

The Good Word

Brecksville United Methodist Church

Living in Christ. Serving in Love.

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141 Phone: 440-526-8938

Published June 25, 2010

Summer Worship Hours

8:30-Outdoor Service

10:00- Sanctuary Service



July 1

Vacation Bible School
Open House, 6:30 pm

July 4

Communion Sunday
Happy Independence Day!

July 13

Ice Cream Social at 6 pm
"Super Tuesday"
Committee Meetings

July 14

Taizé Prayer Service

July 20

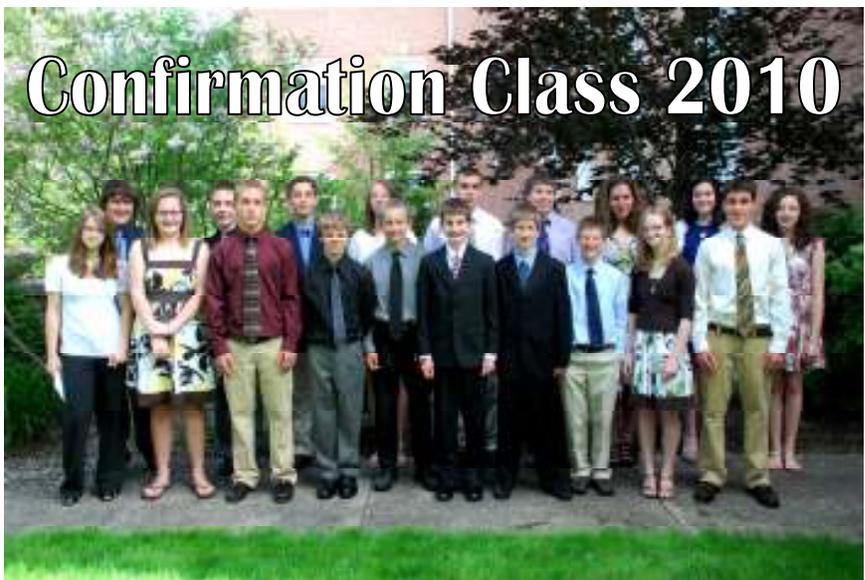
Trustees and Finance Meet

July 21

Staff Parish Relations

July 30

Akron Aeros Game



First Row (Left to Right): Sarah Stanley, Ellen Falko, Paul Phillips, Nick Orr, Brian Wygonski, Josh Dietrich, Michael Pace Jr., Doug Ritterbusch, Stephanie Holmes, Sam Phillips.

Second Row: Darren Krolikowski, Derek Brinkmann, Brandon Schroedel, Allie Kenney, Gil Phillips, Doug Robie, Aleya Gee, Sarah Lundholm, Faith Decker

God Bless You On Your Confirmation

*"When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth"
-Psalm 104:30*

May the strength of the Holy Spirit be with you,
guiding you every day of your life.



Our Staff

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Pastor: **Karen M. Oehl**
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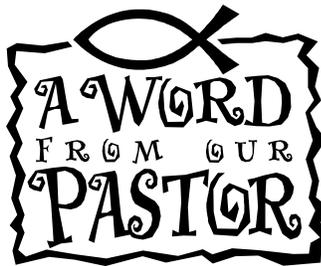
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Almost Perfect

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

I've been thinking about perfection lately. As our family gets ready for our daughter Kirsten's wedding on June 23rd, the word "perfect" keeps coming up. Kirsten's dress is from a bridal store in Rocky River called *The Perfect Bride*. Books and articles will give you overwhelming advice on how to plan the *perfect* wedding. Out of curiosity I have watched a couple of episodes of "Say Yes to the Dress" on TLC, a program that involves you with real brides shopping at an exclusive store in New York City for...you've got it. *The perfect* dress.

Perfection seems to be a demanding goal for an event that will, after all, include many human beings. *Non-perfect* human beings. As Lisa Drew and I run wedding rehearsals here at Brecksville UMC, we stress that a wedding is not a performance. Perfection is not our goal. Beauty, blessing, joy—yes to those for every wedding. I don't expect perfection. There will be confusion, tears, anxiety, rain, lost relatives, lost buttons, forgotten words, forgotten clothes, forgotten papers. But I do expect and see fulfilled every time a beautiful wedding. Beautiful, touching, holy, fun.

Perfection is a pretty demanding goal for other human endeavors at church, too. Like worship, and committee meetings, and classes and mission events. Even the opening worship at Annual Conference this year had some bumps. The processional hymn ended too soon. In a slightly uncomfortable, rustling quiet we waited for the last few participants to walk in, including those carrying the bishop's banner and crozier (symbolic shepherd's crook) and the bishop himself. Did it ruin worship? By no means. Was it still beautiful, spiritual, touching, and joyful? Absolutely.

In his sermon that morning the bishop talked about perfection. Baseball pitching perfection, to be exact. He referred to the two perfect games pitched this season and then the "almost perfect" game in Detroit. There was an example of grace, said Bishop Hopkins. An umpire doing his best, calling it as he saw it, then humbly apologizing for the consequences of his call. A pitcher choosing not to blame, but acknowledging that "nobody's perfect." In this culture of blaming and shaming, of over-the-top rage at the smallest mistakes and expectations of perfection, how inspiring this was.

Can we do this in our church life?

How many times have you allowed a mistake in worship to distract you?

Have you ever said no to participating in worship or committee leadership because you were anxious about making a mistake?

Do you let uncertainty about saying the wrong thing keep you from greeting, serving, or caring for others?

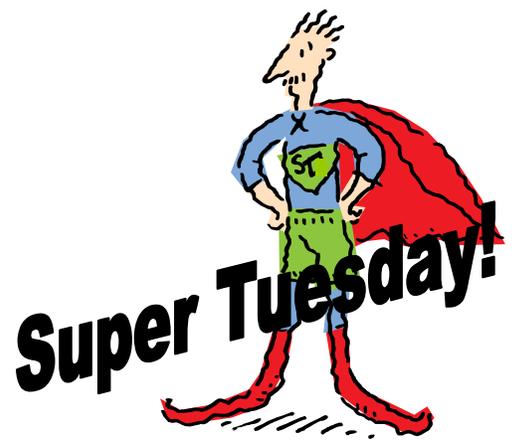
As Wesleyans, we believe in perfection, not as we humans create it, but as God brings it by grace. Grace is the answer to the hard-heartedness of today's world. We will do our best, but we will make mistakes.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Kirsten will be married. There will be mistakes and disasters. But there will also be love and grace. I believe it. Grace and peace be with you all.

Pastor Karen

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	John	Bartholomew	15	Deborah	Falko
2	Irma	Agnew	15	Robert	Kubicek
2	Enis	Beck	15	Bill	Neidinger
2	Brett	Bender	16	Matthew	Nurre
2	J.J.	Hotaling	17	James	Fredrick
2	Derek	Ritterbusch	17	Stephanie	Ling
3	Elizabeth	Hoffman	19	Timothy	Kenney
3	Kathleen	Koteles	19	Kay	Mendlik
3	Nancy	Marsh	21	Amy	Hazelton
4	Janet	Beck	21	Nicholas	Rajkovich
4	Sarah	Ford	21	Frances	Tonkin
4	A. James	Lee	21	Stefan	Wygonski
5	Betty	Marsh	22	Paul	Frank
5	Patricia	Prominski	23	Ruth	Herman
6	Erin	Merhar	23	Katherine	Merhar
7	Wendy	Chenney	23	Nathan	Olszko
7	Emily	Telischak	24	Elizabeth	Jaszczak
8	Kevan	Fisher	24	Carl	Opatrny
8	Jonathan	Wygonski	24	Helen	Sahrbacker
9	Katherine	Falko	24	Allison	Toensing
9	Bryan	Johnson	25	Addison	Cave
9	Frances	Knaack	25	Philip	Dumot
9	Kevin	Machesky	25	Cynthia	Guell
9	Tracy	Scott	25	Larry	Kaminski
10	Matthew	Hof	25	Matthew	Manocchio
10	Karen	Memmer	27	Laura	Riccardi
11	Joan	Bloch	27	Judith	Suazo
11	Julie	Post-Smith	28	Ruby	Ludwig
12	Sheila	Kimble	29	Patricia	Frank
12	David	Lienert	29	Janet	Patterson
13	Jeanne	Quade	30	Paul	Dadas
14	Ryan	Jnah	30	Rachel	Machesky
14	Elizabeth	Urso	30	Pamela	Root
14	Jane	Whitehead	30	Beth	Smith
			30	Bryan	Smith
			30	June	Tschannen



In July we launch "Super Tuesday"—a new way of scheduling church committee meetings. Instead of spreading meetings out across the calendar, most will be held on the same night - the second Tuesday of the month - Super Tuesday! (Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, and Finance will meet on the third week of the month.) Our hope is that this will make committing time to church work easier for everyone and will help relieve some busy schedules. Let us know what you think!



Have you moved?
 Added a new phone number?
 Changed your e-mail address?
 Call the church office at 440-526-8938
 or e-mail:
office@brecksvilleumc.com

June 25, 2010



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

If you have a special anniversary, birth, retirement, wedding, special honor or other news you would like to share, please call or e-mail Melanie

Many of you remember Rev. Michaela Brown from her time here at BUMC in the mid 90's. On May 29 she married a minister, Jeremiah Jasper, at Johnson Memorial UMC in Huntington, West Virginia. Michaela and Jasper will reside in Huntington.

Joan and Allan Filips' daughter, Suzanne, was married Memorial Day weekend here at the church. Congratulations to her groom, Matthew Kocin, and the whole Filips family.

Our Chapel was the spot where Jill Herman and Ben Magistro said "I do!" on Friday, June 4. Congratulations, Jill and Ben!

Say "Aloha" to Susan Keller and Mike Hart, who became "Mr. and Mrs." in Hawaii in May.

The Vastartis family grew when they welcomed a new daughter-in-law, Amanda, when she wed James on May 29th. The couple will reside in the Columbus area.

Carl and Joyce Rossborough welcomed their first great grandchild, Olivia, on Sunday, May 30th. Olivia's proud parents are Christopher and Tracy DePaulo of Wooster.

Congratulations to Carol and Harry Wilson, who celebrated their Golden Anniversary - 50 years of marriage - on June 18th.

The Asbury Bremeth Circle threw a bridal shower for Lisa Drew on June 10th, and Carol Wilson prepared the same delicious punch that was served at her wedding. As this is the season for showers, we thought that you might enjoy the recipe, too! →

www.brecksvilleumc.com



The gathering of United Methodist clergy and lay people from all over East Ohio was a time of hope and healing this year. As you can see above, "Hope and Healing" was the theme for a week that is part business meeting, part camp meeting, and part preparation for the future.

There was hope and healing in the wonderful response to the hurts of the world that were reported. East Ohio has sent more than \$640,000 to Haiti relief. Brecksville brought 68 health kits, additional health kit supplies, and \$142 for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Two children sold lemonade outside the auditorium one day and raised a \$1,000 for Nothing but Nets!

There was hope and healing in our shared life and leadership. Ten people were ordained as elders, fully credentialed ministers. We heard reports from new church starts, merged new congregations such as the new University Circle United Methodist church which merged First Church and Epworth-Euclid, and revitalized churches. We had a bittersweet celebration of the work of our wonderful conference Communications Director, who will go on to coordinate new media for the whole United Methodist Church. And across the conference, worship attendance was up 4% in the last year.

There was hope and healing in our financial reports this year. The conference budget will decrease next year, lowering our apportionments for the year 2011. Pension and hospitalization costs will not change. Our reserves are stable. This is all good news for the ministries of hope and healing that we do together as a church.

Finally, there was hope and healing simply in being together. We were inspired by worship, greeted old friends, prayed with strangers, and looked to the future. We shared stories and laughter and tears. We are ready to continue in our mission as a conference to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Recipe

Dish: _____ Serves: _____

Carol Wilson's Reception Punch

From South Avenue Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Boil 3 cups sugar with 2 quarts water for 5 minutes. Cool.

Add 2 large cans frozen orange juice concentrate and 1 quart bottled lemon juice. When ready to serve, add 2 quarts ginger ale and 1 quart pineapple sherbet. An ice ring made with ginger ale looks lovely!

This quantity will fill a large punch bowl.

BUMC Establishes Hope Fund



Elsewhere in this issue you will read about the theme of Hope and Healing of our Annual Conference this year. Those two things are closely linked in the church, and we have the opportunity to offer financial support for this very need.

You were invited earlier this spring to donate to a love offering for Noel Fenton, Joy's sister, who is being treated for lymphoma and does not have health care coverage. She will continue to need our love and support. At the same time, we realized that there are times when others in this congregation and in their families might face this kind of an emergency.

You are invited to continue to help Noel and others by donating in love to the HOPE Fund: the Hospitalization and Personal Emergency Fund. This fund has the possibility of a wonderful start because of a pledge by an anonymous donor to match your gifts up to the amount of \$5,000 as they are received by the end of 2010. The invitation to you is to experience and testify to the glory of God in this opportunity. After this donor shared this idea with me, I found myself as I pondered it unconsciously humming *How Great is Our God*. This confirmed the plans that we had started to form.

We know Noel's need. Perhaps others might come along. College graduates with no job, or one that does not offer health care. Someone whose coverage does not go far enough. Someone who has lost a job. We can offer hope and healing through the HOPE Fund. Simply mark your offering envelope or designate a special gift to Brecksville UMC for the HOPE fund.

Alpha News

All over the world, the Christian Church is experiencing new growth, hope, and vision. You have been hearing about the Alpha Course, and we have just completed our first. We had 34 people, members and seekers, share the experience. Comments afterwards included: *"We loved the presentations."* *"We enjoyed the fellowship and making new friends."* *"Group discussion helped solidify my beliefs -- there were no wrong answers!"* *"The food was fantastic!"*

Each Sunday on the ten week journey, Alpha presents core truths of the Christian Faith. You can discover and grow wherever you are on your Christian walk. The format is simple: we begin with sharing a simple meal, followed by a time of music and worship. Next, a well constructed talk is presented, followed by a round table discussion centered on the talk of the evening.

Our next class will begin on Sept 12th and end on Nov 14th.

This includes a Saturday retreat on Oct 30th. We will meet Sundays from 5-7:30pm. A donation of \$5 per week covers food and materials. Child care will be provided.

If you have questions contact anyone from the spring class or call the office. Registration will begin in August. Those interested in being part of the next Alpha team, watch for information on our first planning meeting. Check your calendars.. Bring a friend!



Mark your calendar for the
BUMC Summer 2010

Ice Cream Social

We'll gather on the front lawn (or Fellowship Hall in the case of rain) for food, fellowship, and fun!

Tuesday, July 13

6 pm—8 pm



*During the summer months,
the church office will close early
on Fridays.*

Monday—Thursday

8:30-4:30

Friday

8:30-12:30

June 25, 2010



Have You Tried Outdoor Worship?

On summer Sunday mornings at 8 o'clock, weather permitting, we gather on the front lawn for worship service and to make the most of the summer weather. Bring your lawn chair! This relaxed service features acoustic guitar and music in a broad range of styles. Communion is offered every week. In the case of rain, the service moves inside to the sanctuary.

Thank you!



Thank you for sponsoring your blood drive on June 15, 2010 and making it so successful again!

You made it possible for the American Red Cross to make available 26 pints of blood for needed patient care. 33 people donated blood in response to your drive goal of 29. Of those 33 donors, 2 donated for the first time.

On behalf of the patients whose lives you have touched, as well as their loved ones, we offer heartfelt gratitude.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Kresge

American Red Cross



www.brecksvilleumc.com

Last Call for Lost and Found!



Our Lost and Found box is overflowing, and it's time to donate any unclaimed items to charity. Please check the box (in the cloak room) before July 15th. Here's a quick inventory of what's in the box today:

- pink jacket
- black vest
- white ball cap
- blue scarf
- plaid scarf
- blue glove
- blue hat
- black hat
- socks
- popcorn popper
- girl's yellow sweater
- girl's 9 West purse
- purple glove
- wood burning tool
- white tank top
- Rubbermaid container
- blue water bottle
- cell phone car charger
- silver bangle bracelet
- green Matchbox car
- Columbia windbreaker
- leopard print scarf
- small black Disney jewelry box (with a colorful bracelet, necklace and star ring inside)
- a black jumper (new with the tags still on it)

"Take me to your leader!"

Have you met our robot? A mad scientist created him for VBS.

We're asking the kids to name our visitor from outer space.

Tune in next month to learn what name they chose!



Take Me Out To The Ballgame

Join your friends from Brecksville United Methodist Church for an evening at Canal Park in Akron. We'll watch the Akron Aeros take on the Reading Phillies and enjoy a great fireworks display after the game.

Friday July 30th 7:05pm

Aeros vs Reading Phillies / Fireworks after the game
Tickets \$7. Bring a friend!

Please contact Becky Gezze for tickets:
cgez@sbcglobal.net or 440-526-9632

Alice Explores the Information Pipeline

A Column of Ongoing Response to Our Worship Surveys

Be honest. Have you ever used a page of the red fellowship pad to write yourself a note or jot something down? Ever witnessed a child using a handful of blue and yellow cards as doodle paper? Yeah, we all have. But what really happens to information gathered on Sunday mornings? Where do blue cards and yellow cards and friendship pad pages go after Sunday morning?

Yellow cards are a critical part of our effort to greet and welcome visitors to our church. Anyone who fills out that yellow visitor card receives a loaf of bread and follow-up contact from our Evangelism Committee. But not everyone fills out the yellow visitor cards, so our office staff goes to great lengths to use the friendship pads to fill in missing information and make sure that visitors to our church receive some sort of follow up.

It's not just about attendance. Pages from the fellowship pad also help us keep track of who might be missing from our fellowship. Here again, the Evangelism Committee (who doubles in some ways as member care) tries to follow up with those regular attenders who, for whatever reason, may not have been worshipping with us for a while.

Blue cards go into Pastor Karen's hands. She follows up with prayer, phone calls, and letters where requested. Many items also go on to the prayer chain, unless it has been re-

quested that the prayer concerns remain only with the pastor and/or the staff.

Did you know you can become a member of the prayer chain? Contact Elinor Rowan at elrowan33@aol.com if you would like to receive a list each week of those in our church family requesting prayer. It is so exciting to think that our joys and concerns are lifted up each week by dozens of members and friends, and you can be a valuable member of that prayer team!

The truth is that the staff and members of the Evangelism Committee need your help with these efforts all the time.

Hospitality is everyone's job. If you see someone filling out a yellow card, don't let them leave without a greeting and word of welcome. Likewise, if you suspect someone is new, encourage them to fill out the yellow card so we might follow up with them. Use the blue prayer cards so we can be informed of the news of our fellowship and lift one another up in prayer. Join the prayer team! Fill out the red fellowship pad each week, so we know you are present with us. And if you are aware of a person or family who hasn't been here in a while, let us know. We need all eyes and ears to function as we live together as a family in Christ.

-Peace, Joy Fenton, Director of Music



On July 18th, a group of our youth and adult volunteers will depart for New Castle, Pennsylvania for our Youth Service Project mission trip. Each day of the trip will bring its own set of life-changing experiences for our youth and volunteers. A typical day involves serving others, "God Sightings", daily devotions, and inspirational and interactive worship programs.

This Year's Team:

Lisa Drew, Lucy Fesler, Jeff Fesler, Craig Kotnik, Alan Scheufler, Ruth Herman, Matt Auble, Greg Urso, Brett Bender, Kyle Holmok, Jeannie McBride, Betsy Jaszczak, Emily Kotnik, Grace Ford, Laina Culley, Courtney Drescher, Christine Drescher, Mallory Krolkowski, Lauren Brinkmann, Nate Bender, Brad Holmok, Alyssa Whitton, Amanda Auble

Send an encouraging e-mail to our volunteers!

www.groupworkcamps.com

(Click on the "For Parents" link at the top of the page.)





July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 4—Boundaries of the Earth, Communion 1 Chronicles 4:10; Psalm 16; Proverbs 23:10; Acts 1:6-8 Message: "Lines in the sand" July 11—The Wilderness. Leviticus 16:22; Isaiah 35; Matthew 3:1-6. Message: "Desert Remix" July 18-- Clean and Unclean. Acts 10:15; Leviticus 11:1-23; Matthew 15:10-20. Message: "You've got to eat a peck of dirt" July 25—Natural Disasters. Psalm 148:7-8; Joel 2:1-3, 8, 10-13; Psalm 46. Message: "Be still and know"				1 9 Last day of VBS 3:30 Band Practice 6:30 VBS Open House	2	3 
4 Communion Sunday 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10 Worship 	5 6:30 Women's Emmaus Church office closed for the 4th of July holiday.	6 9:30 Staff Meeting	7 6:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Prayer Service 	8 3:30 Band Practice	9 7 Emmaus Reunion 4:30 Wedding Rehearsal	10 9:30 Northeast Ohio Chrysalis 4:30 Wedding
11 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10 Worship in Sanctuary 6 EPIC	12 6:30 Women's Emmaus 	13 Super Tuesday 9:30 Staff Meeting 6 Ice Cream Social 7 Ad Board 8 COE 8 Missions 8 Music Board 8 Worship Comm 8 Youth Board	14 6:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Taizé Prayer Service	15 3:30 Band Practice LAST CALL 	16 7 Emmaus Reunion NewsLetter DEADLINE	17 
18 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10 Worship in Sanctuary	19 6:30 Women's Emmaus	20 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees	21 6:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Prayer Service 7:30 SPR	22 3:30 Band Practice	23 7 Emmaus Reunion	24 9:30 Northeast Ohio Chrysalis
25 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10 Worship in Sanctuary Summer Choir!	26 6:30 Women's Emmaus	27 9:30 Staff Meeting 	28 6:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Prayer Service	29 3:30 Band Practice	30 7 Emmaus Reunion 	31 9:30 Northeast Ohio Chrysalis

Summer Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 4:30. Friday, 8:30 - 12:30.