

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2023

# THE GOOD WORD

a monthly newsletter

Issue 3, Volume 13



On February 19, we "got off our donkey" and packed 35,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger! Folks of all ages participated, from a baby in a hairnet to friends in their ninth decade - there was a way for everyone to help!



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

## Honest Worship

Our Lenten sermon series invites you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open and nimble; soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that the questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God. Join us Sundays through the season of Lent!



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## Church Changes and Church Constants

Did you know that The United Methodist Church is only 55 years old? It was formed in 1968, when two denominations merged together.



Of course, the Church that the disciples of Jesus formed is thousands of years old, so our roots are deep. However, our branch of the “family tree” was created a little over half a century ago.

55 years is at the same time not that long, *and* a lifetime! Think about the ways our culture and lives have changed since then. In 1968:

Music was predominantly listened to on the radio and vinyl.

Personal computers didn’t exist... nor social media, cell phones, GPS, or VHS tapes!

The Church was the center of community life—where people gathered, learned, socialized, and worshiped. And the primary responsibility of the Church was to receive the continuous flow of people coming in the door from a church-centric culture and make them official members.

Now, well, unchurched people are as likely to walk into a church building as they would a wedding they weren’t invited to.

We saw these changes happening before 2020, but the pandemic escalated these changes (and more), so they are *very* apparent now: people are spread thin and unable to commit to the church organization like they used to; people are engaging with the church differently—worshiping online as well as in-person; people are choosing small group studies over weekly worship; people are engaging with several different churches to receive teachings from several pastors and communities.

The world has changed. And there’s a need for innovation and creativity in the Church like never before. And now, more than ever, we need to be deeply rooted in who God has called us to be and where God is leading us.

However, the church is still structured the same as it was in 1968. It’s unable to support the challenges, nuance, and complexity of being the church in 2023 and beyond.

Over the past year, a group of 10 of Brecksville UMC’s leaders have been meeting to learn about the “Simplified Accountable Structure.” It is a newer way to structure United Methodist Churches that anchors us securely in our God-given vision framework and enables us to address the challenges of the church’s future, while staying in-line with United Methodist polity (*The Book of Discipline*).

After many discussions and lots of prayer, this group of leaders has voted to move forward with presenting this new leadership model to our church members as a way to structure Brecksville United Methodist Church for ministry in 2023 and beyond.

*Continues on next page*





⚡ A JOYFUL GATHERING ⚡

# 2023 CHILI COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 5 - 8 PM

All are welcome! Bring your friends!

**Awards for**

Judge's Favorite ● People's Choice  
Best Presentation ● Best Vegetarian Recipe  
Best Hot ● Best Mild  
AND BEST CORNBREAD!



## \$ FOR

## UMCOR

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF

65 Public Square, Brecksville  
BUMCLinks.com | 440-526-8938

### Other Ways to Get Off Your Donkey In March



**Bike Fix-It** Our bike ministry is on a roll! More and more members of our community are helping us take donations of used bicycles, refurbish them and get them out to the community. The Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op recently donated 26 bikes to the cause. Come help get them ready at our next monthly Bike-Fix-It day, Saturday March 18 from 9 to noon. Will you be there?



**March 12** A Sunday with two unique ways you can get off your donkey! Give blood with the **Vitalant Blood Mobile** (details on the last page of this newsletter). Come to the **Missions & Community Engagement meeting** at 11:30 (after the second service) to learn how you can be part of upcoming events and plan for the future!



**Want to go to Liberia?** A United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Trip to Camphor Mission is forming now for a trip July 2—12. Contact Pastor Jason Hockran for info: [jhokran@gmail.com](mailto:jhokran@gmail.com)

*Continued from previous page*

There will be many opportunities in the coming months to learn about this new model and the changes it would make to the leadership structure of BUMC.

However, this leadership structure does not change who we are at BUMC: we will still be an amazing group of individuals gathered around Jesus's feet to learn and grow. We will still be rooted in worship, nourished in groups, and branching out in service.

The hope is that this structure will help us live out our values and mission with more intention than ever before.

I'm reminded of Jesus' analogy in the Gospel of Mark: "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."

As always, I'm excited to be in ministry with you... in incredible ways we haven't even imagined yet!

Take care,

*Pastor Heidi*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

*March Food Drive*



Canned Fruit, Bars of  
Soap and Toothpaste

For South Hills Lend-a-Hand



### East Ohio Summer Camps

**Kids!** When you tell the story of what you did this summer, will you say, "I connected with great friends and great counselors, had fun adventures, learned new things, experienced God, and now my faith is soaring"? You just might, if you make an East Ohio Camp part of summer 2023!

**Parents!** Why camp? East Ohio Camps create a safe environment for your child to build relationships with God, themselves, and others; practice making good decisions, try new things and develop skills; grow as a leader; experience positive role models; and live in Christian community.

**Want to learn more?** Plan to attend an Open House! Go see the camp for yourself and ask questions.

**Camp Aldersgate**—Sun., May 7, 2 - 5 pm

**Camp Asbury**—Sun., April 16, 2 - 5 pm

**Camp Wanake**—Sat., April 29, 2 - 5 pm

### Summer Camp Jobs Available!

East Ohio Camps are looking for outstanding Christian women and men for summer camp staff positions. Contact the Camps Office, 800-831-3972 ext. 120, or go to the [Staff & Volunteers](#) tab for information and applications.

META STUDENT MINISTRIES  
PRESENTS



MARCH 18TH, 2023  
7-10 PM



STUDENT LED WORSHIP- FEATURING THE  
META WORSHIP TEAM  
AFTER PARTY INCLUDING: GEL BLASTER  
BATTLE, SILENT DISCO, RAMEN BAR,  
CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN AND MORE!!!  
FOR 6TH TO 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

CHRIST UMC  
648 OAK STREET NEWCOMERSTOWN OH  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

**Hey youth!** Are you ready for ENERGIZE?? We have been invited to join our friends at Meta Student Ministries of Christ UMC in Newcomerstown, OH for an exciting overnight experience with worship, speakers, games, food, and more on Saturday, March 18 through Sunday, March 19. This event is planned by youth, for youth and a great way to meet new friends, participate in some rocking worship, and make new memories. All students in grades 6-12 are invited to come along. The best part is it's FREE! What are you waiting for? Registration is now open on our website. Reach out to director of Youth Ministry, Dana at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) for more info! Registration closes on March 16!

**Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry**

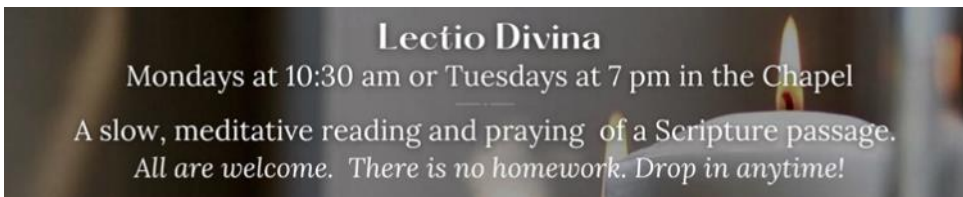
E-mail [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237

[www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin](https://www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin)





**Our adult Lenten study** - *Finding Jesus in the Psalms* - gives us a chance to look back at the ancient poetry of the Bible that just drips with human emotion. Through the weeks of Lent, we will see that Jesus, in his humanity, often quoted these writings of the Psalms. How good to know that our God feels so deeply and understands when we do, too! Each class stands on its own. Missed one? Don't let that keep you from joining us this Sunday! Meet Jenny and friends in the Chapel at 9:30. Sign up at [BUMCLinks.com](http://BUMCLinks.com) for updates.



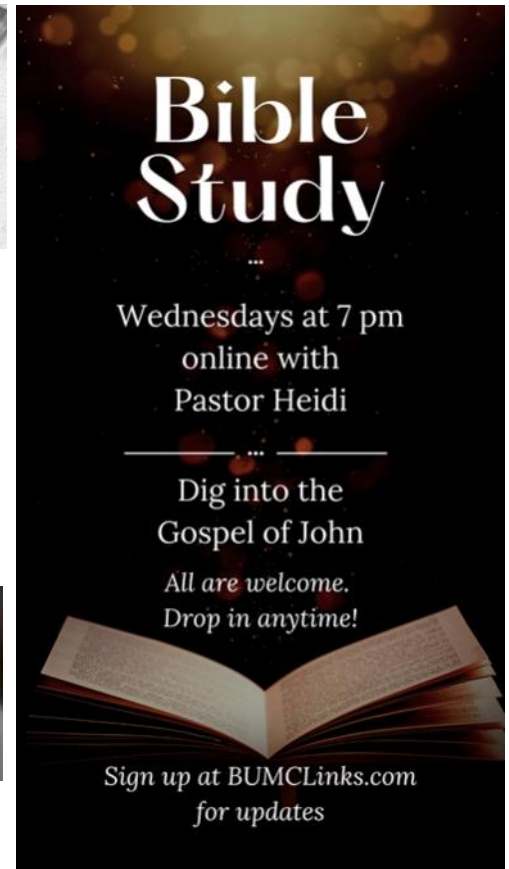
**Lectio Divina** meets every Monday morning at 10:30 and every Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Chapel. Join us throughout the weeks of Lent to sit with the stories of the last days of Jesus' life and the events that make up our Holy Week. Enrich your Lenten season this year by joining us for a time of Imaginative Prayer, discussion and connection. All are welcome.



**Fourth Sunday Hymn Sing** *March 26 at 11:30 am*  
We sing out, accompanied by our fabulous pipe organ! Join Sean Brown, Machala Comenschek, and Sue Ellenberger to sing your favorite hymns and discover the stories behind them. We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30 (after the second service). Can't join us in person? We're streaming live our website at [www.brecksvilleumc.com/streaming](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/streaming), Facebook & YouTube!



**Let's Talk Podcasts** *Sundays at 9:30 in Room 301*  
We're exploring podcasts that encourage us to ask honest questions for deeper faith! Be part of the discussion. Drop in and join the discussion on Sunday mornings—in the classroom or online via Zoom. Register at [BUMCLinks.com](http://BUMCLinks.com) for details and updates!



## This Light of Ours

*An Exhibit at the Maltz Museum*

In the 1960's ordinary people risked everything to achieve equality in the segregated south. The Maltz Museum (in Beachwood) is helping tell this story with an exhibit of activist photography of the Civil Rights Movement. The exhibit runs through April 2.

A self-guided audio tour, with prompts for both adults and children, helps bring the 150 black and white photographs to life. Travel with nine activist photographers through the deep south of the 1960s.

Brenda Calovini and I got off our donkey and toured the exhibit one afternoon and were moved by the bravery of the student organizers, photographers and ordinary people who risked everything to enact change; and by the deep faith that help sustain many of them through the fight.

Don't miss this unique opportunity for lifelong learning. Admission is just \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$5 for kids 5-11. Save \$2 by purchasing online using the code ThisLight. Learn more—[maltzmuseum.org](http://maltzmuseum.org).

- Submitted by Melanie Smith



Easter Flowers help celebrate the Risen Lord! Complete this form or order online at [BUMCLinks.com](http://BUMCLinks.com). Pick up your flowers after the 10:30 Worship Service Easter Sunday, or donate them to someone in need of cheer.

Your Name:

Phone/Email:

Address:

Qty	Description	Price @	Total
	Tulip (circle color) pink, red, purple, orange, white, red/yellow stripe	\$8	
	Single Stem Lily, White	\$8	
	Two Stem Lily, White	\$17	
	Daffodil	\$8	
	Hydrangea 6.5" pot: Pink or blue	\$13	
	Hydrangea 8.5" pot: Pink or blue	\$17	
	Azalea (no color choice, availability)	\$13	
	Bulb Garden—variety of flowers, 8" pot	\$13	
Checks payable to Brecksville UMC or pay online: <a href="http://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/FLOWERS">onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/FLOWERS</a>			

**Honorariums** will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. What would you like yours to say? *i.e. In memory of Nanny Yager, from her family. In honor of our parents, from Herbert & Zelmyra. Or To the Glory of God.*

☐ I will pick up my plants.

☐ I will donate my plants

Brecksville UMC, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141



Faith McAllister extends her thanks to everyone who sent a card or note recently. You made her day!

Several longtime members have left this earth and joined the church triumphant. Austin "Skip" Smith, a member of our church since 2001 died in December at the age of 91. Pat Neville, who joined this church in 1971, died in January. And Robert Butler, a church member since 1992 also passed away after a brief illness. Please surround their families in prayer. If you would like to receive notifications when church member obituaries are published, or if you would like to share an obituary, please reach out to the church office. 440-526-8938 or [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)



United  
Women  
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

## President of United Women in Faith Coming to Brecksville

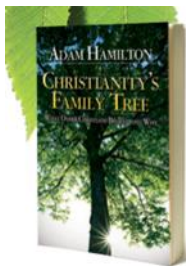
Have you noticed that the name of our organization has changed? United Methodist Women (UMW) is now United Women in Faith (UWF). Find out why the change was made by coming to our meeting on Thursday, March 2. Refreshments and fellowship begins at 9:30 am. The program starts at 10 am. Judi Kidder, President of East Ohio Conference UWF will address this change. Have a question? Submit it to Sharon Judson at [cuyahogafamily@roadrunner.com](mailto:cuyahogafamily@roadrunner.com) or leave it in the UWF mailbox in the church office.

## UWF trip being planned now!

After a few years break due to the pandemic, we are back and ready to plan a trip for our June meeting. Where should we go? Share your ideas with our President Kathy Sopka, at [kmineagain@cox.net](mailto:kmineagain@cox.net) or reach out to Sharon Judson at the above listed email. If have access to a van or bus, that would be a tremendous help, too! The trip should take no longer than one hour and should be of interest to our group. Once we have a list of suggestions, UWF Members will vote on which destination they would most enjoy.

## Everyone Needs a Little TLC

Home deliveries are an extra special treat when you can't get out and about as much as you would like. Join Eve Circle on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall as we assemble "Tender Loving Care" gift bags for some of our members who could use a reminder that they are loved and cared for! Donations of gift bags, gift items (chocolates, flowers, tea, etc.), or money to purchase these items, are also welcome and appreciated. Want to help make deliveries? That's a great way to "get off your donkey"! Have questions? Want to help? Reach out to Lynn Hobzek, [kezboh@aol.com](mailto:kezboh@aol.com)



## Asbury Bremeth Circle *Christianity's Family Tree*

*A study group for women. Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Next meeting Thursday, March 9.*

Have you ever wondered about other Christian denominations and what the differences in beliefs are? That is the focus of this year's Asbury Bremeth Study. All women are invited to join us for a study of Adam Hamilton's *Christianity's Family Tree*. Invite a friend and join us on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 in the Parlor.



## Our Church is Celebrating Some Significant Milestones this Year!

Do you get a kick out of knowing that our building is turning 70 years old this year? Are you intrigued to learn that we also have a second 200th birthday coming up? (What's *that* all about?) Do you have an interest in the story of our church through the generations?

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions you may be interested in the work of our church history committee. The work includes organizing and archiving historic documents and artifacts, conducting planning meetings for events commemorating significant dates in our history, and taking oral histories.

This is important and rewarding work. If you are interested in leading the committee, serving on the team, or taking part in specific projects, please email Sharon Judson at [cuyahogafamily@roadrunner.com](mailto:cuyahogafamily@roadrunner.com) or our Education Director Jenny Gee [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com).





## MARCH

### Care and Prayer!

One way to make someone's day is to let them know that you're thinking of them, and that you said a prayer for them! Let's let these folks know they're loved this week!

*Week of March 5*

*Cliff has a big birthday this week!*

**Cliff Thielman**

8759 Stuart Ln

Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-3404

*Week of March 12*

*It's her birthday this week!*

**Janet James**

3824 Faith Ln

Richfield, OH 44286-9121

*Week of March 19*

**Donna Eilbeck**

Decatur House

PO Box 1070

Sandwich, MA 02563

*Week of March 26*

**Phyllis Phillips**

27819 Center Ridge Rd Apt 307

Westlake, OH 44145-3994

*Contact the office to nominate someone for next month's list!*



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





Each week at Staff Meeting we celebrate "God Moments" and lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Marla Knight, who was such a big part of Work-Ship — after chaperoning an overnight event with the Girl Scouts. What dedication! Carolyn Jatsek brought

her knowledge and experience to Child Protection Policy training and helped make our church a safe space for kids. Thank you, Carolyn! Tony retired from a career as a repairman and reached out to the church to see how he could help here. He's been a fixture at Bike Fix It Days this year and is helping Trustees on some other projects. Why does he do it? Because churches helped him and his family when they immigrated to America in the 60s! Bev Huber has taught generations of kids how to serve the church as acolytes, bringing in the light of Christ. What a gift to God! Sue Ellenberger serves in so many ways, and shares her gifts of detail, organization and history—as a welcome team member and as leader of our Fourth Sunday Hymn Sing. We're thankful for you, Sue! For these and other gifts, we are thankful!



# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 OPEN SUNDAY MORNINGS 8 AM - NOON  5 <b>8:30 Worship</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering <b>10:30 Worship</b> 12 Sunday School Recap 5 Youth Group  12 <b>8:30 Worship</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10-2 Blood Drive <b>10:30 Worship</b> 11:30 Missions 12 SS Recap 5 Youth Group  19 UMCOR Sun <b>8:30 Worship</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering <b>10:30 Worship</b> 12 SS Recap 5 Youth Group 5 Chili Cook Off  26 <b>8:30 Worship</b> 9:30 Joyful Gathering <b>10:30 Worship</b> 11:30 Hymn Sing 12 SS Recap 4 Concert 5 Youth Group	6 10:30 Lectio          13 10:30 Lectio          20 10:30 Lectio     27 10:30 Lectio	7 10 Worship Planning 2 Chippewa Communion 7 SPRC 7 Lectio Divina  14 10 Worship Planning 7 Lectio Divina  21 10 Worship Planning 10 Knitting 7 Trustees 7 Lectio Divina  28 10 Worship Planning 7 Finance 7 Lectio Divina	1 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 Eve Circle 7 Bible Study  8 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study  15 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study  22 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study  <i>Have you ordered your Easter Flowers?</i>  29 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study	2 9:30 UWF 6:30 Choir 8 Band  9 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:30 Choir 8 Band  16 12 Newsletter deadline 6:30 Choir 8 Band  <i>Last day to register for ENERGIZE!</i>  23 10 Newsletter production party 6:30 Choir 8 Band  30 6:30 Choir 8 Band	3 12 God in Nature  10 12 God in Nature  17 12 God in Nature  24 9:30 UWF Board Meeting 12 God in Nature  31 12 God in Nature	4          11   18 Bike Fix It Day   ENERGIZE Youth Overnight!  25 Breakfast at Nehemiah Mission— Register at BUMCLinks!
BRECKSVILLE BROADVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS SPRING BREAK						

VISIT [WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM](http://WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM) FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



**BRECKSVILLE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
65 PUBLIC SQUARE  
BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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Cleveland, OH  
Permit No.  
928

## Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
9:15 am — 2:15 pm  
440-526-8938  
[info@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:info@brecksvilleumc.com)



**Community Blood Drive**

Register at [Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal](https://Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal)

**SUNDAY**  
**3.12.23**  
10 am - 1 pm



**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.