



The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141 Phone: 440-526-8938

February Issue : Published January 21, 2011



Share the LOVE

A new column will be appearing in the Good Word each month highlighting social justice issues and action that you can take to be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is not to be looked at as something to "make you feel guilty" but to give you the opportunity to let your voice be heard and to right some of the wrongs in our world.

Good relationships are built on trust and mutual respect; those are the kinds of values we honor on Valentine's Day and they should also be part of how the companies we buy from operate. Unfortunately, for those worried about child labor and worker exploitation, our relationship with chocolate can be a bad romance. Before picking up chocolate kisses for your loved one this Valentine's Day, you may want to consider where that chocolate came from.

Hershey's, Nestlé, and M&M/Mars know their chocolate comes from the work of child labor and brutal working conditions for both adults and kids. They promised nearly a decade ago to set up a system to certify that no producers in their supply chains use child labor. They gave themselves a July 2005 deadline for that, which came and went without meaningful action. A second voluntary deadline sailed by as well in 2008. There was a new deadline for voluntary action at the end of 2010. That has also come and gone.

In an article published in 2001 a slave described his 13-hour workdays on the 494-acre plantation as brutal, filled with harsh physical labor, punctuated by beatings, and ending with a night of fitful sleep on a wooden plank in a locked room with other slaves.

"The beatings were a part of my life," said the boy who was sold into slavery at not yet 12 years old. "Anytime they loaded you with bags and you fell while you were carrying them, nobody helped you. Instead, they beat you and beat you until you picked it up again."

The reports shocked some members of Congress into action. That fall, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) prepared bills to require U.S. chocolate companies--by force of law--to certify their products as slave-free. Engel's bill passed the House, but before Harkin's bill could pass the Senate, the chocolate industry had announced a voluntary four-year plan to clean up its own supply chains, without legislation.

In September 2010, a research team from Tulane University (specifically charged by Congress with oversight of the voluntary supply-chain efforts) reported that "the industry is still far from achieving its target...and the majority of children exposed to the worst forms of child labor remain unreachable."

The biggest cocoa company in the country, Hershey's--even after ten years to get started--has no certification system in place whatsoever to ensure that its cocoa isn't tainted by labor rights abuses. Competing companies like Cadbury/Kraft, Mars and Nestle have made some efforts to combat poor conditions in cocoa-growing countries. But Hershey, which claims 42.5 percent of the U.S. chocolate market, has been slow to initiate any measures against abuses, the report says.

Valentine's Day is a great time to advocate for an end to child, forced and trafficked labor in the cocoa industry.

Tell Hershey to purchase fair trade certified cocoa.

**Make your own Valentine and send it to
Hershey CEO
David J. West:**

The Hershey Company
100 Crystal A Drive
Hershey, PA 17033

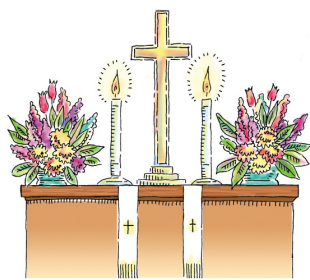
Valentines should be mailed to Hershey by
February 18, 2011.

Flooding Hershey with Valentines will send a clear message that consumers demand an end to labor rights abuses in our favorite chocolate products. It is also an easy way to take action with your friends and family.



*Jenny Gee,
Director of Christian Education*

**Look for more you can do
in this issue of *The Good Word!***



Worship Schedule

8:45 First Service

10:00 Education hour

11:15 Second Service

Wednesdays at 7 pm Prayer Service

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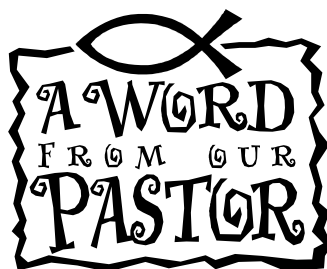
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Living in the Covenant

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

One of the most important words in our faith life is *covenant*. We sometimes minimally define a covenant as a promise or contract, but it is so much more. A covenant is a relationship of love and support. Covenant describes the relationship that God offers us. "I will be your God and you will be my people." We use covenant to describe Christian marriage, and the relationship a person has with the church when they are baptized. If you listen to the words of the baptism service you hear the congregation promising to love and support the person baptized, and they (or their parents) promise to be part of the faith community.

As an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, I am also part of a covenant community. My congregation, my "church", if you will, is the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. I do not have membership in any local church, but in that body. We only meet once a year to worship and celebrate together and take care of business. The rest of the year we are out in the mission field, doing the work of Christ in local churches.

I am a servant, not an employee. Within the covenant, I understand that I might be asked to serve in different places and at different times, according to the needs of the conference *as a whole*. This is the basis of what we refer to as *itinerancy*, the practice of moving clergy on a regular basis to different churches and forms of service.

You can see where I am going with this. My understanding of the covenant I am a part of made accepting the task of serving as a District Superintendent clear. This is not a position I would have wished or asked for in any way! But my background in the church and my experiences in three appointments, including Brecksville, have equipped me to do the job. And there is a joy in being asked to meet a new challenge. What a servant prays for is to be used.

On the first Sunday in January we renewed our covenant with God in a Wesleyan covenant renewal service. On that day I already knew the change that was coming, and the words were a powerful moment for me. You are all in a covenant relationship with God and the Brecksville United Methodist Church. Let these words of the covenant prayer be powerful for you, too.

Pastor Karen

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Sunday School News

Greetings to our friends in the family of the Lord Jesus Christ!

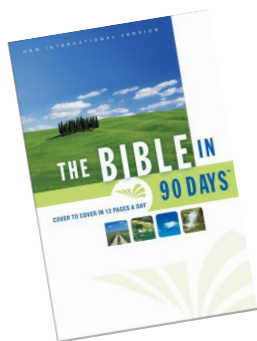


The Rotation Sunday School kids are digging into their Bibles during the months of January and February. Their 8-week study will conclude with Children's Worship Sunday on March 6 at both the 8:45 and the 11:15 services. We have been studying the Epistles, which make up the bulk of the New Testament, and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul.

We have learned that Epistle is the Greek word for letter or correspondence. These letters of the early church combined with the book of Acts provide a picture of the early church, the development of Christian theology, and the work of the apostles. A majority of the Epistles were written by Paul to the churches he visited on his missionary journeys. In them he dealt with issues and disputes facing these early churches. Through these letters, much of Christian theology has evolved.

We are learning that the locations he visited are echoed in part by the letters he wrote: Ephesus, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, Colossae and Galatia. The letter to Rome was written in anticipation of a visit. Ultimately, his final journey took him to Rome after he wrote it; his time there was spent in prison.

The children of BUMC will take you through the journeys and the struggles. What were people fighting about? What were they worried about? What words of encouragement did Paul use to support and help grow these early churches? Come on March 6th to find out!!!



Join a Men's Bible Study
"The Bible in 90 Days"

on Fridays at 9 am in Room 201.

This program takes the intimidation out of reading the Bible. It's like a book club. Participants read 12 pages a day and attend weekly meetings to discuss, reflect, be accountable, and hear a lesson. Learn more at:

www.biblein90days.org

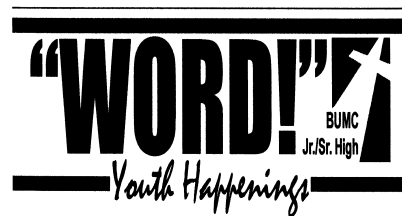
Thank you for your generosity!



This year's Hat and Mitten Tree collected...

45	hats
79	mittens or gloves
18	sets of hats, mittens, scarves, etc.
28	scarves
7	pair of socks
17	toothbrushes
	Toothpaste and various toiletries

Donations were delivered to the West Side Catholic Center whose programs respond to the needs of men, women, and children in Cuyahoga County, regardless of their religious affiliation.



HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Soul Quest Continues Every Thursday 5-6:15pm: Soul Quest is a mid-week, high school event that will give you a chance to weekly catch up and dig deeper into your faith. Supper is included! Our music director, Joy, offers a High School Choir from 6:15-7pm following Soul Quest Thursday.

2/13 and 2/27 EPIC --6-7:30pm—
 Youth Room!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS

Quest Is Every Wednesday 3:15-4:30pm: Quest is a mid-week, after-school program for 6-8 graders. During Quest we play games, eat a snack and share in a Bible Lesson. Contact Youth Minister, Lisa Kropinak, with any questions!

February 11-12 —Middle School Lock-In "The Blizzard" (see below for more information.) Cost \$10

2/27 Confirmation Begins 6:30-8pm

The Blizzard

Doesn't life sometimes feel like a blizzard? Join your Middle school friends for a lock-in that looks at how you can fight your way through the blizzard of life safely. Meet in Fellowship Hall at **7pm on Friday, February 11.** Bring sleeping bag, pillow, overnight gear and a snack to share. Friends are welcome, but we need a church medical form for each participant. **Parents** we will need help during the lock-in. Our child protection policy requires two men and two women be present. Let me know ASAP if you can help even for a part of the lock-in.



Spring Calendar

What's Coming Up for the Christian Musical Arts Program

Wednesday, February 2:

Auditions for the Spring Musicals
(*K through High School*)

Audition packets were distributed at CMAP on Wednesday, January 20. We will audition on February 2 during normal CMAP times. Auditions are for 2nd grade and higher and are for speaking/singing roles. All CMAP participants are in the spring musicals!

Friday, February 25:

Music With a Mission
(*2nd grade through High School*)

See the article in this newsletter for details on this fun event!

Saturday, March 5:

Chorister's Guild Festival
at Fairmount Presbyterian Church
(*2nd grade through 8th grade*)

Carpooling will be arranged from the church. \$5 registration fee for this event. Festival concert at 3:00pm – all are encouraged to attend!

Sunday, March 6:

Children's Worship Sunday
(*K through 8th grade*)

All of our CMAP choirs and Handbell ensembles will be participating at both services.

Sunday, April 17:

Passion Drama & Spring Musical

Join us for this annual event as our K through 4th graders present *The Tale of the Three Trees* and our 5th through 12th graders present *The Passion Drama*. Exact times TBA.

Celebrating Mission and Outreach in 2010



It is time to give thanks and celebrate the blessings that we were able to share last year through giving at the Brecksville United Methodist Church! This is a good time to remind you of the many ways that you are part of ministry near and far. Here at Brecksville UMC we support a Missions budget that is used for a variety of outreach and missions support. We also pay our *apportion-*

ments, our shared ministry goal, to the United Methodist Church, most of which goes to mission. We respond to disasters and needs expressed at church. We support the Youth Service Project, Volunteers in Mission, and local outreach. We dedicate our Christmas and Easter offerings to missions. Our United Methodist Women are another way we support mission. Below you will find a report detailing much of our giving in the year 2010. Celebrate and thank God for generosity!

MISSION GIVING 2010

Africa 3C	\$ 2,118
Appalachian Hunger	\$ 880
Berea Children's Home	\$ 500
Brooklyn Memorial Dinners	\$ 488
Brookside Hunger Center	\$ 500
Camphor Missions	\$ 5,596
Christmas Toy Sale	\$ 500
City Mission	\$ 500
Cleveland Christian Home	\$ 500
Connectional Mission Askings (Conf Apportionment)	\$ 18,009
Cornerstone of Hope (Hospice Center)	\$ 500
Haiti Civil Emergency	\$ 9,511
Health Kits	\$ 150
Hunger Network	\$ 500
InterAct Cleveland	\$ 1,000
Malachi House	\$ 500
McCurdy School	\$ 3,596
Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$ 700
Nehemiah Mission	\$ 500
Nothing But Nets	\$ 302
Open M Food Kitchen (Akron, OH)	\$ 2,000
Orchard Path Methodist Church	\$ 500
Ronald McDonald House	\$ 224
UMCOR Relief Fund	\$ 1,306
Volunteers in Mission (Russia)	\$ 2,510
Werner UMC	\$ 500
West Side Community House	\$ 3,596
Wilderness North Camp	\$ 300
Yuletide Hunger Program	\$ 500
Total	\$ 58,286

Let the SUN SHINE

Music with a Mission 2.25.11

Have you got the winter blahs?

Are you feeling a little dark and dreary during these long weeks before spring?

We'll create your own sunshine!

Join us for *Let the Sun Shine*,
this year's Music With a Mission show!

Featuring our incorrigible MC's, songs, sketches and the usual array of surprise "guests", our show promises to provide you with an evening of cheerful, sunny entertainment.

*There is still room to get involved...
contact Joy if you have any BRIGHT ideas!*

Menu:

Lasagna, salad, rolls, vegetable, assorted desserts.

\$12 for adults. \$6 children under 12.
Children under 5 are free.

6pm Doors Open
6:30 Supper, Silent Auction. 7:30 Show

Get your tickets after first and second services
through February 20.

Contact Lisa Kropinak (440-526-8938)
with any questions regarding the evening.

Paper Recycling



This year, we're weighing our paper before it goes to recycling. How much of an impact are our efforts are making? With one trip to the bin, we

recycled 103 pounds of paper—almost one mature tree! Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity. *Source EPA 2008*

Merling Trio

On Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 pm, the Merling Trio will present a program featuring music composed by Haydn, Piazzolla, Ravel, and Dumky as the next installment in our church's fine arts concert series.



This premier ensemble has received glowing reviews both in the United States and abroad. Our own Cleveland *Plain Dealer* said, "The players shaped a grand interpretation, fluent in rhythm and rich in romantic feeling." Their diverse offerings are sure to appeal to musicians of all ages and musical tastes.

For more information about the group visit the website www.merlingtrio.com. As always, this concert is free and open to the public.

Alpha News

Alpha has been a wonderful experience to explore our faith and get to know others. We will offer our next class again in September. Last fall, a number of folks from Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church joined us. They are now offering their own class beginning February 13 at noon. Anyone interested in taking the course at CRLC or helping on their team should contact Craig Czarnota: 440-838-1331

Alice Puts Things in Order

A Column of Ongoing Response to the Worship Surveys

How many worship services have you attended in your lifetime? At how many different churches? Have you ever found yourself realizing just how different two worship services can be? Then again, some things remain the same: there's always music, always prayer, and almost always a sermon. Beyond that, the elements and order of worship can vary in as many ways as there are church and services. So how are the elements of worship determined at *our* church? Is there a required order or can things be moved around? Is there any particular *reason* that we might do one thing before another? This month, we will demystify the worship service itself with its many components.

At the heart of planning any worship service is a healthy sense of logic. The greeting goes at the beginning. The call to worship is toward the beginning as well. The children's moment occurs early enough that our kids have adequate time in their Sprouts program. The benediction or sending out goes at the end. From there, some elements are moved around to accommodate the needs and habits of our congregation. For example, our 8:45 crowd tends to run a little late. (Sorry guys!) For that reason, the decision was made just over a year ago to begin that service with music. It was becoming clear that latecomers to the service were missing the welcome and announcements! The opening set of songs serves, first and foremost, as worship for those who are present, but it also provides a time of gathering for those who may be running a bit behind.

Some elements of the service are placed out of consideration for their purpose. We could pass the offering plates first thing in the service or just have collection baskets available at the door as people come in. Why not, right? But the time of offering is meant to be a time of *responding* to the word and its call on our hearts. We see that time of giving as a significant act of turning our hearts toward God in response to the message, so in this church, you will always find the collection of offering after the sermon. You may notice that the offering time comes a bit earlier in the 11:15 service, though (before the morning prayers). This has a practical motivation. A group of counters is responsible for tracking offering from both services, and they can't leave until that record-keeping is complete. We take the offering slightly earlier at the later



service so that they have an opportunity to finish up their job and head home to their families!

Communion is another deeply responsive act. During the sacrament of communion, we have time and space to reflect on

Christ and reflect on his call on our hearts. It's helpful to enter that time of reflection having already allowed ourselves to be centered by the scriptures and the message, so you will always find communion shortly after the sermon.

Prayer and music might be the most flexible elements of worship. This certainly does not mean that they are of lower priority, or that we just squeeze them in "wherever", but we do recognize that both prayer and music are part of our ongoing "conversation" with God, and they are appropriate just about anytime and anywhere! We've all been to prayer services where an entire hour or more is spent in focused meditation and listening. The same can be said of music: there are whole services structured around using anthems, choruses, and hymns as channels of praise, prayer, reflection and hearing the word. At this church, we tend to have our concentrated prayer time late in the service, in large part because we have had time to quiet our hearts. But many of our calls to worship are prayers, we hear a prayer after the children's moment each week, and we also offer prayers in response to our offering each morning. There is no wrong time to pray! We open the service with a hymn or with songs that praise the glory of God. Songs/hymns of response, offertories and other musical elements later in the service tend to be more closely tied to the theme or the morning and encourage us to consider our response to that message. Our closing song or hymn is often one that sends us into the world in power or calls us specifically to be Christ's ambassadors.

Each of these elements is carefully considered, and changes are made from time to time. Our staff is always open to examining the best way to "do worship" in a way that is most edifying to all and, most important, draws us closer into relationship with God.

Peace,
~Joy Fenton, Director of Music

FEBRUARY 2011

The Calendar is Updated Daily on the church website:
www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." Romans 13:10</p> 		<p>1 11 Staff Mtg 7:30 Gifts and Memorials</p>	<p>2 6:30 Dawnbkrs 3:15 Quest 4 CMAP 4 Wo Emmaus 4:30 MS Bells 5:15 MS Choir 7 Prayer Svc</p> 	<p>3 9:30 UMW 3:30 Band 5 Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 6:15 HS Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>4 7 Emmaus Re.</p>	<p>5 Leadership Academy 8:30—3p Church of the Saviour United Methodist, Cleveland Heights</p> 
<p>6 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship</p>	<p>7 7 Bible Study</p> 	<p>8 <i>Super Tues!</i> 9:30 Staff Mtg 1-7 Blood Drive 7 Knitting 7 COM 8: COE, Evangelism, Missions, Music, Worship, Youth Board</p> 	<p>9 6:30 Dawnbkrs 3:15 Quest 4 CMAP 4 Wo Emmaus 4:30 MS Bells 5:15 MS Choir 7 Taizé Prayer Svc</p>	<p>10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 3:30 Band 5 Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 6:15 HS Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11 7 Emmaus Re.</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Boy Scout Sunday 8:45 Worship 9:45 Pancakes! 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 6 EPIC</p> 	<p>14 7 Bible Study</p> 	<p>15 9:30 Staff Mtg 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>16 6:30 Dawnbkrs 3:15 Quest 4 CMAP 4 Wo Emmaus 4:30 MS Bells 5:15 MS Choir 7 Prayer Svc 7 SPR</p>	<p>17 3:30 Band 5 Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 6:15 HS Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>18 7 Emmaus Re.</p> 	<p>19</p>
<p>20 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship</p>	<p>21 7 Bible Study</p> 	<p>22 9:30 Staff Mtg 7 Knitting</p>	<p>23 6:30 Dawnbkrs 3:15 Quest 4 CMAP 4 Wo Emmaus 4:30 MS Bells 5:15 MS Choir 7 Prayer Svc</p>	<p>24 3:30 Band 5 Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 6:15 HS Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25 7 Emmaus Re. 9:30 UMW Board Mtg 6 Music with a Mission: <i>Let The Sun Shine In!</i></p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 6 EPIC Unwound</p>	<p>28 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>Feb. 6 - Texts: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20. "Mission impossible" Feb. 13 - Texts: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37 "Taking it to the Next Level" Feb. 20 - Texts: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matthew 5:38-48 "Founders" Feb. 27 -Texts: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34 <i>Lisa Kropinak preaching</i></p>				

Have news you would like to share? Please call or e-mail Melanie

Congratulations to Stephanie and Ian Roberts who welcomed Kaya Rain Roberts into the world on January 5. She was 6 pounds 9 ounces, and 20.5 inches long.

We offer a prayer of joy for the Schillo family on the birth of Matthew and Christi's newborn twins.

January 20 was a big day for rejoicing! Skip and Nancy Smith celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary and Jean Ross celebrated her 90th birthday.

It's great to hear that so many people enjoyed the poinsettias and Advent devotionals that were delivered over the holidays. Thank you to all who were able to visit with those who aren't able to travel.

February Birthdays

Donna Bambic	03	Pamela Johnson	10	Scott Campbell	18
Brian Buttolph	03	Marjorie Webb	10	John Kenney	18
Colin Johnson	03	Douglas Bender	11	Alexandra Kenney	19
Brooke Toman	03	Marla Hocutt	12	Sally Bibler	20
Kelsey Buttolph	04	Kelly McLuckie	12	Nancy Hoyer	20
Maren Oehl	04	Gladys Smith	12	Lisa Kropinak	20
Barbara Soltis	04	Gloria Southam	12	Matthew Ling	20
David AuWerter	05	Leslie Hoffman	13	Kelli Buttolph	21
Kathleen Davis	05	William Hurder	13	Brendan Root	21
Faith McAllister	05	Monica Kotnik	13	Daniel Rajkovich	22
Lynn Spencer	05	Andrew Kubek	13	Stephen Warth	22
Robert Andree	06	Mallory McCrodden	13	Erin Gee	23
Paul Olszko	06	Alec Wilson	13	Tyler Bindel	24
Chloe Boldt	07	Ellen Falko	14	Janet Kleckner	24
Rebecca Chen	08	Lucy Fesler	14	Eric Louttit	24
Nancy Knowlton	08	Dorothy Jordan	14	Olive Priest	24
Michael Whitton	08	Abigail Smith	15	Miriam Buttolph	25
Chad Boldt	09	William Kranstuber	16	Nancy Wygonski	25
Eric Buttolph	09	Matthew Miller	16	Darcie Engler	27
Sarah Nurre	09	Stephanie Fisher	17	Angela Harper	27
Robert Williams	09	Grace Ford	17	Emily Hastings	27
		Christine Hudacek	17	Johanna Klein	27
		Emma Piorkowski	17	Taylor Whitton	27
				Kathy Decker	28

Dear Friends at BUMC: Thank you for sending me the Advent devotions booklet from Isaiah. I used it every morning to begin my devotions and prayers of gratitude to God...My best wishes to all who contributed in this sacred service.

In Christ's Love,
Ruth Stoddard

The family of Wayne Bilek wishes to thank everyone for all of the cards, gifts and many words of comfort. We wish to especially thank Rev. Oehl and Rev. Kuntz for helping us through a very difficult time with visits and a very meaningful service.

Dear Fellow Members,
Mom certainly enjoyed the arrival of the beautiful red poinsettia with carols from her delivery family. She enjoyed everything and appreciates everyone's Christmas cards and get well wishes.
Sincerely,
Janet Beck

To Mom's Church Family
Thank you for your prayers and concerns for our mom and grandmother, Dorothy Dorman. Thanks to your pastors for their visits, phone calls and communion prior to her passing. We want to thank Pastor Karen and the UMW for their parts in Mom's memorial celebration.
The Baillis Family

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who remembered me in prayer before and after my surgery. I'm grateful for all the cards, calls and visits that lifted my spirits. A very special thank you to Rev. Libby Kuntz for the hospital and home visits, the phone calls and prayers.
Sheila Kimble



Here are three more things you can do to ensure that your Valentine chocolate isn't tainted by the exploitation of children overseas.

1. Look for chocolate from companies that do certify their supply chains, via labels such the Fair Trade label and the IMO Fair for Life label. Apparently even the organic label can give you some peace of mind since the locations where slave labor is used do not grow organic chocolate. The "Chocolate Scorecard" places Sweet Earth Chocolates, Divine Chocolates, and Equal Exchange on their "Sweet List" meaning that they are chocolate companies that are committed to sustainability and improving the livelihoods of cocoa farmers globally.
2. Contact conventional chocolate companies like Hershey's, Nestle and M&M/Mars--call them, write to them, write on their Facebook pages --and tell them you expect them to prove their supply chains aren't tainted by child labor and slave labor.
3. Contact your representatives in Congress. If after a decade the chocolate companies can't monitor their own supply chains, we need to go back to the drawing board, and demand by law that slave-produced chocolate doesn't belong on the shelves of stores in the USA.

Sherrod Brown
713 Hart
Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510



Rob Portman
840D Dirksen
Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510



Betty Sutton
1519 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington DC 20510



The people who produce the raw materials for our chocolate treats deserve fair wages and safe working conditions. Children shouldn't have to suffer unspeakable horrors so that we can enjoy our chocolate treats. Don't let Valentine's Day pass this year without taking action to show your love for cocoa growing communities by supporting Fair Trade!



North Coast District
United Methodist
Church
Leadership Academy
2011

"Hope—It's the Church's Lifeline"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael E. Sykuta
"Living Out of a Heritage of Hope"

Saturday, February 5
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church of the Saviour United Methodist
2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH
216-321-3019

**Registration forms available
in the church office**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.

Tuesday, February 8
1 pm– 7 pm
Fellowship Hall

- ◆ It feels great to donate!
- ◆ It's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.
- ◆ You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed – most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- ◆ You will be someone's hero – in fact, you may help as many as three people with just one donation.



1-800-GIVE-LIFE
RedCrossBlood.org



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Have you seen...?

...our new, centralized location for collecting all of the things the church collects for various mission projects? It's a new shelf located in the cloak room. Can you help us fill it up? We're currently collecting:



- ◆ Eyeglasses
- ◆ Pop tops (pull tabs)
- ◆ Campbell's Soup Labels for Education
- ◆ Box Tops for Education (General Mills)
- ◆ Old cell phones
- ◆ Postage Stamps

Brecksville United Methodist Church

65 Public Square

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*Do you have changes to your
contact information? Know
someone who should receive*

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The Good Word **SNOW!**



Looking out the front door!



Jeff clears the sidewalk.

Our Dawnbreakers group was in for a big surprise after they finished their breakfast on Wednesday, January 12. Having arrived at 6:30 in a light snowfall, they found that the heavens had opened and six inches of snow had fallen during their meal! Jeff Hastings and Doug Huth spent a busy morning dealing with the snow and helping pre-school parents navigate the parking lot. On days like that it helps to remember that every day we're one day closer to spring!

It may be cold, but we've got Chili!



14 cooks prepared chili for our fifth annual UMM Chili Cook Off on Saturday, Jan 22. Congratulations to Matthew Mannocho whose chili was voted ***the best*** by the 75 folks in attendance. Best of all, \$352 was raised for the Cleveland Food Bank!

Did you take photos of the event? Contact the church office if you'd like to share them!