The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH







AT THE THRESHOLD

"As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed." -- Mark 16:5

This past Easter, as I was reading the scripture in Mark for the 1,000th time, I imagined the women standing at the doorway to Jesus' tomb, peering in, and taking that first step into the cold darkness of the tomb. And it struck me that after that *one step* nothing was ever the same. The world was forever changed, because it was in that moment that humanity first knew that God could redeem *anything*.

For days, the word "threshold" kept popping into my mind. A *threshold* is "the means or place of entry: the place or point of beginning: outset." It's as if God was nagging me with the idea that Easter was a threshold moment—on that first Easter, they stepped into a new world, and there was no going back: Jesus was Risen and life would never be the same! How exciting, and exhilarating, and *terrifying* that must've been!

I also realized in that now, 2,000(ish)

years later, we are at another threshold moment. We are stepping out of the darkness and unknown of the holy disturbance this past year has been, and into the light and possibilities of what is to come. The past year has been our own sort of tomb of transformation: as individuals, as a community of faith, and as a world. And now we are at the threshold of something new—taking all that we learned and entering into a new way of being.

We are seeing again that God can redeem anything!

As a leadership and staff, we have so many fun and exciting things in the works—rethinking how we can gather for worship in new as well as traditional ways; brainstorming what it means to reach out to those who are hurting, lost, or lonely; how we can live out our value of "courageous inclusion;" and

learning new ways to integrate our faith with the everyday monotony of life, so that each moment is truly God-breathed.

Guys.

I'm so excited.

I'm sitting here in my office, smiling at my computer screen as I type, with tears (of joy) running down my cheeks.

The threshold is *right there in front of us!* All we have to do is take that first step—a step of courageous faith—and see what God is already doing. And just like that first Easter, it is exciting and exhilarating and *terrifying!*

It's time to step into the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet.
Will you step with me?

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



Join us on the church lawn, Sunday May 2 at 11 am for a service of Holy Communion. If it rains - or snows the service will move to the parking lot, where we will utilize radio technology to participate in the sacrament together!

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

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Rev. Heidi Welch ext. 224 pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

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office@brecksvilleumc.com

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

Cleveland Pride Ride 2021

Brecksville United Methodist Church is a proud member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. We strive to make our spaces safe and inclusive for all, especially LGBTQIA+ folks. Our Inclusive Task Force meets monthly to discuss ideas and projects for helping BUMC live out our reconciling status. We are so excited to announce that Brecksville United Methodist



Church is one of many community sponsors for the Cleveland Pride Ride 2021, an event celebrating Pride in Cleveland created by The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Join us as we come together with our community to celebrate love in the many forms it takes by driving your car, van, truck, or bike in this COVID-safe Pride event on June 5 at 10 am starting in Edgewater Park. Sign-ups are open through April 30 and you can check out all the details at https://lgbtcleveland.org/prideride2021. If you sign up, please let Kristi Eberhardt know via email, https://gmail.com. You are also encouraged to check out Pride in the CLE, June 4 at 7:30 pm on WKYC Channel 3, a program featuring Pride history, Pride sponsors, and looking to the future of LGBTQIA+ issues in our community. We hope you will join us in lifting up and listening to LGBTQIA+ voices in Cleveland during this important event!



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
OPEN TABLE SERVICE
WELCOMING ALL OF
GOD'S CHILDREN

Sunday, May 16 at 4 pm On the Church Lawn

At BUMC we are all about creating safe space for everyone to encounter a loving God.



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

Vacation Bible School - in the park—July 5—9!!

What are we doing? Having a super awesome outdoor VBS!!

When are we doing it? July 5-9 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

How can you join us? Volunteer to teach or lead a crew of little people... or register your child at www.brecksvilleumc.com/vbs

BUMC's Green VBS will be in person this year at the Oak Grove Picnic Shelter in Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Kids will learn about what an amazing and creative God we serve and learn how they can do their part to be good stewards of the environment.

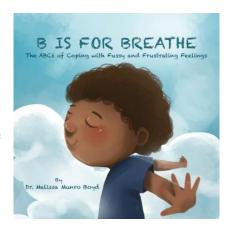
Early bird (*there is a whole day where we talk about birds*!) pricing is in effect until May 15 - \$25 per child capped at \$50 for the family. Can you volunteer all 5 days? Your child attends for free.

If you have friends or family who you think will enjoy VBS let them know about it and encourage them to register.

Family Ministries

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we want all families to know that we care deeply for you and your children... no matter your age. Stress and anxiety, sadness and doubt can creep into our life when we least expect it. We are here to help you through these tough times.

Our May Faith Family Kit includes the book *B* is for *Breathe: The ABCs of*



Dealing with Fussy and Frustrating Feelings by Dr. Melissa Munro Boyd as well as some resources that we hope you find helpful. The book gives 26 suggestions (one for each letter of the alphabet) to use to channel our feelings and work with them in a healthy way. As we all know from Pastor Heidi's sermon series in January... even the Psalmist had big emotions that need to be expressed. We hope that this book and the resources that come with it will help you and your family express those big emotions.

Kits will be delivered by early May. If you haven't received one in the past and would like to this time, please contact me. If any of us on the staff can be of assistance to you - please reach out! - *Jenny Gee, Dir. Christian Education*



MAY

Show your care with prayer!

Set aside a little time each week to participate in the Care & Prayer Mail Project! It's easy! Each week, we surround someone in prayer, and send them mail. Be part of it!

Week of May 2

Austin "Skip" Smith

6915 Oakes Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-2735

Week of May 9

Sylvia Fowler

9251 Highland Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-2605

Week of May 16

Shirley Galik

9605 Snowville Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-3426

Week of May 23

Cindy Krause

6726 Pin Tail Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-2845

Week of May 30

Dave Schroedel

8075 North Hills Dr Broadview Hts, OH 44147-1016

It's a small gesture that makes a big difference. Thank you for being a part of it! *Check back next month for a new list!*



Share your news with your church family! Contact Melanie:

office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-526-8938

A memorial service for our beloved Marisol Wylie will stream on the church website **Saturday, May 8 at 11 am**. Please surround this service in prayer.

A service of remembrance was held at the church on April 24 for Matt Johnson, who died unexpectedly at the age of 59. This church family held a special place in Matt's heart. Please keep Kim, Hannah and Zach in your prayers as they grieve his passing.

Anne Rosenthal shares the happy news that her daughter, Martha, is engaged to be married. May God bless your family as it grows!



Prayer and Praise Notes

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

Connor Mathewson 21 Carissa Spitzer Justin Bielinski 12 **Aneira Watkins** 21 1 Tracy Adanich 2 **Doug Hurst** 12 **Bryn Watkins** 21 Cindy Krause 2 Alainna Teare 12 Brian Culley 22 Karen Pace 2 Walt Walburn Mark Hobzek 12 22 Hannah Botzman 3 Chris Wygonski 12 Bev Huber 23 Michael Paroda Shelby Olszko 3 13 Nathan Hudacek 23 5 Nancy Sirianni 23 Sandie Meyer 13 Michael Lee Barbara Ramundo 5 Nora Culley Taylor Kwiatkowski 24 14 Suzanne Blatnik 6 Danielle Fisher 14 Guinevere Pace 24 7 David Shively Wyatt Slifcak 14 **Tom Taylor** 24 Landon Glenn Melanie Smith 15 25 8 Gabrielle Croes Stephanie Holmes 8 Noah Stacher 15 Alan Scheufler 25 Patrick Magee 8 Emma Engelhardt Kathy Sopka 25 16 Lori Pasek 8 Harry Fox 16 Carina Kosla 26 Eric Chen 9 **Donald Rickert** Alison Rickert 16 26

Lauren Sendrey

Diana Duke

Sara Meyer

Emily Kotnik

Ava McFarlane

Kirk Robinson

Ryan Wilson

Emma Vastartis

Lynn Hobzek

Ed Gugliucci

21

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MAY BIRTHDAYS

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11



Jenny Gee

Alison Bell

Scott Hastings

Jack Drescher

Sandy Kovalik

Addy Pribble

Bill Rittman

Nancy Lee

Russell Goodwin

As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. Recently, we said prayers of thanks for people like Ric Lesinski, Craig Czarnota, Mary Kotik and Kathy Auble, who volunteered to help

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Catherine Vastartis

Hallie McDonough

Clark Rechkemmer

Don Krolikowski

Jack Neville

Dan Spitzer

Ava Pawlak

Kate Burrows

with Matt Johnson's memorial service. Chuck Gezze, Jeff Hastings, Bev Huber and Matt Auble, who each served as liturgists in April. Thank you for helping bring the word of God to people. For Marilyn Huber, who made two beautiful prayer blankets for those in need of warmth and comfort, and for Liz Fredrick and Claire Hayes, who embroider the names of each child baptized at Brecksville UMC on beautiful blankets, to wrap that child in the love of the church. To the 137 people who took the time to take the spring survey, thank you for your feedback. And for all of those praying for the church, church leaders and staff as we move into a new season of worship—keep those prayers coming! God's taking us to incredible things we haven't even imagined yet.



The History and Tradition of Our Cherry Pies



Elinor Rowan and Friends make pies in 2014

The Brecksville United
Methodist Women have been
making pies for over 25
years. When the City of
Brecksville started Home Days
(then called Fair on the Square)
back in the '90's, the United
Methodist Women were inspired
to have a presence within the
community and making pies was
their way of doing just that. A
homemade pie was a treat not

many of us could pass up. It was decided that a homemade sour cherry pie, with or without ice cream, would really be special. Over the years there have been many talented cooks in the kitchen each adding their expertise and thoughts to the process. The original recipe for the filling and crust has been enhanced since the initial product offering all making it what it is today. In 2013, when the price of sour cherries more than doubled, we started offering Blueberry Pie as an option, too!

Making the pies is a team effort—working side by side, we make the pie filling and the pie crust dough, roll out the crust, place each bottom crust in the pie pan, fill each pie shell, place the top crust and flute the edge to seal the goodness and love into each pie. It is a time for fellowship, laughter and caring for each other. For those that never made a pie it's a time to learn the art—or confirm the reason why they buy their pies! We make up to 40 pies per session and spend 4 to 5 days to complete the 180 to 200 pies we make each year. Since 2012, each pie is frozen, giving the buyer an option to have a fresh baked pie or a "take-n-bake" pie.

To make the pies, we use over 100 lb. flour, 50 lb. sugar, 18 lb. shortening, 14 lb. butter, 300 lb. cherries and 90 lb. blueberries.

The women who came before us had the insight and the foresight to make this fundraiser what it is today. The project gifts us with fellowship and love for each other—and gives us an outstanding opportunity to support UMW Missions. Selling delicious "home-made" pies allowed us to donate to over 30 organization in 2019—in increments of \$50 to \$500!

We thank our church community, and our neighboring communities, for their support in making it all possible.

- We are the PIE ladies of Brecksville United Methodist Church UMW



As this issue of The Good Word went to print,
The City of Brecksville was still in discussion
about Home Days 2021. The Brecksville
United Methodist Women WILL be
making pies this summer. We'll
coordinate with the dates of Home
Days—or we'll have a stand alone sale.
Stay tuned for more information about
when and how to order! In the
meantime, enjoy this vintage recipe...

"Fair on the Square" Cherry Cobbler

Featured in the BUMC Cookbook, 1996

1 ½ cup flour

1 ½ tsp baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup sugar

½ cup milk

1 tablespoon butter, melted

2 ½ cups sour cherries (or other fruit)

2 cups hot water or fruit juice

³/₄ cup sugar

2 tablespoon butter

Sift flour, baking powder, salt and 1/2 cup sugar together. Add milk and butter. Stir only until smooth. Spread dough evenly into greased 12 x7" pan. Arrange fruit over top. Combine water (or juice), 3/4 cup sugar and butter in saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour over fruit. Bake at 375 degrees for 45—50 minutes. It will be runny, but will firm up as it sits! Good with ice cream or whipped cream.

Sponsor a Carnation

for Mother's Day

UMW Sunday is May 9 - Mother's Day. You are invited to sponsor carnations - red in honor of someone who mothered you or white in memory - which will be displayed in the sanctuary then gifted to the community. Proceeds from the sale supports the work of Journey Center for Safety and Healing (formerly Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center) which serves 20,000 people each year in Northeast Ohio and provides services for those suffering from domestic abuse, child abuse, and more.



A flower for:	Red
A flower for:	Red White
A flower for:	Red White
A flower for:	Red White

We will create a word cloud from all of the names you submit and display it during our service on Sunday, May 9. Want a copy to share with someone? Email office@brecksvilleumc.com

Suggested Donation \$1 per flower

Text "GiveBUMC Carnations" to 73256 ~ Give online at https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Carnations or by check (payable BUMC - carnations in memo line)

Complete this form online: https://forms.gle/2KgM4mv1EgTrZF4n6

Brecksville Kiwanis & Broadview Heights Lions







EMPTY BOWL PROJECT COVID-19 DRIVE THROUGH EDITION

Tuesday, May 4. Pickup Times 5 pm—8 pm Brecksville Department of Human Services Donation \$15

Ticket includes three soups, bread, cookie and a keepsake bowl.

Help fight hunger in our communities. Bill Rittman—440-526-5618—

abrittman@sbcglobal.net

Tickets can be purchased at Star Sports and Broadview Chiropractic & Health

BE SOMONE'S HERO. GIVE BLOOD.



BLOOD DRIVE MAY 2

Sign Up at Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal Group Code 4230

Brecksville United Methodist Church 9:45 - 1:30



Matt Auble Cleans a Bike in the Church Parking Lot

We have a giant inventory of nice bikes that need minor repairs AND an even bigger number of community groups who are wanting to distribute bikes to needy kids, teens and adults.

Help Keep Bike Ministry Rolling Along

"Are you the church that fixes bikes?" You'd be surprised by how often a phone call to the church begins with that question. In fact, we are referred to as "The Bike Church!"

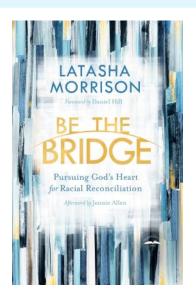
As the weather warms up we are all looking forward to getting more active outside and flinging our windows wide open. Our neighborhoods have come alive with the sounds of lawn mowers, chirping birds and children playing. With more and more of us receiving the vaccine, many of us are also feeling a little more confident that we can get out of our homes to be outdoors. If you are one of those people who is feeling ready to be with others, masked and at a distance, outdoors... and you love the sound of children laughing and playing - we have a super great opportunity for you.

We have an abundance of bikes to repair. Beginning in May, we'll be getting together one Saturday morning each month to get bikes ready for the road! Mechanics will be on hand to help teach you the basics of bike repair, but if you're not interested in that, we also need help with bike cleaning and dismantling. There's a way for anyone to help, no matter your ability!

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



Mark your summer calendar for May 1, June 5, July 10 and August 7 (that's the first Saturday of every month—except July) so we can continue to "get spokes to folks!" Meet in the church parking lot at 10 am on May 1. Other times TBD.



Summer Book Club with Rev. Kathy

Save the date! Take the opportunity to dig into the book *Be the Bridge* with Rev. Kathy Dickreide this summer. It is on the New York Times Best Seller List and is the winner of the Christianity Today Book Award. Order the book (if you use Amazon Smile, name Brecksville UMC as your charity to support) *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison, read it and join Kathy for some awesome discussion on one of these dates.

- Sunday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Tuesday, June 22 at 10 a.m. on the church lawn
- Sunday, July 11 at 6pm on the church lawn
- Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

• Sunday, August 15 at 10:30 at the church

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Scholarship Winners Announced

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Brecksville UMC Worship & Music scholarship winners, Carly Kubek and Sean Brown. We are thankful for the way they have each used their musical talents to enhance our worship services and glorify God. We will miss them as they leave us for new challenges but delight in their future achievements!



Carly Kubek has served on our Praise Team, with Vacation Bible School, on YSP, and led an adult Sunday School Class and the Music &

Worship Committee. She plans to attend Bowling Green State University. "Growing up in the Methodist Church, I have always had a supportive group of people who care about me...These people have shown me what it looks like to spread God's love in the world."

Sean Brown has served as our church organist since 2019. He has not finalized his college choice. In addition to playing for Sunday services here,



Sean plays piano for all-school masses at St. Ignatius and has played for memorial services and for seniors at Chippewa Place. "My work at BUMC has taught me that music in a church setting is about serving God...and serving others. Knowing the focus is on God has changed my playing: while I still want to be expressive, I've learned to play with more humility."

This will conclude our Music & Worship scholarship at BUMC. We are working to create a new scholarship opportunity for future BUMC grads. Stay tuned!

Youth Study Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints

Throughout the months of April and May, our youth have been learning about the incredible, diverse lives of some wonderful faith community leaders. With the help of the book, *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* we are diving into topics such as peaceful protest and non-violence, decolonization, trans rights, revolutionary love, and much more.

These topics can be difficult and complex, but by looking at them through the lens of people's experiences they are being brought to life. Students have been interacting through weekly devotionals on Instagram and at virtual youth group on Zoom.

At the heart of this time of exploration is the message that every person of faith has a different story to tell and everyone's experience of the world is valid and should be valued. By listening to others' stories we are discovering new things about ourselves and our own faith lives. The conversations continue through May and the topics of discussion can be found on the schedule below.

If you know a student who may benefit from joining us, contact Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com for more information!



Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

INTRODUCING

KATHY SHIELDS

OFFICE MANAGER

On Administrative Professionals Day, April 21, 2021, we invited a new Office Manager, Kathryn Shields, to join our ministry team. Kathy will begin her work with the church on Monday, April 26.

Kathy has a BFA in Telecommunication from Kent State University, has worked as a legal secretary for 20 years and served as an executive assistant for 4.

She and her husband, Daniel, have four children and have been active members of Lakewood United Methodist Church since 2002. She has served as head of Discipleship Ministries, Children's Ministry and as the Child Protection Policy Coordinator. She also served as lead confirmation instructor several times.

We are delighted that Kathryn is sharing her talents with us for the glory of God and are excited to work with her to care for the people of Brecksville United Methodist Church and beyond!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday

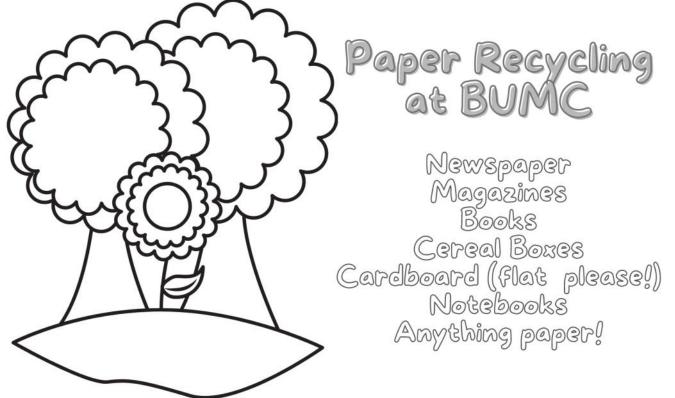
9—3

Kathy@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						I Bread Ministry Petkovsek 9 Visioning, 301 I0 Bike Fix it Day, Parking Lot Rain date for Yard Clean up
2 Communion 9 Worship Online 9:45 Blood Drive 10 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Class 11 Kids Connect 11 Drive In Communion 7 Virtual Youth Group	3	4 10 Staff Mtg 7 Church Council 7 Lectio Divina	5 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio 7 Bible Study Online	6 Mowing Team Campbell/Bloch	7	8 Bread Ministry Hastings I I Marisol Wylie Service of Remembrance
9 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group	10	11 10 Staff Mtg 7 Inclusion Task Force 7 Lectio Divina	12 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio 7 Bible Study Online	13 Mowing Team Lundholm 6 Rain Barrel Pick Up	14 6 Wedding Rehearsal	15 Bread Ministry Brown 3 Wedding
9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Class 11 Kids Connect 4 RMN Service 7 Virtual Youth	17	18 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch n Time 7 Trustees 7 Lectio Divina	19 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio 7 Bible Study Online	20 Mowing Team Auble/Spencer 12:30 Good Word Articles are due!	2 I 7 Mihalich Recital	22 Bread Ministry Millers Nehemiah Mission Work Day
23 Pentecost Worship on the Lawn and Streaming Worship* Baptism—Vastartis II Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group	24	25 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch n Time 7 Finance 7 Lectio Divina	26 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio 7 Bible Study Online	27 Mowing Team Brown/Sendrey	28 11 UMW Board Meeting	29 Bread Ministry TBD
30 Worship On the Lawn and Streaming Worship* II Kids Connect	31 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	Find up to the	* Times to be determined!			





Rain Barrel Pick-Up

Just because there is a pandemic, doesn't mean you stop harvesting rain water!

Order in advance and pick up your barrel and diverter kit to make at home. All you need is a drill.
Instructional video provided.

Pre-payment required! Masks required at pick up!

Thursday • May 13 • 6pm-7:30pm

Brecksville United Methodist Church 65 Public Square • Brecksville • 44141

Rain Barrel: \$60

Diverter kit has everything you need, even for the winter.





Register online www.cuyahogaswcd.org (click on Events - May 13) or email aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org

Sponsored by:





Electronic Service Requested

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

New office hours!

Monday—Thursday

9-3

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com







Open Doors. Welcoming all of God's children.

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