards this difficult year. Mary's mom, uncle and aunt all recently passed away.

We have also had the health concerns of Craig's Mom. We appreciate all of you.

December BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Rebecca Burgstahler | 10 Scott Schneider | 19 Jeff Fesler |
| 1 Allen McCrodden | 10 Jordan Welch | 19 J. Donald Moorhead |
| 2 Jack Burrows | 11 Barb Berry | 19 Nathan Petznick |
| 2 Dave Dobos | 11 Amy Piorkowski | 20 Hudson Schneider |
| 2 Sue Ellenberger | 11 Greg Urso | 21 Megan Louttit |
| 3 Ronnie Rajkovich | 12 Mitchell Bell | 22 Adam Derry |
| 4 Ed Crist | 12 Abigail Bendlak | 22 Anna Derry |
| 4 Nick Mihalich | 12 Steve Piorkowski | 22 Bryan Derry |
| 4 Zachery Momchilov | 12 Doug Ritterbusch | 23 Amanda Bianchi |
| 5 Carter Barnum | 13 Trinity Crouch | 23 Theodore Samblanet |
| 5 Danny Bendlak | 13 Kiira Olszko | 24 Pam Papp |
| 5 Diane Ellis | 14 Shirley Harper | 25 Logan Hricko |
| 5 Kate Krause | 15 Sydney Hazelton | 28 David Brown |
| 6 Bruce McCrodden | 15 Ruth Moorhead | 29 Christine Drescher |
| 6 Katie Pasek | 16 Everly Donathan | 29 Sylvia Fowler |
| 8 Steve Harper | 16 Dale Meyer | 30 Mary Lou Bennett |
| 9 Rita Brown | 17 John Jatsek | 30 Darell Fisher |
| 9 Dick Gordon | 17 Elinor Rowan | 30 Todd Fowler |
| 9 Daniel Soltis | 18 Mae Smith | 31 John Scott |
| 10 Zane Burgstahler | 18 Carol Wilson | 31 Hadley Spencer |
| 10 Larry Girod | | |



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. Sylvia Fowler and Paul Botzman had a big challenge as offering counters last month - TONS of change and cash, thanks to the pumpkin patch and pumpkin carving contest. Thank you for persevering and taking great care of the gifts! Brandon Houff changed ALL of the church clocks after Daylight Saving Time ended. A big team, under the leadership of Bob Lundholm and including Scout Troop 175, Jim Fredrick and others, came in and cleaned up the church yard for fall, and rid the yard of the last vestiges of the pumpkin patch. Bob Bloch filled in and kept our bills paid while we were searching for our new finance manager. Jim Slagle lead an important Sunday School class, helping us better live into our call as Christ followers in these turbulent times. We would need a much larger newsletter to thank everyone who helped with the pumpkin patch. From the giant crew who helped unload the truck on an oddly humid Sunday afternoon, to the folks who turned the pumpkins, and those who spent time at the cashier table, we thank you! We know it was a big undertaking, and hope that you found the experience a positive and rewarding one!

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 Worship</p> <p>9:30 Classes for all</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>4 Brecksville Christmas Parade</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Chancel Choir performs at Carnegie Hall</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Staff Mtg. 10:30</p> <p>Communion at Chippewa 2:30</p> <p>Mission Food Prep. 2:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Breakfast, 6:30</p> <p>God in Nature, Facebook 12</p> <p>Advent Dinner Church, 7 pm</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor's FB Live, 9:30</p> <p>UWF Christmas Potluck, 12 pm</p> <p>Choir, 6:30</p> <p>Band, 8:30</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 Worship</p> <p>9 Sew4Good</p> <p>Christmas Bazaar</p> <p>9:30 Classes for all</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>5 Youth Christmas Party</p> <p>SLEEPING MATS AT 11:30!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lectio Divina Mondays at 10:30 in the Chapel</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Hours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun - Thur 9 am - 3 pm thru 12/23</p> 		<p>12</p> <p>Asbury Bremeth, 9:30</p> <p>Pastor's FB Live, 9:30</p> <p>Choir, 6:30</p> <p>Leadership Board, 7:30</p> <p>Band, 8:30</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Chippewa Place Crafts, 11-1</p> <p>Pastor's FB Live, 9:30</p> <p>Choir, 6:30</p> <p>Staff Christmas Party, 6:30</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army 10-6</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 Worship</p> <p>9:30 Classes for all</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>11:30 Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Stitch'n'Time, 10</p> <p>Staff Mtg. 10:30</p> <p>Mission Food Prep. 2:30</p> <p>Sew4Good, 5-8</p> <p>BREAD ON BRIDGE AT NOON</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Breakfast, 6:30</p> <p>God in Nature, Facebook 12</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pastor's FB Live, 9:30</p> <p>Choir, 6:30</p> <p>Band, 8:30</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>CANTATA REHEARSAL SATURDAY MORNING!</p> <p>→</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Longest Night Service, 7 pm</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 Christmas EXTRAVAGANZA</p> <p>10:30 Christmas Cantata</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  10:30 am  3 pm  5 pm  8 pm 	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:30 One Service</p> <p>— Don't forget to laugh!</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>No Lectio this week!</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9 - NOON MONDAY + TUESDAY</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>HAPPY new YEAR</p>	<p>Your 2024 Leadership Board: Alan Scheufler (chair), Zane Burgstahler, Kristi Eberhardt, Matt Gabor, Carolyn Jatsek, Julie Kubek, Eric Louttit, Jim Slagle, Deb Watkins, and Rev. Heidi Welch. For contact information, reach out to the church office: 440-526-8938 or info@brecksvilleumc.com</p>		

Find calendar updates at www.BrecksvilleUMC.com



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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Church Office Hours

Sunday—Thursday 9 to 3 pm

440-526-8938

info@brecksvilleumc.com



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE @sanctifiedart

For each day of Advent, we invite you to take a photo inspired by the word of the day. Share your daily photos on social media along with the words that inspired them.

DEC.1 BEGIN	DEC.2 BLESS	DEC.3 COURAGE	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7 GO	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12 CONNECTION	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	DEC.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
DEC.21 RISK	DEC.22 GRACE	DEC.23 JOY	DEC.24 LOVE	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

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.