The Good Word

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WHAT'S INSIDE...



Chili for Puerto Rico



The Season of Lent



Rise Against Hunger

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of selfexamination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

(From UMC.org)

At Brecksville United Methodist Church, Sundays in Lent will feature a new sermon series, *Renegade Gospel*, based on the book by Mike Slaughter. Come hear Pastor Heidi's message at services at 8:45 of 11:15 am.

In the pages of this newsletter, read about our Lenten Study *Renegade Gospel*, about our Lenten Prayer Stations, and about other special plans for enriching your spirit during this season of Lent.

Easter is coming! We'll greet the dawn on Brecksville Square Easter Morning at 6:30 am.



Sunday Mornings are Special Here! 8:45 Worship with Live Band 11:15 Worship w/ Traditional Hymns 10:00 Classes for All Ages

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

FROM THE PASTOR

I have recently discovered Hillsong's 2018 song, *New Wine*. And I have to admit, I've become a bit obsessed. I've had the chorus on repeat in my mind for weeks

now: Make me your vessel.

Make me an offering.

Make me whatever you want me to be.

I came here with nothing.

But all you have given me.

Jesus, bring new wine out of me.

In the Gospel of Mark 2:18-22, Jesus was being questioned about why his disciples weren't fasting as an act of piety like people thought they should have been. In response, Jesus says, "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins."

At that time, wine was kept in goatskins. New skins were soft and pliable and would stretch when fermenting wine was put in them. Old wineskins, on the other hand, were already stretched and were brittle, so if new wine was put in them, the fermentation would burst them open, destroying both the wine and the wineskin.

When we become a disciple of Jesus, we allow Jesus to change us—we become new. If we try to fit into our old life, it's not going to work—either we will "revert back to our old ways," or God will show us where things need to change: our life will begin to crease and crack and even break open. You can't put new wine in old wineskins.

Historically, Lent has been a time of preparation for new followers of Jesus to publicly proclaim their commitment to Christ through baptism. Through the centuries, though, it has become a time where all Jesus followers have the opportunity to spend 40 days contemplating the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection. Have we really followed Jesus' teachings? Has our daily life been transformed by Jesus' unconditional love for us and others? Have we fully surrendered all things into God's hands? (You know... easy questions like that.)

On Ash Wednesday, we begin Lent by remembering that "I came here with nothing, but all you (Jesus) have given me," and we spend the next 6 weeks making space for God to "make me whatever you want me to be." Knowing that because God has conquered darkness, death, and anything we could ever fear, we can trust God with our *whole lives*.

Lent is an opportunity to reclaim our newness in Christ. It's an opportunity to remember how Christ first impacted our lives, and it's an opportunity to contemplate how God is leading us into the future. I encourage you to use this chorus as your Lenten prayer, and see how God will use these next 40 days (+ Sundays) to new wine out of you.

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

All Church Lenten Study

During the 6-weeks of Lent, we will gather in small groups to study the book Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus, by Mike Slaughter. Like this past Advent, we have small group opportunities at different times throughout the week, and you're invited to form your own groups with friends and family, whenever it fits your schedules! Each class begins with a video, making it easy to lead and participate! Participants can purchase a book for \$9 through the church. Small groups begin the week of March 2, but you're welcome to jump in anytime!



- Sundays at 10 am with Jenny Gee
- Sundays at 10 am Youth Study
- Sundays at 6 pm with Rev. Kathy Dickriede
- Wednesdays at noon with Jenny Gee
- Wednesdays at 7 pm with Pastor Heidi—with childcare available
- Or start or join a group at another time

A little bit about *Renegade Gospel:* Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our pre-conceived notions about what God should look like. Joining his movement will mean coming to terms with the real Jesus, the rebel Jesus. Jesus didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. In Renegade Gospel, pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to help us discover Jesus all over again.

This study will be easily accessible to those who are just beginning on their faith journey, and at the same time challenging to those who have been Jesus followers for decades. Please contact the church office or ask Pastor Heidi or Jenny Gee to sign up or for more information: 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

Psalm Prayer Stations Throughout Lent

All of us lead lives so filled with the demands of work and family that little time is left to us to cultivate the garden of our soul. In our need to take care of the business of life, our spirit is often neglected.

Fortunately for us, the church has built right into its calendar regular periods of time for us to reflect and free ourselves from the relentless grip of our daily stressors. Lent is one of those times! When we allow ourselves a chance to spend time in quiet prayer throughout Lent, we unite with God and see ourselves on the journey with Jesus.

Take time this year, throughout Lent (February 26 - April 11), to visit our devotion and prayer stations, which will be set up in the Chapel. Do you like to journal? Bring your journal with you, as each station will have a question for you to reflect on. Don't enjoy journaling? Maybe try it anew this year. You might be surprised what it can do for your prayer life. These stations can be enjoyed by adults, youth and families.

Have any questions? Talk to Jenny: education@brecksvilleumc.com



Adopt a Flower Bed

As thoughts turn to spring, the Trustees Committee is reaching out to the congregation for help providing love and care to our church gardens. Would you be willing to adopt a garden or portion of a garden to tend? The sprinklers can water most areas but help is needed with weeding and care. In addition, they are looking for plants to add color, interest and beauty to the church grounds. If anyone has perennials that would be appropriate to the gardens to donate and plant, please contact the office.

Spring Clean Up Scheduled

We'll be sprucing up the church yard on April 25, and would love to see everyone there.

Mowing Teams Forming

Every spring and summer, we have teams of folks who volunteer one day every 5 weeks or so to mow, trim and edge the church grounds, working in teams of two. Dave Brown has agreed to be the point person for the lawn mowing teams this year. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact the office and they will put you in touch with Dave. Thank you!

- Bob Lundholm, Chairperson, Board of Trustees



Volunteer with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Saturday, March 21

Throughout Northeast Ohio, one in six people is food insecure – meaning they may not know where their next meal will come from. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio having provided more than 57 million meals in 2018 to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties.

The Food Bank operates a community food distribution center, providing food and other critical grocery products annually to nearly 1,000 local food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, mobile pantries, programs for the elderly and other nonprofit agencies.

You can help! Sign up on Sunday or contact the church office for details!

Membership Class

March 8, 15, 22 and 29

The Membership Class is the final step in the Membership Journey. This class focuses on what it means to be a discipling, active member of Brecksville UMC: using your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to love God and love others. In this 4-week class, we will help you discover your "Jesus story," learn about your Godgiven gifts and talents, and use those gifts to glorify God through Brecksville United Methodist Church.

MUSIC WITH A MISSION 2020 F.A.M. I.L. Y SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AT 5 PM

"Family" is the theme of this year's Music with a Mission, our annual fundraiser for the summer Youth Service Project Trip. And the whole family will have fun at this family affair! Doors open at 5 pm, when bidding will begin on our silent auction items. Some items up for bid include a Homemade Pie of the Month Club, donations from local businesses, and an evening with a private chef! Dinner is served at 6 pm, family style, with downhome meatloaf (and vegetable loaf!). And at 7 pm, the curtain rises on this year's variety show. Tickets are on sale now! \$15 per person, or \$60 per family (if purchased after 2/28.) Contact Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry for more details! youth@brecksvilleumc.com.

Community Chorus Spring Concert

On Sunday, March 29, the Brecksville Community Chorus will present their spring concert at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. Under the direction of Isaac Becker-Howell, the concert will feature beautiful music. The concert is free and open to the public: a free-will offering will be collected.





The Gathering is two hours of togetherness for middle school and high school students. So often we long for times of togetherness, be it with family or friends or God. But our over packed schedules send us in a million different directions. There's not enough time for everything and we prioritize saying the 'yes' and 'no' to the right things in our lives. I challenge you, and your families, this year to say 'yes' to togetherness. At the Gathering, we will focus on new ways to build relationships, discipleship, and creating a space where students feel safe, loved, and valued. Make time for the Gathering in March!

March 1 *The Gathering with dinner -* 4-6 pm in Fellowship Hall Middle and high schoolers, come and hang out with us for dinner and play some card games. Special thanks to the Scott family for sponsoring our meal this month!

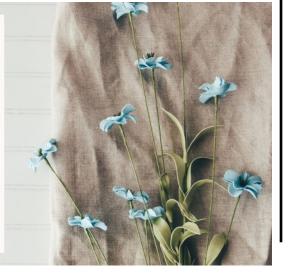
March 15 *The Gathering* - 4-6 pm in the Youth Room Join us as we explore "The Story of the Bible" with the Bible Project and play our favorite board games. This is for both middle and high schoolers, friends are always welcome to join!

March 29 *The Gathering Gets Air!* - 4-6 pm in Middleburg Heights Jump into spring with us at Get Air trampoline park. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a fun night together. Stay tuned for more info and email Dana (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) with any questions.

Living with Loss

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Six Weeks. Wednesday Evenings June 17 – July 22 6:30 – 8 pm





Pearl Road Dinner

Sunday, March 22

Pearl Road United Methodist Church provides a free hot meal to anyone in need on the last 2 Sundays of each month (and on the second Thursday, too!)

Quarterly, we work in conjunction with other area churches to help provide that meal by preparing a salad course, main dish or dessert and providing volunteers to serve the meal—so others won't go hungry.

Our next date to serve is Sunday, March 22. Sign up in the lobby or call the church office. Let us know if you'd like to carpool!

Pearl Road UMC is located at the intersection of Memphis and Pearl Roads: 4200 Pearl Road, Old Brooklyn. Parking and access from Memphis Road.

Dinner is served promptly at 5 pm and we're usually finished with clean up by 6:30 pm



Prayer and Praise Notes

To request prayer through our Prayer Chain, call the Church Office 440.526.8938 or contact Elinor Rowan at 440.230.1540

Of

rowanel33@gmail.com



UMCOR Sunday is March 22 Do You Know UMCOR?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a

Special Sunday Service in March. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many

of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help.

UMCOR

Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to help.

UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.

And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

On this Special Sunday on March 22, 2020, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts.

UMCOR Sunday is where we come together to help.

Learn more about UMCOR visit: www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR



"What's Happening in the UMC?" is the topic of the UMW Meeting on Thursday, March 5. Pastor Heidi Welch will be answering your questions. A continental breakfast at 9:30 am in the parlor is followed by the program at 10 am with a short business meeting next. Do you have a question for Pastor Heidi? Place it in the UMW mailbox in the copy room by February 28.

Asbury Bremeth: Jenny Gee, is leading a study of *I'd Like You More if You Were More Like Me*. It challenges us to think of our relationship with God in a very personal and intimate manner. Thursday, March 12 at 9:30 am in the parlor. All are welcome!

Dash & Dine Fund Raiser: Have your favorite meal while raising funds for missions. Dine at Creekside Restaurant any time **Tuesday**, **March 10** and they will donate 20% of the proceeds back to the church. Clip the coupon below and turn it in when you pay at the Creekside! The restaurant is just down the street from the church at 8803 Brecksville Rd.

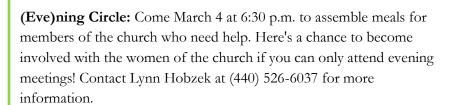
UMW Fundraiser for Missions

Round up a group of friends and eat lunch, dinner or carryout for a good cause — UMW's mission projects!

Where: Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

When: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - Anytime between 11 am & 10 pm

What: Give your server this flyer and 20% of your bill (excluding alcoholic beverages) will be donated to the Brecksville United Methodist Women mission fund, which helps women and children. A flyer is necessary for each bill. *Carryout is included!* Menu available at www.creeksiderestaurant.com or call 440-546-0555.



Brookside Food Center (Cleveland) Please bring any canned goods or non-perishable items to the collection bin in the first floor coat room. Our focus this month is *Soap for Hope!* Bring household soaps, which cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, for our siblings in need

UMW Board Meeting: Friday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor.

- Submitted by Sharon Judson, United Methodist Women

Missions Weekend was an opportunity to come together in acts of service and community building on February 22 and 23. More photos in the photo galleries (under the "About us" tab) on our website www.brecksvilleumc.com.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this weekend by cooking or attending the Chili cook-off. We had 22 cooks and approximately 140 people in attendance! Donations received during the chili cook-off for Disaster Relief to Puerto Rico were over \$1300! Way To Go! 100% of those funds will go through UMCOR and no administrative costs are deducted. Thank you. Our chili cook-off yielded a wide variety of chilis from the very mild to the very hot and our three winners were: Matt Manocchio in 3rd place, Jen Spieth in 2nd and Craig Kotnik in 1st place.

- Mary Kotnik, Missions & Outreach Committee Co-Chair





Chili Cook Off Victors, Jen
Speith, Matthew Manocchio and
Craig Kotnik. Packing meals in
Fellowship Hall. At right, our
MVP meal runners. At left,
Dion's hat reads "John Wesley's
Do No Harm To Your Mouth
Mild Chli"



Sunday we had a very uplifting Work-ship as 212 people packed meals for Rise Against Hunger. Through your generous donations of \$4,927 and a \$5,073 donation from Missions and Outreach we were able to package approximately 30,240 meals. With all of those hands working together in Fellowship Hall and we finished packing all of our meals in less than 3 hours. Thank you to all who donated monetarily and for those who helped with set-up, tear down and the packing itself.







E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

To Our Church Family:

Thank you for the outpouring of love and sympathy on the loss of our dear husband, father, and papa/grandpa Jim Rollins. Your ongoing prayers, cards, visits, and support during his struggle and journey were such a strength to us. Thank you Pastor Heidi and Pastor Barb for spiritual comfort.

We are grateful for those who offered condolences at the funeral home, as well as all who attended Jim's Celebration of Life Service. Special thanks to Pastor Heidi, Malik Khalfani, Mike Jaszczak, Jamie Schwendeman, Melanie Smith, Jeff and Scott Hastings, as well as Ruth Herman and our UMW volunteers who baked and handled refreshments. (Apologies to anyone we may have missed.)

We will always remember your thoughtfulness.

Love, Linda Rollins & Family





Brianna Diver	1	George Gee	10	Matthew Gardner	18
Jack Falko	1	Sharon Judson	10	Bob Hudacek	18
Edie Coman	2	Mike Kubek	10	Dave Sibits	18
Mary Kotnik	2	Barb Sindyla	10	Kristen Kubek	20
Eileen Yates	2	Alison Bellone	11	Stosh Skoczen	20
Tiffany Jacob	5	Bob Bloch	11	Joseph Botzman	21
Phyllis Phillips	5	Janet James	12	Sienna Petznick	22
Harper Adanich	6	Tyler Hulten	13	Liz Fredrick	25
Caitlin Drescher	6	Kaden Juniper	13	Nathan Gardner	25
Ron Goodin	6	Sydney Hudacek	14	Stacie Memmer	25
Donald Burkle	7	Lisa Sibits	14	Mallory Krolikowski	26
Megan White	7	Lindsay Dorman	15	Elliot Shah	26
Ruth Ann Bilek	8	Lee Derry	16	Robin Wilson	26
Kaleb Dumot	8	Samuel Eberhardt	16	Joe Holmes	27
Matthew Auble	9	Zoey Telischak	16	Carol Kubicek	27
Cliff Thielman	9	Joann Fox	17	Kim Rybak	30
		Carly Johnson	17	Hannah Shively	30
		Corrie Welch	17	Madeline Piorkowski	31
				David Slaby	31



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings recently, prayers of thanks were lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Ed Gugliucci, who is one of our lay servants and led his first ecumenical worship service at Chippewa

Place in January. We're so thankful for your servant heart, Ed! Doug and Gail Huth lead our efforts to serve at the Cleveland Food Bank and Pearl Road Kitchen. Thank you for helping us help others and feed the hungry! Aleyna Gee spent a whole day helping her mother deliver bikes to places around Cleveland. Thank you, Aleyna, for helping get spokes to folks! Scout Troop 175 is pretty spry for being ninety-six years old. Thank you, Scouts, for serving as liturgists on Scout Sunday and for serving up tasty pancakes in celebration of the day! Jinho Lee has repaired (literally) hundreds of bicycles for people in need. When we think of all of the people enjoying their new bikes for fun, and of all of the people who are using them to get to work, we know that it couldn't have happened without Jinho's efforts. There is not enough room on this page to thank everyone involved in making Missions Weekend a success. Wow-ee, you all are awesome. We are thankful for ALL of you, named and unnamed! Amen!

March 2020

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUN	МОИ	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S A T
1 First Sunday of Lent Communion 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 4 The Gathering with Dinner 6 Financial Peace U 6:30 Lenten Study	2	3 10 Staff Mtg 7 Church Council	4 6:30 Breakfast 12 Lenten Study 6:30 Eve Circle 7 Lenten Study	5:45 Music with a Mission	6 Friday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day	7 Bread-Brachna 9-12 Bike Clean Up Day 10 EOC Info meeting on General Conf at Garfield Memorial
8 2nd Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:45 Worship 10 Classes New Member Class 11:15 Worship 5 Music w/Mission	9	10 Dine at Creekside for UMW Missions 10 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch at Creekside 7:30 Trustees	11 6:30 Breakfast 12 Lenten Study 7 Lenten Study	Bremeth 6 Inclusion Task	13	14 Bread - Santora
15 3rd Sunday of Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Classes New Member Class 11:15 Worship 4 The Gathering 6 Financial Peace U 6:30 Lenten Study	16 6:30 Visioning Meeting	17 Election Day Take Back Togetherness Day 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 6 Board Game Night	18 Global Recycling Day 6:30 Breakfast 12 Lenten Study 7 Lenten Study	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 UMW Delivery to Brookside— Household Cleaning Products	21 Bread - TBD Volunteer Team at Greater Cleveland Food Bank
22 4th Sunday of Lent UMCOR Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Classes New Member Class 11:15 Worship 3 Pearl Rd. Dinner 4 The Gathering 6 Financial Peace U 6:30 Lenten Study	23	24 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	25 6:30 Breakfast 12 Lenten Study 7 Lenten Study	26 7:30 Choir	27 9:30 UMW Board Meeting 1-4 FreeBee Friday	28 Bread - TBD 12 Community Chorus Dress Rehearsal
29 5th Sunday of Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Classes New Member Class 11:15 Worship 4 Comm Chorus Spring Concert	30 Church Audit Due Today	31 10 Staff Mtg	Bill & Ann Rittman	Week o Ma Mar Mar	Church Closer So of March 1—Day arch 8—Tom Holi ch 15—Doug Ho ch 22—Chuck G ch 29—Bob Lunc	ve Brown mok olmes ezze

4 The Gathering 6 Financial Peace U



Non-Profit US Postage Paid Cleveland, OH Permit No. 928

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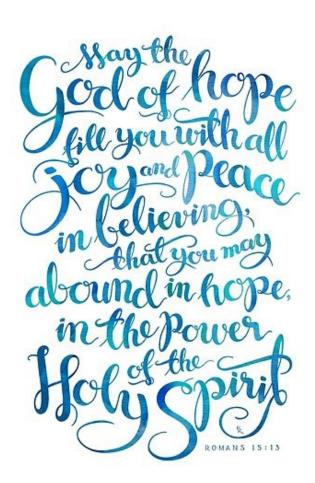








Socialize with us!





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.

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter.

The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.

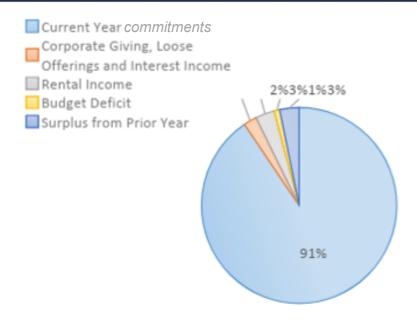


Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

Brecksville UMC 2019 FINANCE REPORT

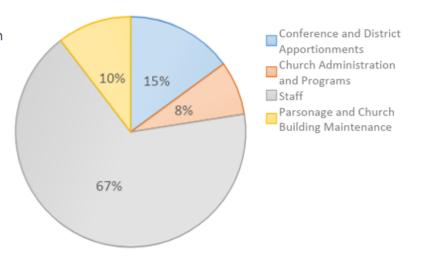


REVENUE FOR THE YEAR

We ended 2019 within 1% of our goal! It is evident that you continue to keep Brecksville UMC in your hearts and minds since 91% of our revenue comes from our congregation! We were very fortunate to have a surplus amount from 2018 that we utilized in 2019 for 3% of our budget. Other revenue comes in throughout the year from renting our facilities to various groups in our community, Corporate Gift Matching, any Loose Offerings received during services and Interest Income we make on our financial accounts.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

It took us \$552,166 to operate the church in 2019. 67% of those dollars pay for our Staff, including salaries paid, medical insurance, worker's compensation, pension and continuing education. 10% of our budget went to maintaining our building and parsonage inside and out, while 15% paid our Conference and District Apportionments. 8% of our Expenses paid for our Church Administration and Programs including Music, Education, and Youth.



\$75K

2020 started strong, with several annual commitments paid in full in January.

UP!

We tend to start and end the year strong, with a downturn in giving in the summer months.

QUESTIONS

?

Contact Becky Paroda, our Finance Manager at finance@brecksvilleumc.com.