

# Happy New Year!

*The Good Word, a newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church. January Issue. Published December 31, 2018.*



## That The World May Know

*A New Study for Adults*

January 13—March 3

**Sunday Mornings at 10 am.** Embark on a journey to what is modern day Turkey with Pastor Clark and some of his friends as we examine the Bible's timeless call to impact our culture. Our travels will take us to Aphrodisias as we look at the passion of Elijah, Antioch Pisidia as we study Paul's journey to Rome, Lystra and the story of an unlikely disciple, and Cappadocia as we contemplate why it is that Christians suffer. Come and join us for a fulfilling hour of study and discussion as we figure out more of how to walk as Jesus walked. Room 301 during Sunday School hour. We will have a place for you!

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES**

**8:45 Worship with Live Band**

10 Classes for All Ages

**11:15 Worship with Traditional Hymns**



## Pancake Breakfast

*Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Let's celebrate the people who serve our church and our community  
- with pancakes!

ALL are welcome. Hope you'll join us!

Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, January 7**

10 am in Fellowship Hall



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP. DETERMINED SERVICE.

*making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world*

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO





## Sunday Morning Worship

**8:45 Contemporary Worship**

10:00 Classes for All Ages

**11:15 Traditional Worship**

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Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!



## New Year—New Things

*Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor*

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19*

Are you ready for things to change? Are you prepared for a new beginning? Are you ready for God to do a new thing in your life?

As we enter into a new year, I am reminded that often times in order for us to be able to truly embrace something brand spanking new, we need to be able to let go of the old. Many folks keep a really tight grip on the past. Many things have happened to each of us that have caused us pain or guilt or regret. Nothing good can come out of keeping alive a past that is dead. We all know, however, that we have a tendency to keep a tight hold on these things. Perhaps at the beginning of a brand new year we just consciously need to let go of some things.

For once again, God is intervening for us. "I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Over the course of the fall of Jerusalem and the period of exile, the people of Israel needed to change. They were challenged to return to Israel, and even then, the remnant went back not too happy about the prospect. But, in part, we are together as a church today because they did. This is a part of our shared story.

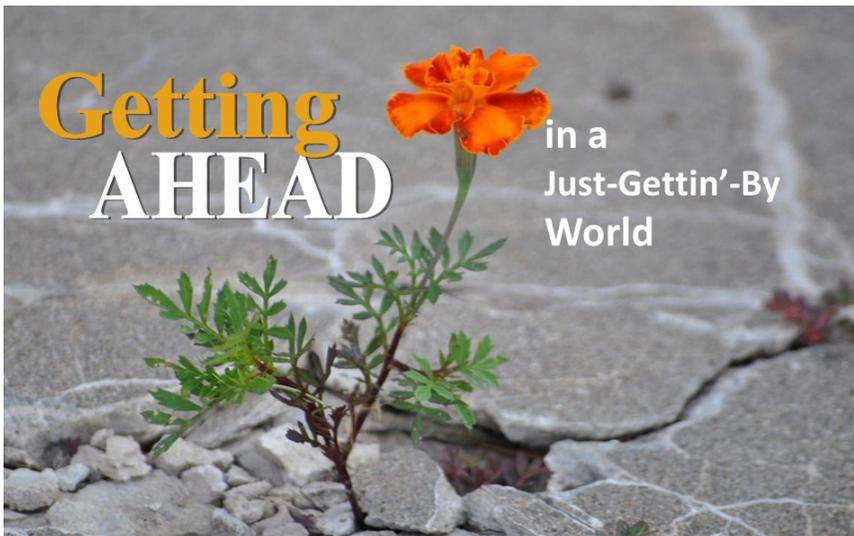
Brecksville UMC, God is doing some new things in the new year, with us and among us. Do you not yet perceive it? There is a built in danger in the church, in all institutions, really, to get into a rut to the point where we no longer hear voices of those outside of our own community, and then, we no longer ask what is good for the whole community. Sometimes, as people of faith, we need calm, comfort, and consistency. Sometimes we need to change. Sometimes we need to move beyond the questions of what do I need and like? And then be willing to ask, what is good for the whole church?

I admit that I probably don't know your own particular desert place. Perhaps the place in your life that feels as though God has finished working and moved on. I don't always know your places of questioning. But I do know God's promise and hold on tight to it in my own heart: "Behold, I am doing a new thing." And even when we might have a difficult time seeing it or feeling it, I affirm that God is not done!

Praise the Lord! Bring on the New Year! Happy 2019!

Blessings,

*Pastor Clark*



The Missions Committee is excited to introduce a new partnership among suburban and urban churches in our district. ***Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*** is a 16 week workshop designed to give people the tools and resources they need to move out of poverty. The weekly workshops will be held at Saint Matthew United Methodist Church, 8601 Wade Park Ave in Cleveland and is limited to 15 participants.

*“The most important things **Getting Ahead** has helped me with are recognizing the different causes of poverty and ways to build resources so that I could get out of poverty and help others get out of poverty.”* - Miyonna Jones, Getting Ahead Graduate

We are one of the four churches in our district supporting the program by providing dinner and childcare on one night each month. (The other churches are Berea UMC, Brunswick UMC and the host church, St. Matthew.) Our nights will be **January 29, February 26, March 26, and April 23**. Would you like to help others move out of poverty? Sign up on Sunday or call our Church Office 440-526-8938. Have questions? Contact Janet Kleckner or Lynn Spencer — or the church office!

### **Bead in an Attitude of Prayer**

Are you planning to make a new spiritual practice part of your focus in the New Year? Do your thoughts sometimes drift off while you pray? Do you already read devotionals but sometimes feel hurried to move on to the next task of the day? If you have answered yes to any of these questions then prayer beads might be for you!

Why a prayer bead, you ask? Prayer beads are a method to help you focus while you pray. They are something that you can hold onto. In a sense, they help to ground you and give you a path to follow during your prayer. They also provide structure and comfort.

*What are prayer beads?* Prayer beads are sets of beads that are designed to help people pray. The earliest known use of prayer beads was in 3200 B.C. by the ancient Egyptians. Since then, all major religions have used beads to count prayers, including Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims (while Jews don't use beads, they do use knotted fringe on their shawls, called Tzitzit, to count their prayers).

Interestingly, the modern English word “bead” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon “bede,” meaning “prayer.”

The chapel will be set up throughout the month of January for you to create your very own prayer bead. Instructions, materials and tools will be provided. You will also find a number of lovely prayer and devotional books to choose from to help enhance your prayer life in 2019.

Questions or ideas? Reach out to Jenny and she will be happy to help you. 440-526-8938 ext. 230.

## **ministries** OF *Caring*

### **The Caring Committee Needs Our Help!**

On January 16, Rev. Barbara Bartholomew, our Pastor of Visitation, will begin a seven week leave of absence

for surgery on her foot. While she is off her feet, she will need your prayers—and the Caring Committee will be stepping in to make visits to those who are unable to get to church. Would you be willing to be there for those in need? Would you be available to visit those who may be lonely and looking for support or someone to lend an ear? Contact Pastor Barbara at 440-799-3126 to learn how you can help!

# Cardio Kickboxing

Kristin Bisco invites you to her Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Training Class in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm on Monday Evenings.

Kickboxing is a high energy workout to great music that is fun for the whole family! Here are some reasons to try it.

- Muscle Toning and Increased Flexibility
- Better Circulation.
- Stress Relief.
- Full Body Workout builds strength
- Learn self-defense.
- Build self-confidence.
- Increased Heart Rate.
- Improve Balance.
- Improve Coordination.
- It's Fun!

Want to learn more? Contact Kristin at [kristinbisco@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbisco@gmail.com)



January is National Slow Cooking Month!

Come to Lunch Bunch, where we'll be sharing some of our slow cooker favorites.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 8**

Join us at noon in Fellowship Hall.  
FREE IF YOU RSVP!  
440-526-8938



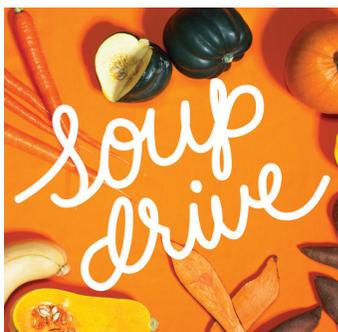
United Methodist Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



## Calling all UMW Board Members.

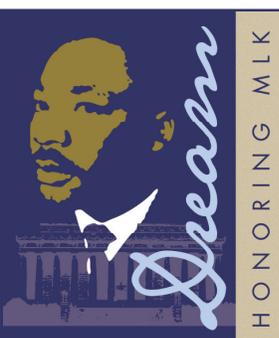
There will be a board budget meeting on Friday, January 11 at 9:30 am in the Parlor. There is no regularly scheduled UMW meeting in January. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on Thursday, February 7.

**Cookies for the USO.** Wednesday, January 2 at 6:30 pm. Join the ladies of the UMW Evening Circle in the church kitchen to bake and package cookies for the USO Canteen at the CLE Airport. Bring unbaked cookie dough for 2 dozen cookies. All are welcome! Can't make it on the second? We're collecting cookies through Thursday, January 10. Package them in sets of six and put them in the kitchen freezer. Thank you!



**Brookside Canned Soup Drive.** Through February 14, we'll be collecting canned soup for our hungry brothers and sisters in Cleveland. Your donations will be taken to the Brookside Food Center 3784 Pearl Road in Cleveland. If you're moved to help, bring your donations to the bin in the first floor coat room.

**A Big Thank you!** The Brecksville United Methodist Women extend heartfelt thanks to all for your loyal support of our projects. We would not be successful in supporting various organizations without the involvement of church members like you!



Church offices will close in observance of Martin Luther King Day, Monday January 21.

"We cannot be truly Christian people so long as we flaunt the central teachings of Jesus: brotherly love and the Golden Rule."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

# YOUTH NEWS



**Youth Ministry Planning Session.** January 6. A new year means new possibilities and new opportunities for youth ministry! Come to our planning session at 6 pm in the Youth Room (406—on the fourth floor). We will be mapping out what 2019 events and programming will look like. Help us shape the future! Bring your family calendars, creative ideas, and a heart for volunteering. We hope to see you there!

**Youth group returns!** Starting on January 13th, we will once again have weekly youth group for both middle and high school students from 6-8 pm on most Sundays. Middle School meets 6-7 pm. High school meets 7-8pm. We will also have our study room open during those times with snacks, free WIFI, and words of encouragement. Make us a part of your 2019 routine!



**Youth Service Project 2019 Informational Meeting.** January 13. Thinking about being a part of this summer's mission trip? We call it YSP (Youth Service Project) and we would love for you to come along! Join us for a basic information meeting on January 13 right after second service (around 12:30). Students and adults are welcome—to attend the meeting AND to come on the trip!



**Songs on Safari.** Music with a Mission- Acts needed! Do you miss the rains down in Africa? Or are you hungry like the wolf? Maybe you know that in the jungle the lion is sleeping tonight and you're ready to do the thing called the crocodile rock! We are currently looking for acts of one or more for our annual variety and dinner show. All ages and skill level are welcome! Contact Dana ([youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)) for more info and to get in on the fun!

*Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman  
440-526-8938 ext. 237 or [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)*



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin



@BrecksvilleumcYouth



## When?

Sunday, February 3  
at both services.

## Where?

Right here at beautiful  
Brecksville UMC

## Who?

Our super Sunday school kids will lead all of us in a beautiful time of worship.

## Why?

Because this awesome church doesn't look at our kids as the 'church of the future', they know they are the church of 'right now'. Plus our kids have so many gifts and graces to share with you to help you see God and Jesus through their eyes. We are blessed to be a community that recognizes the gifts that people of all ages bring and we support, encourage and love each other. Plus it is a really fun morning of praise!



Help care for God's creation by recycling your household batteries here! Collection bucket in the first floor coat room.



# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!  
[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)  
440-526-8938

On December 16, we celebrated the baptism of Zoey Margaret Telischak, daughter of Adam and Lori. Adam grew up in our church and was baptized here in 1986. Proud grandparents are Janine and Nick Telischak!

On Christmas Eve, 691 people walked through the doors of our church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We are so thankful to have shared the occasion with you, your families, your friends, and with friends we had not yet met. Our four services were sacred, holy and celebratory. May this Christmas spirit last throughout the new year!

**Sunday Morning Coffee Hour**  
In the Parlor at 10 am

*January Hosts*  
**Music & Worship Board**




**Old Cell Phones Wanted.** Did you get a new phone for Christmas?

Bring your old phone to the coat room collection bin for safe recycling and help us earn money for the church Missions Fund!



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Penny Lienert	3	Jennifer Hoffman	13	Kaitlyn Ellis	20
Michael Patrick	3	Steven Chen	14	Brian Meek	20
Michelle Shively	3	Maddy McBride	14	Dan Auble	21
Emily Vincent	3	Scott Ford	15	Pat Gordon	21
Donna Sibits	4	Donna Houston	15	Nate Bender	22
Kaya Roberts	5	Marianne Nolan	15	Bob Lundholm	24
Nate Machesky	6	Sam Papp	15	Colin Crouch	25
Claudia Monnett	6	Joy Parker	15	Katie Hurder	25
Lucas Juniper	7	Adalaide Spitzer	15	Sue Hastings	26
Autumn Lasich	7	Lois Moston	16	Kimmer Cave	28
Lois Hahn	8	Aundrea Dumot	17	Donna Culley	28
Cole Mihalich	9	Eliot Slifcak	17	Lona Seifert	29
David Vastartis	9	Kim Johnson	18	Rick Dean	30
James Vastartis	9	Fred Loeffler	18	Jill Magistro	30
Nathan Hulten	10	Ellen Martin	18	Don Salsbury	30
Gerry McMaster	11	Jennifer Schneider	18	Kathy Goebel	31
Marc Vincent	11	Jessica Zawada	18	DJ Magee	31
Bob Carson	12				



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. This month, we're thankful for so many! Bob Lundholm, who wears so many hats at the church that we don't know where he can keep them all. He

recently spearheaded the installation and training for our new sanctuary lights. Thanks, Bob! The amazing Cub Scout Pack 175, who brought a willing and joyful spirit to our church yard clean up day in December. Jane Petrie, who donated the beautiful wreaths for all of our exterior church doors, helping to extend our welcome to the community. Jim Smith, who stepped in to shovel some unexpected snow on a morning when Jeff and Scott were out of town. And for the too many to mention people who served as liturgists, advent wreath lighters, greeters, ushers, nativity players, church decorators, coffee servers, singers, and musicians during Advent and Christmas Eve. We're thankful for each and every one of you, named and unnamed!

# January

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Ann & Bill Rittman		1 	2 6:30 Evening Circle Donate soup to the Brookside Bin	3 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	4 9:30 Mom's Club of North Royalton	5 Invite someone to dinner!
6 Communion, Epiphany <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 PANCAKES! <b>11:15 Worship</b> 6 Youth Planning Session	7 6 Community Chorus 6 Kickboxing	8 10 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch Bunch 7 Missions 7 Reconnect Team	9 6:30 Breakfast Hug someone today!	10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day 9:30 UMW Board Budget Meeting	12 Girl Scouts Serving Others
13 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 12:30 YSP Planning meeting 6 HSHW/MSYG* 7 MSHW/HSYG	14 6 Community Chorus 6 Kickboxing	15 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 7:30 Trustees	16 6:30 Breakfast Send a "snail mail" letter.	17 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir  	18 UMW Delivery to Brookside	19 Clip out coupons and leave them next to products at the store.
20 Human Relations Day <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 6 HSHW/MSYG 7 MSHW/HSYG	21 6 Community Chorus 6 Kickboxing	22 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	23 6:30 Breakfast Leave a positive post-it note in a random place.	24 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	25 Leave quarters in a gumball machine or in a machine at the laundromat.	26 Leave positive feedback on a store survey
27 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 6 HSHW/MSYG 7 MSHW/HSYG	28 6 Community Chorus 6 Kickboxing	29 10 Staff Mtg 5:30 Getting Ahead at St. Matthew UMC	30 6:30 Breakfast Play a game with someone—and let them choose the game.	31 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	<b>Random Acts of Kindness:</b> Try some of the ideas on this calendar! Visit the Random Acts of Kindness display on third floor for more ideas.	

\*High School Homework Zone/Middle School Youth Group, etc.



## Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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928

*Electronic Service Requested*



*Socialize with us!*

— END OF YEAR —

# GIVING STATEMENTS

Year end giving statements will be mailed to your home address by January 19. The outside of the envelope will be marked “Important Tax Documents Enclosed.” Can’t wait for the mail? You can quickly print your own statement anytime from our secure online portal. It’s easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Log in to [www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist](http://www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist). Your e-mail address is your login. Your password is known only to you. If you can’t remember it, follow the instructions to re-set.
2. Click Giving on the main menu.
3. You can view your past giving, see scheduled giving or even schedule a recurring gift. Click the print icon to print a copy.
4. A quick print “2018 Giving Statement” button will appear on the right side of the page early in January.

Need help? Call Leslie or Melanie, 440-526-8938  
Monday to Thursday 8:30—4:30 or Friday 8:30—12:30

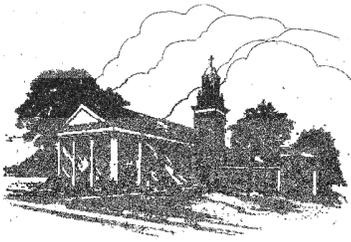


**RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK**

**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.



## **Pastor's Report to Charge Conference—2018**

*‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your god is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9*

This has been a challenging year. We began under the guidance of Rev. Dave Martin, who took our church through a consultation. He met with small groups, assembled information gathered, and reported back to Church Council. Folks had an opportunity to voice concerns, help to set a direction for the future, and honestly assess where we are as a church. This is all good, hard work, and I thank you for the dedication and effort you have displayed.

We all know that the church as we have known it is in a state of change and flux. Outside pressures from a culture that demands much of our parents and children have exerted themselves on the life of our fellowship. Increasingly, conflicts arise that cause our families to make difficult choices between church and other extra-curricular activities. No judgement. It is just the situation in front to us.

We have taken on the task of becoming a welcoming congregation. Even though we took a vote to “become” such a place, we all realize that the vote was the formal beginning of a process.

In light of that notion, we have recently taken steps to welcome people who have sensory processing issues. Our staff was proactive in taking the on-line training, and leading others in our congregation to do the same. It is just another extension of the welcoming nature of Brecksville United Methodist Church.

We have welcomed some new, young, talented staff people, and have really witnessed the evolution of our music program. Malik and Isaac and Jamie have led us professionally and well, and the results of time spent together has allowed our music program to return to the excellence we have come to expect.

Our Church council has become an excellent meeting ground for the leaders of our Church. Much shared wisdom and capable Lay Leadership has helped forge a path forward as we approach 2019.

Through all of this change, the action of the General Conference that convenes in February has been on people’s minds. I know this, no matter the decisions made there, God will lead God’s church in some amazing new directions.

In addition to all of these things, we have experienced a year of inspirational worship, informative and enriching Bible studies, Sunday School classes, concerts, special services of remembrance for some who have gone on, baptisms for those just beginning, marriage for those so inclined, and times of communion. It seems so normal in the cycle of things, but I don’t take those services for granted, and I pray that you don’t either.

I am excited to have been here with you this past year, and look forward to experiencing where God is leading Brecksville United Methodist church in the future.

Thanks for all you do to realize more of god’s Kingdom in our time and place!

Praying for peace,

*Pastor Clark*



# you're invited

# home dedication

## January 19, 2019

**11:00 am | Dedication Ceremony**

**Michelle & Family**  
3478 W 97th St. | Cleveland, OH

Join us as we welcome Habitat homebuyer, Michelle, and her family into their completed home in partnership with our 2018 Apostles Build Faith Partners.



“For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”  
Galatians 5:14

### House Sponsor

## APOSTLES 2018 BUILD

- Brecksville United Methodist Church
- Church of St. Dominic
- Church of the Holy Angels
- Church of the Western Reserve
- Fairmount Presbyterian Church
- Forest Hill Church
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church
- Old Stone Church
- Parma-South Presbyterian Church
- Plymouth Church United Church of Christ
- St. Basil the Great
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Mark Catholic Church, West Park
- St. Mary of the Falls
- Strongsville United Methodist Church
- The Church of the Covenant
- The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls

**House Generously  
Donated By:**



**for more information:** Kimberly Pride, Associate Director of Development

☎ 216.325.5578 ✉ [kpride@clevelandhabitat.org](mailto:kpride@clevelandhabitat.org)