



The Good Word



**Brecksville
United Methodist Church**

A Reconciling Congregation

Open Doors. Honest Worship.

Determined Service.

December 2017 Issue

Published November 22

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Mid-Week Advent Worship Service

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm

Pause and reflect on the meaning of the season during this quiet, meditative service which will lift your spirit and refresh your soul. Gather here in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm. All are invited to a simple pre-service meal of soup and bread in Fellowship Hall at 6:00. All are welcome, all the time!

Brecksville Broadview Heights Community Chorus & Youth Chorus Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 10 at 3 pm and 7 pm

A festive and joyful holiday tradition! Choose from two concert times right here in the Sanctuary at 3:00 and 7:00 pm. The choruses are preparing a wonderful blend of classical repertoire and holiday favorites including works by John Rutter and Randall Thompson and songs popularized by Michael Buble and Pentatonix. A light reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. The event is free and open to the public!

Celebrate National "Go Caroling Day"

Wednesday, December 20 from 6—8 pm

Join our happy group of carolers as we go out and about in Brecksville to share the spirit of the season. You will put a smile on the faces of those being serenaded and, as you share the joyful tunes, experience peace and joy yourself! Not much of a singer? That's OK! Help us keep the beat by jingling some bells or tapping a tambourine. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. Be sure to dress for the weather! As always, all are welcome!

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:45 Contemporary Service

10 Classes for All Ages

11:15 Traditional Service



Christmas Eve

5:00 Family Service

8 & 10 Candlelight Services



Sunday Morning Worship

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10:00 Classes for All Ages

11:15 Traditional Worship

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm Family Service

8 & 10 pm Candlelight Services

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Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!



Deep Breath

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

...because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace. - Luke 1: 78-79

Holidays are times of celebration, when we set aside time to gather with family and friends, a time when we pause for a bit and remember and appreciate our blessings. At the same time, especially here in Northeast Ohio, the days are getting shorter and darker as we approach the time of winter solstice. Perhaps this is a cyclical reminder that we need to conserve our energy as we head into these winter months. Maybe we ought to take a clue from the bears who go inward and refuel as they enjoy a time of hibernation.

But, our hectic schedules of shopping and traveling and parties and other gatherings bump up against our need to rest and conserve energy. Therefore, this time of year tempts us to overextend ourselves, and many of us become overwhelmed between our schedules and our unrealistically high expectations. This reality, as well as family dynamics, can lead to a great deal of stress.

Remember that we do all of this to position ourselves to welcome to earth the gift of new life. That gift is still given over and over again on quiet nights to all kinds of different people all over the world.

I pray that you all take the time to take a deep breath. Inhale and exhale spirit. I trust that God will meet you wherever you are, in whatever state you are in when you take the time take a deep breath. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth...peace.

Breathing easy,

Pastor Clark

Ideas for Observing Advent at Home

Create an advent wreath at home and light a candle during your evening meal.

Print out an Advent Calendar.

Make a Countdown to Christmas kindness paper chain.

Color your way through Advent with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love coloring pages.

Make a family blessing jar by writing down things your thankful for each day.

Visit our Pinterest Board for printables, instructions and inspiration:

www.pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc/advent-ideas/





Christmas Potluck Luncheon

You are invited to get into the holiday spirit by attending the Brecksville UMW Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, December 7 at 11:30 am. Bring your favorite dish, salad or dessert to



share. Everyone's (yes, men, too!) invited for an afternoon of neighborly fellowship, delectable food, and spirited Carole singing. Hope to see you there!

Adopt a Girl for Christmas

West Side Sisterhood is a program of the West Side Community Center in Cleveland. Sisterhood fosters a belief in girls' self-worth based on their skills, unique talents, and spirituality rather than on appearance, popularity, sexuality or negative gender and racial stereotypes. Sisterhood encourages and challenges young women to be strong and independent, to exercise self-discipline, to respect themselves and one another, to value education, and to know when and how to give help and receive it. The United Methodist Women support this great program, and again this year are coordinating an "adopt a girl for Christmas program." If you'd like to help fill a young person's Christmas wish, sign up at church on Sunday or call Gretchen Mates at 440-526-6481.

Christmas Tea

Church Women's United Christmas Tea is Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am at Church of the Savior, 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. Bring a small plate of dessert, fruit, vegetables, cheese, cookies, pastry, or the like cut into small pieces to share with the group. The Brecksville UMW is collecting donations for the **Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center** to be delivered at the Christmas Tea. **Want to help?** Please bring your donation in the labeled basket in the first floor coat room.

Some trees are filled with ornaments and lights.

These are filled with love!



Our Hat and Mitten Tree. Let's fill this tree with hats, mittens, scarves and socks to help warm our brothers and sisters in need! Collection starts November 27 and will be donated to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

Our Brookside Food Pantry Tree will be filled with food and other necessities for our sisters and brothers at Brookside Food Center. The most needed items include: Canned Fruit, Soup, Cereal, Canned Meats (like tuna and chicken), Peanut Butter and Jelly, Personal Hygiene Items, Household Cleaners, Laundry and Dish Soap, and Paper Towels. *Please hold the cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn.* **Thank you!**





Spread Christmas Cheer

...by delivering a Poinsettia! Take a plant to people who were unable to attend Christmas Eve services or deliver a poinsettia to those working on Christmas Eve (the fire department, the police station, etc.) after the 10 o'clock service. Want to help? Contact the church office! 440-528-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com



BUMC Night Out!

Saturday, December 16 at 6 pm
A Cold, Cold Reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Tickets are \$12 for adults.
 Children 12 and under are \$8.

Enjoy Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in the brisk night air of winter... in a barn. The Lantern Theatre presents *A Cold, Cold Reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. Six brave actors and a piano accompanist will take the stage in Gleeson's barn to read Mr. Dickens' masterwork. Enjoy hot cocoa, cider and baked goods and a Christmas Carol sing. **Dress warmly. It's a barn.**

**WE HAVE RESERVED A
 BLOCK OF TICKETS.**

Sign up on Sunday in The Parlor!

See Kathy Stein or any member of the Fellowship Committee for more information.

CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

I connect with Christ this season

A Sunday Morning Study for Adults



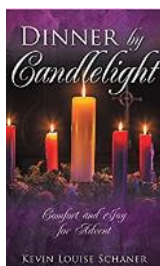
Sent. Delivering the gift of hope at Christmas. God sent Christ at Christmas. And Christ sends us. Won't you make plans to join our Adult Sunday School journey through Advent as we consider how, why, and where we are sent? Study begins December 3, in Room #301 during the Sunday School Hour. Pick up a copy of the book on Sunday, and come prepared to be "sent"!

A Sunday Morning Study for High School Students



Jesus, Bombs, and Ice Cream. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin..." with ice cream? When we read the headlines or watch the news it is obvious that our world does not know peace. There are two choices, ignore it or face it. This study aims to help us face our unsettling world and seek ways to understand and make a difference. Students, we challenge you to join our Sunday School class and open up discussion about war, peace, and what Jesus says about both. Hope to see you at 10am in the Youth Room!

A Monday Morning Study for Adults



Join Rev. Kathy Dickriede and friends on Monday mornings in the Parlor at 7:30 am for five weeks of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace and rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation. Books are \$11.50. Extra copies are available! Drop in anytime. **Open to ALL. Tell your friends!** Study ends Monday, December 18.

Calling all Angels, Shepherds and People of Wisdom



A wonderful tradition of our Family Christmas Eve worship service (5:00 pm on December 24) is the retelling of Christ's birth story with real live people playing the parts. Would you, your family or your child like to be part of the experience this year? Please call Jenny Gee at 440.526.8938 ext. or email education@brecksvilleumc.com for details.

YOUTH NEWS

Jesus, Bombs, and Ice Cream

Advent Study for High School Students led by High School Students

We're doing an experiment. Who reads the Youth News? If you read this paragraph, send Dana an e-mail with "I Read It!" as the subject line. We'll randomly select a winner who will enjoy a \$5 Starbucks gift card! (We've included information about this new study on the previous page of this newsletter, along with other studies for Advent! You should read that, too!)

All Youth Dinner and Christmas PJ Party

Sunday, December 3 from 5 to 7 pm



Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a fun and festive evening where we will be celebrating Christmas morning come early! Our menu will include breakfast for dinner and students are encouraged to wear their favorite Christmas PJ's. We will also be having our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, lots of games, and other surprises. You won't want to miss out on the fun! RSVP to Dana (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) before November 30.

Youth Christmas Gatherings

We will be having two different youth gatherings to celebrate the Christmas season, one for just our Middle Schoolers and one for just our High Schoolers. Make sure you are subscribed to our monthly Youth Newsletter for all the upcoming details! E-mail Dana (info below) to sign up!

Youth Ministry Winter Break

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We will be taking some time off from weekly meetings and events during this holiday season to spend time with our friends and family, making memories and celebrating one another. This time also helps us prepare for a wonderful 2018 that is sure to be filled with fun, faith, and fellowship! There will not be regular meetings between December 18 and January 6 (with exception of Coffee Talk on December 30). We pray during this season you are surrounded by loved ones and blessings. Thank you for blessing our youth ministry in 2017!

Coffee Talk

Saturday, December 30 at 11 am



High Schoolers, you are invited to join us for Coffee Talk, a time of casual conversation in a local coffee shop. December has five Sundays, so we're replacing the fifth Sunday of Youth Group with Coffee Talk! Let's spend some Saturday time together with devotions, discussions, and catching up on life. Location will be announced on our social media, so make sure you're following us!



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin

@BrecksvilleumcYouth

Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237
or youth@brecksvilleumc.com



Fridays at Five

Looking to sing with a fun, and vibrant group of women? Join the women's ensemble! We rehearse one Friday each month at 5:00 pm in the choir room, followed by drinks and eats! Our December practice is Friday, December 8. For information, please contact Adrienne Leska: music@brecksvilleumc.com.



COFFEE HOUR

Sunday Mornings
at 10 am in the Parlor
December hosts:
Gifts & Memorials
Stop in and visit!



Everyone's welcome!

Come enjoy lunch
with the Church Staff
Tuesday, December 12 at
12 noon in Fellowship Hall
Please RSVP!

Sign up on Sunday or contact us:
440-526-8938 or
office@brecksvilleumc.com



Welcome to the world, Natalie Vastartis! Her parents Jessica and Alex, and big brother, Gabriel are all celebrating her arrival, along with the rest of the growing family. Congratulations all!

A Prayer for Advent

Jesus, as we await your coming,
help us to look for you
in the stranger on our street,
the woman asking for
change on the corner,
the man in front of us in
at the traffic light,
and the child crying in
the grocery store.

Open our hearts
to love others
as you do.

Amen

Baptism ANNIVERSARIES

*May the light of Jesus guide us on our
paths as we share his love with the world!*

Lawry Kardos	3
Marisol Wylie	4
Claire Palmer	4
J.T. Zawada	7
Rachel Dubin	8
Lauren Cheney	9
Sue Ellenberger	16
Addison Cave	17
Judy Novak	20
Megan Culley	23
Bob Tschannen	25
Edison Davis	29



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Allen McCrodden	1	Josh Kesling	10	Hudson Schneider	20
Jack Burrows	2	Joan Quade	10	Carol Dambaugh	21
Dave Dobos	2	Scott Schneider	10	Megan Louttit	21
Sue Ellenberger	2	David Schroedel	10	Adam Derry	22
Mollie Mitchell	2	Angela Archacki	11	Anna Derry	22
Marisol Wylie	2	Barb Berry	11	Bryan Derry	22
Ronnie Rajkovich	3	Amy Piorkowski	11	Amanda Auble	23
Ed Crist	4	Greg Urso	11	Logan Hricko	25
Nicholas Mihalich	4	Mitchell Bell	12	Kayla Kosla	26
Diane Ellis	5	Penny Burns	12	Anastasia Brachna	28
Kate Krause	5	Steve Piorkowski	12	David Brown	28
Bruce McCrodden	6	Trinity Crouch	13	Christine Drescher	29
Mike Memmer	6	Kiira Olszko	13	Sylvia Fowler	29
Katie Pasek	6	Shirley Harper	14	Brandon Schroedel	29
Joyce Rossborough	6	Sydney Hazelton	15	Mary Lou Bennett	30
Karen Schroedel	6	Ruth Moorhead	15	Darell Fisher	30
Rachel Dubin	8	Hannah Stein	15	Todd Fowler	30
Steve Harper	8	Dale Meyer	16	Sharon Hotaling	30
Vivian Bielinski	9	Elinor Rowan	17	Bob Jaite	30
Dick Gordon	9	Carol Wilson	18	Connor Hulten	31
Charles Helm	9	Jeff Fesler	19	John Scott	31
Joyce Johnson	9	J. Donald Moorhead	19	Hadley Spencer	31
Daniel Soltis	9	Nathan Petznick	19		



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings over the last four weeks, the following people were lifted in prayer with thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Shelly Meek, who saved the day by stepping in as a volunteer in the Crib and Toddler Room when needed;

Adeline Huss and Sean Brown, organ teacher and student, who filled the Sanctuary with beautiful music for the 11:15 worship service on All Saints Sunday; and Ava Traum, trumpeter extraordinaire, who played for Veterans Sunday. Veterans Sunday is possible because of all of the effort and love put into the cause by our Fellowship Committee. Donna Sibits and Catherine Vastartis inspired the team who invited the veterans, decorated Fellowship Hall, prepared lunch, served lunch (with the help of our confirmands and their families) and organized the Christmas cards for the VA campaign and the UMCOR collection, and encouraged us all to pray for peace. We are so thankful for all of you—the folks named and those unnamed!

DECEMBER

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Communion Service Gail Huth & Janine Telischak					1 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	2 8 Food Bank 8:30 Yard Clean Up Day 10 Ginger- bread Social
3 1st Sunday of Advent Communion 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 5 All Youth Dinner Last Day: Cards for Vets	4 7:30 a.m. Morning Advent Study	5 10 Staff Mtg 5 MS Youth 7 Music & Worship Board	6 6:30 Breakfast 9 Children's Ministry Mtg 6 Soup Supper 7:30 Advent Worship Service	7  11:30 UMW Christmas Potluck 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ens.	8 5 Women's Ensemble	9 <div>HOPE</div>
10 2nd Sun. of Advent 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 3 & 7 pm: BBH Community Chorus Holiday Concerts 7 HS Youth Group	11 7:30 a.m. Morning Advent Study 7:00 SPRC	12 10 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch Bunch 5 MS Youth	13 6:30 Breakfast 7 Pastor's Bible Study	14  6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble	15 Food Delivery to Brookside	16 <div>PEACE</div>
17 3rd Sun. of Advent 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 7 HS Youth Group	18 7:30 a.m. Morning Advent Study	19 10 Staff Mtg 10 Knitting Grp 7 Finance 7:30 Trustees	20 6:30 Breakfast 7 Pastor's Bible Study 6 Christmas Caroling	21  	22 <div>JOY</div>	23 <div>JOY</div>
24 4th Sun. of Advent 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship Christmas Eve Services 5 Family Service 8 & 10 Candlelight	25 	26 Church Offices Closed Today	27 6:30 Breakfast 7 Pastor's Bible Study	28 	29 <div>LOVE</div>	30 11 Coffee Talk <div>LOVE</div>
31 New Year's Eve 10:00 Worship— Christmas Carol Sunday						



Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.



POINSETTIAS for HUNGER

Remembering family and friends with a church poinsettia is a beloved Christmas tradition of Brecksville United Methodist Church. When you dedicate a poinsettia, you help beautify the sanctuary for worship **AND** help feed the hungry! This is our third year of ordering mostly large pots of flowers and only enough small plants to deliver to the home bound. All money raised above what's needed to purchase flowers will be given to the Brookside Food Center in Cleveland. You can help our hungry neighbors have a happier, healthier Christmas and New Year. Last year, we raised over \$500!

Poinsettia memorials will be listed in the bulletin at all five services on Sunday, December 24.

Do you know someone who would appreciate a visit and a plant? Please list their name here:

Can you help deliver plants in the community? If so, when are you available? 12/24 12/25 12/26 12/27

Poinsettia Order Form

Names will be in the bulletin for all five services on December 24. Please include cash or check (made payable to BUMC) with your order. Return in the offering plate, deliver to the church office, or mail to the church at 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

IN
MEMORY

IN
HONOR

FOR

FROM

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____





PROJECT: FEED CCYM

On November 11 and 12 hundreds of students from North East Ohio United Methodist youth groups gathered together to make a difference in the fight against hunger. There are over 5 million people in the world who struggle to find daily meals, despite the fact that we have more than enough food to go around. When the students who lead the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) heard about this injustice they wanted to take a stand and do something. All year they raise funds to support Project: FEED, culminating in a two day, two location event where students come from all around to lend a helping hand. This year Project: FEED was able to meet their goal of 50,000 meals packaged, sorted, and shipped.

Brecksville United Methodist Church was incredibly proud to take part in Project: FEED for the second year in a row. A total of four adults, and three students made their way to Wadsworth Middle School on November 12. Two of those students, Erin Gee and Grace Auble, are representatives for CCYM and led the event with energetic and positive attitudes. Using an assembly line system students are assigned a job and work together to complete the preparation of the meals from start to finish. Soy, nutrients packets, dried veggies, and rice are each poured into a boil bag, those bags travel to the weigh station to make sure they meet shipping requirements, bags are then heat sealed and packed into large shipping boxes, ready to be sent to tables all over the world. Project: FEED makes sure these meals are culturally sensitive and highly nutritious, ensuring they are helpful to the families who will receive them.

The students worked for two hours filling, weighing, and packaging and with each 5,000 meals completed a gong would sound and celebration would ensue. There was great music, tons of dancing, and the whole room was incredibly excited to be making a difference. Here's to next year and another 50,000 meals!

