The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER * BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH







What's our "Why?"

Loving our neighbor means coming together with an attitude of grace for one another, as well as yourself.

I write this on May 20, 2021. This Sunday is our first Sunday of regular in-person worship after 14 months of worshipping physically distant. *It is going to be so grand!*

As we regather in-person, there are a lot of unknowns as we navigate creating our "new normal." What we do know—and what can help ground us in this time of transition—is our "why."

For the past 14 months, our "why" has been to "love our neighbor." That's why we've stayed apart: because gathering in large groups of many different households was not safe. And that "why" of loving our neighbor is going to remain as we gather together. However, it will look a little different.

"Loving our neighbor" now means being mindful that we're not coming back to exactly the way things were before the pandemic. We're not completely out of this yet, so we want to keep caring for one another by wearing our masks & maintaining physical distance. We're going to abide by the principle, "If you have to ask, just mask." This is a way to be respectful of one another, and create a safe space for those who are not yet able to be vaccinated due to age or health conditions.

Another *big* way we will love our neighbor is by recognizing that we've each experienced trauma due to this pandemic, and we are each mentally and emotionally working through this as best we can. We've had different experiences over the past 14 months, and are creating our "new normal" at our own pace. It's important to be mindful that each person, each family, and each situation is different, which is one of the things church is all about: supporting one another in our diversity.

So, loving our neighbor means coming together with an attitude of grace for one another, as well as yourself. It's going to be bumpy and awkward as we enter our new normal, but we know that God is with us and the Holy Spirit will

provide us with exactly what we need, just when we need it—whether that is grace for those who are not in the same place as us, or courage to begin creating a new normal.

The why of being physically apart—loving our neighbor—doesn't go away, it simply looks different. And to that, we add the why of gathering in-person.

Why are we gathering together inperson? Because being in physical community with one another is important. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we've learned to gather in community in different ways using technology like Zoom, social media, and livestreaming our services. But that doesn't diminish the reality that physical community is integral to being the church.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 133:1, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in unity!" And it IS good and pleasant to be together physically—we may never appreciate

Continues on next page...



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

the blessing of physical togetherness and gathering more than we do now!

And the flip side of this is naming and recognizing what we've been missing during the season of distance. What have you been missing about gathering together physically? Why are you excited about worshipping together inperson?

I miss seeing everyone, and I'm so excited to see all of your smiling eyes above your masks, and to see how much the kids have grown in the past 14 months!

Are you excited to worship in-person so we can sing together? (Yes, we will be able to sing with our masks on!) Or is it being in the sanctuary? Or is it the simple joy of being together in the same space? I'd love to hear!

I'm in awe of how this church community has stuck together over the past 14 months, trying new things together and being open to the Spirit's movement. And I can't wait to see what God does in the next 14 months and beyond! *Oh, it's going to be grand!*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



CELEBRATING 7 YEARS





AS A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

On Sunday, May 16, we gathered on the lawn to celebrate an incredible 7 years of inclusive ministry and voting to become a reconciling congregation within the United Methodist Church. It was a beautiful service with personal stories from Linda Crouch and Kristi Eberhardt, a prayer from Dana Schwendeman, music performed by Malik Khalfani, offering led by Deanne Kloss and communion was distributed by Pastor Heidi Welch. We were so excited to see the new addition to our church front lawn, the Rainbow Doors. These doors symbolize an outward commitment to our community that Brecksville United Methodist Church is a place where "God's doors are open to all." As we celebrate Pride Month with our participation and sponsoring of the Cleveland Pride Ride, we are so excited to continue to reinvest in our commitment to inclusive and welcoming ministry. If you are interested in helping the Inclsion Task Force coordinate more events celebrating inclusive ministry, email Dana Schwendeman (inclusion@brecksvilleumc.com) to get connected!



There is no better place to connect with our Creator God than in nature. Make a plan to join as we worship without walls, under the pines and alongside the waters in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. We will gather in the assigned meeting place, go on a hike to a different location, worship with song, prayer and meditations, then return to our original meeting place for breakfast (for the morning worship services) or s'mores around the grill (for the evening services). Registration is required so we can adequately prepare and purchase enough food.

Mark your calendar for these summer dates:

- Friday, June 11 at 7 pm
- June 26 at 9 am
- Friday, July 9 at 7 pm
- July 24 at 9 am
- Friday, August 6 at 7 pm
- August 21 at 9 am

Register here https://forms.gle/e8sxTJRpXh4LtYgN9 - or contact the office - and we will be in touch regarding the meeting location. Contact Jenny Gee for more information! education@brecksvilleumc.com.

8 Week Worship Series Begins May 30



Join us Sunday mornings as we embark on a new worship series focused on community—how we build it, repair it and sustain it. As we learn to cultivate courageous conversations, we strengthen our capacity for empathy and compassion, and learn to behold each other as images of the divine. We hope you'll join us for *I've been meaning to ask...*



JUNE

Show your care with prayer!

One of last month's Care & Prayer mail recipients asaid, sweetly and with a big smile on her face, "I probably received 20 cards in the mail last week!" Thank you for setting aside a little time for the Care & Prayer Mail Project. It's a small gesture that spreads great joy!

Week of June 6

Bill Long

11515 Fitzwater Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-1145

Week of June 13

David Stoffer

6942 Woodwalk Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-2465

Week of June 20

Nancy Manaska

9098 Woodcrest Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-2476

Week of June 27

Jim Mueller

28490 Westlake Village Dr Apt C321 Westlake, OH 44145-6773

Check back next month for a new list!



Share your news with your church family! Contact Melanie:

office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-526-8938

On May 30, we will celebrate the baptism of Griffin Hricko, whose sister and brother, Gianna and Logan, were baptized here in 2016. What a joy to watch this family grow in faith and love!

Ruby Ludwig sends a big "thank you" to her church family. "All your cards and calls brighten my long days. Thanks!"

June Birthdays

Betsy Jaszczak	1	Ann Hurley	9	Anne Ford	24
Rick Krause	1	John Zakarowsky	9	Kylie Engelhardt	25
Leslie Miller	1	Garrett Croes	10	K. K. Hood	25
Adam Smith	1	Aurelia Perry	10	Jacob Nelson	25
Jeannette Dumot	2	Megan Rohrer	10	Brian Pasek	25
Harmony Lasich	2	Jim Monnett	11	River Roberts	25
Fran McClean	2	Cydney Tormento	11	Jerry Bartholomew	26
Judy McCrodden	2	Sarah Hurder	12	Linda Crouch	26
Aaron Georgevich	4	Trevor Vastartis	12	Craig Czarnota	26
Grayce Herrick	4	Thomas Kuttler	13	Darren Krolikowski	26
Tammy Jaite	4	Amber Lasich	15	Quinn Leonard	26
Russell Slifcak	4	John Falko	16	Silas Spitzer	26
Cathy Krolikowski	5	Charlotte Sebastian	16	Jimmy Zawada	26
Walter Kudlaty 5		Dan AuWerter	17	Shirley Galik	27
Megan Gardner	6	Judy Helm	19	Jan Kranstuber	27
Jenna Schroedel	6	Kevin Kwiatkowski	20	Ruth McDonel	27
Darren Calovini	7	Russ Martin	21	Krissy Nelson	27
Courtney McDonough	7	Mark Pace	21	Joe Bartholomew	28
Lauren Scott	7	Gavin Santora	22	Dorothy Bowles	28
Brayden Biladeau	8	Neilson Tait	22	Lori Cooper	28
		Michael Pace	23	Deanne Kloss	29
		Linda Rollins	23	Julia Patterson	29
				Taylor Cave	30



Prayer and Praise Notes

Request prayer through our Prayer
Chain. Call the Church Office
440.526.8938 or contact Elinor
Rowan at 440.230.1540
or email
rowanel33@gmail.com

Or

prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. Recently, we said prayers of thanks for people like Becky Gezze, who "adopted" the flowerbed in the front

yard on the east side of the church—the one with a memorial to her dad. Thank you, Becky, for tending that beautiful area! And speaking of Becky, we said prayers of thanks for all of the people who have stepped forward to usher as in-person services (including memorial services) have returned to BUMC. These events couldn't happen without you all! The Thursday men's group created the beautiful rainbow door installation in the front yard. Thank you, gentlemen for helping tell the world that God's love is for everyone. We're so thankful for Elinor Rowan, who makes our prayer chain possible. Every week, Elinor gathers up all of our prayer requests and shares them by email and keeps us all connected in prayer. You are a gift, Elinor. So many people stepped forward to help with our first in person worship services. Thank you for helping us gather together again!

—— bumc —— MISSIONS & OUTREACH UPDATE

Thank you for your support of the **Jesus Closet** Collection and for the **church-wide Bike Fix-It Day!** Both were a huge success. Also, your generosity for the **Easter Collection** allowed us to donate just over \$1000 to each of our recipients: Teach*Reach*Bless and Faith Build. Thank you!!

Currently we are undertaking our annual **Flood Bucket Collection**. (See our shopping list on a separate page.) Items can be placed in the bin marked "Flood Buckets" off the back parking lot entrance. Monetary donations can be made by marking your donation "Flood Buckets." All items and monetary donations are due by 6/11/21 so we have time to count and purchase anything extra needed for our filling of the buckets after the first service on June 13. We hope to see you there.

We continue the monetary collection for the **Refuge Program of The LGBT Community Center of Cleveland**. This program helps people who identify as LGBT and have come to the US, because their safety was in jeopardy in their home country. The refuge program launched last year and we are on the ground floor partnering with The Center to continue this program. Eventually we hope to be able to have a relationship with the participants and help get them established in the community. This may include locating household furnishings, etc. Checks or donations made through REALM, should be designated "LGBT Center." We will collect funds through June 6. For additional information, please contact BUMC's Inclusion Task Force.

It's summertime and that means it's **Faith Build Time** with Habitat for Humanity. We have 3 dates thus far, and last I spoke with the agency, they were still limiting work group sizes. As COVID guidelines change, so might this?? Our dates are: Saturday, July 24; Thursday, August 19; and Saturday, September 25 Please call the church office to register.

The **Bike Fix-It day** was so successful and the demand for bikes continues, Jenny Gee has scheduled 3 more church-wide days – Saturday, June 12, July 10 and August 7. If you have an interest in volunteering at another time or need additional details, please refer to Jenny's article in the column at right, or contact her directly. Jenny, thank you for coordinating this ministry which has gone international!!

M&O donated \$200 to the Oaks of Brecksville for the purchase of an outdoor fountain for their garden area where residents can enjoy the outdoors, flowers, birds, etc.

Thank you for your continued support and please let a member of the M&O committee know of any ideas you have regarding where we can make a difference and provide assistance. - Mary Kotnik, M&O Chair



June Bike Fix-it Day—

New Date June 12, 9 to noon.

Did you know that we are known as 'The Bike Church' around town? We need your help to keep this important ministry 'rolling along'! We had a fantastic group of volunteers at May's Bike Fix It day... won't you join us in June? The date has changed from what we printed in the last *Good Word* and it is now scheduled for **Iune 12 from 9 to noon.**

You don't need to know how to fix a bike. Last month some of us washed bikes, others dismantled bikes we couldn't fix so we can use the parts, and others were taught some basic mechanical techniques by our crew of awesome volunteer mechanics.

Won't you please be part of this ministry that has grown to make Brecksville UMC known around the county as 'The Bike Church'? We can't keep the ministry 'rolling' without many hands!

Reach out to Jenny Gee to 440-526-8938 ext 230 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

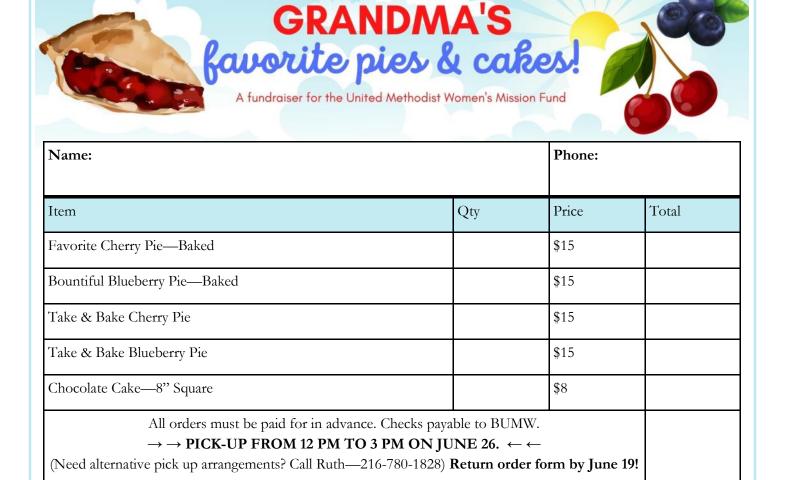


On Thursday, June 3, the United Methodist Women (UMW) will hold a special meeting recognizing three very special members. Read on to learn about the ladies being recognized.

Elinor Rowan served as secretary of the UMW Board for many years. Her knowledge of shorthand came in very handy in taking notes. This was not an easy task as people would digress and get off of the topic during the meetings. But somehow, Elinor kept it all straight. Prior to each board meeting, Elinor would arrive early and make copies of the minutes for each of us. We certainly owe her a debt of gratitude for her many years of service. - by Carol Wilson

UMW is grateful to **Barb Harper** for all she has done over the years for Brecksville United Methodist Women. In addition to her great sense of humor and ready smile, she covered publicity for the group; made the bulletin board with UMW information and updates for the entire church family, and last but not least, organized the crafts for our annual Head Start as a Christmas gift for the children there in attendance. - by Nancy Knowlton

Ruth Holmes has been a member of the Brecksville UMWomen for more years than any of us can remember. She was instrumental in starting an evening program for working women in the 80's and was an active member of the of the daytime group once she retired. She served as the Education and Interpretation member on the UMW Board from 2013—17, a position responsible for promoting mission education and opportunities to our members. Her reports on UMW's activities and their involvement with missions were always thought-provoking and informative. - by Ruth Herman





Vacation Bible School Updates and Needs

VBS will be held in the Oak Grove Picnic Area of the Brecksville Reservation the week of July 5-9. We have an amazing group of teachers again this year and are starting to get our crew leaders in place. Would you like to help? Crew leaders are the familiar face and the warm loving adult that our campers rely on to help them feel safe and cared for.

- Do you like being part of something fun and exciting?
- Do you love to reach out and shine God's love with young people in our community?
- Are you available the week of July 5-9?

Consider signing up to be a crew leader and make an impact on a child this summer. This role is most often filled by adults and college kids, but if you are a high schooler that feels called to serve in this way let me know! We are also looking for an individual to person our **First Aid Station**.



Do you buy eggs in cardboard cartons? Start saving them please. We will be collecting cardboard egg cartons throughout the month of June in the coatroom. Drop them in the box labeled 'VBS'. Please no Styrofoam cartons.

If you have questions or would like to help us out this year, contact Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education at education@brecksvilleumc.com.



ALL CHURCH Summer Book Club

This summer, we are going to dig into the book *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison. A New York Times Best Seller and winner of the Christianity Today Book Award, *Be The Bridge* presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel.

Read the book and choose one of these dates to join others for discussion and prayer lead by Rev. Kathy Dickriede.

- Sunday, June 13 at 6:30 pm on Zoom
- Tuesday, June 22 at 10 am on the church lawn
- Sunday, July 11 at 6 pm on the church lawn
- Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm on Zoom
- Sunday, August 22 at 9:30 am at the church

Email or call the office to sign up or register online here:
https://forms.gle/
p63X4LYgRYfPEFQU8



Register vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal

Preparing For Your Blood Donation

What if we told you that an hour of your time could change someone's life? It can! In the time it takes you to read this column, nearly 100 people will receive lifesaving transfusion. By taking just an hour or so to donate, you will do something wonderful!

Before you roll up your sleeve to help someone else, please take care of yourself:

- **Eat** a healthy, low fat meal within two hours of your donation. The day before, eat a salty snack. When you donate blood, you lose about a gram of salt. Replacing it ahead of time helps keep your blood pressure normal.
- **Hydrate** by drinking 8—16 ounces of non-caffeinated, non-alcoholic beverages one hour before you donate. Water is a great choice!
- Avoid/limit caffeinated sodas, coffee, iced tea and energy drinks on the day of the donation.

Together, we will do something amazing to change people's lives!

Bring your ID with you—something with your name and one of the following: date of birth, donor ID number, or your photo.

Your simple, lifesaving action of donating blood has the remarkable power to transform lives for many tomorrows.

To learn more, visit <u>vitalant.org/donate/donation-process.aspx</u>

YOUTH MINISTRY

During summer months we take a break from our weekly youth group meetings to experience our faith, families, and friends in new ways. Our summer break this year is from May 30 - September 11. We will resume weekly meetings September 12! While we are not meeting weekly, that doesn't mean we won't be having lots of fun and preparing for upcoming fall programming. Check out what we have planned for this summer in youth ministry at BUMC!

Weekly

Make sure you are following us on Instagram @BUMCYouthMin for continued weekly devotionals and other interactive check-ins

June

- June 6 **Graduation Sunday.** Celebrate our graduates on Sunday morning at worship services, online and in person.
- June 12 Join Youth Annual Conference from the comforts of your home through their interactive, online experience from 1—3 pm.
- June 21-24 Dig deeper into local missions and community with Homegrown Youth Service Project (for students going into ninth grade-college age.)

July

- July 5-9 Volunteer with us at **Vacation Bible School**, currently looking for high school and college-age students (as well as adults!) to help out and join in on the fun.
- July 18-24 Reach Out Camp is a special opportunity to invest in your faith while meeting new friends and thinking deeply about service and this year it is virtual so you can participate from anywhere!

For more information on any of these opportunities, email Dana Schwendeman (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) and sign up for our weekly youth ministry newsletter. In the newsletter you will receive up to date scheduling, information, and resources for the young people and families in your life!

Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

E-mail <u>youth@brecksvilleumc.com</u> Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237

JUNE 2021

4	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			I 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina	2 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	3 10 UMW Meeting	4	5 10 Pride Ride, Edgewater Park Bread Ministry Hobzek			
	6 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in Sanctuary & Online	7 9 pm Enneagram Small Group	8 8 UMW in the Kitchen 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina 7 Inclusion Task Force	9 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	10 8 UMW in the Kitchen	11 7 Worship in the Woods	12 10 Bike Fix-It Day 1-3 Youth Annual Conference Bread Ministry Hastings			
	13 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 9:30 UMCOR Cleaning Kit 10 Worship in Sanctuary & Online 6:30 Summer Book Club	14	15 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees	16 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	Last day to submit news for the July issue of the Good Word!	18	19 Last day to order pies! Bread Ministry Brown			
	20 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in Sanctuary & Online	21	22 10 Staff Mtg 10 Summer Book Club 7 Lectio 7 Finance	23 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	24	25	26 9 Worship in Woods 12—3 Pick up your pies! Bread Ministry Hobzek			
			HOMEGROWN YSP							
	8:30 Worship on the Lawn 9:45 Vitalant Blood Drive 10 Worship in Sanctuary & Online Baptism of Trevor Vastartis	28	29 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina	30 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	UMC! Not on the landfill, w hunger ministry lot are typ	you for recycling paper at Brecksville Not only do we keep that paper from andfill, we also generate funds for our ministry. The green bins in our parking are typically emptied on Thursday ngs. Remember, if it's paper, bring it to the bin!				



Electronic Service Requested

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

New office hours!

Monday — Thursday

9 am — 12 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com







Open Doors. Welcoming all of God's children.

Brecksville United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace diversity as a gift. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.



CLEANING KITS FOR VICTIMS OF DISASTER

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, UMCOR IS THERE! Our church is part of a conference wide collection drive for UMCOR Cleaning Kits. Through June 13, we'll be collecting items to complete the kits, which will be assembled between services on June 13 and delivered to our district's collection point, Strongsville UMC. Let's make sure they leave East Ohio with a full trailer! Pick up a shopping ticket at church, use the shopping list below, or shop our Amazon list at https://a.co/dzRXDgw We will assemble the buckets on Sunday, June 13 after the 8:30 worship service!

Sizes are very specific so all items will fit in kits.

- ☐ One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - No screw lids.
 - May be used but must be free from all residual products.
 - Advertisements on the outside acceptable.
- ☐ One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- ☐ One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - No spray cleaners.
- ☐ One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- ☐ One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers.
- ☐ One scrub brush
 - With or without handle.
- ☐ 18 re-useable cleaning wipes
 - No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels.
 - Remove from packaging.
- ☐ Five scouring pads
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging.
- ☐ 36-50 clothespins
- ☐ One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- ☐ 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
 - Remove from packaging.
- ☐ Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
 - No surgical masks.
- □ Two pairs kitchen gloves.
 - Durable for multiple uses.
 - o Remove from packaging.
- ☐ One pair of work gloves.
 - o Cotton with leather palm or all leather.





Music Director Search Is On!

As Malik Khalfani prepares to depart Northeast Ohio for Ohio State in the fall, we have begun the search for a new Music Director. This is a part time (20 hours per week) position, which will begin in August. If you know someone who might be a good fit for the position, please share the job description with them! www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/news/read/?ID=4766



giving

is a practical way that you can say "yes" I support the missions and ministries of this church.

- Give securely online open your smart phone camera and scan the QR code above, or visit https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/-/give/now
- Text "GiveBUMC" and your giving amount to 73256
- Mail gifts to Brecksville UMC, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Interested in planned giving or memorial gifts?

Please reach out to finance@brecksvilleumc.com