



The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

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

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Caring for Creation: Rethink Lawn Care

Lawns do more than make your yard look good.

Lawns absorb water, which helps reduce storm runoff and improve water quality. Lawns also have a significant cooling effect, provide oxygen, trap dust and dirt, promote healthy micro-organisms, prevent erosion and filter rainwater contaminants.

Lawn care, however, has come at a high cost to the environment. According to the U.S. National Wildlife Federation:

- ◆ 30% of water used on the East Coast goes to watering lawns; 60% on the West Coast.
- ◆ 18% of municipal solid waste is composed of yard waste.
- ◆ The average suburban lawn received 10 times as much chemical pesticide per acre as farmland.
- ◆ Over 70 million tons of fertilizers and pesticides are applied to residential lawns and gardens annually.
- ◆ Per hour of operation, a gas lawn mower emits 10-12 times as much hydrocarbon as a typical auto. A weed whip emits 21 times more and a leaf blower 34 times more. Where pesticides are used, 60 - 90% of earthworms are killed. Earthworms are important for soil health.

Much of the environmental cost associated with lawn care can be avoided. In this issue of *The Good Word*, we share some tips on how you can help.



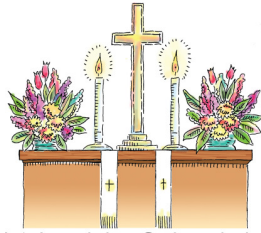
Healthy Lawn Basics

The only way to reduce a dependence on chemical fertilizers is to develop a healthy lawn, which is naturally resistant to weeds, insects and diseases. Consider these ways of improving the natural health of your lawn:

1. **Improve the Soil.** The first step is to test the soil's pH - it should read between 6.5 and 7.0, which is slightly acidic. Soil that is too acidic will need a sprinkling of lime; sulfur can be added to soil which is not acidic enough. You can buy a pH tester for \$40 - \$60. Another solution is to have your soil tested professionally; go to the ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) website. From the homepage click on "Soil and Water" across the top grey bar, scroll down this page to the tan box at the bottom with the heading "Soils Information and Maps" and then click on "Soil Testing". You will find a list of labs to send your soil sample to - there is a fee. You can try to do a visual test of your pH as well. Dandelions thrive at a pH level of about 7.5, and are a sign to add gardeners sulfur to lower the pH. Clover and medic are signs that your lawn may be nitrogen poor, and needs compost or a nitrogen-weighted fertilizer. Check out beyondpesticides.org/lawn and read the "Read Your Weeds" article to help you determine what your soil may need depending on the weeds that are growing there! Lawns grow best in loamy soils that have a mix of clay, silt and sand. Gardeners will find a lot of clay in the soils around Brecksville. Too much clay in the soil mix, or heavy use, can compact the soil and prevent air and nutrient flow. Aerate your lawn before you fertilize in the fall. Organic matter, such as compost and grass clippings, will benefit any type of soil; it lightens soil which is heavy in clay, and it builds humus in sandy soils, which helps retain water and nutrients.

2. **Choose a Locally Adapted Grass.** Different grasses prefer certain climates, certain amounts of water and nutrients, have specific shade tolerance and particular degrees of wear they can withstand. Tall fescue is often recommended for us here in Zone 5. Ask at the garden center what grass they recommend for Northeast Ohio.

(Continued on page 8)



Worship Schedule

8:45 First Service

10:00 Education hour

11:15 Second Service

Wednesdays at 7 pm Prayer Service

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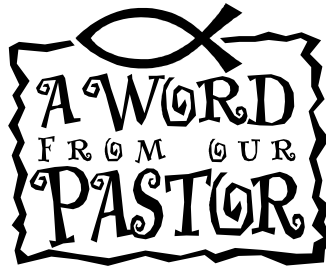
Jeff and Scott Hastings

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The Road Goes Ever On

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

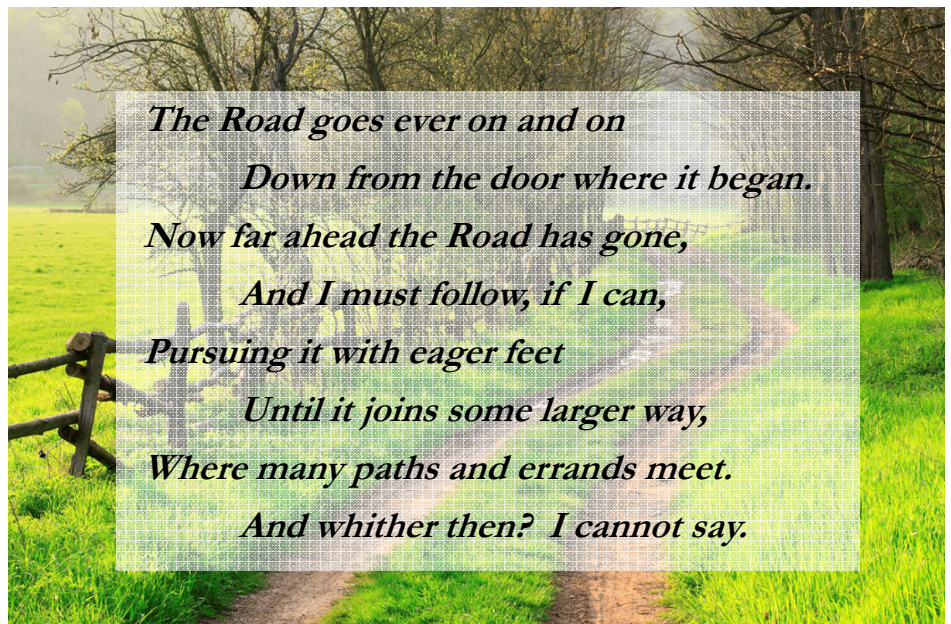
I've been living on the edge for five months now. Five months since I met with Bishop Hopkins during the week before Christmas, when he told me that he was bringing me on board as a District Superintendent. One month until I leave Brecksville and head to Mansfield to take up my new duties. Living on the edge of transition may not be as bad as living on the edge of a volcano, but it is not comfortable.

So many things have happened since I arrived here five years ago. . . a capital campaign and major remodeling, changes in staff, changes in worship and the whole Sunday morning schedule. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, graduations, confirmations, and more. Hours of meeting time, sermon and worship preparation, talking to people. A trip to Costa Rica. There are many things I am glad to have done, some that I regret doing or not doing.

The road goes ever on. This is a quote from *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, by JRR Tolkien. I am nothing if not a Tolkien nut. This describes the journey of all of us disciples so well. Bilbo Baggins muses that the path from his doorway joins the road in front of his hobbit hole, which leads to other lands and adventures. It is all the same road.

We are all on the same road. We travel together for some distance, then part. That is the way of things. In this season of Easter I remember that Jesus spent 40 days after the resurrection with the disciples and followers, teaching them and encouraging them. After he was gone, they would be empowered to go out into the world. We are still on the same road that began for them when Jesus ascended and the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. The mission continues. We are part of the same body, and on the same road.

Pastor Karen



*The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet
Until it joins some larger way,
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then? I cannot say.*

Getting to Know Pastor Clark



Pastor Clark Stein was born many years ago in Detroit, Michigan. This probably explains his preference for the colors of maize and blue, but please don't hold that against him. He graduated from Crestwood High School in Mantua. He then proceeded on to Kent State University, where he enjoyed his educational experience, and graduated with a BA in Telecommunications with a Film Minor. He married his high school sweetheart, Kathy, 30 years ago. Together they have been blessed with four children: Caleb 26, Hannah 25, Ezekiel 20, and Micah 18.

Jostens Printing and Publishing Division hired Pastor Clark right after graduation from Kent State, and he worked as a salesman for that company for the following 6 years. During those years, he became very involved with Boardman United Methodist Church, and played in a Contemporary Christian Band. Those two factors, as well as some other cool stuff (ask him about it) affirmed to Clark and Kathy that they were being called into the ministry. Sold the house and one car, packed up the kids and off to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. During seminary, Pastor Clark worked as a Student Associate Pastor at Shreve United Methodist Church. He graduated in 1992, was Ordained Deacon, and was appointed back to Boardman as an Associate Pastor. The Steins served for two years at Boardman before Ordination as an Elder and then they were appointed to Aurora UMC. Five years and a building project later, they were appointed to Granger UMC. Four years of fruitful ministry and then another appointment to Hope Ridge United Methodist Church in 2003. The Steins have served there for the past eight years, led another expansion project and loved the people. They look forward to getting to know and working with the people of Brecksville UMC.

In service to the Conference, Pastor Clark has been Chair of the Editorial Board, served on the Board of Communications, served on the Leadership Committee for Communications, served on Akron District and Western Reserve District Committees on Ministry, and has been Chair of the Board of Trustees for the East Ohio Conference Peace with Justice Project.

Pastor Clark loves music, movies and sports. He loves to read, spend time with his family and loves to fish for fish, fish stories, and people.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. (1 Corinthians 4-6)

If you look back on the past year I am certain you will remember the many ways you have helped strengthen this church body. Do you serve on a committee? Have you taught or shepherded a Sunday School class? Mowed the lawn? Prepared Communion? Worked in the kitchen? The church body is made of many parts and we want to thank each of those parts!! Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 5. There will be no Sunday School that day. Come down to Fellowship Hall between 10 and 11 to enjoy a wonderful pancake breakfast prepared for you, as our way of saying 'thanks!'



Daniel Auwerter

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Kathryn Bartholomew

Baldwin Wallace

Nora Culley

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Caitlin Drescher

Duke University

Kelsey Hogan

Revere High School

Jaclyn Hollo

Ohio University

Elizabeth Jaszczak

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Jeannie McBride

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Will McLuckie

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Karl Robie

Brecksville Broadview Heights HS

Jennifer Scheufler

Bowling Green State University

Kevin Vastartis

Akron University



The UMW meeting is Thursday, June 2 and begins with a continental breakfast and fellowship at 9:30 followed by the program at 10:00.

Everyone is welcome to hear an interesting and enlightening program "Experience the Cuyahoga Valley National Park" presented by Miriam Pendleton. There are no UMW meetings in July and August.

CHURCH PICNIC

Wishing farewell to Pastor Karen and Chris Oehl

The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to gather at the Brecksville Metropark's **Oak Grove Picnic** Area on **Sunday, June 12th** from **11:00-3:00**, to thank Pastor Karen for her outstanding leadership of our congregation during the last five years. Oak Grove is on Valley Parkway to the east of its intersection with Brecksville Road, just south of Sleepy Hollow Golf Course. The picnic area has an entrance sign and is equipped with a large shelter, new rest rooms, playground and baseball field.

We will miss Pastor Karen and Chris greatly, and we want to give them our best wishes as she begins her new position as District Superintendent of the Mid-Ohio District based in Mansfield, Ohio and he joins another Methodist Church.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be supplied. Please bring a potluck dish or desert to share with others and soft drinks for your own family. Ice and cups will be provided. If you would like to contribute toward a love offering, please a put marked gift in the offering plate or send or bring it into the church office by Friday, June 10.

Bruce McCrodden

Chairperson Staff Parish Relations Committee



JUNE
10-11-12
17-18-19

BBH High School
7:30 Friday & Sat
2 pm Sunday

Meredith Willson's
THE MUSIC MAN

A cartoon illustration of a man in a red military-style uniform with a tall shako hat. He is holding a drumstick and playing a large drum. The drum has the text 'Meredith Willson's THE MUSIC MAN' on it. The background is blue.

"It's a hit!" How about playing softball during the picnic on June 12? We will organize some softball games that are age and player appropriate during the picnic. Bring your gloves and what ever other equipment you have to enjoy some fun on the ball diamond (weather permitting). We will organize games that are appropriate for the players we have. The object will be FUN for all. If you have any questions please contact Bob Lundholm.

BUMC Men's Softball

We've had a soggy start, and the schedule is often changing because of the rain, but we hope you'll come out and cheer on the team! The remaining games on the schedule (subject to change.)

- ♦ May 24 vs. Northfield Baptist
- ♦ May 31 vs. W. Reserve Grace
- ♦ June 4 vs. Our Lady of Guadalupe
- ♦ June 7 vs. Gospel House
- ♦ June 11 vs. Macedonia Methodist

June 2011

For the most current information,
click the "general calendar" link at
www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 5: Revelation 7:9-17; 2 Chronicles 35; John 13 June 12: John 8:1-11; Luke 12:22-31; Mark 6:34-43; Matthew 23:13-15, 23-28 June 19: Acts 10:9-16; Genesis 37, 40-41 June 26: Sermon by Joy Fenton			1 6:30 Dawnbrkr 6:15 Cycling Recital	2 9:30 UMW 4 Wo Emmaus 7:30 Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal <i>Herzing & Lundholm Mowing</i>	3 7 Emmaus Reunion 9 Men's Bible Study	4 6:15 Men's Softball
5 Communion 8:45 Worship 11:15 Worship 2 Hiking Club <i>Music & Volunteer Appreciation Sunday</i>	6 <i>Water Department work at the church. No water in the a.m.!</i>	7 11 Staff Meeting 6:15 Softball	8 6:30 Dawnbrkr 6:15 Cycling	9 Last day of school! 9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Hayes & Sendry Mowing</i>	10 7 Emmaus Reunion 9 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Music Man	11 6:15 Men's Softball 7:30 Music Man
12 Summer Hrs 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 11 Church Picnic 2 Music Man 	13 Annual Conference this week at Lakeside!	14 9:30 Staff Meeting 1-7 Blood Drive 6:15 Softball 7 COM, Parlor 8 COE, Evangelism, Missions, Music, Youth, Worship	15 6:30 Dawnbrkr 6:15 Cycling 7 Staff Parish	16 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Fenton & Johnson Mowing</i>	17 7 Emmaus Reunion 9 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Music Man 	18 7:30 Music Man
19 Pastor Karen's Last Sunday 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 2 Music Man 	20 7:30 Church and Society, Parlor	21 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees	22 6:30 Dawnbrkr 6:15 Cycling	23 4 Wo Emmaus <i>Spencer & Huth Mowing</i>  Brecksville Home Days	24 7 Emmaus Reunion 9:30 UMW Board  Brecksville Home Days	25 Visit the Cherry Cobbler Booth!  Brecksville Home Days
26 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 12 Book Group  Brecksville Home Days	27	28 9:30 Staff Meeting	29 6:30 Dawnbrkr 6:15 Cycling	30 4 Women's Emmaus <i>Bloch & Campbell Mowing</i>		

Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com



Have news you would like to share? Please call or e-mail Melanie

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Priest Selinger, who is being inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Pat is a former member of this church and the daughter of Fred and Olive Priest. She is a Fellow and a retired Vice President of the IBM Corporation and resides in California.

Fred and Olive have even more to celebrate, as they welcomed their great grandson, Ryder Matthew Simms, who was born in Boulder, Colorado on May 11.

We have two wonderful joys to share with the church family regarding Lisa and Tony Kropinak.

On Sunday evening, May 22, at 9:21 pm Adalyn Gloria Kropinak was born. Her arrival was quick and dramatic, and resulted in her being born at home about a minute after EMT's arrived at the Kropinak house! Lisa and Adalyn are both doing well now and are at Fairview Hospital. Adalyn weighed 6 lbs 14 oz.

Lisa has received an assignment at Windham and Nelson United Methodist Churches, just east of Akron. She will be serving as a part-time associate under lead pastor Rick Hughes, also part time. Lisa and Tony will be moving into a parsonage in Windham, presumably in June or July.

On May 22nd we celebrated the baptism of 8-yr-old Cole Mihalich, son of Jeffrey and Michele.

Our hearts go out to Marc, Emily and Hayden Vincent on the death of Marc's father, Gary. Services were held Monday, May 23rd.



JUNE Birthdays

Elizabeth Jaszczak	06/01	Marjorie Novak	06/18
Leslie Miller	06/01	Judith Helm	06/19
Laura Tereshko	06/01	Allison Cline	06/20
Jeannette Dumot	06/02	Kevin Kwiatkowski	06/20
Harmony Lasich	06/02	Dianne Urdzik	06/20
Frances McClean	06/02	Russell Martin	06/21
Judy McCrodden	06/02	Mark Pace	06/21
Bill Bisco	06/04	Sarah Stanley	06/21
Robert Butler	06/04	William Webb	06/21
Aaron Georgevich	06/04	Elizabeth Wooster	06/21
Grayce Herrick	06/04	Neilson Tait	06/22
Tammy Jaite	06/04	Michael Pace	06/23
Tracy Simon	06/04	Linda Rollins	06/23
Russell Slifcak	06/04	Anne Ford	06/24
Kimberlee Fisher	06/05	Mary Lou Morris	06/24
Cathryn Krolkowski	06/05	Katherine Bellingham	06/25
Jenna Schroedel	06/06	Karolyn Hood	06/25
Darren Calovini	06/07	Kylie Hulten	06/25
Courtney Drescher	06/07	Jacob Nelson	06/25
Lauren Scott	06/07	Brian Pasek	06/25
Gil Phillips	06/09	John Bartholomew	06/26
Paul Phillips	06/09	Linda Crouch	06/26
Sam Phillips	06/09	Craig Czarnota	06/26
Amy Seelye	06/09	Darren Krolkowski	06/26
Joyce Banjac	06/10	William McLuckie	06/26
Garrett Croes	06/10	Linda Merhar	06/26
James Monnett	06/11	Joyce Szekelyi	06/26
Sarah Hurder	06/12	James Zawada	06/26
Marilyn Schillo	06/12	Shirley Galik	06/27
Tom Kuttler	06/13	Janet Kranstuber	06/27
Jeanette Buttolph	06/15	Ruth McDonel	06/27
Amber Lasich	06/15	Krissy Nelson	06/27
John Falko	06/16	Joseph Bartholomew	06/28
Daniel AuWerter	06/17	Melanie Smith	06/29
Mary Hoffman	06/18	Taylor Cave	06/30



Calling all men, women and youth: Cherry Pie, Home Days and the UMW go together. Again this year our Brecksville United Methodist Women will be offering cherry pie, cherry cobbler, Texas sheet cake and pulled beef sandwiches at a booth during Brecksville's Home Days, June 23-26. They've got the cooking under control but need friendly faces and willing hands to staff the booth. Please stop in the parlor after service and

sign up to help staff the booth. Be a part of this important fund raiser and community service. Sign up early to get the best pick of shifts!



When Donating to the Church

A Message from the Gifts and Memorials Committee

Did you know you can donate stocks and mutual funds and bonds to the Brecksville United Methodist Church?

BUMC is a non-profit organization and you can transfer stocks or bonds or mutual funds directly to the church should you choose this method to make a charitable donation. When donating appreciated securities, there may be an added benefit in avoiding capital gains taxes plus receiving a tax deduction. You can discuss this strategy further with a competent tax specialist or attorney. If you need further information, let me know.

- Kay AuWerter

Russia Trip Needs You!



The Volunteer In Mission trips from our church over recent years have been gratefully received as part of the Russia Initiative to foster re-birth of the Methodist Church across that country.

This year, 10 volunteers from the East Ohio Conference, including Bruce McCrodden from our church, will work at an orphanage in the city of Kursk that provides services to special needs kids.

The orphanage asked that the group bring new dark color underwear and socks for boys and girls ages 5-18. Please bring any number of new underwear as you may be able and leave in the box marked "Russia VIM" in the coat room outside Fellowship Hall by June 15.

Representatives from Brecksville have personally seen that Russian students have benefited substantially from the willingness of our church and its members to share both their time and material contributions. Please keep the Kursk students, their care givers and the VIM team in your prayers. Thank you.

- Bruce McCrodden, bmccrod@aol.com, 440.915.1420



Mark your calendar for Summer Choir!

This is an opportunity for families to sing together in worship in a relaxed environment. Singers of *all ages* will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:20 am, rehearse for about 20 minutes, take a short break, and then share our anthem in worship at 10:00. This is a great opportunity for families to sing together... it's also a great way to keep your voice in shape over the summer. No "reservations" are necessary... just show up and sing! Summer choir dates:

Sundays: June 26, July 24, August 21

Summer is also a wonderful, relaxed time to share our unique musical gifts with one another. Singers and instrumentalists, if there is a solo or duet you would like to share as special music this summer, please contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com. Assistance is also available in selecting a piece of music or bringing a small ensemble together. Fresh ideas are welcome... we would love to hear you!



Why we're saying "no" to smoking.

Everyone has seen the statistics showing the effect of breathing in second hand smoke. You have undoubtedly seen cigarette butts littering the ground and smelled the odor from someone else's cigarette. With this in mind Brecksville UMC has become 100% smoke free both inside and out. Our building has been smoke free since Ohio passed the Smoke-Free Ohio Law in 2006. In compliance with the law persons were not permitted to smoke within 30 feet of any entrance to the church. We have recently taken this one step further and have declared the entire property smoke-free. Signs have been posted recently in compliance with the state regulation. We have so many people using this building each week for group meetings, exercise classes, weddings, funerals, church functions and community events. In order to ensure that the grounds are free of littered cigarette butts and the surrounding air is clear of cigarette smoke we have decided to make our grounds 100% smoke free.

The United Methodist Church has long stood against the use of tobacco. In 2008, the denomination's highest policy-making body, General Conference, affirmed this stance. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* states: "In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of persons of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco" (§162M).

Work of the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) has worked with a broad coalition of faith-based organizations in a group called Faith United Against Tobacco to encourage federal regulation of tobacco. This group, along with others, advocated for the passage of the "Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act" that was signed into law in June 2009.

(Continued from page 1)

3. **Mow Often, but Not Too Short.**

Giving your lawn a "Marine cut" is not doing it a favor. Surface roots become exposed, the soil dries out faster and surface aeration is reduced. As a general rule, don't cut off more than one-third of the grass at any one time. Most turf grass species are healthiest when kept between 2.5 and 3.5" tall. When the lawn is finished growing for the season, cut it a bit shorter to about 2". This will minimize the risk of mold buildup during winter.

4. **Water Deeply but Not Too Often.**

Thorough watering encourages your lawn to develop deep root systems which make the lawn hardier and more drought-resistant. Let the lawn dry out before re-watering; as a rule of thumb, the color should dull and footprints should stay compressed for more than a few seconds. When watering, put a cup in the sprinkler zone; it should get at least one inch water. Most healthy lawns require only 1" of water per week. The best time for watering is early morning - less water will be lost to evaporation.

5. **Control Thatch Build-Up.** Thatch is the accumulation of above-soil runners, propagated by the grass. This layer should be about 1/2" on a healthy lawn, and kept in balance by natural decomposition, earthworms and microorganisms. Too much thatch prevents water and nutrients from reaching the grass roots. If you aerate once a year it breaks down the thatch, allowing the roots to get deeper in the soil. This leads to thicker grass which naturally kills weeds too. While a dethatcher will reduce thatch buildup, it can strip and thin the grass so much it reduces competition for weeds allowing them to germinate easier. Try to reduce thatch with a steel rake.



Next time you need to replace your lawn mower; consider a reel mower (push mower). Push mowers used to be heavy, clunky contraptions which required great effort in cutting the lawn. Today's reel mowers operate much more effectively with a fraction of the effort. The added benefits include a good light exercise and quiet, pollution-free lawn care. Consider the advantages of a reel mower:

Better Cut: Reel mowers shear the grass rather than tearing it. Many rotary mowers tear the grass which leaves the tips shredded, and can cause the tips to turn brown. A sheared cut gives a greener lawn, and is preferred by lawn care professionals.

Quiet: You can cut the lawn anytime without disturbing the neighbors or the wildlife. Listen to the birds as you cut the lawn!

Non-polluting: The savings in fuel is significant to both the environment and your wallet. No more dead spark plugs, messy oil changes or stored fuel.

Easier: Today's reel mowers are lighter, easier to push and more effective than the old push mowers. The light weight also makes it easier to move from front to back yard, or lift into a pickup.

Low maintenance: Aside from the occasional drop of oil and blade sharpening, there's little maintenance required. Some models have blades made of hardened steel which do not require sharpening. These blades will last up to ten years before needing replacement.

Inexpensive: With prices ranging from \$100 to \$350, the cost of a reel mower is less than half that of a lower-end power mower.

If you feel your yard is too large to switch exclusively to a reel mower perhaps you can use it in addition to your gas powered mower. Use the reel mower in hard to maneuver spots or have a helper use the reel mower and make the grass cutting chore move twice as fast. Purchasing a reel mower might be the biggest environmental savings you can make for your home.

Each month, The Good Word highlights a social just issue and action that you can take to be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Christ. What issues are important to you? Do you have suggestions for future topics?

Tips for Sustainable Lawn Care

- ◆ Water early in the morning.
- ◆ Leaving clippings on the lawn provides nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) equivalent to one application of fertilizer. Clippings do not cause thatch.
- ◆ Sharpen mower blades at least once a year. You can tell when your mower blades are dull by looking at the grass tips. If they are brown and ragged, your blades are dull. Sharp mower blades not only make your lawn look greener, they help develop a healthier lawn.
- ◆ Fertilize once or twice a year. Fertilizing in early fall promotes vigorous lawn growth the next spring. Consider purchasing organic fertilizer or calling in a natural lawn care company.
- ◆ Convert your lawn to a drought-resistant, low-maintenance eco-lawn. Conventional lawn seed was originally developed to be fast-growing for the purpose of feeding livestock. Newly developed "eco-lawn" grass seed is a drought-resistant blend of grasses that requires little or no mowing and no fertilizer. To switch to this kind of lawn, simply cut your existing lawn as short as possible and overseed with eco-lawn seed.
- ◆ Control lawn weeds with corn gluten, a nontoxic byproduct of corn processing. Corn gluten acts as a pre-emergent weed controller while adding nitrogen to your soil. After just one application, corn gluten reduced weed survival by 60%, according to research at Iowa State University and after several years, this method provides as much as 90% weed control.
- ◆ Keep pesticide/herbicide use to a minimum. Pesticides kill the soil organisms which contribute to a healthy lawn. The sooner you remove harsh chemicals, the faster your soil will recover. Repeated past use of toxic chemicals may have destroyed the microbiotic life that exists in healthy soil; it will take time, at least a season, for the soil to begin to recover.
- ◆ Try 'spot-treating' weeds with vinegar to minimize herbicide use. Where only a few scattered broadleaf weeds such as dandelions or plantain are present, consider spot-treating individual weeds with household vinegar rather than applying a broadcast treatment of an herbicide over the entire lawn. Mix 5 parts white vinegar, 2 parts water, 1 part dish soap, and apply with a hand pump sprayer. (Vinegar can burn grass and garden plants and lower your soil's pH so be sure to spot treat weeds only.)
- ◆ Physically pulling or cutting weeds is also effective; remove as much of the root system as possible to reduce the chance of re-growth.
- ◆ Problem with lawn grubs? For lawn grubs, there is a natural remedy called milky spore. The granules are spread on the soil and cause the grubs to contract a disease that kills them. Only the grubs are affected, leaving beneficial organisms unharmed. Milky spore multiplies over time and will sit inactive, waiting for grubs to infect. One treatment is said to last 40 years. The grubs are actually the larvae of Japanese beetles. So, when you kill the grubs you kill the beetle.
- ◆ Rake by hand. If the clippings are too long and must be raked, try hand raking. This light aerobic exercise will save you a trip to the gym. If you have fallen leaves to rake, don't burn them - they make excellent mulch for flower or garden beds, or can be added to your compost pile where they'll be converted to rich, organic humus for the garden.

Organic Fertilizers

With fertilizers, organic is preferable to chemicals. The advantages of organic fertilizers include:

- ◆ *Better for the soil:* provides organic matter essential for microorganisms. It is one of the building blocks for fertile soil rich in humus.
- ◆ *Nutrient release:* slow and consistent at a natural rate that plants are able to use. No danger of over concentration of any element, since microbes must break down the material.
- ◆ *Trace minerals:* typically present in a broad range, providing more balanced nutrition to the plant.
- ◆ *Won't burn:* safe for all plants with no danger of burning due to salt concentration.
- ◆ *Long lasting:* doesn't leach out since the organic matter binds to the soil particles where the roots have access to it.
- ◆ *Fewer applications required:* once a healthy soil condition is reached, it is easier to maintain that level with less work.
- ◆ *More economical:* organic fertilizer will cost you about 5 cents per square foot, per season. Compare that to the cost of the most popular chemical fertilizers, which costs 15 cents per square foot, or three times as much.



With love and regret, we have come to the time to say goodbye to Lisa as the Youth Director of Brecksville UMC. Lisa has begun her maternity leave and will go on from there to a new life of motherhood and ministry.

Lisa touched so many lives while she was here. As a special farewell and blessing for Lisa, we would like to collect letters, notes, and pictures together into a volume that she can keep and remember you by.

If you are one of the youth, families, or members who have a "Lisa story," please write it down! Tell about what you learned from Lisa, how she supported or encouraged you, how she stood by you in a difficult time or cheered for you in a great time.

Then mail or email your memories to the church,

office@brecksvilleumc.com.

Send a picture or pictures, too! We would like to have all these things gathered together by June 15, so that we can present the book to Lisa during her maternity leave, before she heads off for new adventures!



Summer Worship Schedule

Summer Worship Begins
Sunday, June 12

Outdoor Worship
8:30

Sanctuary Service
10:00



The need is urgent Cleaning Buckets

On April 27-28 the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) shipped 1,500 UMCOR cleaning buckets to St. Louis, Missouri to be distributed to individuals who were affected by tornadoes and/or flooding. MMDC shipped every bucket that was in stock and is now looking to replenish the shelves.

We can help with this desperate need by preparing cleaning buckets for Pastor Karen to take to the 2011 Annual Conference. A truck from the Midwest Distribution Center will be there for collection. The need is urgent and your help is necessary to help those affected by the various disasters that have taken place across the United States and the world.

A collection center has been set up in the cloak room. Each bucket includes specific items. Items are placed in a 5 gallon bucket with a lid. Buckets from restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned. Please donate what you can from the following list:

- ♦ **liquid laundry detergent** two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottles only
- ♦ **liquid household cleaner** 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water no spray cleaners
- ♦ **dish soap** 16-28 oz. bottle, any brand
- ♦ **1 can air freshener** aerosol or pump
- ♦ **1 insect repellent spray** 6 - 14 oz. aerosol spray pump with cover
- ♦ **1 scrub brush** plastic or wooden handle
- ♦ **18 cleaning wipes** handi wipes or reusable wipes no terry cleaning towels
- ♦ **7 sponges**
- ♦ **5 scouring pads**
- ♦ **50 clothespins**
- ♦ **clothesline** two 50ft. or one 100ft. cotton or plastic
- ♦ **24 roll heavy duty trash bags**
- ♦ **5 dust masks**
- ♦ **2 pair disposable kitchen gloves** rubber or latex
- ♦ **1 pair work gloves** cotton or leather

If you prefer to donate toward the purchase of supplies, please make a note in the memo line "Cleaning Buckets". The need is urgent and your help is necessary to help those affected by the various disasters that have taken place across the United States. Thank you!



Summer Worship begins June 12 with outdoor service on the lawn at 8:30 and a sanctuary service at 10. Can your family serve as a summer hospitality team? Pick a Sunday when your family will be our greeters and ushers. We will provide training and guidance. This is a great way to be involved one Sunday this summer. Please contact the office to sign up!

Summer Book Discussion Group

Join us on the deck for some summer sunshine, tasty food, and lively discussion about three challenging texts!

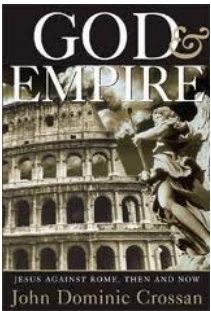
As Christians, we are often afraid to enter into dialogue around theological issues, lest we disagree and face judgment from our brothers and sisters. This discussion group seeks to foster open conversation around topics on which we most assuredly will not always agree. All points of view are invited and welcome; discussion will be moderated with the belief that loving communication is healthy and necessary to edify the Christian community.

The group will meet around noon at Joy & Stacy's home in Strongsville [13432 Tradewinds Drive] and continue until we're ready to call it an afternoon. Grilled lunch fare, dessert, and beverages will be provided; participants are asked to bring a side dish to share. Families are welcome – a game or movie will be available to children in a nearby part of the house. Please contact Joy with any additional questions.

Sunday, June 26: *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now*

by John Dominic Crossan, author of *The Historical Jesus*

[www.johndominiccrossan.com]

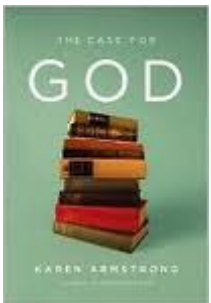


In this fine study of civilization, culture and transformation, Father Crossan asks important questions: have those who resort to violence as a means of change succeeded in their quest for empire? Or has non-violence been more effective in bringing about lasting change? Crossan, professor emeritus at De Paul University and author of several well-received works, believes that the solution is not in violent intervention but in the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth. But how, and when, will this Kingdom come? In comparing the missions of Jesus and John the Baptist, Crossan states his idea clearly: "Jesus differed precisely from John in emphasizing not the future-presence but the already-presence of God's Kingdom as the Great Divine Cleanup of the world." In other words, Christ saw the Kingdom as a present and active reality. Crossan uses the teachings of Jesus to promote his thesis, and then turns to an unlikely ally - the Apostle Paul - by suggesting that Paul's emphasis on equality and freedom helped carry forward Jesus' program of nonviolent change.

Sunday, July 31: *The Case for God*, a National Bestseller

by Karen Armstrong, author of *A History of God*

[www.charterforcompassion.org]

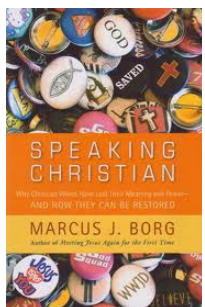


Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions with the same depth of knowledge and profound insight that have marked all her acclaimed books, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level.

Sunday, August 28: *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power – and How They Can Be Restored*

by Marcus Borg, author of *The Heart of Christianity*

[www.marcusjborg.com]



Modern Christians are steeped in a language so distorted that it has become a stumbling block to the religion, says internationally renowned Bible scholar Marcus J. Borg. Borg argues that Christianity's important words, and the sacred texts and stories in which those words are embedded, have been narrowed by a modern framework for the faith that emphasizes sin, forgiveness, Jesus dying for our sins, and the afterlife. Here, Borg employs the "historical-metaphorical" method for understanding Christian language that can restore for us these words of power and transformation. In *Speaking Christian*, Borg delivers a language for twenty-first-century Christians that grounds the faith in its deep and rich original roots and allows it once again to transform our lives.



Confirmation 2011

Confirmation Class: May 1, 2011

Bridget Gee, Matthew Manocchio, Eli Shively, Sam McLuckie, Taylor Cave,
JT Zawada, Russell Slifcak, Chad Boldt, Michael Lee, Allison Loughner

A Good Time for a Great Cause

The Cleveland Indians outreach program, Fill the House for Charity, partners with area nonprofits to assist in fund raising efforts. As part of the 2011 season, for each ticket sold by Berea Children's

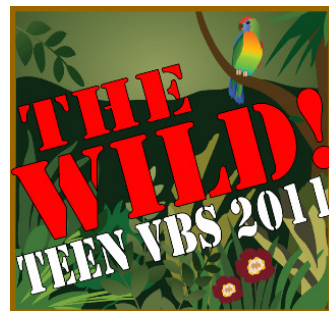


Home and Family Services to the June 8 game vs. the Minnesota Twins, the Indians will donate \$5 to the home. In addition, the Indians will donate \$1 for every person filling Progressive Field. To purchase your tickets- for yourself, friends, or for the kids of BCHFS, please visit www.bchfs.org/tickets

BCHFS says, "The kids and families that we serve each day need your help, to help us fill the house! Please invite your friends and family, and have a great time. The other option is to purchase the tickets so that some of our families can attend the game. These children and families do not have the financial resources to attend one of America's favorite summer pastimes."

Ticket prices are: \$15 Upper Reserved Seats, \$19 Lower Reserved Seats. To purchase tickets please visit www.bchfs.org/tickets.

SAVE the DATE



Spread the word!

Great things are planned for Vacation Bible School at BUMC.

Tell a friend!

JULY 18 - 22