VOLUME 14 ISSUE NO. 4 APRIL 2024

# THE GOOD WORD

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Scripture, Experience, Reason, Tradition

When I was younger, my family would go to Clear Creek State Park every fall to camp. Each day, I would head to the creek and watch the water carry the fallen leaves through rocks, around sticks and twigs, and downstream to the Clarion River. I spent hours cleaning out the leaves to "help the creek" so they wouldn't create a dam and stop the water from flowing.

One day, when I was about 7 years old, my dad came down to see what I was doing. When he heard my explanation, he just smiled, nodded, and said, "That's very nice of you." Then I declared: "I want to do something every day that helps the environment!"

From that young age, crouching by the side of the creek, I could sense God's presence in nature. Although I wasn't able to put it into words until much later, I knew that I felt a responsibility to care for God's creation.

Then, a few years later, I read Genesis 1:26 and it helped me understand our human connection to nature and that responsibility I felt:

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." (NLT)

On the sixth day of creation, God created humans, just as God created the trees and water and sun. And because of our special relationship with God—created in God's likeness—we are called to care for the rest of God's creation as God would.

A few years later, my science teacher taught us about the warming of the earth's atmosphere. And although it's something that's happened since the creation of the world, humans were causing it to occur faster. So, plants and animals were having a difficult time adapting quickly enough, and some were going extinct.

BUT, my science teacher said it wasn't too late—we could each make some easy changes to how we live, and they would make a big, positive impact on the entire world.

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Continued from front page.

So, being a good "young United Methodist," I applied the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to the situation. The "Wesleyan quadrilateral" is a tool created by John Wesley (kind of) to help us understand scripture and apply it to our lives as Christians. The base of the quadrilateral shape is "scripture" (because that's always our foundation), and the other three sides are experience, reason, and tradition.

Scripture tells us that God gave humans responsibility to care for God's creation.

My experience tells me that I feel most connected to God when I'm in nature, and the natural world helps me understand God better.

Reason (science) tells me that there are ways humans impact nature for either good or ill.

Tradition tells me that my family's connection to the natural world runs deep, as farmers going back generations.

Considering each of the sides of the quadrilateral, it was obvious to me that I had a role to play in making a positive change for God's creation. And more than that, as Christians, we should be taking a lead in these positive changes.

So, when I got to Brecksville UMC and saw that creation care (the ministry of caring for and healing the earth) was part of your values, I was excited to be a part of the work together.

This April, we will begin a worship series entitled, "Climate + Faith," to help us understand why respecting and caring for God's creation is first and foremost an issue of faith. We will look past partisan politics to see how we can work together to care for the rest of God's creation as God would.

We will have Sunday School classes that will look at this from different aspects, and practical "next steps" to help us apply creation care to our daily lives.

I look forward to growing together in our respect and love for God's creation and putting our faith into action!

Take care,

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

## LIFELONG LEARNING





Brecksville UMC's VBS

#### **Camp Firelight**

July 8-12 from 9:30-12:30
"Whenever I'm afraid,
I put my trust in you." -Psalm 56:3

Registration is open for the best week of summer - Brecksville UMC's Vacation Bible School *Camp Firelight*, a super awesome Vacation Bible School where children learn that they can put their trust in God even when they feel scared. We will spend the week hearing about ordinary people in both Old and New Testament stories who trusted God, faced their fears, and went on to do great things in God's name.

The kids will experience these stories through music, drama & storytelling, games, arts & crafts, science, and even snacks. They will go on an exciting journey where they learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know that God is always with them, and discover new ways to connect with God, not only at VBS, but also at church, home, and other areas of their lives.

VBS is open to children, age 3 (and fully potty-trained) to those entering 6th grade in the fall. If you have friends or family who you think will enjoy VBS, let them know that registration will open April 1 and remain open until we reach capacity. If you can volunteer (all 5 days) your child(ren) attend for free. Volunteers need to agree to a background check and complete our Child Protection Policy Training.

Tiered pricing allows you to choose the rate that best fits your financial situation. The pricing option you choose remains confidential and in no way influences the experience your camper receives.

- Tier 1 (\$30) is the rate we offer thanks to the generous contributions of Brecksville United Methodist members.
- Tier 2 is a partially-supported rate for those who can pay more than the Tier 1 rate. (anything between \$30 and \$45)
- Tier 3 (\$45) is a rate that more closely reflects the true cost of the camp experience.



Faith & Fun for kids - Sunday Mornings at 9:30 & 10:30



Scan QR Code to register or visit BUMCLinks.com

#### Sunday at the Movies

The April 'Movie of the Month' for kids is about a rat who can cook! Kids of all ages can join us at 9:30 to watch a popular kids movie, learn the deeper message the movie offers us and grow in our relationship with God.

#### **Podcast Class on the Move**

Sundays at 9:30 in the Parlor and online

After a short break, Let's Talk Podcast returns on April 14, and we're moving the conversation to The Parlor. Why? Because it's a great place for conversation. Will you join us? If you listen to the podcast during the week or not, you are welcome to join the discussion on Sunday morning. If you can't be here in person, join us on Zoom.

#### **East Ohio Summer Camps**

Tour the sites, talk to the staff, and see what is being offered for 2024

- Camp Asbury Open House and Summer Camp Preview Sunday, April 7 from 2 - 5 pm.
- Camp Wanake Resurrection Egg Hunt and Summer Camp Preview Saturday, April 27 from 2 - 6 pm.
- Camp Aldersgate Open House and Summer Camp Preview Sunday, May 5 from 2- 5 pm.

Can't make it on these dates? Contact the sites directly and set up your own visit! eocumc.com/camps



Sundays at 9:30 in the Chapel & Online Begins April 14

"Mary Oliver's poetry is an excellent antidote for the excesses of civilization," wrote one reviewer for the *Harvard Review*. "For too much flurry and inattention... She is a poet of wisdom and generosity whose vision allows us to look intimately at a world not of our making."

What can we learn from a poet who listened deeply to the world? What happens when we take time to be outside and behold the gifts of God? The poet reminds us that "attention is the beginning of devotion."

You are invited to join Dana Schwendman and friends for an intergenerational look at the poetry of Mary Oliver on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

Drop in anytime -- or sign up for more details and updates at BUMCLinks.com

## Creation Care Tips for April

Earth Day 2024 Focus: Planet vs. Plastic



Approach every day with gratitude. Our Creator God has gifted us with an amazing planet. Our faithful response is to cherish and care for this treasure.

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors.

*Take count.* How much single-use plastic do you use in a day? Try counting the plastic bags, packaging, water bottles, disposable cutlery, straws, and plastic cups that litter your life in one day. Do you know that most of these plastics will outlive you, and your grand kids, and their kids, too? Awareness is the first step to positive change.

Move away from "throw-away." Treat your family to alternatives to the usual single-use plastic items in your home. Consider bamboo toothbrushes, shampoo bars, aluminum water bottles, reusable silicone baggies.

*Get creative.* At work, check out the coffee station. Styrofoam cups and plastic stirrers get thrown away but never go away. Look for non-plastic alternatives for coffee cups. Buy a package of linguine pasta, break the strands in half and use them to stir the coffee or tea. The pasta-stirrers can be composted or thrown away without the same harm that plastic generates.

Tell your friends what you are doing to greatly reduce the plastic waste in your life. Talk about why that change is important to you. Recount your changes as steps in a journey and invite them to join you in tackling the problem.

For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to <u>umcreationjustice.org</u>.



Basic Beliefs is a 4-week class focused on learning the basics of faith through a United Methodist lens and the history of our denomination. Before you become a member of a United Methodist Church, it's important to know whether you're "our kind of crazy." There's so many wonderful things in The UMC, and you'll hear about them in this class! The next session of Basic Beliefs begins April 14 and will meet Sundays at 9:30 through May 5. If you are brand new to Methodism, or have been Methodist all your life, you are welcome! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com.



You are welcome! Most meetings are in the church parlor on the second floor.

#### **Asbury Bremeth**

Thursday, April 11
We have wrapped up our look at world religions and will return this month to learn more about a different Christian denomination. More details to follow. Joyful gathering begins at 9:30, and the program begins at 10.

## United Methodist Camphor Mission Topic of April Meeting

Thursday, April 4

Come hear our own Janet Kleckner about her favorite mission in Liberia, Camphor United Methodist Mission Station, Grand Bassa County on Thursday, April 4th at 10 am in the church parlor. Learn about the ongoing connection between this congregation, the East Ohio Conference, and Camphor Mission, Liberia. This presentation will include a brief history of Liberia in order to give some perspective on the issues facing Liberians today. It will then review the program areas of Camphor Mission, daily life on the Mission and life in the surrounding villages. This is a chance to hear about the service offered by United Methodist Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) teams and, perhaps, learn how you can support Camphor Mission – with or without international travel.

#### Saturday, April 6, 10-11:30 am

at Aldersgate UMC with a focus on Black churches

### Sunday, April 14, 4-5:30 pm

at UMC of Macedonia with focus on urban congregations

#### Tuesday, April 16, 6:30-8 pm

at Garfield Memorial UMC with a focus on large church systems

Sunday, April 21, 4-5:30 pm

at Painesville UMC

Thursday, May 16, 6:30-8 pm

at Akron: First UMC

Sunday, May 19, 4-5:30 pm

at Chardon UMC

Tuesday, May 28, 6:30-8 pm

at Jefferson UMC

Thursday, May 30, 6:30-8 pm

at Ravenna UMC

## Northern Waters District Superintendents want to hear from you!

A series of Listening Posts are scheduled throughout the district in April and May. All clergy, church leaders, and other church members are encouraged to come and share with the DS Lewis and DS Hitchcock about the ways you are present in and reaching out to your communities.

#### To start the discussion, consider the questions:

- How are you loving your neighbor?
- How are you inviting people to Christ and the church?
- In what ways are you partnering with other UMCs or churches in your community?
- How are you taking the Gospel to your community?
- How can the district come alongside you in ministry?
- What do you need from us?

You may attend any Listening Post that is convenient for you, but some are planned with a particular focus. See list at left or visit EOCUMC.com for more details.



#### Ladies' Meet Up at the Movies

Wednesday, April 10 Cinemark Valleyview 6:30 pm

Do you like movies? Would you like to get out and spend some time with friends? Are you free on the second Wednesday of the month? Then add Ladies' Meet Up at the Movies to your calendar! Each month we'll choose a movie and meet up at the theater. If there's interest, we can meet early for a bite to eat, too. In March we watched *Cabrini* an uplifting biopic with a timeless message. On April 10, we'll screen *Wicked Little Letters* a mystery comedy based on a stranger than fiction true story. (Warning, lots of salty language!)

All are welcome to meet up at the movies. Sign up at BUMCLinks for updates and contact info!





#### **Youth Art Project**

During the Lenten season, Brecksville UMC Youth Ministry collaborated on Sunday evenings, putting together a collective piece of art while following along with A Sanctified Art's "Wandering Heart" devotional for youth. Using a combination of mixed media (collage, watercolor, marker, paper), youth expressed themselves through visual art in response to Peter's story of faith and reflected on their own faith path.

You can see in five movements around the canvas the journey of Peter's faith and how the youth responded. Starting in the upper left corner, youth responded to the story of Peter's calling and their focus word for Lent. The upper middle reads "streams of mercy never ceasing," and reflects the various ways our faith can flow. Sometimes it is rough with big waves, sometimes it is smooth with calm waters. But it is always a reminder of God's ever-flowing mercy. In the upper right corner, youth reflected on Peter's "mountaintop" story and used found words to describe Jesus.

In the lower left corner, youth reflected on the story of Palm Sunday and what they would cry "save us" or "help me" to Jesus in their own lives. And finally, in the right lower corner, youth learned about "agape" and "philo" love, placing found images in the heart and around the heart describing how they see these loves in their life and faith, just as Peter was reminded when he saw the resurrected Christ on the beach. If there is a teen in your life who would like to connect with others in a space that accepts each person just as they are (or if you are that teen), Youth Group meets weekly on the fourth floor. We invite you to be part of it! - Submitted by Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

#### **Leadership Board Report**

Pastor Heidi and the Leadership Board at its March Meeting re-examined BUMC's 2024 short-term and long-term goals. We desire BUMC's goals to be both inspirational and aspirational. We also want to identify appropriate metrics, so our entire Church will see when progress is being made. All goals need to support BUMC's Mission and Vision Framework. Watch for more announcements soon.

The Ministry Teams are starting real action. There are Ministry Teams addressing virtually every part of our church Family's needs, and also Community needs. The Ministry Teams are how all of us can be actively involved in BUMC's ministries and programs. See the articles in this Good Word for more inspiration on how YOU can get involved!

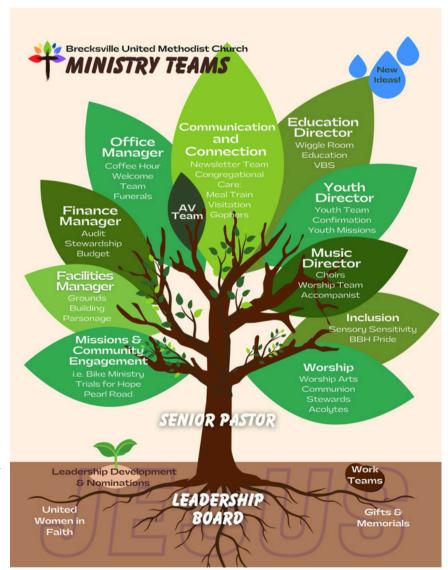
BUMC also has several pressing challenges that need solutions, both now and for the future. BUMC's revenues are not keeping pace with our expenses – for more than 3 years we have not had a balanced budget. Moreover, our parking lot asphalt and our 70+ year old building roof, together with our almost 40-year-old boilers, need material attention to avoid major problems.

To start addressing both situations, the Board appointed two short-term Work Groups to analyze the current status, explore alternatives, identify potential solutions, and return with recommendations.

The first Work Group is tasked with identifying potential alternative revenue sources. If BUMC can grow its revenue in new and creative ways, any new revenue will support our existing and future staff, ministries and programs.

The second Work Group is assigned to examine the condition of the parking lot, building roof, and boilers, as well as the computer network wiring. We are fortunate that the former Trustees Committee developed solid background information for several of those projects. The Work Group will examine alternative solutions, possible funding sources, timing, and project goals.

Both Work Groups are directed to develop and present recommendations to the Leadership Board. And both are tasked to recommend a communications plan so that our entire Congregation can be fully informed. All recommendations must also explain how the projects and proposed solutions help to fulfill BUMC's Mission and Vision Framework. -Alan Scheufler, Chair





### Bike Ministry Seeks Tool Donations

As you spring clean this year you may find that you have a few too many pliers, and really, how many Allen wrenches does a person need? If you are a bike ministry, you need more than we have! The Brecksville UMC Bike Ministry is looking for donations of tools so we can maximize the funds we have and get as many spokes out to folks as possible. Do you have any tools to donate? Bring them to the box on the left side of the stage in Fellowship Hall, labeled "Bike Ministry Tools."

#### **General Tools**

Flathead screwdrivers
Phillips screwdrivers
Allen wrenches
Needle-nose pliers
Utility knives
Adjustable wrenches
Combination wrenches
Channel Lock pliers
Locking pliers

#### **Specialty Bike Tools**

Bike cable cutter

Bottom bracket wrench
Chain checker
pedal wrench
Hub spanner
Tire lever set
Freewheel remover
Spoke wrench
Chain whip wrench
Bike link plier

We would also love to have a nice sized tool box and a workbench with a clamp. Thanks for all the ways you support this ministry.

BIKE FIX IT DAY - SAT. 4/13 from 9 am to noon. Come be a part of it!

April Donation Drive for Trials for Hope

#### **Reusable Shopping Bags Needed**



Thanks to generous donations, Trials for Hope delivers dignity kits of hygiene items, food and other necessities to people living on the streets. They need large, clean, plastic reusable shopping bags (such as those sold by Marc's). Bring your donations to the bin on the first floor through April 30.



#### Recycling and Reusing to Help Our Neighbors

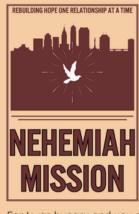
When you're sleeping outside on the cold hard ground, a blanket barely masks the cold pressed against your body. But a plastic sleeping mat puts an insulated barrier between you and the ground. The Missions & Community Engagement Committee has a plan to help provide these mats to unhoused people in greater Cleveland - mats created by the people of Brecksville UMC and made with recycled plastic bags. It starts with you!

We have ordered two looms. When they get here, we will need plastic bags to make our "yarn". Please start saving bags at home and ask your friends and family to do the same. More details about this project will be forthcoming soon!

#### Sew 4 Good & Stitch'n' Time

On the second Monday of each month, sewists of all abilities gather in room 301 from 5 pm—9 pm, arriving as their schedule allows, to create for people in need. Projects have included items for nursing homes and blankets for the unhoused. Have skills, or want to learn? Come join us!

Yarn artists of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to come create on the third Tuesday of each month in the Parlor at 10 am. Questions? Reach out to Sandy Crist. (Contact the office for her number!)



## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE?!

For I was hungry and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Matthew 25: 35-36

#### JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST...

...and help us celebrate our **20th year** in ministry! Learn who the Nehemiah Mission is and all the ways we partner with and serve in our community.

our community.
Listen to Rev. Michael Parisher, along with many other community partners discuss the who, what, where, and why of serving families in need in our community.

Tour the mission and learn about how our many programs serve a diverse population here on Cleveland's Near West side.

#### Volunteer of the Year!

For the first time since the pandemic started, we will be awarding a volunteer of the year for 2021, 2022, and 2023!

#### Register @

https://www.nehemiahmission.org/register-for-breakfast-event



Call or email for more information 9:30 AM - 11 AM

(216) 961-6968 nehmission@gmail.com



More Information
www.nehemiahmission.org

27
APRIL

THE NEHEMIAH MISSION OF CLEVELAND

6515 BRIDGE AVE. CLEVELAND. OH 44102









Saturday, April 12 10 am - 2 pm

Join Kathy & Matt Auble and friends at Trials for Hope, a ministry based out of Harbor & Bridge UMC in Ohio City, to help in their mission to deliver dignity and hope to people in need in greater Cleveland.

We will spend the morning helping with whatever is needed that day - organizing donations, packing dignity kits, and more.

Interested? Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or talk to the Aubles!

## Bread on Bridge, April 30

Is food your love language? Do we have an opportunity for you! On Tuesday, April 30, our church will be serving dinner at Bread on Bridge, a weekly community meal at Nehemiah Mission. Catherine Vastartis is leading the charge and will be organizing a cooking day (Saturday or Sunday, April 27 or 28, depending on volunteer availability) and organizing a team of folks to go to Nehemiah and serve the meal. It's a great opportunity to be in ministry with others, great for volunteers of all ages and for families!

Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or email Missions@Brecksvilleumc.com





## **April**

Take a moment to say a prayer of thanks for each of the people on this list, then send them a card to let them know you're thinking of them!

Week of April 7

#### Al Haper

It's his birthday this week! 10430 Whitewood Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-1638

Week of April 14

#### **Bill Lang**

8755 Fox Rest Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-1805

Week of April 28

#### Darlene Fatica

330 Nicole Ln

Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-4137

Week of April 21

#### **Ruth Holmes**

It's her birthday this week! 4036 Brookside Rd Clarkston, MI 48346-1168

Nominate someone who could use a reminder that they are loved for next month's list!

Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

## April Birthdays





Brecksville UMC is a thriving community of faith because of people like you—who care for one another and reach out in service to those who are in need. People like Jamie Schwendeman, our newest Church Closer! Closers volunteer to come

to the church after the last meeting of the day and make sure all of the lights are off, the doors are secure and that all is well. Thank you Jamie, and the rest of the team, for this ministry! When an old church member who now lives out of state called saying that his sister needed help with transportation, Craig Czarnota raised his hand and said, "I'll help!" We're thankful for your caring heart, Craig! March's February Chili Cook Off was so much fun, and we could fill this whole newsletter with names of cooks, dessert bakers, and volunteers. Have you seen the new lending library next to the Wiggle Room (in the room right beside the elevator on the 2nd floor?) That's thanks to the hard work of Gretchen Mates and Al & Barb Harper. Stop in and borrow a book for spring!

## **April 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wiggle Room  OPEN SUNDAY MORNINGS 8 AM - NOON	I Easter Monday Office Closed Lectio Divina, 10:30	2 No Staff Mtg Lectio, 7	3 Dawnbreakers 6:30 am	4 UWF, 9:30 No Choir tonight	5 God In Nature, Noon	VBS Registration opened 4/I
7 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	Office Closed Lectio Divina, 10:30	9 Staff, 10:30 Chippewa Comm 2:30 Lectio, 7	Dawnbreakers 6:30 am Ladies' Movie Night, 6:45 p Online Bible Study, 7 pm	Asbury Bremeth, 9:30 FB Live, 9:30 Leadership Board, 7:30 Choir 6:30 Band 8	I2 God In Nature, Noon	Bike Fix It Day 9—12 Serve at Trials for Hope, 10-2
3:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship with Baptism	15 Lectio Divina, 10:30 Sew4Good, 5—8 pm	16 Stitch'n'Time, 10 Staff, 10:30 Lectio, 7	Dawnbreakers 6:30 am Online Bible Study, 7 pm	Newsletter Deadline FB Live, 9:30 Choir 6:30 Band 8	I9 God In Nature, Noon	20 Spring Yard Clean Up Day, 9—12
5 Youth Group					Paper Recycling Bonus Week	
8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Town Hall ??Community Chorus Concert	22 Lectio Divina, 10:30	23 Staff, 10:30 Lectio, 7 General Conference April 23 to May 4	24 Dawnbreakers 6:30 am Online Bible Study, 7 pm	FB Live, 9:30 Newsletter Production Party 10 Choir 6:30 Band 8	26 UWF Board, 9:30 God In Nature, Noon	27 Nehemiah Mission Breakfast, 9— I I Drug Take Back Day, I 0—2
5 Youth Group	Paper Recycling Bonus Week					
28 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	29 Lectio Divina, 10:30	30 Staff, 10:30 Serve Dinner at Nehemiah Mission, 3 Lectio, 7	I Dawnbreakers 6:30 am Online Bible Study, 7 pm	2 UWF, 9:30 FB Live, 9:30 Choir 6:30 Band 8	3 God In Nature, Noon	4 Spring Mulching Day



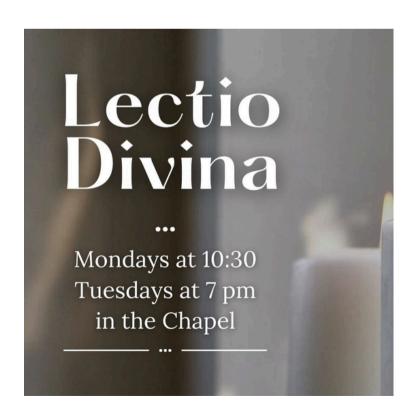


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### **Church Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday 9—3 pm 440-526-8938 info@brecksvilleumc.com







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.