

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

The Good Word



FEBRUARY ISSUE

PUBLISHED JANUARY 25, 2013

**65 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
440-526-8938**

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

**Brecksville
United Methodist Women
(UMW)
Mission contributions for 2012**

Cleveland District

District Pledge-\$3,000

Thank Offering-\$75

Gifts in Memory-\$50

Special Recognition-\$40

Missions

Guidestone-\$300

Guidestone Auxiliary-\$100

Church Women United-\$200

Flat Rock-\$300

Henderson Settlement-\$200

Redbird Mission-\$200

Westside Community House-\$400

Westside Ecumenical Ministries-
\$200

Brookside-\$300

Nehemiah Mission-\$200

BUMC-Music-\$50

BUMC-(Mission Sunday)-\$100

Building Hope in the City- \$50

Guidestone-(UMW Sunday)-\$150

Laura's Home- \$50

Kiwanis Baskets of Hope-\$100

Heifer International-\$50

**Total Mission Giving
\$6,115**

FAITHinACTION

BUMC MISSION MOMENT



United
Methodist
Women

Brecksville United Methodist Women: Faith, Hope, Love in Action

If you walk through the church the first Thursday morning of the month, you're sure to hear raucous laughter coming from the Parlor. That's because a great community of women is meeting there—the Brecksville United Methodist Women—and they have fun! But it's not just about fellowship. Members of the UMW are active in our church and the world around them in all kinds of ways.

The group's focus is on fostering spiritual growth, giving to mission, developing leaders, advocating for justice, and living out their faith. Members raise money each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world. In the left column of this page is a list of the group's giving for 2012. It's clear that they are making a difference in the world!

The UMW raises money throughout the year to support their mission giving. Mark your calendar for these fundraising events and watch for more:

- ♦ March 24: Hot Cross Buns Sunday
- ♦ June 28-30: Brecksville Home Days, Grandma's Kitchen
- ♦ October 27: Soup Sunday

A speaker is invited in to address the group each month. The 2013 program has just been announced. (See below.) Why not make a point to attend a meeting if you can? **The next meeting is Feb. 7** and starts at 9:30 am with continental breakfast and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact UMW President, Ruth Herman, 330-467-3237 or rherm4@hotmail.com.

UMW Meetings

Are held the first Thursday of each month. They begin at 9:30 with a continental breakfast and fellowship. Programs start at 10 am. A \$3 donation is requested to help defray costs.

February 7th: Pledge Service, Speaker: Lucy Fesler and Francine Chuchanes
March 7th: "New Garden Color for 2013" Speaker: Noel Clark Akin, Pettiti's
April 4th: Program "Meet Me on Lake Erie, Dearie: Great Lakes Exposition"
May 2nd: Program features Brookside, Speaker Heidi Bonness
June 6th: Program features Playhouse Square, Speaker Joe Scotch
September 5th: "Vial of Life" Speaker Andrea Sack
October 3rd: Hospice Care
November 1: Christmas Craft (donated to a local program.)
December 6: Annual Christmas Program, donation to be determined



8:45 Contemporary Worship
10 Education Hour
11:15 Traditional Worship

Our Staff

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What Do We Look for on Sunday Morning?

Comments from Rev. Clark Stein

"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend

to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met." - Matthew 6:33

Jim Smith went to church on Sunday morning. He heard the organist miss a note during the prelude, and he winced. He saw a teenager talking when everybody was supposed to be bowed in silent prayer. He felt like the usher was watching to see what he put in the offering plate and it made him boil. He caught the preacher making a slip of the tongue five times in the sermon by actual count. As he slipped out through the side door during the closing hymn, he muttered to himself, "Never again, what a bunch of clods and hypocrites!"

Ron Jones went to church one Sunday morning. He heard the organist play an arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress" and thrilled at the majesty of it. He heard a young girl take a moment in the service to speak her simple moving message on the difference her faith makes in her life. He was glad to see that the church was sharing in a special offering for the hungry children of Nigeria. He especially appreciated the sermon that Sunday- it answered a question that had bothered him for a long time. He thought as he walked out of the doors of the church, "How can a man come here and not feel the presence of God?"

Both men went to the same church on the same Sunday morning. Each found what he was looking for. What do we look for on a Sunday morning?

Peace,

Pastor Clark



Old Cell Phones Earn Money for Missions. Cell phones are manufactured using precious metals and plastics. Bring your old phones (no cords or accessories, please) to the red bin in the cloak room. Proceeds from recycling go to our missions budget!



Fellowship Hour Hosts

February: Music Board

March: We're in need of a committee to host!



Lenten Worship

The journey through Lent is one of the important ways in which we once again live the story of Jesus' life and presence on earth. This year, be challenged to make time in your life for worship, prayer and Bible study as part of

your Lenten practice. We want to help you along in this process and strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities:

Wednesday, February 13 @ 7:30pm

Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us for traditional worship in the Sanctuary with time for personal reflection, repentance and the imposition of ashes.

Sundays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Lenten & Easter Worship

Make it a priority to be in worship during this season of Lent. In order to deeply appreciate and understand the celebration of Easter, it is critically important that we each make a decision to walk through the journey of Lent with Jesus. Make a decision as a family to be in worship each week.

Sundays in February & March, through March 24

Lenten All-Church Study: First Light

There is also still time to be a part of our all-church study. See the more complete article in this newsletter for more detailed information.

Wednesdays, February 20 & 27, March 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 7:30pm

Lenten Prayer Services

Take time out for prayer and spiritual refreshment during each week of Lent. These staff-led services of prayer, reflection and contemplation will last about 30 minutes and will take place in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, February 13, 20 & 27, March 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:30 – 9:00pm

Walk the Labyrinth

The labyrinth will be available for times of reflection and meditation each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season. You are encouraged to take time for this valuable exercise either before or after weekly services. If you would like more information on the labyrinth and its use, contact the office to be connected with a staff member.



Methodism 101: What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13) and ends on Holy Saturday (March 30). Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. The list on this page may help inspire you on your Lenten journey.

Giving up something we enjoy can remind us of Jesus' giving up his life for us. Adding something to our days can, too! Try some of these ideas:

Enliven Your Prayers

- ◆ Spend time in solitude each day.
- ◆ Keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- ◆ Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- ◆ Make a prayer list of people with whom you need to be reconciled. Pray for guidance.
- ◆ Dance your prayers to music.
- ◆ Visit the Labyrinth on Wed. evenings.
- ◆ Keep a list of daily "God Sightings".
- ◆ Pray the Paper (for items in the news)

Practice Determined Service

- ◆ Give 5 items of clothing to Goodwill.
- ◆ Give to a local non-profit
- ◆ Resolve to take on some loving task.
- ◆ Start recycling waste from your home.
- ◆ Give blood and recall the cross.
- ◆ Do someone else's chore.
- ◆ Participate in BUMC's canned food drive for Parma Food Pantry.

Engage in Honest Worship

- ◆ Share in the Lenten Prayer Service on Wednesday evenings at BUMC.
- ◆ Make time for the Education Hour on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Go to Ash Wednesday Worship and Tennebrae Service as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- ◆ Decide to become a member of the church. Speak to Pastor Clark about it.

Reach Out to Others

- ◆ Call an old friend
- ◆ Forgive someone
- ◆ Introduce yourself to a neighbor
- ◆ Write a thank you note
- ◆ Write a letter to a person who has touched your life.
- ◆ Visit a "shut-in" neighbor

Center Yourself

- ◆ Take a break from the Internet
- ◆ Tell someone what you are grateful for
- ◆ Take a vacation from shopping.
- ◆ Read a book for inner growth.
- ◆ Go to bed earlier or sleep in later.
- ◆ Schedule time to inventory your priorities and plan how you will reorder them.
- ◆ Give up a grudge.
- ◆ Forgive someone who has hurt you.
- ◆ Say "no" to gossip.



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

*Do you have news to share? Contact Melanie!
office@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938*

Enis Beck, a BUMC member since 1991, passed away January 13. Her daughter, Janet, extends her thanks to everyone who visited, sent plants, and prayed for her mother. Enis was always living in Christ and the church, even when she could not be here in body. In December, she was able to attend the Advent Worship service, which brought her great joy.

On February 24, Olive Priest is celebrating a very special birthday. Be sure to give her happy birthday wishes when you see her!

Dear Brecksville UMC,

As we finish another year, I want to thank you for your efforts to pay shared ministry at 100%. The East Ohio Conference had more churches pay 100% and the giving level was higher than it has been for 18 years. Thank you and thanks be to God! Mission and ministry in East Ohio and across the world also thank you.

Blessings to you.

Jessica Varga
Conference Treasurer



As You Pray This Month Consider
Our country and those who serve.

~

That Lent will be a fulfilling time, and people will find time to worship.

Happy Birthday

Doris	Cipolla	02/01	Andrew	Kubek	02/13
Douglas	Hubert	02/02	Mallory	McCrodden	02/13
John	Olenik	02/02	Alec	Wilson	02/13
Donna	Bambic	02/03	Ellen	Falko	02/14
Brian	Buttolph	02/03	Lucy	Fesler	02/14
Colin	Johnson	02/03	Dorothy	Jordan	02/14
Ashlyn	Yeater	02/03	Abigail	Smith	02/15
Barbara	Soltis	02/04	Jack	Hensley	02/16
David	AuWerter	02/05	William	Kranstuber	02/16
Kathleen	Davis	02/05	Matthew	Miller	02/16
Colin	Hamilton	02/05	Stephanie	Fisher	02/17
Faith	McAllister	02/05	Grace	Ford	02/17
Lynn	Spencer	02/05	Christine	Hudacek	02/17
Robert	Andree	02/06	Emma	Piorkowski	02/17
Paul	Olszko	02/06	Scott	Campbell	02/18
Nancy	Ramsey	02/06	John	Kenney	02/18
Chloe	Boldt	02/07	Alexandra	Kenney	02/19
Rebecca	Chen	02/08	Sally	Bibler	02/20
Nancy	Knowlton	02/08	Nancy	Hoyer	02/20
Chad	Boldt	02/09	Matthew	Ling	02/20
Eric	Buttolph	02/09	Daniel	Rajkovich	02/22
Sarah	Nurre	02/09	Stephen	Warth	02/22
Robert	Williams	02/09	Erin	Gee	02/23
Pamela	Johnson	02/10	Janet	Kleckner	02/24
Marjorie	Webb	02/10	Eric	Louttit	02/24
Douglas	Bender	02/11	Olive	Priest	02/24
Marla	Hocutt	02/12	Miriam	Buttolph	02/25
Kelly	McLuckie	02/12	Nancy	Wygonski	02/25
Gladys	Smith	02/12	Darcie	Engler	02/27
Gloria	Southam	02/12	Angela	Harper	02/27
Leslie	Hoffman	02/13	Emily	Hastings	02/27
William	Hurder	02/13	Johanna	Klein	02/27
Monica	Kotnik	02/13	Taylor	Whitton	02/27



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we have recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Joanie Olszko gives her time each week as our Sunday School Registrar. Thank you, Joanie, for your work!

In Hye Allen is a wonderful addition to our church family. Do you know that she's at the church every Wednesday, preparing delightful and delicious meal for Youth Worship? We're thrilled that she's part of our ministry team!

Pastor Libby Plans June Retirement



Rev. Libby Kuntz has made the decision to retire from her role as associate pastor at BUMC in June. Seven years ago, Pastor Libby was praying for a new position in pastoral care when Russ Martin came by her house to drop something off for Libby's husband, Pastor Bob. Reverend Martin encouraged Libby to apply for the new job available at BUMC for a quarter-time pastoral care minister. Bishop Hopkins appointed Pastor Libby to Brecksville, and she and Pastor Karen started at the same time in 2006.

Pastor Libby had worked as an associate pastor specializing in visitation for her entire ministry. Her first appointment in 1979 included the care for over 100 shut-ins. Brecksville was her sixth church and she was excited about this newly created position. This was the first time in her ministry where she wasn't working in the same church as her husband, but she feels that BUMC allowed her to balance both roles as the pastor's wife at Good Shepherd UMC and pastor at BUMC.

Prayer brought Pastor Libby to BUMC and she is known for her powerful and spontaneous prayers at just the right moment. Pastor Libby has done a great job providing pastoral care by visiting church members and their families in hospitals, nursing homes, and in their homes. She has prayed with and counseled those in need since she took care of her mother for 18 years and worked with the Alzheimer's Association. She has a special concern for members with aging parents. As she became more familiar with the congregation, she became busier each year.

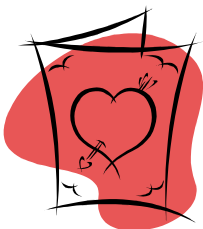
Pastor Libby has had a wonderful relationship with the church. She holds much love for the congregation, and, in turn, she has felt their love. Pastor Libby feels amazed and blessed to be part of the wonderful staff at our church, and said it has been great working with Pastor Clark and each of the others. With her caring and compassionate approach, Pastor Libby has touched the lives of many people in our church. We are thankful that she has spent the last seven years with us.

Pastor Libby plans to spend more time with friends and family. She will continue with her role as the minister's wife, plant more flowers in her garden this summer, hopes to do more traveling, and take naps.

Pastor Libby will be ministering with us for the next four months. Take time to enjoy and appreciate her as the joyful blessing she is to all of us. We love and thank Pastor Libby for all of the blessings she has brought to us, and we wish her Godspeed.

-Robin Raybuck

Cleveland Clinic Launches New Greeting Card Service



A [new online service](https://my.clevelandclinic.org/webcontact/greetingcard.aspx) lets you send personalized greeting cards to patients at the main campus of Cleveland Clinic. Once you design and submit a card online, it will be printed and delivered to your patient by hospital volunteers. The Clinic explains, "Even when friends and family can't visit, they can now easily send a card." The service is currently only available at the main campus, but will soon roll out to our community hospitals. Visit the website below for more information:

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/webcontact/greetingcard.aspx>



Scout Sunday Feb. 10

Boy Scout Troop 175 invites the congregation to enjoy a **Pancake Breakfast of Appreciation** between worship services on Scout Sunday. Scouts will prepare and serve breakfast for which there is no charge (donations accepted.)

Join us in our celebration of Scout Sunday and all of the ways that Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to youth in our community. Scouting emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

We congratulate all the kids and volunteers who are active in Scouting throughout Northeast Ohio and want to offer a special prayer and word of the thanks to the leaders and members of Boy Scout Troop 175, which is 89 years old and chartered to Brecksville United Methodist Church since 1942.



This Month's Hike Sunday, February 3

Let's keep that hiking groove going and meet at 2 pm at Red Lock parking lot on Highland Road, less than a mile east of Riverview. We'll head north on the towpath trail for about a mile, then head up into the woods, climbing a longish hill and following a trail along a ridge. We'll come back either on that trail or via an easement, and walk back along the towpath. It should be about four miles. There will be a small stream crossing or two, and a couple of logs to climb over. See you there! - *Carole Brachna*

Student Recital & Scholarship Program

Beginning this year, the Music Department is proud to announce a Music Department Scholarship that will be awarded to one or two High School Seniors who have participated in the music program during their time at BUMC and intend to continue as active musicians and worshipers as they pursue additional education.

Students may attend a 2-year, 4-year or non-traditional post-secondary institution; they need not major in music.

Student Recital
Saturday, March 16
7:30pm

BUMC children and youth of all ages are invited to participate. Please submit a completed application with a signature from your coach/teacher and indication of the piece you will be performing. Applications are due on February 8; participants will be announced by February 15.

Scholarship applications (High School seniors only) are due on March 1; scholarship winners will be announced at the Student Recital.

Information and application forms are available from Joy Parker or by visiting the church website.

We celebrate the baptisms of

Katherine Valentine Scheff
January 20

Anthony Michael Karn, Jr.
February 10

Lillian Kara Yeater
February 24



Mark your calendar for this fun annual event
in support of YSP and the Music Department!

Our famous DJ's, live band,
and great music will return on

Friday, February 22

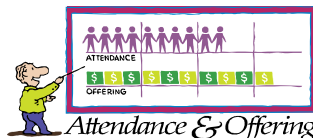
Dinner will be at 6:00pm with the show to follow.

Tickets will be available between services
on Sundays in February and in the office starting February 4.

There is still room to get involved!

Contact

Catherine Vastartis (cvastartis@gmail.com) if you can help with dinner
or Alan Scheufler (ascheufler01@aol.com) to help with the silent auction.



We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We fell a little short this month. See you Sunday?

Date	1st Service Attendance	Sunday School	2nd Service Attendance	Worship Attendance Goal 300	Offering
Dec. 30	<i>(one service only)</i>		128	-152	\$14,218
Jan. 6	155	125	84	-61	\$7,954
Jan. 13	145	144	96	-59	\$7,612
Jan. 20	143	137	95	-62	\$15,019

Do You Know What You're Missing?

Did you know...

...Almost every month, we have a free concert at BUMC?

...These concerts feature professional musicians from all over the country?

...Free concerts are a great way to invite friends and neighbors to visit BUMC?



Cantores Cleveland

In December, *Cantores Cleveland* joined us for a wonderful evening of Advent music and favorites from the Renaissance repertoire. This small, Renaissance vocal ensemble was a beautiful start to the season of Advent!

Later in December, we welcomed the *Brecksville Community Chorus and Youth Chorus* for their annual Christmas Concert.

The youth chorus shared multi-cultural selections for the season as well as the famous "Carol of the Bells." The adult chorus sang the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*, featuring soloists Coeli Ingold and Joanne Uniatowski, with Chris Toth playing organ. It was a beautiful and uplifting concert!

And as this issue went to press, we hosted *An Evening of Jazz with Josh Rzepka and Jackie Warren* on January 26.

If you have been missing out on these wonderful concerts, make sure to join us for some upcoming events:

Friday, February 22: Music with a Mission

Saturday, March 16: Student Recital featuring BUMC children and youth

Sunday, April 21: The Brecksville Community Chorus

Lenten Study



**Our all-church Lenten study started early!
Are you missing it? We're missing you!**

There is still time to join church-wide study, ***First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom***. Though we are well underway, you can still learn a lot in the weeks that remain, so don't hesitate to join us and make this a part of your Lenten journey.

First Light is a DVD and web-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem. In each video, we learn more about the historical Jesus and his vision for the Kingdom of God. Gather in the Sanctuary at 10:00 for the video presentation before breaking off into discussion groups facilitated by Pastor Clark Stein and Joy Parker.

Contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com for more information or to obtain materials. (You can also watch for materials each week in your "This Week at BUMC" email!)



Altar Flowers

Providing Altar Flowers is a lovely way to share a special occasion with our congregation, and now is the time to reserve your special Sunday. To request flowers, contact Cec in the church office, 440.526.8938 or cecp@brecksvilleumc.com.

Our florist, Vince DiCillo of Forest Woods, provides lovely arrangements. If you purchase altar flowers we encourage you to take your arrangement home with you after 2nd service. It will sit in a larger vase, so please take only the smaller plastic container in which the flowers are arranged.

A standard sized arrangement costs \$40. More substantial arrangements are available at additional cost.

Dear Friends at Brecksville UMC,
Because of your generosity Brookside was able to provide a regular food order plus holiday food to 958 families in December.

Smiles brightened the faces of 735 children on Christmas morning because their parents were able to get toys, candy, hats, gloves & coats at our center.

We are seeing an increase in families & individuals who are struggling to meet basic needs. Having this increase along with our decreasing budget reminds us daily how grateful we are to have caring & compassionate support in our community.

Sincerely,

Heidi Bonness

Coordinator
Brookside Food Center Services

HOLD THE GLUTEN

Communion Reminder

At the 2012 Annual Conference a resolution was passed that stated, “be it resolved that gluten free bread be available at all East Ohio Conference and district level events, where communion is served. Be it further resolved that all local churches be encouraged to make available gluten free bread when communion is served.”

Those who receive communion at Brecksville United Methodist Church have the option of receiving Gluten Free communion wafers, baked using a special recipe that avoids all food allergens.* *See list of ingredients below.*

If you would like to request Gluten Free communion, please call the church office 440.526.8938 or talk to an usher on Sunday morning.

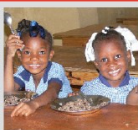
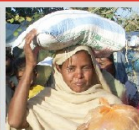
Gluten free communion wafers are making it possible for more of God's faithful to fully participate in Communion.

Praise the Lord!

***Ingredients:** *Filtered Water, Sweet Rice Flour, Potato Flour, Organic Palm Fruit Oil, Potato Starch, Methylcellulose, Sunflower Lecithin*

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Workshop. Hands on Missions.



Last April, after our Lenten study of “The Hole in Our Gospel,” the members of Brecksville United Methodist Church participated in a hands-on mission project we called “Workshop” where our Sunday worship time was a time of hands-on missions service.

What did we accomplish? During Workshop we packed 33 baby kits, 49 cloth bag school kits, 23 backpack school kits, 93 pairs of underwear, 188 rolls of toilet paper and 289 toiletry items. The estimated monetary value of your generosity was \$3134. The baby kits and cloth bag school kits were delivered to Church World services and were distributed internationally. The backpack school kits were distributed through our association with the Cleveland Native American Center, and the underwear, toilet paper and toiletries were distributed through local relief agencies. In addition, Workshop participants wrote letters to U.S. politicians asking them to support legislation to end human trafficking and wrote cards to prisoners.

Are you ready to do more? The Worship Staff and Mission Committee are planning the next Workshop event for April, a few weeks after Easter. This event will be in coordination with Stop Hunger Now, an international food aid organization, and will involve packing meals for distribution internationally.

You can learn more about Stop Hunger now at their web site, stophungernow.org. Their vision is “A world without hunger,” and their mission is, “To end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world’s most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilizing the necessary resources.” Be sure and see the “frequently asked questions” tab for in depth insight into how the process works.

Stop Hunger Now began in 1998, and has been doing food packing since 2005. Cec and I were able to participate in one of their meal packing events at our son’s church in Richmond, Virginia. In just under two hours about 60 people packed 10,000 meals consisting of soy protein, rice, freeze dried vegetables and a vitamin/mineral/flavor packet. Participants ranged in age from 8 to 80. While supporting a very worthy cause everyone enjoyed a great time of fellowship.

To see an independent evaluation of Stop Hunger Now as a charitable organization, go to charitynavigator.org. Charity Navigator is “America’s leading independent charity evaluator.” There you will see that Stop Hunger now received a three out of four star rating with a perfect score for accountability and transparency.

The Worship Staff and Missions Committee are excited about this hands-on mission opportunity. You’ll be hearing more on Sundays over the next several weeks. We hope you will prayerfully consider how you might be involved.

- Dave Podolny



Youth Praying for Big Things in 2013

This Wednesday at our youth worship we took time as a group to stop and reflect. Then we took time to dream. We had a wonderful 2012 and after some thoughtful time sharing and in prayer we came together as a group aiming our minds and hearts on an ever bigger 2013.

Through the youth annual conference and youth service project this year, I started to get to know our middle school and high school youth as we served, learned, and laughed together. Summer middle school VBS was an amazing week of sharing, teaching, worship, and learning through art, acting, and videos with a lot of help from Joy Parker and George Gee.

Late summer saw the introduction of our BY Wednesday Worship evenings. In Hye and I aimed to introduce healthy world cuisines and old favorites to the youth while we get to know each other over a fun dinner, share our days, and laugh a lot. Our hands-on worship in the chapel has included skits, drawing, ice-breakers, and tons of art and videos as we've traced out an accurate picture of Jesus, our friend and Lord. The middle and high school youth have begun to gel and I've been blown away by their willingness to serve each other, sing to God, and share their hearts. Some youth have brought friends to our worship, others have encouraged their siblings, and a few more have been brave to lead us in worship.

While 2012 laid a promising spiritual, theological, and relational foundation, we're ready to build on top of that this year.

November saw forty-two parents and youth join our Faith & Family night as we traveled to see an exciting overtime Monsters game. It was a great inter-generational night of the church coming together and we look forward to more of these including our Faith & Family movie night in January. Our youth and parents also came together powerfully over our Christmas mission as we sought to help our Native American youth brothers and sisters with toy and clothing donations. The giving was a blessed abundance. Another highlight came as many of our youth served tirelessly alongside adults at the Native American Christmas party in a gracious showing of Christian love.

While 2012 laid a promising spiritual, theological, and relational foundation, we're ready to build on top of that this year. At our worship our youth have entered into planning what changes are necessary globally and in our community, as well as how they would like to grow individually and as a group in Christ. Several students have prayed for the growth of our youth group, asking importantly, "how can we encourage more youth at our church to come to worship and Sunday school?" Others prayed that our group can do more to change big problems in Syria, with the environment, and in Cleveland. So meaningful too were prayerful goals for personal transformation with students seeking to "judge less," "be more helpful to others," and several students aiming to "spend more time with God this year with daily devotions."

With a great confirmation program underway, more service and social outings on the way, and a focus on personal and group transformation, we are praying for big things 2013. Won't you pray with us?

- Kyle Allen

Learn more about the Brecksville Youth Program. Follow us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/brecksvilleyouth



Mark Your Calendars: YAC 2013 is June 14-16



Fellowship at Youth Worship Wednesday



Fun at Faith and Family Night with the Lake Erie Monsters



2013 YSP is in Parma, June 23-29



Serving our neighbors.

\$1 PER WEEK MISSIONS PROJECT

This year, our congregation was issued a challenge. If each of us gave the equivalent of just one dollar per week, we could raise \$24,000—money which we would use to fund the construction of teacher housing at Camphor Mission School. We're short of our goal!

Matching Gift Challenge Grant

In January, all of our donations (up to \$1,750) will be matched by anonymous donors. That means that if you give one dollar, two will be sent to the Camphor Mission building fund!

Donations are needed by Sunday, January 27 and will be sent to Liberia with our mission team the first week of February.

To add your support to this effort, place your donation in an envelope (found in the pew back) marked "Dollar Per Week."

What is the Camphor Mission Station? Camphor is a safe place, a boarding school, a day school. Camphor is agriculture, Christian community, sports, family, a clinic, exciting, and a tradition of the Liberian Annual Conference.

Camphor Mission is addressing the needs in rural Liberia for Christian spirituality, education, health, clean water, and agriculture. In partnership with United Methodist Churches around the world. Learn more at www.camphormission.org

\$1 Week Campaign



What Is a Labyrinth?

Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness, combining the imagery of a circle and a spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. It represents a journey to our own center and back out into the world again.



Labyrinths and mazes are sometimes confused. A maze is a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. A labyrinth has only one path. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. With a maze many choices must be made and an active mind is needed to solve the problem of finding the center. With a labyrinth there is only one choice to be made. The choice is to enter or not. If you choose to walk our labyrinth during Lent, try using these steps.

Three stages of the walk

Purgation (Releasing) ~ As you enter the Labyrinth, let go of the details of your life. Shed thoughts and distractions. Take time to open the heart and quiet the mind.

Illumination (Receiving) ~ When you reach the center, stay there as long as you like. It is a place of meditation and prayer. You can choose to stay in silence or reflect on a challenge you are facing. Receive what is there for you to receive.

Union (Returning) ~ As you leave, you will follow the same path out of the Labyrinth center that you followed in. This is the time you enter the third stage, which is joining God and God's healing forces at work in the world. Each time you walk the labyrinth you become more empowered to find and do the work for which you feel your soul is reaching. - Jenny Gee

Survey Says...!

Did you know that each month we mail over 300 copies of *The Good Word* to homes of church members and friends? Sending them bulk mail costs the church about \$60 per month in postage alone. At Staff Meeting this week we asked, "Is this something we should continue?" We want to know:

- ◆ Is it important to you that copies of *The Good Word* are mailed monthly?
- ◆ Would quarterly mailings be enough?
- ◆ Would simply having copies available at church on Sunday work?
- ◆ Could we deliver the newsletter by hand to shut ins every month—and would you be willing to help with that?
- ◆ Would you be willing to pay a subscription to receive *The Good Word* by first class mail? What price would be best to cover costs?

Last month, we e-mailed 285 copies, but only 141 people opened the e-mail, and only 55 of those clicked the link to *The Good Word* document on line.

We need your feedback! If you're receiving this issue by mail, complete the enclosed postcard and return it to church. If you already receive *The Good Word* by e-mail, we want to hear from you, too! Let us know what you think. Call the office 440-526-8938 or e-mail: office@brecksvilleumc.com

Impacting the World for Christ

The Church: Vital ♦ Faithful ♦ Relevant

North Coast District Leadership Academy

Saturday, February 2 from 8:30 until 3 pm

Rocky River United Methodist Church

The title of this year's conference is "Impacting the World for Christ – The Church, Vital, Faithful, Relevant." The event will be held at Rocky River United Methodist Church from 8:30 am until 3 pm. The focus of the event is to discover how we can impact the world for Christ and contribute to making our congregations vital, faithful and relevant.



This year's keynote speaker is Rev. John Edgar, Senior Pastor United Methodist Church for All People and Executive Director of Community Development Corporation in Columbus. The Rev. Bob Chiles explains, "John is a United Methodist pastor who has worked with a wide variety of ministries...In the past 11 years, he has found additional focus as the founding pastor of the Church for All People on the south side of Columbus, a transitional community near Nationwide Children's Hospital...In the local parish he has helped to bring, in addition to the ministry of a local church, services that include health and legal offerings, housing development, a food bank, opportunities to shop for clothing, and an emphasis on the importance of the family in working with the public schools."

In addition, 30 workshops will be offered, including:

- How to get the "Nones" to Church
- Starting a Church Library
- Working Through Our Grief
- Running Toward Togetherness
- Celebrating Church Staff
- Investing in our Passions: The Stepstone Way
- Bread and Bus Passes
- Easy Altar Design
- How to Reach and Welcome New People into your Congregation
- Lay Leaders Workshop
- Please Go Away...On a Mission Trip!
- First Impressions: The Vital Ministry of Greeters and Ushers
- Financial Overview for Treasurers and Finance Committee Members
- Theology 101 and Why it Matters
- What's So Amazing about Grace?
- And many more!

Registration forms were due to the district office by Friday, January 25th, but you can also register at the door. Childcare is available.

For more information, including directions, visit the district website:

www.northcoastdistrictumc.org



In November, we launched the 30 New Member Challenge. The goal of the Challenge is for the church to modestly increase membership at BUMC by at least 30 members in 2013. As we move into the Lenten season, please consider making a concerted effort to invite others to experience what a wonderful blessing this church is to so many of us. Want to learn more about membership? Call or E-mail the church office:

office@brecksvilleumc.com



HELP THE HUNGRY!

Donate

Canned **Soup** through Feb. 3

Canned **Fruit** through Easter.

*We'll take them to the
Parma Heights Food Pantry*



**Canned-Food
Drive**

FEBRUARY 2013

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Communion Stewards Dave & Cec Podolny</p>					<p>1 7 Emmaus Reun 9 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>2 8:30 am—3 pm Leadership Academy at Rocky River UMC</p>
<p>3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr. 11:15 Worship 2 Hiking Club</p>	<p>4 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>5 11 Staff Meeting 5:15 Children's Choir 7 Knitting Group</p>	<p>6 6:30 Dawnbrkr 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship and Study</p>	<p>7 9:30 UMW 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Group 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>8 7 Emmaus Reun 9 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>Scouting Sunday</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr. / Pancake Breakfast! 11:15 Worship</p> 	<p>11 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12 11 Staff Meeting 5:15 Children's Choir 7 COM 8 Super Tuesday Committee Mtgs</p>	 <p>6:30 Dawnbrkr 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship and Study 6:30 Labyrinth 7:30 Ash Wednesday Svc</p>	<p>14 9:30 Asbury Bre-meth 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Group 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>15 7 Emmaus Reun 9 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 First Sunday in <i>Lent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr. 11:15 Worship 12 Pizza with the Pastor</p>	<p>18 7 pm Bible Study Presidents' Day</p>	<p>19 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 5:15 Children's Choir 7 Knitting Group 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>20 6:30 Dawnbrkr 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship and Study 6:30 Labyrinth 7:30 Prayer Service</p>	<p>21 10 History Club 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Group 6-9 Music with a Mission Dress Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 7 Emmaus Reun 9 Men's Bible Study 9:30 UMW Board 6 Music with a Mission</p>	<p>23 High School Flute Festival here at BUMC</p>
<p>24 Second Sunday in <i>Lent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr. 11:15 Worship with Baptism</p>	<p>25 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>26 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:15 Children's Choir</p>	<p>27 6:30 Dawnbrkr 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship and Study 6:30 Labyrinth 7:30 Prayer Svce</p>	<p>28 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Group 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</p>		

Valentine's Day

NewsLetter DEADLINE

United Methodist News

“News in the Pews” from the United Methodist News Service

With Additional Information from the East Ohio Conference

Haiti moves forward after earthquake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Three years after the devastating Jan. 10 earthquake, more than 1 million of the 1.5 million earthquake homeless have new homes, and the country is looking toward long-term development again. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has played a significant role in the nation’s recovery. To learn more, go to the UMCOR website at umcor.org.

Perkins to host Ministers Week

DALLAS — Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology plans to host Ministers Week Feb. 4-6. The theme will be “Hope for a Restless Church: Ancient Wisdom for Contemporary Leaders.” Among the speakers are Perkins professors James Kang Hoon Lee, the Rev. Rebekah Miles, the Rev. Heidi Miller, Arlene Sánchez Walsh and the Rev. Brad Braxton. Perkins is a United Methodist-related seminary. For more information, go to www.smu.edu/Perkins/News/MW_2013.

CWS sends letter to President Obama

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — In a Jan. 9 letter, the Rev. John McCullough, a United Methodist pastor and president of Church World Service, urged President Barack Obama to seek increased foreign assistance for hungry and impoverished people and to lead the way to “fair and generous” immigration reform.

Bishops launch interfaith office

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Council of Bishops launched the new Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships Jan. 1 as part of a transition in how the denomination’s ecumenical and interfaith work is organized. An 11-member steering committee will convene in New York Jan. 24-26.

Methodist school in Haiti to get computer lab

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Methodist school in LeVeque, Haiti, has been chosen as one of 40 schools in rural Haiti to receive a solar-powered computer lab as part of the Haiti Connected Schools Program. The program, created by Inveneo, is one of the largest post-earthquake education-based information and communications technology deployments in rural Haiti. United Methodist Communications created a partnership with Inveneo to support local church volunteer efforts to put technology tools in developing countries.

Early Response Training

East Ohio Conference will offer this training at Chardon UMC on January 26 and at Wadsworth UMC on March 2. Cost is \$25.00 per person plus an offering for lunch. For more information, please contact e-mail dodgej@eocumc.com NOTE: This is not a course designed to repair damage to property.

Summer Camp 2013

Summer Camp in East Ohio means fun, faith and friends for children, youth, and adults of all ages. There is an event for everyone at our great East Ohio Camps Facilities. From family camp to horse camp, canoeing to stargazing, sports to praise...we have plenty of outdoor fun for everyone. Let our camps be your partner in faith. For information on summer camps, contact your local church or visit us on the web at www.EOCSummercamps.org.

Want to Become Part of our Summer Camp Staff?

The staff is a cornerstone of the ministry of East Ohio Camps. Our summer program requires a great number of staff to be successful. We are looking for outstanding Christian women and men for summer staff positions. We offer:

- Great Christian Community
- Fun place to work
- Excellent training
- Free Room and Board
- Opportunity for Ministry
- Growth in Leadership Skills

We are looking for counselors, lifeguards, program staff, food service, administration and maintenance. Visit www.EOCSummercamps.org and click on the “Staff & Volunteer Info” tab.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>