

# The Good Word

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

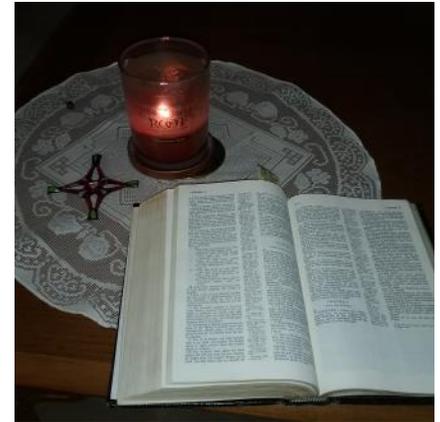
## WHAT'S INSIDE...



*The Birdhouse Project*



*VBS Comes Home*



*Worship Where You Are*

## A HOLY DISTURBANCE

As I write this, I'm sitting on my back patio, the sun is shining, and the air is filled with the last of the lilac blooms. It's hard to believe we're still in the midst of a pandemic. Then again, nothing about the past few months has been easy. We were not meant for isolation; we weren't created for it. God literally created us to be in relationship: with God and with one another. So to be alone—physically away from many of the people with which we fill our lives—is hard.

Don't get me wrong: I'm around people all the time. (Right now, Rus is grilling and Corrie is coloring next to me.) But we're still isolated from our families and friends and church family—our community.

I know many of you are yearning to get back to worshipping together at the church building. I, too, miss the sanctuary filled with smiling faces, singing together, shouting our praise to God, and greeting each one of you with a handshake or hug after the service. I have spent many, many hours talking with other pastors, hearing what other churches are doing, listening to webinars with the Cleveland Clinic and CDC, as well as talking with our staff and a variety of people from our congregation. Then last week, our Church Council gathered (via Zoom) to begin discussions of what it would look like to worship in-person again. If we came back in June, this is what it would be like:

- We could fit about 60-75 people in our sanctuary with 6-foot distancing (we measured).
- Everyone would need to wear masks.
- To maximize the number of people able to attend, ushers would direct people to seats like hosts at restaurants.
- There would be no singing, as that greatly increases the distance aerosol droplets travel.
- There would be no Children's Ministry or Nursery.
- After worship, we would dismiss by rows to reduce congestion in the narthex.
- There would be no fellowship time: conversations in the narthex, coffee hour, greeting line, etc.

*Continued on next page...*

# worship online

SUNDAYS AT 9 AM

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Published monthly by

**Brecksville United Methodist Church**  
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141  
*Article deadline 3rd Thursday monthly*  
Editor, Melanie Smith  
[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

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

...Continued from front page.

The more we talked, the more we realized that gathering for worship wasn't going to look like it once did—what we all dreamed of and hoped for. We would simply come into the sanctuary for a very simplified service (less than we're able to do online) and then leave. We would not be our beloved, gathered community.

As that reality sank in, I began asking some questions. Most importantly, why do we want to come back to in-person worship right now? The answer was easy: because we all miss the community and connection that worshipping in-person brings. We brainstormed all kinds of scenarios, trying to figure out a way to gather back together and give us a sense of normalcy. But we realized that our old normal is not going to happen... at least not right now.

Then someone spoke up and said, "It doesn't look like getting us all back together is going to work. So why don't we gather in community in different ways?" And that's really the crux of being Church during a pandemic: how can we re-envision what it looks like to be community?

In that meeting, we realized that right now, being Christ's beloved community (the Church) means recognizing that the risk of gathering back together right now isn't worth the reward. It means gathering in one another's homes to watch the worship service together. It means putting our energy and efforts into creating more small group opportunities, helping us to find the connection we so desperately desire.

In this newsletter, you'll find resources for creating a worship space—both physically and mentally—in your home, and information about small groups we are forming. I encourage you to take a look, and prayerfully discern how you can participate in our beloved community in new ways.

We will gather together as a Church Council again in June to continue the conversation of opening our building for in-person worship. In the meantime, we have a committed group working on plans to reopen the building for small groups and reduced office hours. Stay tuned for information in coming weeks!

For now, though, know that we are still the Church, it just looks different than anything we've ever seen. And we are still a community, working together to understand what that means in this time and this place. I really do believe that this pandemic isn't simply an interruption to our lives: it's a holy disturbance. It's an opportunity to open ourselves to the new things God wants to do among us and through us. Thankfully, we are rooted in our strong foundation of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

I will leave you with this simple prayer: Pour out your Holy Spirit, O Lord, and lead us into your new creation. Amen.

*Pastor Heidi*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



## CLASS OF 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!  
GRADUATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 7

Chase Boldt  
Nathan Hudacek  
Claire Kenney  
Sara Louttit

Emma Sak  
Brooke Toman  
Jake Nelson  
Malik Khalfani  
Jennifer Hoffman

Dan Auble  
Monica Kotnik  
Bridget Gee  
Darren Calovini

## Worship Where You Are

When we gather together through the internet and telephone lines instead of inside a church building, how do we become more than viewers watching a screen? How do we engage in worship? We've gathered a few tips. We'd love to hear yours, too!

- 1. Create a sacred space.** Light a candle. Place a cross in the center of the table. Open your Bible. If you have a hymnal, dust it off. (And if you want one, our [Gopher Team](#) offers porch step delivery!) You may want to drape a tablecloth, or move a plant into your worship space. Think about the things you notice in the sanctuary. Create something like that in your own space.
- 2. Say "Hello."** Greet the folks gathering with you through the comment box on Facebook Live or the chat box on YouTube. As you see friends join the service, say "hello." If you're worshipping through our website, know that there are likely over 100 people worshipping with you on that platform alone!
- 3. Don't just sit there.** Stand up! When you're singing a hymn or repeating liturgy, get out of your "pew."
- 4. Make some noise.** Sing the songs, repeat the liturgy. Recite The Lord's Prayer. Think about all the people around the world who are praying with you and you may feel less alone. Remember that you are part of a whole.
- 5. Let us pray.** Share your prayer requests, both joys and concerns, through the comments or chat functions of the livestream. If your prayer request is private, email Pastor Heidi ([pastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:pastor@brecksvilleumc.com)) or submit a request through [our website](#).
- 6. Please sign the attendance pad and pass it down.** Register your attendance by engaging with the comments/chat boxes or by "liking" the social media post. You can also fill out [this online "pew pad."](#)
- 7. "Sit" with the folks you normally do.** Consider worshipping together through Zoom, chat rooms, text or Face Time. Find another family who has practiced physical distancing and watch the service together in your back yard. [Join the Zoom Coffee Hour](#) after the service!

## 5 Ways to Worship

- 1** Watch on our website streaming page:  
[www.brecksvilleumc.com/streaming](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/streaming)
- 2** Interact on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/Brecksvilleumc](http://www.facebook.com/Brecksvilleumc)
- 3** Listen by Phone:  
1-844-855-4444 Pin: 433800#
- 4** Watch anytime on YouTube  
[www.YouTube.com/c/BrecksvilleUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.YouTube.com/c/BrecksvilleUnitedMethodistChurch)
- 5** Find another family who has practiced physical distancing  
**Watch the service together**



At a special church council meeting May 18, it was decided that we would wait one month before we begin considering what it looks like to gather again for in-person worship.

One important thing people miss about worshipping in-person is the sense of connection, and we hope to fill this need with the creation of small groups.

Small groups gather learn, pray, grow and share life with each other. Traditionally, we've thought of small groups as study or accountability groups. We want to expand small group opportunities to include people who may not feel comfortable joining a study yet. Groups might form around a common interest or simply hold a watch party for worship.

You may want to be in a group with people of a similar life stage (like the group forming for parents of teens) or people who have varied ages and life stages. The important thing is that it is a set group of about 6 to 8 people so you are able to get to know one another deeper and form lasting relationships.

Groups will begin meeting in the month of June. Are you interested in heading up a group? Being part of one? Reach out to Pastor Heidi or Jenny to talk about what interests you and share your ideas!

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[education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

## LAMENT

*By the waters of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’ How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest.” - Psalm 137:1-6*

The first time I remember hearing Psalm 137, I was in college. My home church was burned down by an arsonist. That first Sunday we gathered for worship in a neighboring church, this was the passage from which our Pastor preached. We were mourning the loss of our church sanctuary, our place of worship, our faith home.

It came back to me in this time as we mourn not being able to physically gather in worship on Sundays as we had been before this pandemic hit.

This Psalm arises out of the exile experience of Israel when they were conquered and exiled to Babylon. The temple was destroyed and they were strangers in a strange land. It is a Psalm of lament. We do not often speak of lament in church, but there are times when, as the people of God, we cry out in our sorrow and grief.

Laments are prayers spoken or sung to God. Laments are both personal and communal. They are petitions to God that come out of real need. We lament what we see happening in the world – the suffering that COVID19 has brought about, not only with those who are sick, those grieving the death of loved ones, but the toll it has taken on healthcare workers, first responders, truck drivers, store clerks, factory workers, and all who have found themselves unemployed during this outbreak and shutdown. We lament the long lines of people seeking food for their families at food banks and for those who are unable to pay their rent. We lament not going to our office or place of work or of having work, contributing our gifts and skills, and being part of the world of commerce at large. We lament with all seniors in High School who will be foregoing those celebrations they have looked forward to for four years – attending Prom, getting yearbooks signed, graduation ceremonies with family celebrations and parties with friends. Even our college seniors will not have the grand graduation for which they had hoped.

We mourn life as we knew it – when we were employed, when we gathered with our larger family to celebrate birthdays, holidays and reunions, when we shopped without distancing ourselves from others, when grocery store shelves were full and we found whatever we needed, when we hopped on a plane for a spring break or summer vacation destination, when we went out with friends for lunch and dinner, or went to ballgames, our kids’ soccer and football matches or theatre productions and band concerts, and when we could worship together in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

We feel shut out from the life we once knew. We feel

lonely and uncertain, longing for the way life was before COVID19 blanketed the world, hungering and thirsting for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation we know in Christ and share together. And in our longing, remembering what we so blithely took for granted and now have learned to treasure – our freedom, our community, being with one another, especially in worship.

Yet, our God does not abandon us in this exile and time of lament. Our God is ever a God of hope. Out of the depths of grief on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the resurrection of Christ our Lord brings the joy of life anew, that the impossible is possible, that we will be restored and made new.

We move from suffering to faith. And in faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope, trusting in our always faithful, trustworthy God, who has shown us in the risen Christ that hope lives and breathes, and new life comes to us. There will come the day when there is no more mourning or crying or pain or death.

As I write this, I know not when we will be able to slowly, physically gather together in worship and fellowship again. In the meanwhile, we lament – communicating our grief in prayer to God and seeing this time as an opportunity to confess our faith, our trust, our hope in God who is ever with us and for us and who so loves us. We hold hope in our hearts, knowing that the risen Christ is with us always, as he promised so long ago before his ascension. Christ is always with us even through this time of exile. And we look to the day when we will physically be together again.

In this time of exile, may we see what God is bringing to us – gratitude for each day, that we are more dependent upon God than ourselves, to truly see what is most important to us, to allow trust to grow, to be in touch with hope, to deepen our faith through prayer and yes, even lament to express our pain and longing, and to be open to the newness of life God is working in our lives and world – even though it may look different.

May we hold one another in thought and prayers. May we reach out and encourage each other, our neighbors and store clerks. May we be lead to find new and creative ways to serve those around us. May we smile at the stranger who walks past our house and wave a greeting to one another while donning a mask.

And with hope in our hearts, may we patiently and faithfully await the day when we can worship together in person. Praying for you. Missing you and your faces. Holding you close in the love of Christ our Lord. - *Pastor Barbara*

## Finance Update

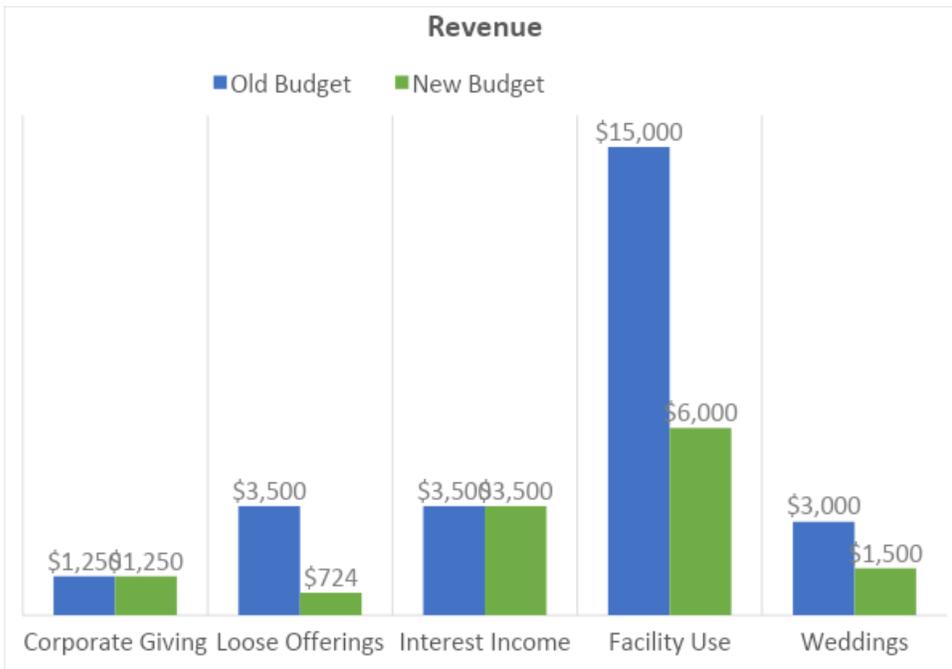
We all started out the year with a budget in mind, be it personal or work-related. We organized and prioritized, discussed at length, and finally came up with something that all parties could move forward with. And like you, the Finance Committee came up with a way to accomplish our mission. Unfortunately, no plan could predict a world-wide pandemic! Last week in our Finance meeting, we went back to the drawing board on a few items.

We receive the majority of our income from you via your annual commitments and weekly offerings, but we also budget for about 5% of our money to come in from other revenue streams. With in-person services not resuming just yet, we acknowledge that our Loose Offerings will not meet our expectations. Since gatherings are limited, our Facility Use and Wedding income will also be reduced.

In response, we have amended these items in hopes to have a more accurate target for the end of the year. The graph below explains these changes.

As always, and especially now, we thank you for your support!

- Becky Paroda for the Finance Committee



### The Bird Church Project

Tony Petro is at it again! He's sharing his wood crafting skills with all of us, creating Bird Churches for us to sand and paint. Hang your church in a tree, or share it with a friend or assisted living community. Get yours while supplies last! Contact the church office and we'll have one delivered to your doorstep.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Operating a safe house for victims of human trafficking is no small task. Rahab Ministries operates two! Our Evening Circle group recently organized a collection of monetary donations to help meet the needs of the residents. Because of your generosity, they were able to present a check of \$705 to help. The residents of the minor safe house were thrilled when they heard the news. Two things that were particularly needed were acne treatment for one of the girls and size 11 shoes for another. With our gift, they'll be able to purchase these items and items for everyone else in the house. Rachel, who manages the home, said she wished she could give each of you a hug! They've had to limit items taken in due to the pandemic, so our checks were the perfect gift for them.

- Lynn Hobzsek, Evening Circle

## 4 WAYS TO GIVE



**Give** securely online

[onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/  
give/now](https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/now)



**Text** "GiveBUMC" to 73256



**Mail** your gift to 65 Public Square,

*Choose Brecksville UMC as your beneficiary  
when online shopping through Amazon  
Smile.*



## Adopt a Flower Bed Project

The Board of Trustees is delighted to announce that most of the flower beds in our church yard have been adopted! Please join us in extending a special thanks to these folks who will each be tending a little patch of the church yard this season.

- The Botzman family - East of the steps along Brecksville Road
- The Brachna family - West of those same stairs
- Gail and Kim Meyer - the main Church sign by Brecksville Road
- David Slaby - garden in front of Lube Window
- The Welch family - garden around the sign at main entrance
- The Adanich family - the bike patio, along parking lot entrance
- Mary & Craig Kotnik and Ruth Herman - bed along the church building in the main parking lot
- Becky Chen - bed along the front side walk (by the sanctuary)
- David & Kelly Brown - bed in front of the Pastor's Window
- Jeff & Sue Hastings - Bed on east side of building
- Marla Knight - Bed near Bike Patio
- Bob Lundholm - bed near Old Town Hall

Mother nature loves to plant in every void, and these kind souls will help us tend the weeds and have a more organized approach. If anyone has extra perennials that may be suitable for any garden we welcome those! If you would like to help in any way, please contact the church office!



Maybe you've picked up running during the coronavirus outbreak or perhaps you're a veteran cyclist. Whatever your cardio career looks like, you might be wondering if you're putting other people at risk while you're out there huffing and puffing.

The coronavirus spreads primarily through coughing and sneezing. And when someone does this, they're expelling little droplets that can travel about six feet out.

"When you're running, you may be breathing hard, but you're not really getting that type of force out that's going to be able to expel the virus from so far away," says Cleveland Clinic Infectious disease specialist, Frank Esper, MD. "Although there might not be an exact science, the six-foot rule pretty much applies for everybody in every situation – whether you're running, jogging or what have you."

### *Other tips for runners and cyclists:*

- Choose your routes carefully to avoid high traffic areas.
- Try to run or ride on sidewalks or trails and avoid busy roads to reduce the odds of getting in an accident.
- Be mindful about the surfaces you touch when you're out. For instance, use your elbow to touch cross walk buttons instead of your hand.
- Remember to bring your sports water bottle or bag of nuts with you so you don't have to make an unnecessary refueling stop.
- Always stay at least six feet away from other people you might pass, and be sure to give proper notice when passing so you don't catch someone off guard. (Since we all seem to be a little on guard these days to begin with!)

So go ahead –take the dog for a walk, ride your bike or hit up that running trail you've been meaning to visit. Just remember, we're still in a pandemic and you still need to practice good social distancing - even outside.

—Submitted by Jenny Gee

**Brecksville UMC** has a community bike patio facing Route 21 with bike racks and a fix-it station. It is open to the public. Tell your friends! Please be sure to use hand cleaner after using the tools in the fix-it stand.



## Youth Annual Conference to Meet Virtually June 14

Our virtual YAC will take place at 7 pm on Sunday, June 14. Watch a livestream of keynote speaker, Shane Claiborne, as well as the band, Tribe Collective, who will lead us in a prerecorded time of worship. For those who register for this event and cannot make the scheduled time, you will be able to watch it at your convenience at a later date.



# JUNE YOUTH NEWS

## Youth Summer Programming Survey

Help us plan for a safe and fun summer! Dana has created an online survey for parents and students to give feedback and preference for summertime plans. We hope that by giving families the opportunity to let us know what they'd love to do, we can plan for a good summer experience. Email Dana for the survey link!

## Parents of Teens Connection Group

We are looking to create a Connection Group with parents of teens. A Connection Group is an opportunity to encourage connection between people during this time of social distancing. Being a parent of a teenager is a hard job that comes with its own complicated and tough issues. If you are needing someone to connect with who understands what you and your teens may be going through then this Connection Group is for you! We want to help create a community where you feel understood, cared for, and loved. Please let Dana know if this is something you are interested in and our ministry teams will get to work on creating the group.

## Graduation Sunday is June 7!

The beginning of each June, we celebrate the hard work and bright futures of our graduating high school seniors, college graduates, and other higher education graduates. Graduation is the culmination of many late night study sessions, hours of project and lab prep, and so much more growth and learning. W.B. Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." That fire is the knowledge that grows long past the hours in the classroom and library have finished. This year, graduation is a bitter-sweet experience, with many celebrations canceled and commencements being held online. We invite our church family to cheer for our 2020 grads even louder as they step into this new phase of their lives. We love you, we support you, and we will continue to pray for you. Join us June 7 at 9 am during our live stream as we celebrate our class of 2020!

*Shane Claiborne* is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta and founded *The Simple Way* in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living "as if Jesus meant the things he said." Shane is a champion for grace which has led him to jail advocating for the homeless, and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence.

Shane's books include *Jesus for President*, *Red Letter Revolution*, *Common Prayer*, *Follow Me to Freedom*, *Jesus, Bombs and Ice Cream*, *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*, *Executing Grace*, his classic *The Irresistible Revolution*, and his newest book, *Beating Guns*. He has been featured in a number of films including "Another World Is Possible" and "Ordinary Radicals." His books have been translated into more than a dozen languages. Shane speaks over one hundred times a year, nationally and internationally. His work has appeared in *Esquire*, *SPIN*, *Christianity Today*, *TIME*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he has been on everything from *Fox News* and *Al Jazeera* to *CNN* and *NPR*. He's given academic lectures at Harvard, Princeton, Liberty, Duke, and Notre Dame.

Shane speaks regularly at denominational gatherings, festivals, and conferences around the globe.



## Contact Dana

E-mail — [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

Voicemail — 440-526-8938 x 237



# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

*In my Father's house are many mansions:  
if it were not so, I would have told you. I go  
to prepare a place for you. - John 14:2*

On May 8, Joan Martin moved on to the church triumphant. Joan became a member of our church family soon after moving to Brecksville in 1967. For 25 years, she served as a Sunday school teacher for three and four year olds here and she loved nothing more than preparing lessons for her children in Sunday school.

On May 19, this world lost Lois Giesel. Lois joined our church back in 1960. Her many friends will attest to her love of antiques, games, church gatherings and day tripping. We will miss her lively personality, sense of humor and zest for life

We thank God for you, Joan and Lois, and we offer prayers of comfort and peace for your families.



We realize that there are people who do not have access to computers, but who may have DVD players. If you're one of these folks and would like a DVD copy of each week's service mailed to you, please contact the office. If you don't have a DVD player, but would like a copy of each week's bulletin, get in touch and we'll mail you one!



# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Betsy Jaszczak	1	Brayden Biladeau	8	Kylie Engelhardt	25
Rick Krause	1	John Zakarowsky	9	K. K. Hood	25
Leslie Miller	1	Garrett Croes	10	Jacob Nelson	25
Adam Smith	1	Megan Rohrer	10	Brian Pasek	25
Laura Tereshko	1	Jim Monnett	11	River Roberts	25
Harmony Lasich	2	Cydney Tormento	11	Jerry Bartholomew	26
Fran McClean	2	Sarah Hurder	12	Linda Crouch	26
Judy McCrodden	2	Tom Kuttler	13	Craig Czarnota	26
Bill Bisco	4	Amber Lasich	15	Darren Krolikowski	26
Aaron Georgevich	4	John Falko	16	Silas Spitzer	26
Grayce Herrick	4	Charlotte Sebastian	16	Jimmy Zawada	26
Tammy Jaite	4	Susan Vojtko	16	Shirley Galik	27
Russell Slifcak	4	Dan AuWerter	17	Jan Kranstuber	27
Kimberlee Fisher	5	Judy Helm	19	Ruth McDonel	27
Cathy Krolikowski	5	Kevin Kwiatkowski	20	Krissy Nelson	27
Walter Kudlaty	5	Mark Pace	21	Joe Bartholomew	28
Megan Gardner	6	Gavin Santora	22	Dorothy Bowles	28
Jenna Schroedel	6	Neilson Tait	22	Lori Cooper	28
Darren Calovini	7	Michael Pace	23	Deanne Kloss	29
Courtney McDonough	7	Linda Rollins	23	Julia Patterson	29
Lauren Scott	7	Anne Ford	24	Taylor Cave	30



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings recently, prayers of thanks were lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service.

People like Sarah Pribble and Jennifer Schneider, two members of our Gopher Team, who have

lovingly helped others with their grocery shopping; the people of Vitalant who conducted a blood drive in Fellowship Hall in April—and all of the donors who gave the gift of life saving blood; Adam Smith who volunteered to help behind the soundboard for our online worship services. We're grateful for your gifts, Adam! Our confirmation teachers are special people, guiding students through an important part of their faith journey. Thank you Gail Huth, Janine Telischak, George Gee and Mike Kubek for the caring way you teach! Even during a pandemic, the bicycle ministry keeps rolling. Thank you, Jinho, for coming in and repairing bikes for people in need during this time! We are thankful for each of you, named and unnamed!



# VBS GOES VIRTUAL

*Summer fun is “flying” to your house!*

Our initial plan to hold VBS the week of July 6 to 10 has been altered due to the situation with Covid-19 and our need to physically distance. We can't risk the health and safety of our beautiful VBS kids, their families or any of the awesome folks that help make VBS happen each year. But we also couldn't let a year pass by and not gather together in some way to sing and dance... craft and experiment... play and learn together! We are switching things up to bring you **Family Style VBS** where you can have much of the same fun learning all about God's deep and unshakable love for YOU right in the safety of your own home.

**Who will lead the stations?** Your same teachers from years past will guide your family through the activities via YouTube videos. They just can't wait to connect with you!

**Which stations will we have?** All of them! You will be able to tune in each day for the opening assembly where we will learn some songs and get some instructions. From there you will 'move' (or click) to hear the story of the day, then you can tune in to your other teachers who will share that day's craft, games and science experiments. Follow it in any order at any time of day.

**Oh no! We can't make it that week.** That is A-OK! These lessons will be available on our YouTube channel all summer:

[www.YouTube.com/c/BrecksvilleUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.YouTube.com/c/BrecksvilleUnitedMethodistChurch) Maybe do one story a week and stretch out the VBS experience for 5 weeks of summer. The flexibility is perfect for your family's schedule.

**Count me in! How do I register?** It's quick and easy online! [2020.cokesburyVBS.com/BrecksvilleUMC.com](http://2020.cokesburyVBS.com/BrecksvilleUMC.com)

**What does it cost?** These months have brought financial hardship for many. We are not going to require anyone to pay for VBS this year, no questions asked. If anyone is able to donate to help defray the cost of the materials, you can do that here: [onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/VBS](http://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/VBS)

**Why register if it is going to be on YouTube?** If you register by June 15 we will gather the materials you need, bag them up and drop them off at your home (if you live within a relative proximity to Brecksville). This includes the music CD! You will also get snack suggestions -- but not the food items for those suggestions.

What are you waiting for? Don't miss the fun of Brecksville UMC's VBS right in your home! Take lots of pictures during the activity times and we will share them on our Facebook page.

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education

**Confirmation** is a time of exploring what it means to be a Christian and a United Methodist. Over the course of a school year, students learn about scripture, church history, prayer, spiritual development, theology, mission, and the structural connections of the UMC. The journey ends with students claiming their faith as their own and becoming full members of the United Methodist Church.

Confirmation is a continuation of the baptismal vows that parents make for their children. Students can now say for themselves, "yes, I want to follow Jesus and I choose to be a United Methodist." On May 17, we celebrated the Confirmation Class of 2020 .



**Eliza Botzman**  
John 15:5 (CEB).



**Joseph Botzman**  
Matthew 5:44 (CEB)



**Andrew Kubek**  
Proverbs 3:5-6 (CEB).



**Ryan Shijo**  
Isaiah 12:2 (CEB).



**Julianna Tait**  
Psalm 27:1 (CEB)



**Alaina Teare**  
Romans 8:18 (CEB)

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*Socialize with us!*



**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.

Donate blood. Experience the wonder.



## Brecksville United Methodist Church

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**  
**9:45 A.M. - 1:45 P.M.**

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE

Sign up online & earn hero points at  
[vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal](https://vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal)  
Sponsor code: breckunimethod

All donors will receive a Vitalant t-shirt.

Please eat before you  
donate.

Bring a photo ID & a list  
of any medications that  
you take.

 **GIVE BLOOD TODAY | [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)**  
Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

**vitalant.** 

June 7, 2020

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



## PEACEMAKERS

Read and discuss the Scripture verse:

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."**

MATTHEW 5:9, NRSV

Discuss what it means to be a peacemaker. Offer examples of people in the Bible or in today's society who work to build peace.

Say, "Today, United Methodists celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. It is a day when we think about how we can help change situations that are unfair. As Christians, Jesus wants us to share messages of peace. Today, we will create peace flags that you can hang inside or outside your home."

## MAKE PEACE FLAGS

Give each child a piece of fabric and put fabric markers or paint in the middle of the table.

Invite the children, first, to sketch their design on paper, thinking about situations where they feel peace is needed.

Offer various peace-related phrases and encourage children to use one of these or to come up with their own statement to write on their flag:

- Blessed are the peacemakers. MATTHEW 5:9
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. GALATIANS 5:22-23
- Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. PSALM 34:14

## PRAY

Dear God, thank you for the beautiful messages these children have created. May they serve as reminders in their homes and schools to treat one another with kindness and fairness. Replace any fear in their hearts with your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church\***

